

CITY OF COFFMAN COVE

RESOLUTION 11-19

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TIMBER INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, Coffman Cove was originally a logging camp established during the USDA Forest Service Long Term Timber Sale Contract with Ketchikan Pulp Company, and

WHEREAS, logging has been ongoing for over 50 years in the Coffman Cove area including a current timber sale which has provided an economic base for the establishment of a second class city in 1989, and

WHEREAS, there has been no proven real environmental issues with the timber industry on Prince of Wales Island that validates ending timber harvest on Prince of Wales Island, and

WHEREAS, Alaska has been exempt from the roadless rule but the current administration and Forest Service Management is implementing roadless in SE Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the current direction of the Forest Service is to curtail timber harvest of mature trees and use all timber management resources to provide restoration which only provides seasonal jobs and does not stabilize the economy since funding is dependent on Federal appropriations, and

WHEREAS, there is no cost benefit to restoration since deer and fish populations are currently higher than in 1950 when commercial logging at a higher volume commenced, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has been directed to transition to second growth timber when there is no market, the 50 year old stands of timber are small, not ready for harvest, spread all over SE Alaska, are not economical for any industry, and the findings of a recent Second Growth Inventory show the volume to be less than the Forest Service model projected, and

WHEREAS, residents of SE Alaska depend on the timber industry for sustainable livelihoods and no adverse effect to the forest has been proven that shows timber harvest in SE Alaska is detrimental and can be economical if the Tongass Land Management Plan is followed, and

WHEREAS, when Ketchikan Pulp moved out of Coffman Cove in 1999, the city worked to diversify its economy and promoted seasonal tourism as an industry and has found tourism encourages summer businesses that do not sustain the community or the school, and

WHEREAS, the community has suffered due to the lack of family wage jobs with benefits due to the Forest Service transition to a restoration economy which is seasonal work that has forced families to move from Coffman Cove with adverse effects to the local school, and

WHEREAS, 50 years of continuous logging has not hurt our local forests or environment and there is substantial timber left in the Coffman Cove area which could sustain a reasonable timber industry, returning our community to a stable economy with family wage jobs with benefits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Coffman Cove fully supports the implementation of the current Tongass Land Management Plan with a timber component to support the remaining medium size saw mill left in SE Alaska and enough timber component to encourage new industry and jobs while supplying a timber base to the smaller operators throughout SE Alaska,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Coffman Cove supports some restoration efforts as long as they are funded separately and not at the expense of timber based jobs that are family wage jobs and a very cautious entry into the second growth market leading to development of supply and demand in 30-40 years.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Coffman Cove City Council on this 17th day of February, 2011.

Mayor / Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk