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Be It Resolved by the First Things First Alaska Foundation:

Whereas Alaska's challenge to the Clinton administration-era Roadless Rule in national forests was rejected by a federal judge, who said it came too late to be considered; and

Whereas the Roadless Rule stifles economic development in Southeast Alaska; and
Whereas we live and work in the Tongass and our very livelihood depends on our ability to responsibly access and develop the resources that are contained within the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas unemployment in the region hovers around 15 percent; and
Whereas the implementation of the Roadless Rule and the decline in population in Southeast Alaska is not coincidence; and

Whereas industrial scale timber development on US Forest Service lands will essentially be stopped if the decision by Judge Richard J. Leon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia is upheld; and

Whereas proponents of the rule say it still allows access for mining, tourism, transportation, and hydroelectric projects but the reality is that it raises the bar so high that access becomes uneconomic (Helicopter access vs. roads); and

Whereas all decisions regarding development activities in Inventoried Roadless Areas are currently withdrawn to the Secretary of Agriculture in DC which has tied the hands of local United States Forest Service authorities and resulted in unnecessary permitting delays; and

Whereas Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Begich have introduced legislation to exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule and this decision places a very high priority on their efforts; and

Whereas First Things First Alaska Foundation joined with the Juneau Chamber of Commerce and Alaska Electric Light & Power, Alaska Marine Lines, Alaska Power and Telephone, Alaska Miners Association, Citizens Pro Road, City of Craig, Durette Construction Co., Hyak Mining, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan Public Utilities, Northwest Miners Association, SE Roadbuilding, SE Stevedoring, and Chris Gerondale to support the State's lawsuit in the form of an "Intervener" motion through the courts.

Be It Resolved that the First Things First Alaska Foundation encourages the State of Alaska to appeal the decision as the judge based the timeline for appeals on the original implementation of the Roadless Rule, *not* the date of decision in the 2011 case brought by the Village of Kake and several conservation groups that removed the Tongass Exemption.

Adopted May 2, 2013

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.