



City of Coffman Cove

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Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFrazio,

The community of Coffman Cove, Alaska supports H.R. 1526. The current preparation of timber sales, its attendant costs, the environmental review process and the subsequent lawsuits have rendered any entity trying to perform a timber industry in the Tongass important.

In 2000 we were a timber community at the end of a 50 year contract. Wages were still appropriate; families were doing OK on resource paychecks. Ten years later more than 70% of community members 16 years or older were earning less than \$16,120 per year working in primarily hospitality and service jobs. In 2010 Denali Commission recognized us as "distressed."

A real timber industry can't return soon enough. The loss of revenue is an enormous problem, but of equal import is the loss of a working culture, both "in camp" and in the woods, where safety is of primary concern.

That said, we are very appreciative of a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. Those funds are urgently needed to prop up our schools and towns.

Thank you for taking this input.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Duncan
Mayor