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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear We are at a tipping point. In face of the looming climate crisis, at the very time the Amazon Rain Forest is burning, Senator Murkowski's request to Sonny Purdue to cut into the Tongass National Forest because the loggers don't have enough trees to chop down is a clueless, heart-stoppingly lame rationale.

It's too late. Methane is leaking from the thawing permafrost; the ice is thinning, the Alaskan fishery waters are heating, the forests are burning. It's 94 degrees in Anchorage. Alaska is the fastest warming state in the Union. Chopping down the trees is not the answer to Alaska's economic future any longer. My father, Dr. Merritt Starr was an Alaskan and I used to be there before big oil came to Prudhoe Bay, so I know of the economy and way of life as it used to be. Yes, it used to be that everyone rushed to Alaska because the natural wealth was there for the taking: gold nuggets, bear rugs, fish, crab, oil, whatever you wanted. But it was all small time, a family matter.

Now big corporations log and mine our precious American natural resources, resources that belong to all of us, and many of these companies are foreign; many of them export the loot. This is not the way forward. We all know that diversity leads to prosperity. We see what happens to countries that allow for extractive industries to be the sole source of income. It's been documented: the people get poorer. Alaska needs to change.

Yes, they want the timber and the ore. That doesn't mean that they have a right to have what belongs to the people of the United States, or that you must let them. We, the people, the taxpayers have paid for these resources and we do not agree to have them sold out from under us.

In the face of global warming, we must all change, and you can too. You know the damage to the watershed and salmon fisheries that will occur. You know what dams will do to the age-old ecology of these watershed systems. You know how the tailings from the mines will eventually seep into the water streams. You know how the wild life will shrivel and shrink from the noise and presence of humans, even as we are on the brink of species extinction. You know that tree plantations are not the same as bio-diverse forests. For logging to be a job, once you cut down one tree, you must cut down another, without end. You know that, because of a decision to end the Roadless Rule, the earth will lose its largest remaining temperate rain forest that has existed for all time and will now be lost for all time.

Truly,

Sarah Starr

Los Angeles

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