

SCR

2

<TARGET><BILL>SCR 2</BILL><SUBJECT>SCR
2</SUBJECT><COMM>HJUD28</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

Sponsor Statement

SCR 2 – Acquire Tongass National Forest Land

The Tongass National Forest was created in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Today, it is the largest national forest in the United States with 16.8 million acres. In 1947 Congress enacted the Tongass Timber Act the purpose of which was to clear the way for long term timber sales on the Tongass. From the 1950's through the early 1990's, the commercial harvest of timber from the Tongass National Forest formed a major part of the economy in Southeast Alaska. Unfortunately, that's no longer the case because the timber industry does not have access to an adequate volume of timber supply that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest. Interestingly, only 400,000 acres of the Tongass have been harvested between its creation in 1907 and today. In addition, there were more sawmills operating on the Tongass in 1900 than there are today.

The reasons behind the lack of timber supply began in 1980 when Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) establishing 4.5 million acres of Wilderness and National Monuments in Southeast Alaska. In order to ensure that these land withdrawals from the available timber base did not harm the existing timber industry, ANILCA mandated that the Forest Service offer 450 million board feet of timber annually. Then in 1990, Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) creating another 1.1 million acres of Wilderness and Roadless Area set-asides, further reducing acreage in the Tongass National Forest that could be used for timber harvest. In 1997 the Forest Service adopted a new land management plan for the Tongass National Forest and switched to "ecosystem management." Under this new philosophy, attention to timber sale economics was abandoned. However, in 2005 the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) was set aside and nine major timber sale environmental impact statements were enjoined pending preparation of an amended Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (See the 9th Circuit's Decision in *Natural Resources Defense Council v. United States Forest Service*, 421 F.3d 797 (9th Cir. 2005)). The 1997 Forest Plan was enjoined, not because of an environmental problem, but because of a Forest Service math error in computing the volume of timber needed to meet market demand.

Every significant timber sale the Forest Service has attempted to make since adoption of the 2008 Amended TLMP has been litigated. This litigation has caused annual Forest Service sales to be reduced to 30-40 MMBF, not nearly enough to supply the integrated industry advocated by the Governor's Timber Task Force.

District Q

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Klawock • Hoonah • Kake • Thorne Bay • Angoon • Saxman • Hydaburg • Coffman Cove • Naukati • Hollis
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Moreover, the Secretary of Agriculture interfered with implementation of the 2008 Amended TLMP with his 2010 announcement of an "immediate transition from old growth timber to second growth timber." This announcement was made notwithstanding the fact that there is insufficient second growth timber on the Tongass that meets the definition of cumulative mean annual increment required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Timber sales in old growth were delayed while Forest Service professionals have tried to make it clear to the Secretary that an "immediate" transition to second growth would violate the NFMA.

In March 2011 the Federal District Court for the District of Alaska set aside the Tongass Exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule, which the State had negotiated with the Federal Government in 2003. This has resulted in 9.6 million acres of non-timber-harvest areas being created on the Tongass in addition to the 5.6 million acres of non-timber-harvest Wilderness areas. In addition, the Roadless Areas create a serious impediment to mining and to hydropower and other renewable energy opportunities on the Tongass.

The Tongass National Forest currently encompasses about 93% of the available timberlands in Southeast Alaska. However, only two percent of the Tongass National Forest is managed for the purpose of providing local communities with the opportunity to harvest timber. Consequently, the Forest Service has monopoly power over the timber supply. In the past four years, several efforts to revitalize the timber industry in Southeast Alaska have failed because a timber industry cannot exist without an adequate timber supply. Since the U.S. Forest Service is no longer able to provide enough timber in the Tongass National Forest to sustain a viable timber industry in Southeast Alaska, it is time for the Governor to intervene.

Under the Alaska Statehood Act, the federal government provided Alaska with a 103,350,000 acre land entitlement. Of that original land entitlement, 5,500,000 acres still remain available for selection. SCR 2 urges the Governor to take steps necessary to select land in the Tongass National Forest as part of Alaska's statehood entitlement. However, section 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act limits the state's selection of land from the Tongass and the Chugach National Forests to 400,000 acres and further limits the use of that land to recreation and community expansion. The state should be entitled to select some of its remaining land entitlement from the Tongass National Forest without being limited to recreation and community expansion. This could be achieved through efforts by the Governor to negotiate the transfer or sale of timberland in the Tongass National Forest or by working with our federal delegation to amend the Alaska Statehood Act.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version CSSCR 2(JUD)
 Fiscal Note Number 1
 (S) Publish Date 3/10/14

Identifier (file name) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title SCR 2-ACQUIRE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST LAND Appropriation _____
 Sponsor Senator Stedman Allocation _____
 Requester Senate Judiciary Committee OMB Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY15 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1007	I/A Rcpts (Other)							
1156	Rcpt Svcs (DGF)							
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES

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Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs** _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY15) costs** _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? _____
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version.

Prepared by Senate Judiciary Committee
 Division _____
 Approved by Senator Coghill, Chair
 Division _____

Phone 465-3719
 Date/Time 3/7/14 12:00 AM
 Date 3/17/2014

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Coghill, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Senator Bert K. Stedman *B.S.*

DATE: February 21, 2014

SUBJECT: SCR 2 Questions

At the last Senate Judiciary Committee held on February 17, 2014, there were several questions posed to SCR 2. Here are the responses.

Q. Has the Statehood Act ever been revised, and if so, when?

A. Yes, the Statehood Act has been revised at least twice by Congress with the agreement of the State: In 1971, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was enacted to settle Native Claims. This Act provided for 40 million acres of land selections by various Native groups as well as amending the State selections process. In 1980, Title IX of the Alaska Natural Interest Lands Conservation Act contained a major revision to the Statehood Act to further the selection and conveyance of State land selection. In each instance, the bills specifically dealt with specific land selection, conveyance and entitlement of lands selection under Statehood Act.

District Q

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Q. Has an Alaskan Governor attempted this before? Was it three years ago?

A. Yes, Governor Frank Murkowski worked with the Alaska delegation during the 110th Congress, second session (2008) and Representative Young introduced HR 6682. This legislation addresses many of the same issues as the proposed SCR 2. The bill would have amended the Statehood Act to allow land selections from the Tongass National forest, 1.8 million acres, as partial fulfillment of the original statehood entitlement. The proposed legislation also had a tie to educational programs in Alaska and the short title of the bill was: "Alaska Timber Management Areas for Education Land Selection Act".

Stepping back a bit further to the 144th Congress, HR 2413 was introduced in 1995. This legislation proposed to transfer the entire Tongass National Forest to the State of Alaska. The bill was entitled: "To Transfer the Tongass National Forest to the State of Alaska".

More recently in June of 2012, the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force issued their final report per Administrative Order 258 from Governor Sean Parnell. Several specific recommendations in the report address Tongass National Forest management including high priority recommendations in Section 2, Task 2 and 5. The recommendations read "Southeast State Forest: add two million acres of National Forest System lands from the Tongass NF" and "Pursue state ownership and /or management authority of two million acres of National Forest System lands in the Tongass NF to support an

integrated timber industry in Southeast". The Division of Forestry has a reporting matrix on their website that tracks progress on all the recommendations in the Task Force final report, including the ones on additional land selections in the Tongass.

http://forestry.alaska.gov/aktimber_jobs_taskforce.htm

The administration has been working with the Alaska delegation to discuss options for accomplishing this recommendation and the Division of Forestry is actively engaged in the topic. This past year State Forester Maisch testified in front of the House on HR 1294 (Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act) and HR 818 (Restoring Healthy Forests) and in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on challenges and opportunities for improving management of national forest land. Thru the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), Alaska is working to form a state and national coalition to advocate for national forest management changes, including Western Governors Association (WGA), Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), and other national organizations.

Q. Would Senator Stedman prefer to purchase or trade land?

A. We need a timber supply and the federal government has, since 1990, steadily reduced the amount of timber available from federal lands in Southeast. The federal

government has monopoly power over the timber supply in the region, where more than 94% of the land is under federal management (the Tongass and Glacier Bay).

Q. How many acres does he want to acquire?

A. Two million. This is the amount of land required to sustain the timber industry and to allow access to mining, energy development and community access. The Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force report has additional information about the proposed State Forest (http://forestry.alaska.gov/aktimber_jobs_taskforce.htm)

Q. What would be the purchase price per acre and what would the operating cost be for that additional land?

A. The Division of Forestry (DOF) currently has staff located in Ketchikan that are actively engaged in managing state forest lands, including the Southeast State Forest (50,000 acres). While there would be some incremental cost to managing additional lands in Southeast, there would be corresponding offset of revenue generated by the timber sale program, thus the additional management costs could be covered by receipt authority. The purchase or sale of lands is generally at the appraised value and that level of detail has not been completed at this stage of the process. Should the project go forward as an outright purchase, then an appraisal of the lands would need to be made.

Q. What does 2% of Tongass really mean?

A. The Tongass encompasses 17 million acres. 10 million of those acres are timberland. About 5.6 million of those acres grow trees fast enough to be considered commercial forestland. Congress has set aside more than 6 million acres. The current Tongass Land Management Plan allows only 663,000 acres to be managed for timber production. The re-imposition of the Roadless rule places about half of the 663,000 acres off-limits to development. The remaining 330,000 acres represents about 2% of the 17 million acre Tongass.

Q. What is the percentage of old growth left and where is it?

A. About 450,000 acres of timber has been harvested on the Tongass. All of those acres have been reforested, but the trees on most of those acres are not yet mature. All of the remaining 10 million forested acres (or 5.6 million commercial forest acres) are covered with old-growth timber. Consequently, about 96% of the 10 million acres is old-growth and about 92% of the 6 million acres of commercial timberland is old-growth. This wasn't part of the question, but about 2 million acres of old-growth has been set-aside by Congress as Wilderness, National Monuments and legislated LUD-II (Roadless) areas. Additionally, about a million acres of timberland is within protected stream buffers.

Q. What is the rejuvenation potential of other harvested timber on mental health and native lands?

A. Mental Health, University, and other State and Native lands comprise about 6% of the land in the region. The total acreage of non-USFS young growth (YG) is approximately 280,000 acres. The age class distribution of the non-USFS young growth is about 20 years younger than USFS young growth and is not likely to provide much support to a rapid transition. Currently the State of Alaska and the University of Alaska have significant amounts of old growth timber resources available for harvest. However this available volume is not sufficient enough on its own to provide for the existing industries annual needs or to maintain a viable customer base for high-value old growth products. If the Sealaska Land Entitlement bill and the proposed Alaska Mental Health Trust – USFS land exchange are both enacted there will be an additional 100,000 acres of both old growth and young growth timber available for forest management. Again without a drastic increase (3 fold) in volume offered on an annual basis by the Forest Service or the transfer of 2,000,000 acres into State management; there are not sufficient timber resources available to sustain the current industry. Taking average growth rate (MAI) and applying it to the projected young growth land base for all ownerships a total sustainable regional young growth harvest program

could approach 200 million board feet annual from all owners. Harvest could ramp up to this level over the next 30 years with short term harvest level being significantly less.

The table below shows the acres of young growth by decadal age class by ownership in southeast.

		Management by Owner									
		2000-2010	1990-2000	1980-1990	1970-1980	1960-1970	1950-1960	1940-1950	1930-1940	1930--	
State	no	14	5,822	765	1,143	3,575	4,761	1,985	916	24	19,006
State	yes	-	-	4	977	723	114	-	-	-	1,818
ANC	no	4,294	31,647	59,906	85,582	7,886	5,969	1,058	603	107	197,051
ANC	yes	-	104	15,954	24,589	8,380	2,722	289	-	-	52,038
USFS	no	-	6,722	63,055	55,635	34,048	49,410	19,261	3,903	1,851	233,886
USFS	yes	-	-	3,014	31,609	80,420	64,964	8,809	31	128	188,975
		4,308	44,295	142,698	199,536	135,032	127,941	31,402	5,453	2,110	692,774

State includes State of Alaska, Mental Health Trust and University lands

ANC includes regional and village native corporations

USFS is the Tongass National Forest

Q. Has this been done by other states before, and how much was the purchase price per acre?

A. According to Monte Williams, land specialist, Legislative Affairs Office, U.S. Forest Service, there have been some trades of small parcels of land between states and the federal government. Additionally there are some provisions under law for the exchange or sale of small tracts of land. However, to Mr. Williams' knowledge no trade or sale to date has been large enough to constitute or support a sustainable timber

industry.^[1] A key component of any such transaction is a determination that the exchange or sale of federal land is within the interest of the American public.

In addition to being in the interest of the wider public, land exchanges must reflect value for value. Further, all expenses associated with such trades – including, for example, surveys and environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – would be borne by the entity requesting the trade.

The National Forest Townsite Act authorizes the Forest Service to sell land in the contiguous western states and Alaska to local governments for community purposes; however the limit to such sales is 640 acres and the land must be adjacent to the community that has applied. Land sales must serve the local community interest and the local objectives must outweigh the larger public interest that is served by retaining federal ownership. Under the law, the federal government must receive at least fair market value for the land.^[2]

^[1] Monte Williams, land specialist with legislative affairs, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, can be reached at 202.205.1011.

^[2] National Forest Townsite Act, 16 U.S.C. 478a. Under the associated regulations, the value of land is estimated through appraisals that meet federal appraisal standards.

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.

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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

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Juneau, AK 99802

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**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

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*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:heilotta@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

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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 and 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