

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Peggy Wilson
District 2

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Legislature Condemns Roadless Policy **Senate Follows House's Lead in Passing Rep. Wilson's HJR 6**

(JUNEAU) – A resolution condemning former President Bill Clinton's surprise extension of a controversial roadless policy to the Tongass and Chugach national forests passed the Senate today.

House Joint Resolution 6, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Wilson (R-Wrangell), expresses Alaska's opposition to the Clinton Administration's surprise imposition of a policy barring future construction of roads in national forests.

"Southeast Alaska is not just a pretty picture in National Geographic, it's where we live and where we make our livings," said Wilson. "The people of Alaska worked in good faith on the Tongass Land Management Plan, a process that took 11 years and cost taxpayers \$13 million. Alaskans are justifiably unhappy with Clinton for ignoring this process and locking up the Tongass just before leaving office."

Wilson pointed out that barring road building in national forests in Alaska would harm Alaska's tourism and natural resources industries, and limit residents' access to important recreational areas. The roadless policy also violates the "no-more" clause in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act, which reserved to Congress the authority to create new wilderness in Alaska.

"I hope that the voice of the Alaska people, as expressed in this resolution, makes it clear that we oppose imposition of this roadless policy, and that we hope that the administration of President George W. Bush will take whatever action is necessary to address the wrong that has been done to us."

HJR 6 moves next to the governor for his signature.

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