

Haines Borough, Alaska  
Resolution No. 15-03-618

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly requesting the Senate Finance Committee provide support to the Division of Forestry to maintain an office in Haines to manage the 286,000 acre Haines State Forest.**

**WHEREAS**, The Haines Borough Assembly recognizes the significant challenges faced by the Legislature in developing a budget during a time of fiscal constraints; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Division of Forestry has been present in Haines managing the 286,000 acre resource within the area now known as the Haines State Forest since 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, the landmark compromise legislation that created the Haines State Forest Resource Management Area and the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in 1982 as a balanced management strategy agreed to by the communities of this region could not have been accomplished without the assurance of responsible local management of those State Lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the current local management of the Haines State Forest provides direct employment for businesses in the timber industry in our rural communities as well as indirectly affecting core businesses in our economy involved in tourism, such as sight-seeing, adventure tours and heliskiing; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued timely maintenance of the road system accessing the resources of the Haines State Forest is critical to the citizens' subsistence and commercial use of those resources which can only be accomplished under local management; and

**WHEREAS**, Wildland Fire Suppression for the Upper Lynn Canal communities is provided by the Division of Forestry office in Haines and managing those responsibilities from other areas of the state would mean a delay in response time and effectiveness leading to additional cost to our communities and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haines State Forest has provided revenue for the State of Alaska for more than 50 years and can provide the greatest return to the State in the future through responsible long term management of our renewable resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haines Borough recognizes the long term sustainability of resource revenue will have significant impacts on this rural community's ability to become financially independent and self-sustaining through continued responsible management and access to the resources of the Haines State Forest; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Assembly hereby urges the Senate Finance Committee to provide support to the Division of Forestry to maintain an office in Haines to manage the 286,000 acre Haines State Forest. The Borough requests that the Department of Natural Resources be empowered to raise additional revenue through local timber sales and be empowered to locate at least one employee in the Haines office.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Hill, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Cozzi, MMC, Borough Clerk