



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-DRAFT**

### ***Business and Community Leaders Withdraw from Tongass Futures Roundtable due to a lack consensus on any significant timber issues.***

*Juneau, Alaska - May 6, 2011*

After enduring six years of uncompromising opposition to all efforts to restore a viable timber supply from the Tongass, the undersigned business advocates have ended their participation in the Tongass Futures Roundtable.

*“The Charter for the first Roundtable meeting stated that the objective of the group would be to restore the economic viability of the communities of SE Alaska. The key to reaching this objective was to restore an economic and reliable timber supply from the Tongass, but the timber supply proposals that have come before the Round Table have consistently been rejected and there seems to be no middle ground that will satisfy the group. Meanwhile, environmental lawsuits continue to tie up the timber supply. Proposals that have been rejected include support for the construction of multiple-use roads, support for Forest Service timber sale plans, support for full implementation of the Forest Service Tongass Land Management Plan and even a proposal to support the only timber sale available to our last medium-size sawmill.”*

While our timber supply efforts have been stalled waiting for a solution to come from the Roundtable process, the environmental groups have been successfully urging the current federal Administration to order the Forest Service to abandon their timber sale program and instead focus on taxpayer funded make-work projects under the guise of “restoring impaired lands”.

*“We can wait no longer for a Roundtable solution we must work with people who are sincere about helping to restore our timber supply”, said Kirk Dahlstrom, Co-owner of the Viking sawmill in Klawock. “Our Governor and our Congressional Delegation continue to support us and most communities in Southeast Alaska will continue to support us primarily through the Southeast Conference Timber Committee”.*

***Owen Graham – Alaska Forest Association  
Shelly Wright – Southeast Conference  
Kirk Dahlstrom – Viking Lumber Company  
George Woodbury – Woodbury Consulting  
Jackie DuRette – DuRette Construction***

Southeast Conference is a membership organization whose mission is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

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