

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senate Hart Office Building 709  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mark Begich  
Senate Hart Office Building 825C  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Begich:

S. 785, which you introduced, would establish a grant program to encourage retooling of entities in the timber industry in Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Roundtable is unanimous in its belief that the objective of retooling and restructuring timber – based small businesses in Southeast Alaska is an essential prerequisite to the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of the region. This effort is an important component of a larger, comprehensive solution guiding the future of Southeast Alaska.

For that reason, we support the creation of a program of grants and loans such as proposed in S.785 and look forward to working with you to refine this proposal as it moves through Congress. We are ready to lend whatever assistance we can in this matter.

Adopted by the Tongass Futures Roundtable on May 22, 2009