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**Alaska Travel Industry Association  
Board of Directors**

**Resolution #14-01 March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**A RESOLUTION FOR INCREASED RECREATIONAL FUNDING IN TONGASS  
NATIONAL FOREST**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is the state's largest member-based trade association representing over 500 travel-related businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, the travel industry makes a vital contribution to Southeast Alaska's economy, providing an estimated 10,900 jobs and generating more than \$1.1 billion in annual spending; and,

**WHEREAS**, nearly 80 percent of the region's land base is contained within the Tongass National Forest; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 240 travel-related businesses and sole proprietors hold Special Use Permits to operate on the Tongass, and rely on the agency to effectively and sustainably manage its recreation programs and resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Service's annual investment in recreation is on average less than 10 percent of the Tongass' overall budget and federally appropriated funding levels have declined by 50 percent since 2009; and,

**WHEREAS**, The downward trend of Forest Service investment in the recreation program, staffing levels and visitor facilities is directly impacting essential functions upon which the travel industry depends, such as: maintenance and enhancement of the Forest Service's visitor centers and trails; management of outfitter and guide special use permits; interpretive and heritage programs; long-range planning and forest-wide recreation management strategies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that ATIA urges leaders in Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service to reverse the critical decline in appropriated funding for National Forest recreation programs, facilities, and trails; and increase investment in Tongass recreation program, facilities, and trails to levels which allow for the Forest Service to successfully carry out its planning, management, and monitoring responsibilities.

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2014

**Julie Saupe, Chair**  
ATIA Board of Directors

**Sarah Leonard**  
ATIA President & CEO