

Petersburg Borough, Petersburg, Alaska
RESOLUTION #2017-07

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING H.R. 232 (A BILL AUTHORIZING STATES TO SELECT
AND ACQUIRE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS TO BE MANAGED
AND OPERATED BY THE STATE FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION AND OTHER
PURPOSES UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE)**

WHEREAS, H.R. 232, seeks to transfer up to 2 million acres of Tongass National Forest to the State of Alaska, including surface and subsurface lands, and real property (including structures and facilities owned by the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest was created by Presidential Proclamation on September 10, 1907 to be managed under the concept of multiple use and to provide a variety of products and recreational opportunities with the long term goal of protecting the land and its productivity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, 96.2 percent of the land within the Petersburg Borough is Tongass National Forest and is a vital dependency component to the continued prosperity of many local businesses and residents' lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service personnel are an important contributor to the working of the Petersburg Borough and have over the years been good stewards of the National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough supports the need for a local forest products industry that has a long term, reliable, sustainable supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough supports increasing revenues from the federal lands; and

WHEREAS, Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools receipts derived from activities on the Tongass National Forest provide a significant portion of the Petersburg School System operating cost that would disappear under this bill; and

WHEREAS, transferring ownership of major portions of the Tongass National Forest within the Petersburg Borough to the State of Alaska will create uncertainty and risk for local business owners, reduce funds needed to support the Borough, and shift more of the financial burden from the State of Alaska to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, transferring ownership of major portions of the Tongass National Forest to the State of Alaska carte blanche gives the State the right to sell or divest in some way highly productive lands that are in the national interest to maintain as National Forest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly is in favor of maintaining the Tongass National Forest in its entirety together with keeping the United States Forest Service as its steward. The Petersburg Borough Assembly opposes H.R. 232.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on April 3, 2017.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Clerk