

**CITY OF CRAIG  
RESOLUTION 16-15**

**SUPPORTING S 3203 – THE ALASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES ACT**

WHEREAS, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Dan Sullivan sponsored S 3203 in the US Senate; and

WHEREAS, the legislation proposes land and resource management changes in the Tongass National Forest, including national forest lands on Prince of Wales Island; and

WHEREAS, a number of sections of the bill, if enacted, stand to benefit Prince of Wales Island; and

WHEREAS, Section 501 of the bill returns the Tongass National Forest to a status that exempts the forest from the Roadless Rule; application of the rule placed very large percentages of the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts into restricted land status wholly outside of the normal forest plan process; and,

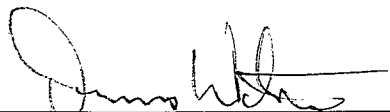
WHEREAS, Section 502 of the bill implements a proposed land exchange between the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the US Forest Service; completion of the exchange, assuming adoption of a separate but related agreement with POW Island-based sawmills to mill timber from the exchanged properties, will provide up to ten years of timber volume for POW mills that face a shortage of timber from national forest lands; and

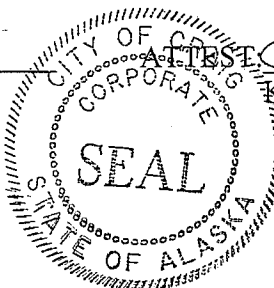
WHEREAS, Section 503 of the bill establishes an Alaska State Forest, the presence of which will ensure sustainable and predictable levels of timber harvest benefitting local forest products industry, while still providing ample allowance for fish and wildlife resources; and,

WHEREAS, Section 401 of the bill supports efforts to safely extract and purify rare earth elements; the Dotson Ridge area on Prince of Wales Island is one of few major domestic rare earth element deposits; participation in the permitting process needed to bring the mine into production compliments the provisions found in Section 401 of the Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CRAIG CITY COUNCIL, that the City of Craig supports the cited sections of S 3203 due to the benefits that Prince of Wales Island and the Tongass National Forest will derive from the legislation, and urges the US Congress to adopt the measure.

Approved this sixth day of October, 2016.

  
MAYOR DENNIS WATSON



  
KASSI MACKIE, CITY CLERK