

Dear Senator Stedman,

I really appreciate your support in trying to have the State of Alaska regain some control of our natural resources. The Federal Government has managed to lock up the Tongass Forest to any and all reasonable development through the Roadless Rule and now the Obama administration is basically dictating what the Forest Service can and cannot do.

Alaska is a natural resource state, our residents need jobs, and this Resolution is a realistic step in the right direction for us to encourage environmentally safe mining, timber, and hydropower development for the long term benefit for our region. The lack of employment and high energy costs are having a dramatic negative impact on the Native communities in SE Alaska and SCR 2 can help turn this problem around.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Scott Spickler
10754 Horizon Dr.
Juneau, AK. 99801

907-789-3780

From: Bob Grimm [<mailto:bob.g@aptalaska.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 3:45 PM

To: Jim Clark

Cc: 'Christie.Jamieson@akled.gov'

Subject: CR-2

Jim

I did get a call from Christie Jameson from Stedman's office. I am sorry I was unable to testify. I do have some thoughts on the matter.

The situation in the Tongass primarily in regards to the lack of inventory and planning for renewable energy resources also compounded by the lack of planning for roads and electrical transmission lines to get these renewable energy resources to market. These are valuable public resources that even without the commercial value for the energy and capacity and only calculating the value of the environmental attributes on the 200 hydropower sites identified in 1947 most located on USFS land is 13 billion dollars only based upon the Social Cost of Carbon. If you assume the environmental attributes are 10 % of the value the estimate value of those renewable energy resources upon the Tongass are valued at the least \$130 billion.

These resources that are currently locked up in a quagmire of conflicting and absent prudent land planning. I understand that the primary purpose of CR-2 is to create a State forest which AP&T strongly supports! However, I would like to point out that any land that we can get out of the National Forest System would also be conducive to the development of the renewable resources and would also allow the development of logical and complete multi-use road corridors for transportation , electric transmission lines and other TUS uses although allowed by the TLMP cannot be implemented due to the confusion, lack of clarity and litigation of the USFS roadless rule.

It is strange indeed based upon my research that the easiest place to build a road or electrical transmission line is within the wilderness areas of the Tongass as they have provision for TUS and are not subject to the roadless plan. Further AP&T has conceptualized, permitted and developed renewable energy projects (hydropower) on both federal and state with and without FERC jurisdiction. I state as a fact we found working with the State of Alaska was a much easier and more affordable path to development that working within the Tongass and subject to USFS and FERC jurisdiction.

For the reason stated above AP&T supports CR-2 and would support adding the concept that roads, electric transmission lines and renewable energy project would also be better encouraged, planned for and implemented under State of Alaska ownership as opposed to be included within the National Forest System or upon federal lands.

Bob Grimm, CEO
Alaska Power & Telephone Company
P.O. Box 3222
193 Otto Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
800-982-0136 x120 Office
360-385-1733 x120 Office
360-301-3636 cell
WWW.APTALASKA.COM

Christie Jamieson

From: Frank Bergstrom <frank.b@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:59 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: SCR 2

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Honorable Bert Stedman

State Capitol Building

Room 30

Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: SCR - State of Alaska Acquisition of Land from Tongass National Forest

Dear Senator Stedman,

As the legislature is well aware, the Tongass National Forest comprises the lion share of Southeast Alaska. Unfortunately, with the demise of the long-term contracts, it has become almost completely inaccessible for enterprise or active management. We've been down this road a long time, and the Forest Service has lost the ability to manage the land for enterprise. They have failed completely – largely as a result of destructive legal practices by anti-development groups.

The only viable solution is to place the maximum land area possible into state ownership and management, and that is what is sought in SCR 2. The Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division has proven exemplary in managing state forest land in Southeast for the benefit of commerce and the peoples of Alaska. This has been accomplished on a sustainable basis without demonstrable negative impacts. The gross area of disturbance is insignificant relative to the total forested areas of similar values throughout the region. DNR has proven it's competence to manage the forest resource for multi-use, and I fully support placing as much of the Tongass into state ownership as possible.

I believe SCR 2 should be adopted by the Alaska State Legislature and every effort should be made to advance this initiative to a successful conclusion.

Best Regards,

Frank Bergstrom

PO Box 22909

Juneau, AK 99802

907-523-1995 phone/fax

907-321-3637 cell

frank.b@gci.net

Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 223A
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-3184
Fax: (907) 225-3187
info@ketchikanchamber.com



**Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors**

**Resolution in Support of the Effort to Acquire Two Million Acres from the Tongass National Forest to
Establish a State Forest**

WHEREAS, the federal government owns nearly 65% of the land in Alaska and nearly 95% of the land in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is the largest national forest at 17 million acres; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest is rich in timber, minerals, and renewable energy resources which can be developed in a responsible manner supportive of robust rural economies; and

WHEREAS, current federal management of the Tongass schedules only 600,000 acres for timber harvest and is administratively costly for both the USFS and the American taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Initiative further precludes the sustainability and economic viability of timber harvest and the utilization of renewable resources in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, 75,000 people are directly dependent upon the health of Southeast Alaska's economy; and

WHEREAS, the population of Southeast Alaska is the only regional population in the State to decline over the last two census periods; and

WHEREAS, two million acres is less than 12% of the total land area of the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, lands designated as State Forest are managed per state forest purposes, as defined in Alaska statute (AS 41.17.200), with their primary goal being "timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce supports Governor Sean Parnell's effort to acquire two million acres from the Tongass National Forest to establish a State Forest that can be managed sustainably and in regards to the Southeast Alaska region's triple bottom line.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce supports any and all legislation that will facilitate the fruition of Governor Parnell's efforts.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be disseminated to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and member state's Chambers of Commerce, Southeast Alaska regional

Chambers of Commerce, the SE Conference, and the Alaska State Chamber requesting that they endorse this resolution.

Approved this 2nd day of October, 2013


Judy Zenge, President


Chelsea Goucher, Business Manager



FIRST THINGS FIRST
ALASKA FOUNDATION

APR - 4 2013

P.O. Box 240605
Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone
907.463.3433 fax
ftffoundation.org

*First Things First
Alaska Foundation
is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit
organization
dedicated to
preserving the
economic
viability and
future of Alaska
through
education*

The Honorable Bert Stedman
State Capitol Building
Room 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, Acquire Tongass National Forest Land

Dear Senator Stedman,

The First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) wishes to express our support for SCR 2 and our appreciation for your raising this important issue to Alaskans. The First Things First Alaska Foundation 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.

SCR 2 Seeks to acquire additional forested land in the Tongass National Forest for the State of Alaska with the intent of using it to provide available timber to support economic sustainability in Southeast Alaska. This would provide an opportunity for the struggling timber industry to secure access to timber and provide jobs for Alaskans.

The US Forest Service has unilaterally decided to close off 92 percent of the Tongass National Forest by implementing new roadless rule regulation, which will be applied to future development, including timber harvests, mining, and hydroelectric and other renewable energy projects.

The Forest Service admits in the 2001 Roadless Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that the total direct and indirect job and income losses from timber harvest restrictions would be 864 to 895 jobs and \$37.3 to \$38.7 million. The Forest Service acknowledged that the immediate prohibition on road construction would eliminate 95% of the timber harvest from the affected areas. The Forest Service concluded that "the long-term ecological benefits to the nation of conserving this inventoried roadless areas outweigh the potential economic loss to those local communities..."

Continued management of the Tongass National Forest as a pristine sanctuary for those who will never depend on the reasonable use of this resource should come to an end. Federal ownership and management of Alaska lands has led to one extreme of locking it up or the other extreme of over utilization. We believe

that Alaska has a strong record of responsible resource development, providing economic benefit and maintaining the the sustained usability of the resource.

We believe SCR 2 should be adopted by the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

Neil MacKinnon
President

From: Charlotte Tanner [<mailto:hejlotta@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: My testimony SCR2 Outline.

Please include this statement in the public record and distribute to committee members.

This resolution is not factually correct, it is based on a biased economic analysis, and I am adamantly opposed to it.

I can not understand why Governor Parnell has it "out" for SE Alaska.

The economy of SE Alaska is now pretty much based on tourism, services, and fisheries, harvesting timber adversely affects those industries. The "timber industry" is an anachronism that needs to move on and find something else to do with itself.

In addition re-opening the Statehood Act is a foolhardy move at best. Please do not vote for this ridiculous resolution.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Tanner, PO Box 886, Ward Cove, Alaska 99928

--

Forgive him, for he believes that the customs of his tribe are the laws of nature. -George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

From: Marian Allen [<mailto:marianallen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 8:07 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SCR2

Representative Keller:

Please include this statement in the public record and distribute it to the committee members. I oppose SCR 2. Litigation is not the reason there is not more industrial scale timber harvesting on the Tongass. First of all, because of the 200 timber sales that have had a public review since 1990, only 38 have been appealed by SEACC. In fact, the major reason is that we cannot be competitive because of transportation costs. What we should be doing is supporting the small Mom and Pop operations that supply local needs; the level of industry that existed before the highly subsidized industrial operations in Sitka, Ketchikan and Wrangell. Industrial scale logging is not the interest of the Mom and Pop operations because it destroys their timber base. The Tongass takes longer than a hundred years to regenerate trees that can support an industry. That is anything but sustainable. On the other hand, keeping the Tongass in tact holds potential as a source of carbon storage and enhances both the fishing and tourist industries, both of which are sustainable long term as they are now being managed. This bill is a big step backward and if passed would hurt the economy of SE.

Thank you for listening.

Marian Allen

617 Katlian, B-12

Sitka, AK 99835

From: victoria mcdonald [<mailto:victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SCR 2

Dear Representative Keller:

I am absolutely opposed to SCR 2. As a 40 year resident of Southeast Alaska and a former commercial fisherman, current sport fisherman and hunter, I see no reason why more land should be turned over to the state.

First the facts as stated in SCR 2 are incorrect. For years, the logging companies were allowed to cherry pick the best timber in the river valleys and on the southern slopes of our mountains. Fish streams were muddied and ruined, and are just now recovering. All timber sales were subsidized; roads were paid for by the federal government, resembling welfare for the logging companies.

The fishing industry, both commercial and sport bring an incredible amount of money to our state and no subsidies are required. This industry will continue to provide jobs for years to come, unless the state is given land to clear cut more of our old-growth forest. In addition, the natives with their customary and traditional use of the forest will not be able to obtain the foods and spirituality that they require for the continuation of their culture.

If you are going to use figures, please use a non biased report. There are current reports telling how the Tongass is an essential carbon sink. If the State gets land, the big trees that store massive amounts of carbon will be removed and the Earth will continue to heat and humans will face even more severe weather changes.

Also, most of the trees being logged are shipped as round log exports to Asia so only a few fallers will have jobs. The logs will disappear, only to return in a few years as high priced veneer.

Alaskans have moved into realistic lives; some trees are cut by local small mills and used locally. The Legislature is out of touch, saying logging will return to its former levels. Here in Ketchikan we were left with a seriously polluted Ward Cove that prevents new industries from locating in a potentially valuable deep water port. The legacy of industrial scale logging is shameful. Let's promote mariculture and sustainable industries.

Sincerely,
Victoria McDonald
907 254 0914

Ernest Prax

From: Margaret Hunter <mhunter388@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 3:57 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: No SCR 2

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Stedman,

I am writing to let you know I am opposed to SCR 2, the proposed bill to acquire Tongass National Forest land. I am concerned about preserving the breadth and diversity of recreational activities as well as the health of our salmon and other wildlife populations. If purchased the land would be open to logging which would be detrimental to salmon and the commercial fishing industry. As a gillnetter of SE Alaska I am concerned for the quality of our salmon streams and I am against bill SCR 2.

Margaret Hunter