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First name: Clinton

Last name: Cook

Organization: Tribal - Craig Tribal Association

Title: Tribal President

Comments: Craig Tribal Association

RESOLUTION 2024-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CRAIG TRIBAL ASSOCIATION (CTA) URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCLUDE THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST IN THE PROPOSED NATIONAL OLD GROWTH FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT RULE WHILE SUPPORTING THE SMALL MILLS

WHEREAS, the Craig Tribal Association (IRA) is a duly constituted Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the authority of Section 16 of the Act of Congress on June 18, 1934, (48 Stat.984), as amended by the acts of Congress, June 15, 1935,(49 Stat.378), and May 1, 1936, (49 Stat. 1250); and

WHEREAS, the Craig Tribal Association Tribal Council is the governing body of the Craig Tribe in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, representing the Association in all its undertakings for the well-being of the Tribe, exercising their powers and authority to make policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest is the largest national forest in the United States, covering approximately 16. 7 million acres of temperate rainforest in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest contains some of the last remaining large tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest, which are invaluable for their ecological, cultural, and recreational significance; and

WHEREAS, old-growth forests in the Tongass play a critical role in carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation, supporting numerous plant and animal species, including some that are endangered or threatened; and

WHEREAS, old-growth commercial logging has historically contributed to the economic activities of Southeast Alaska, but has also led to environmental degradation, loss of habitat, and long-term negative impacts on the region's ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the exemption proposed for the Tongass allowing for old-growth logging for small mills in Southeast Alaska which provide essential economic opportunities and support local communities by creating jobs and processing wood products, while relying on sustainable forestry practices; and

WHEREAS, the continued commercial logging of old-growth forests threatens the long-term sustainability of both the forest ecosystem and the local economy, as it risks depleting the very resources upon which these communities depend; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Craig Tribal Association expresses its strong support for the protection of old-growth forests in the Tongass National Forest and calls for the inclusion of a ban on old-growth commercial logging in the proposed national old-growth forest plan amendment rule with the exception of small mills, to ensure the economic viability of Southeast Alaska's communities without compromising the health and integrity of the Tongass National Forest; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Craig Tribal Association urges the Department to retain the culturally significant uses exception.

CERTIFICATION The undersigned hereby certifies that the Tribal Council is comprised of seven members of which an established quorum was present at this duly convened meeting and this resolution was adopted by the following votes, and has not been rescinded, amended, or modified in anyway on August 13 . 2024.

6 [yes] ___[No] ___[Abstain] ___[Absent] ___[Excused]

ATTACHMENT: CraigTribalAssociationResolution 2024-60 (1).pdf - this is the same content that is coded in text box; it was originally only included as an attachment