

Introduced by: Mayor
Date: 01/23/01
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 7 Yes, 2 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2001-012**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE'S HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 6 OVERTURNING THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION
RULE IN THE TONGASS AND CHUGACH NATIONAL FORESTS**

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly passed three resolutions in the past three months dealing with the Chugach National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan; and President Clinton recently adopted the Roadless Area Conservation rule in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests and the Alaska State Legislature is considering House Joint Resolution 6 which opposes this rule; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution 2000-108, adopted November 21, 2000 the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports continued public access to the Chugach National Forest for all recreational users and encourages the Federal Government to upgrade and improve trails and parking lots to increase public access; and a roadless policy will discourage the development of improved public access to public lands which will cause increased congestion amongst various user groups creating unnecessary and avoidable conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly passed Resolution 2000-112 on December 12, 2000 which supports timber harvest on the hundreds of thousand of acres of the Chugach National Forest within the Seward Ranger District which has been infested by the spruce bark beetle; and the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest contains only minimal provisions for the mitigation, harvesting, and reforestation of the hundreds of thousands of acres of trees impacted by the spruce bark beetle infestation within the 5.45 million acre Chugach National Forest; and a roadless policy will further affect the economic loss of millions of board feet of potentially valuable and already dead spruce trees which could otherwise have provided a vital part of the economic foundation for residents and businesses of the borough; and

WHEREAS, a roadless policy will effectively eliminate the feasibility of exploration for and development of new and existing mineral deposits that lie within the Chugach National Forest; and KPB Resolution 2000-112 also supports the adoption of provisions within the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan that will provide for new road access to newly discovered and existing mineral

deposits that will allow for viable commercial and recreational minerals extraction; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly in passing Resolution 2001-005 on January 9, 2001 expressed its support of a complete and thorough legal review by the Office of General Counsel for the United States Forest Service or other appropriate agency to provide a legal determination that the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and other appropriate federal laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

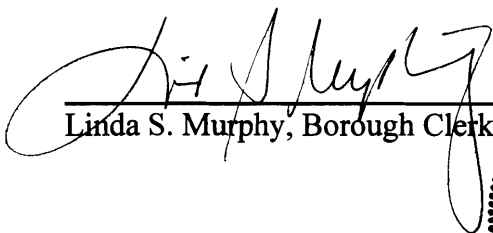
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly strongly supports the passage of HJR 6 by the Alaska State Legislature for all the reasons stated, but in particular for the portions of the resolution that pertain to the Chugach National Forest.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Kenai Peninsula Borough State Legislative Delegation, the Governor of the State of Alaska, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and the United States Forest Service.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2001:


Timothy Navarre, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

