

**Petersburg Borough, Alaska
RESOLUTION #2018-01**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A REPEAL OF APPLICATION OF THE
ROADLESS RULE TO THE ALASKA NATIONAL FORESTS**

WHEREAS, the Statehood Act of 1958 made a compact with the people of Alaska to provide for themselves and Alaska through reasonable resource development; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Roadless Rule precludes or limits roadbuilding for timber harvest, the development of renewable energy projects and mining exploration and development in the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule seriously impacts the social and economic well-being of the residents of the Petersburg Borough and the remainder of Southeast Alaska in that the Roadless Rule prohibits access to renewable energy resources, timber and mineral deposits in an estimated 9.6 million acres of the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule also prohibits timber sales in Inventoried Roadless Areas, prevents access to renewable energy resources, and makes access to locatable minerals more difficult; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) designated 4.5 million acres of the Tongass National Forest as Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, Section 101 (d) of ANILCA finds that the land it set aside and the land remaining open to development "represent a proper balance between the preservation of national conservation system units and those public lands necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition;" and

WHEREAS, Section 1326 (a) of ANILCA provides that the executive branch may withdraw "No More" than 5,000 acres of public land without a joint resolution of approval by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is currently litigating the application of the 2001 Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest on the ground, among others, that it violates the No More clause of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2017 the District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against the State of Alaska in its litigation to set aside the 2001 Roadless Rule, a decision the State of Alaska has appealed to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Congressional Delegation has introduced legislation that would repeal the application of the Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest (Section 509 of the 2018 Interior Appropriations Bill).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough appreciates and supports the State of Alaska's efforts to stand for Alaskans in litigation and appeal of the Roadless Rule as it applies to Alaska's National Forests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough appreciates and supports Senator Murkowski and the Alaska Congressional Delegation in introducing the 2018

Interior Appropriations Bill that includes Section 509 which would repeal the application of the 2018 Roadless Rule to the National Forests in Alaska.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on January 16, 2018.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

Brought forward by: Mayor Jensen
(Borough's position requested by SE Conference Board Member Lagoudakis)