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4 U.S. Senator Ted Stevens Oct. 20,1993

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6 To whomever receives this letter: = **Warning** = This letter is specifically intended only for  
7 Senator Stevens' perusal and carries with it the explicit demand that I receive a PERSONAL  
8 reply from Senator Stevens and no other. If I don't receive a reply to this letter from Senator  
9 Stevens within a reasonable time frame this letter will go public to local and regional newspapers  
10 as well as other parties, whom I believe will be quite interested in the contents herein as well as  
11 my experience with the Senators' accessibility.....

12 Dear Senator Stevens:

13 I, as you can probably tell by the above, am NOT a Happy Camper! I'm in no mood to soft-talk  
14 about what I have to say because **I--HAVE HAD ENOUGH!!**

15 I have been seething ever since I read in the local paper the headline, "House-Senate committee  
16 gives broad range for Tongass Sale". After all the time, money, and effort that went into the  
17 Tongass Timber Reform Act, the purpose of which was to cut back on the runaway timber  
18 industry program here in the Tongass, the issue was decided in a COMMITTEE meeting! The  
19 article went on to say, "The Tongass timber cutting level has been a perennial battle between the  
20 House and Senate in recent years during deliberations on the Forest Service budget". What  
21 couldn't be decided by the full contingent of both houses of Congress gets blasted into being by  
22 you and a few others. A Great example of the democratic system at its best!!!

23 With a government like that who needs enemies?

24 The article also quoted you as saying: "I am still committed to the Tongass Timber Reform Act.  
25 If the demand is there it will be cut". In other words, as long as there is a demand for the timber  
26 we'll cut it right down to the last stick, won't we?

27 I sound just like a radical lock-it-up preservationist don't I? One of those *Field and Stream*-  
28 reading, bleeding-heart spotted owl reactionary, Teddy Bear-cuddling, TV watching potato-  
29 heads who are led by the nose, that sign their names and put their money behind any smooth  
30 talking reactionary that tells a good story. Well, surprise, Mr. Senator, I am none of the above.

31 I am a born and raised lifelong resident of Alaska, so lifelong that I have been out of the country  
32 less than ten times during my almost 52 years living here. And I love Alaska. Or I did. I loved  
33 Alaska the way it was when I was a kid growing up here; a land full of mystery, a land full of  
34 history. A land tailor-made to satisfy the soul of one such as I who am a confirmed individual  
35 dedicated to self-sufficiency, living life on his own terms. That was the allure of Alaska, in  
36 addition to its incredible beauty, its tremendous bounty, it was a land that challenged a man,  
37 requiring the best from him but rewarding him with the best if he made it. It was all here! A man

1 didn't need hundreds of thousands of dollars of investment like you do today to get a start. Many  
2 a kid started with little more than a patched up wooden cannery skiff and a homemade hand  
3 gurdy and built that into whatever he wanted. There was no limited entry, no discriminatory  
4 IFQs, nor the need to buy a permit ranging from \$15,000 to \$300,000 just to gain entry into  
5 making a living fishing.

6 There were trees everywhere. You could get into logging with nothing more than the promise of  
7 a market, a few simple tools, a pair of cork shoes, and a grubstake from the mercantile store. It  
8 didn't take an act of Congress for an individual to get a timber sale, and millions of dollars didn't  
9 have to be spent deciding how you were going to log it.

10 I came into the scene just a little bit too late to get in on the really good times, but I did get a few  
11 good years before everybody started dividing up the Alaskan pie to suit themselves.

12 It was free, Mr. Stevens, FREE! A land that put hope in your soul and excitement in your veins;  
13 there WAS no other place to live!

14 But then the rot, the corruption, the greed, came creeping, insidiously, always sold with the  
15 promise of better things, of progress, of growth, but which time has always proved to be a  
16 mockery festooned with lies, predation and power-mongering, turning the only homeplace I ever  
17 wanted to live in into a garbage pit, literally as well as figuratively.

18 The land is still beautiful, in an evening when the sun has just gone behind the Sleeping  
19 Beauty[sic] mountains across the bay from my home and the blues and purples and black hide  
20 the miles and miles of scars on the hills behind Windy Point and Cholmondeley Sound and Polk  
21 Inlet, Pauls Bight and Smith Cove, I get kind of a half-way feeling of peace and I can almost but  
22 not quite forget that all is not as perfect as the picture that I'm watching. And because I know that  
23 man's ways in other lands, other states, or anywhere else in the world are the same, I know that  
24 no matter how depressed, no matter how threatened, how oppressed, disgusted, or angry, for  
25 me.....there IS NO OTHER PLACE TO LIVE.

26 But this letter is supposed to be about logging. Which is a subject I think I know something  
27 about because, you see, from the day I found my divorced dad's "cork shoes" in the back of the  
28 closet, with the mud still clinging to them from the last day he wore them many years before, I  
29 have been a logger. I think that was somewhere around when I was 8 years old. Since that day I  
30 have lived, breathed, eaten, slept, and dreamed logging. While I was still in grade school I was  
31 rigging up lines and blocks and little "spar trees" and booms and then I got a little hand winch  
32 and I rigged up a wood haul with a little A-frame to haul firewood blocks up to our house.

33 I used to listen to the old timers talk about their experiences in the woods. About strange-  
34 sounding terms; tailholts, bullblocks, haulbacks, mainlines, donkeys, high climbing. About death  
35 and injury in the woods, and how they happened. I sucked it all in like a sponge. And I let it fill  
36 me. I would go to Tongass Hardware and stand for an hour admiring the blocks, and hooks, and  
37 shackles, all painted up in reds and blue and yellow and green. And I would likewise stand  
38 outside the saw shops and pine for the money it would take to buy a chain saw, and when I was  
39 fifteen I painted a neighbor's house and I made \$200 and I forthwith took the money and bought  
40 a Sears-Roebuck chain saw, and let me tell you, no kid was ever more thrilled with his first car  
41 than I was with that chain saw. I had ARRIVED! I was a LOGGER!

1 When I was sixteen and other kids were rodding around in their customized cars, chasing girls  
2 and generally getting into mischief, I was out in this old slab of a boat with a 4 hp Wisconsin  
3 engine with my chain saw, a peavey, a jack, and my little winch getting logs off the beach and  
4 taking them into Totem Lumber Co., a small, two-man sawmill who gave me thirty dollars per M  
5 for them. I bought a lot of hamburgers and ice cream as well as my "business" needs, but I also  
6 bought my school clothes and helped out with the family finances. My mom didn't make much  
7 money. During school season I cut firewood on evenings when the weather was good enough to  
8 do it, both for our own use as well as for sale. And I didn't need a permit to do it either. Most of  
9 the money I made went to help Mom make ends meet.

10 And the story goes from there. I worked in the woods for over 26 years before I ever did  
11 anything else, and it was like a fish being out of water. For me, there IS no other thing to do.

12 I'm not logging now. I've been trying to do other things like pile and dock work and I worked in  
13 the local rigging loft for a while where I got to work with brand new cable instead of the gnarly,  
14 jaggery, kinky stuff we work with in the woods. I've driven truck. They're just jobs. They're not  
15 fun. Logging used to be fun.

16 My attitude when I was young, working in the woods, was just like every other loggers'. In 1959,  
17 when I got out of high school and into the woods the Ketchikan Pulp Co. had only been cutting  
18 timber in S.E. for about 6 years. It was pretty much wide open and what we now know about the  
19 forest and the environment we didn't know then. There seemed to be enough timber for  
20 everybody. Nobody bid on anybody else's show because there was lots to be found everywhere  
21 else. Everybody believed the renewable resource-sustained yield propaganda handed out by the  
22 Forest Service and the industry. There had been no Native land selections yet either, nor any  
23 rubber-stamped Wilderness Areas and National Monuments. Down below they had "tree farms".  
24 Already there were areas that were being logged for the third time. I didn't see the significance  
25 then. Because there was so much old-growth in the Northwest as well as this huge land of  
26 Alaska, the tree farms sounded like a good idea but they were private timber owners little game,  
27 and, of course, everybody knew that second growth timber was vastly inferior to old-growth.

28 But on the whole it seemed that the timber really was a renewable resource; we could see the  
29 areas growing back from the previously logged land we believed would provide the next crop.  
30 But there are a lot of things we didn't take into account, and from what I've observed, we're still  
31 very reluctant to address these issues, or even admit they are issues.

32 When I went to work at the K-P camp in 1960 at the age of eighteen, they had the finest of  
33 machinery then available. They were running 5 sides plus a cold deck side and they also picked  
34 the roadsides with the grapple shovels. In addition they had a couple tractor-mounted "triple-  
35 drum" units that were used as spare sides in case of breakdown or when another setting had been  
36 logged out and was in the process of moving and rigging up, a process that could take from one  
37 to three days. We worked eight-hour shifts then, not your nine- to ten-hour days commonplace  
38 today.

39 A good day's production for a side averaged about 150 logs. A really good day was 185 to 200  
40 logs. These were few and far between. There were far more 75, 80, or 100 log days than 200 log  
41 days. Compare the amount of timber taken then to the production of a modern steel tower whose  
42 moving and rig-up time averages 4 to 6 hours, and if the setting has been pre-rigged which all

1 good outfits do, that time can be cut to two to three hours. A machine can log a couple hours,  
2 maybe log 40 to 60 logs there, knock down and move, rig up and still produce 150 to 200 logs  
3 that same shift! And then we have the highly mobile swing yarders, with maybe a three-man  
4 crew, that are capable of dumping 400 or more logs per shift! Logging pressure on the forest has  
5 tripled or more since I started in 1960. And then we have the helicopters! Six to twelve hundred  
6 logs per shift depending on terrain and how far they have to fly to make the cycle. It's incredible!

7 One of the things I like to hear myself called is "OLD-TIMER". It only superficially has  
8 anything to do with age. "OLD-TIMER" means somebody who has been around awhile and has  
9 learned how to fit. It's somebody who has mellowed, is comfortable with who he is and where he  
10 is and has a feeling for his country and has gotten understanding; he knows what is permissible  
11 to do without laws having to be placed against him; a man who KNOWS his relationship  
12 between himself and his environment; a man who has no need to conquer the world OR his  
13 fellow man; a man who simply wants to live in harmony with them and be content...."OLD-  
14 TIMER"....I'm proud to be called that.

15 What about you, Senator Stevens? Are you an "OLD-TIMER"?

16 Louisiana-Pacific, no matter how long they might remain here will never be an "OLD-TIMER".  
17 They've flown their colors to the contrary. They are a cold and heartless entity. They have lied,  
18 cheated, contrived, conspired, and bulldozed their way around here since they got here. They've  
19 ignored environmental consideration, not to mention the laws, mistreated their employees,  
20 virtually broken the labor unions, both the logger's union as well as the plant unions, controlled  
21 the timber resource, smashed down any other possible competition, dictated to other timber  
22 businesses here, and held aloft the threat that they'll leave Ketchikan a broken shell of a town  
23 unless they get things exactly how they want them.

24 And it looks like it works! Especially when they've got somebody with your stature,[Senator  
25 Stevens], in the legislature to run interference for them!

26 And tell me this isn't interference.

27 From *Tongass at the Crossroads*, Ch. 4...."The TTRA became law in November, 1990. By  
28 April, 1991, Forest Service Associate Chief George Leonard had agreed with Alaska Senator  
29 Ted Stevens to a major new effort to create a PIPELINE of available timber for the long term  
30 contractors. As the 1991 field season began, there was an influx of over 50 temporary 'layout  
31 detailers' from other National Forests, plus a contingent of road engineers from the Ketchikan  
32 Forest Supervisor's office, all laying out logging units on the Thorne Bay Ranger District on  
33 Prince of Wales Island."

34 And further on in the same chapter..."Senator Stevens required that the Forest Service provide  
35 him with weekly reports of all harvest units released during the prior week for sale, including a  
36 running account for the year. Getting out the cut was paramount. Meeting legal requirements and  
37 Plan Standards and Guidelines was secondary."

38 The bugs are starting to come out of the woodwork Senator Stevens. More and more people are  
39 coming with evidence of the duplicity of the various Government branches' wrong-doing. I think  
40 it is a good sign, because, I think, the Government has forgotten that it is not the ruler of the  
41 people, but rather, that the people are the rulers of the Government. It's about time we put the

1 Government back into "lead".

2 In 1992, the two long-term contractors enjoyed the use of 298.4 million board feet of old-growth  
3 high volume/high grade wood at a net loss to the taxpaying public of 64.1 million dollars!  
4 Essentially, every person who paid taxes that year paid the two companies to clear-cut hundreds  
5 of acres of trees with one for sure undeniable effect: those trees are gone and we will not see the  
6 likes of them again where they once stood. Another aspect is that virtually none of the product  
7 was used by the domestic populace; the average John Doe American citizen saw none of what  
8 those trees provided, a substantial portion of which was manufactured into high grade LUMBER  
9 PRODUCTS manufactured by Ketchikan Pulp Co at their Ward Cove plant, at Metlakatla's  
10 Annette Hemlock Mill, and at Alaska Pulp's subsidiary, Wrangell Forest Products' mill. With  
11 very little exception, all was exported to Pacific Rim markets. The two industrial giants took  
12 their profits and ran, leaving not only a wounded environment, but a 64.1 million dollar deficit in  
13 OUR wallets. We would have been better off to have distributed the cash around to all of the  
14 participants involved and **LET THE TREES STAND!**

15 According to a very good book that I have depicting the development of the timber industry from  
16 its very inception; in this country, as well as Canada, commercial lumbering began up around the  
17 St. Lawrence River in the 1760's with the export of broad-axed square timbers to the West  
18 Indies. It didn't take long for large, powerful timber entities to evolve and those entities have  
19 jealously dominated timber and its use and have ruthlessly crashed and slashed their way through  
20 the American forests from coast to coast. The eventual demise of the old-growth ecology, or, I  
21 should say, the concept of such a thing has very apparently been given little credence, because  
22 the same old attitude prevails today. Dominate at any cost. Snow-job the masses into believing or  
23 at least accepting their story that old-growth is "over-ripe" and that second growth is healthier  
24 and more productive, and anyway we have TECHNOLOGY! To overcome the vast difference in  
25 quality between old-growth and second-growth. TECHNOLOGY!.....In the hands of man it is  
26 not so slowly destroying our planet.

27 I get the message that [it] doesn't matter to some folks: That economy concerns, balance-of-trade  
28 deficits, (and of course, we mustn't forget that the United States MUST CONTINUE to aspire to  
29 be the No. 1 World Power), the jobless rate, to name but a very few, totally eclipse any concern  
30 for the necessity to retain a healthy, multiple use, sustained yield, old-growth forest ecology, an  
31 ecology that would support a host of small individual endeavors like the one I used to have,  
32 carefully husbanding the resource.

33 My government hears but it doesn't listen. Tremendously valuable input is being handed to our  
34 leaders, such as yourself, but, in the end it just goes ahead and does what it damn well pleases  
35 anyway!

36 According to figures I have at hand, the long-term contractors have cut 8.8 billion feet of timber  
37 during a period that spans from 1955 to 1992. I don't know what the Native corporations have  
38 cut since they started, especially since they left a lot of theirs lying on the ground to rot[,] but I  
39 expect from 4.5 to 5 billion.

40 The [N]atives have been very aggressive in their cutting practices and they had some areas of  
41 very good high volume timber. It's immaterial to what I have to say anyway, which is that during  
42 the duration of my working life, the bulk of the Tongass' timber has been logged.

1 So, Senator Stevens, what makes you think that the Tongass will support from 285 to 420 million  
2 feet per annum? You have solid information that supports that kind of expectation? If so, I'd like  
3 to hear it.

4 I am involved in an organization [that] is opposed to the logging of the Cleveland Peninsula. I  
5 won't elaborate on that here but in our meetings with the Forest Service they have reiterated that  
6 they are getting hard put to locate enough volume to satisfy their contractual obligations and that  
7 therefore the Cleveland, bearing a fairly large block of very merchantable timber, cannot be  
8 deleted from the eligible timber base. They suggest that if we can produce enough suitable  
9 volume to make up for the 315 million board feet they have slated for removal from the  
10 Cleveland they could possibly forego logging the Cleveland for this 10-year period. Which  
11 brings up two points: If they can't seem to find 315 million feet somewhere else, how the HELL  
12 do they expect us to? And so what if we were able to get Cleveland spared this time around?  
13 They would just be ravening after it ten years from now.

14 Our organization has the maps, of which one in particular is of extreme interest. This is a map  
15 that shows the Tongass and delineates Forest boundaries, set-asides, private land, Native claims,  
16 State and [B]orough land [and] so forth. It also, in color codes, describes types of timber areas;  
17 high volume/high grade, medium density, marginal value areas, second growth and solid rock.

18 The high volume/high grade areas are pretty few and far between and the biggest concentrations  
19 of this type were in karst areas or other areas of special interest or requiring special  
20 consideration. Lots of second growth was evidenced as well as marginal value areas [that] would  
21 probably necessitate below-cost sales. The picture was pretty plain: profitable timber is in pretty  
22 short supply.

23 Senator Stevens, when B. Frank Heintzman envisioned the concept of pulp plants I don't think  
24 that he was thinking in terms of what we have, in actuality ended up with. At least I hope not.

25 And, Senator Stevens, as a final thought, when we see so much of our resource dwindling, and  
26 when what's left is in such severe contention, and when we have future generations to consider,  
27 and the legacy that we leave to them, it would seem that it would behoove us to think in terms of  
28 trying to preserve something of that which we have left. I would think that you, most of all, as a  
29 leader elected to consider carefully what is paramount and act upon it accordingly would  
30 recommend prudence be the watchword in directing [the] course of future action.

31 There was life before Ketchikan Pulp and Alaska Pulp and there'll be life after them. I don't  
32 believe they are some kind of gods we need to placate continuously with pounds of our flesh or  
33 that of future generations.

34 They can learn how to tighten up their belts just like the rest of us. Or they can get to hell out.

35 I am very much interested in your comments and explanations as to why you have acted in the  
36 fashion that you have.

37 Sincerely,

38 David Sallee

1

2 *[A sticky note attached to the foregoing reads:]*

3 To Mr. Dave Katz - or whomever else that this concerns:

4 I would like to become more acquainted with your organization, its attitudes and goals.

5 Therefore I am submitting this copy of a letter for your review. You, I am sure, are well versed in  
6 the topical content. But it will also serve as an introduction as to who I am, where I'm coming  
7 from, my attitude toward the issues, and the motives behind them, as well as my own motives for  
8 writing the letter. I'm interested in your comments.

9 Yours,

10 Dave Sallee

11 *Dave has done about every logging job in the woods. From whistle punk at Hollis during pre-*  
12 *"Talkie-Tooter" days he's set chokers, chased (unhooked the chokers at the landings), been*  
13 *riggin' slinger, hook tender, yarder engineer on the big log sled-mounted yarders as well as*  
14 *mobile steel towers, grapple yarders, and skyline/carriage operations. He's been a loader*  
15 *operator and dump machine operator. He's built several log floats, A-frames, and yarder sleds,*  
16 *been a busheler, boom man, and high rigger during the wood spar tree days and later on the*  
17 *towers. He's gyppoed on his own and worked in several small mom and pop operations. He was*  
18 *a good mechanic and proficient enough welder to rebuild his own aluminum boat. He has*  
19 *collected quite a few books on logging and has been an accomplished artist and draftsman. I*  
20 *considered him a master at applied mechanics as it pertains to logging.*

21 *Within the last year Dave has been diagnosed with dementia. I suppose those who disagree with*  
22 *his interpretation of things would accuse him of slipping when the above letter was written. I*  
23 *would disagree with that assessment. While Dave and I didn't always see eye to eye on some*  
24 *philosophies I think his understanding of the evolution of forest management was pretty*  
25 *accurate.*

26 *Mike Sallee (8/6/03)*