

AR

99-366

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 12-14-99

Submitted by: Assemblymember KENDALL

Prepared by: Assembly Office

For reading: DECEMBER 14, 1999

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 99- 366

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSING THE  
PROPOSED FEDERAL POLICY TO BAN NEW ROADS IN NATIONAL FORESTS,  
SPECIFICALLY IN THE TONGASS AND CHUGACH NATIONAL FORESTS**

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WHEREAS, the proposed Federal policy to ban new roads in roadless areas of our national forests is inappropriate for all national forests, particularly in the case of the Tongass and the Chugach. (The Tongass has just gone through an extensive, 11-year plan revision, which cost the public more than \$13 million. The 1997/1999 Plan withdrew more than half of the land previously available for development in the Tongass. In both the Chugach and Tongass, roads disturb less than 5 percent of the forest.); and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Record of Decision for the Tongass placed many thousands of acres of unroaded areas off-limits to development, reducing the land available for timber production to approximately 10 percent of the Commercial Forest Land. (This has already put serious restraints on the economy of Southeast Alaska. Additional roadless withdrawals would be economically devastating to the communities of the region.); and

WHEREAS, of the 40 million acres under consideration for roadless designation, more than 5 million acres are in the Chugach National Forest - the Chugach, the second largest national forest in the nation after the Tongass, is 98 percent roadless. (The moratorium would effectively shut down access to these roadless areas for a variety of uses, including forest management activities to restore forest health. By closing off access to massive areas of the Chugach and Tongass, the federal government would obstruct Alaskans' ability to fight forest fires or beetle infestations.); and

WHEREAS, most of the non-roaded areas of the Tongass and Chugach are already under some form of protection, including Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Congressionally designated LUD II areas, administrative land use designations for non-development such as "remote recreation," and Wild and Scenic River designations. (The only roadless acreages under consideration for protection in this proposed policy are those few areas currently left open for resource (primarily timber) extraction. The available timberlands have already been reduced to the point that mills have closed and more may yet be forced to close.); and

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4 WHEREAS, the proposed policy undermines the ability of local foresters and  
5 communities to properly manage forests based on local conditions. (It would override  
6 years of local negotiations and compromises that contributed substantially to the  
7 development of current forest plans. Years of scientific research and public processes  
8 have already gone into developing land-use management plans for Alaska's two national  
9 forests. These plans already place severe restrictions on commercially viable timber.); and

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11 WHEREAS, there is no issue of science driving this proposed policy. (The needs  
12 of wildlife, fish and the non-development sector of the public are fully met by the planning  
13 process mandated by NFMA and NEPA.); and

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15 WHEREAS, Alaska's elected representatives have spoken with unanimity on this  
16 issue. (The Governor, the Congressional delegation, members of the State Legislature  
17 and many community leaders have all spoken out against the application of the roadless  
18 policy to the Tongass.); and

19  
20 WHEREAS, national forests are different than national parks - by law, national forest  
21 lands are to be managed for multiple uses, including timber harvesting and mining,  
22 whereas national park service lands have a general management emphasis on  
23 preservation.

24  
25 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves:

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27 That the Assembly opposes the proposed Federal policy to ban new roads in our  
28 national forests. Specifically, the Tongas and Chugach National Forests should be  
29 exempt from any further consideration of roadless protections. It makes more  
30 economic and environmental sense to harvest dead and dying trees and replant the  
31 forests, thus reducing the fire danger, creating healthy young forest, saving jobs and  
32 providing products that Americans use and want.

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34 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 14th day of  
35 December, 1999.

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37  
38 Chair

39 ATTEST:

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42  
43 Municipal

**Municipality of Anchorage  
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE  
AGENDA DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET**

*AR 99-366*

<b>1</b>	SUBJECT OF AGENDA DOCUMENT	DATE PREPARED 12/14/99
	A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Federal Policy to Ban New	INDICATE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED AR
	Roads in National Forests, Specifically in the Tongass and Chugach	
	National Forests	
<b>2</b>	DEPARTMENT NAME Assembly	DIRECTOR'S NAME George Wuerch
<b>3</b>	THE PERSON THE DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY PREPARED BY Greg Moyer	HIS/HER PHONE NUMBER 4755
<b>4</b>	COORDINATED WITH AND REVIEWED BY	INITIALS DATE
	Mayor	
	Municipal Clerk	
	Municipal Attorney	
	Employee Relations Director	
	Municipal Manager	
	Finance	
	Community Development and Planning	
	Property and Facility Management	
	Management Information Systems	
	Office of Management and Budget	
	Purchasing	
	Operations Manager	
	Cultural and Recreational Services	
	Fire	
	Health and Human Services	
	Police	
	Public Works	
	Transit	
	Merrill Field (Airport)	
	Municipal Light and Power	
	Anchorage Water and Wastewater	
	Port	
	Solid Waste Services	
<b>5</b>	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS	
	<i>Addendum</i>	
	<i>7.C. Resolution for Action</i>	
<b>6</b>	ASSEMBLY MEETING DATE <i>12/14/99</i>	<b>7</b> PUBLIC HEARING DATE REQUESTED

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**RECEIVED**  
Office of Municipal Clerk  
DEC 14 1999  
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Anchorage, AK 99519-6650