

Presented by: Mayor Botelho
Introduced: 04/25/2007
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2408(b)

A Resolution Expressing Assembly Support of the Tongass Futures Roundtable.

WHEREAS, Southeastern Alaska provides the setting for the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest national forest at nearly 17 million acres. A 500 mile long archipelago of fjords, glaciers, ridges, jagged peaks, forests, and wetlands, the Tongass forest comprises much of the largest temperate rainforest remaining on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and manages public lands in national forests and grasslands through management plans; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service originally adopted the current Tongass Forest Plan in 1997 and it has been amended many times since then; and

WHEREAS, additional adjustments and updates of the Forest Plan (officially called a Forest Plan Amendment) are intended to comply with an August 2005 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision and to respond to the findings of the recently completed Tongass Forest Plan 5 Year Review; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly believes that a diverse economy in Southeast Alaska includes a healthy timber industry; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has supported efforts of the Tongass Futures Roundtable, a diverse group of stakeholders, including members of the forest industry, long involved in the Tongass to discuss how to incorporate Southeast Alaska's economic, cultural, and ecological values in public policy issues throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass Futures Roundtable has identified the following five principles as areas of significant common interest regarding the Tongass Land Management Plan amendments:

1. Protect intact watersheds with important values;
2. Manage timber lands to provide a steady, reliable, and predictable supply of timber to the industry;

3. Transition from old growth to second growth;
4. Promote, support and fund a forest and riparian restoration program; and
5. Provide sufficient, economic timber to support an integrated manufacturing industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau expresses its strong support for the forest industry as an important component of the Southeast Alaska economy.

Section 2. That the Assembly commends to the Forest Service the principles adopted by the Tongass Futures Roundtable.

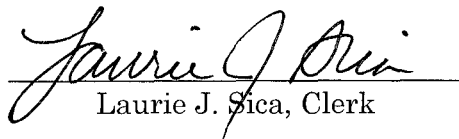
Section 3. That the Assembly supports the efforts of the Tongass Futures Roundtable to achieve through consensus a "long-term balance of healthy and diverse communities, vibrant economies, responsible use of resources - including timber, while maintaining the natural values and ecological integrity of the forest."

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 25th day of April, 2007.


Bruce Botelho, Mayor

Attest:


Laurie J. Sica, Clerk