

Introduced by: Torgerson
Date: 11/02/93
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 8 yes, 1 no

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 93-115**

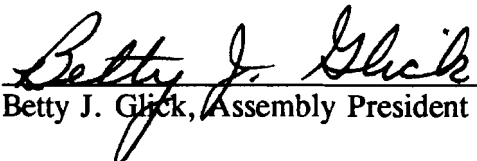
**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO INCREASE ITS FUNDING
FOR TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE KENAI PENINSULA'S
FOREST HEALTH PROBLEMS**

- WHEREAS,** the forest located within the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough have been identified as having the worst spruce bark beetle infestation of any location in North America; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska, the United States Forest Service, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough have conducted over one hundred public meetings across the Kenai Peninsula; and
- WHEREAS,** when the Forest Practices Act was enacted, there was not a clear vision of the scope of this infestation and the amount of acreage that might be impacted by different silviculture methods; and
- WHEREAS,** an overwhelming majority of the public supports the effort of returning this forest resource to its healthy condition; and
- WHEREAS,** failure to address this problem in a timely manner will continue the mounting degradation of the ecosystem and monumental loss of all values, economic and otherwise; and
- WHEREAS,** urgent funding is needed to undertake and sustain an intensive long range program to restore forest ecosystems subject to this infestation; and
- WHEREAS,** State of Alaska budget constraints threaten to limit the ability of the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fish & Game, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, to respond to this crisis in a timely manner;
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska six year capital projects plan, allowing projected funding for forest health initiative, forest inventory, reforestation, and resource development, identifies expenditures of \$16,875,000.00, of which only \$215,000.00 is for the Kenai Peninsula;

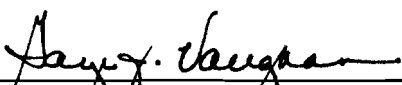
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

- SECTION 1.** That the State of Alaska is urged to increase its annual budget to add the necessary funding for a full time Forest Practice Act administrator, to work with the different agencies and operators, to insure compliance of the act.
- SECTION 2.** That the State of Alaska is urged to increase its annual budget to add the necessary funding to identify, locate, map, and catalog all anadromous streams with the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- SECTION 3.** That the State of Alaska is urged to increase its annual budget to add the necessary funding for the employment of staff biologists, assigned to the Division of Forestry, to insure that fish and wildlife habitat are allowed maximum protection.
- SECTION 4.** That the State of Alaska is urged to amend their provisions of the Forest Practices Act to allow for larger buffer zones around water sheds and anadromous streams on their land located within the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- SECTION 5.** That the State of Alaska actively promote the interaction and funding of the federal programs dealing with the U.S. Soil and Conservation Act, providing assistance to small private property owners.
- SECTION 6.** That the State of Alaska is urged to coordinate an action plan involving private, borough, state, and federal property owners, to include future resource extraction for a period of the next ten years.
- SECTION 7.** That the State of Alaska establish a joint borough, state, and federal reforestation center, and nursery within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- SECTION 8.** That the State of Alaska hold public meetings in all impacted areas of the borough on their proposed 10-year coordinated plan.
- SECTION 9.** That copies of this resolution be given to Governor Walter J. Hickel, Lt. Governor Jack Coghill, Harry Noah, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Senators Judith Salo and Suzanne Little, Representatives Gary Davis, Gail Phillips and Mike Navarre.

ADOPTED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY THIS 2nd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1993.


Betty J. Glick, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Gaye J. Vaughan, Borough Clerk