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Comments: I fully support the Thomas Bay Young Growth Sale. This project and many more are the economic engine that will enable Southeast Alaska to get back on its feet. The timber industry was a steadying influence in all the southeast Alaskan communities. It wasn't until the timbersale offerings began to dwindle in the 1990s under the Clinton Administration that the communities throughout SE Alaska began to suffer. Statistics show that up to 35% of the populations have left these small communities due to a lack of jobs that came about as a result of the loss of timber jobs. Most publications put out by those opposed to the timber industry say that "it only will cost the communities 100 jobs". The reality is that it costs those communities 100 jobs plus another 500 jobs that supported those workers at the grocery store, the gas station, what used to be boat dealerships, car dealerships, etcetera. The falsehood of how our communities have suffered is through real jobs that provided economic stability and a steady flow of money due to year-round payrolls. The timbersale economics show that up to 5 jobs are created in the local communities for every job created in the woods. This project and many others like it is the best way to put our economies back on the right track.

Commercial fishing, tourism and mariculture are vying for the spotlight and the same dollars to restart our local economies. Unfortunately, many commercial fishermen who operate in Alaska don't even live in our state anymore. Those same commercial fishermen, take their earnings back out of state since theirs is a only a part-time occupation in Alaska. For the most part neither do the charter fishermen who live out of state and support the tourism industry in the summers and they to, take their monies earned back out of state.

The bulk of the tourist shops in our bigger towns are all owned by people from other countries who take those same tourist dollars back overseas. The only economic engine that provides year-round jobs and stability and puts real dollars back into our small towns is the timber industry. Mills whether they be big or small are a real stabilizing force in our local economies. Should the Thomas Bay Timbersale and other projects like it move forward, it will be an economic boon to the local towns of southeast Alaska. Jobs will be created, and those dollars earned by local workers who live in these towns all year long, will be spread through the local towns over and over. Please consider this a positive endorsement of this project. It is what Alaska needs to economically recover and bring our local communities some much needed stability.