

## **H.R. 1408 is a Jobs Bill**

By permitting Sealaska to select its remaining entitlement lands from outside of the withdrawal boxes, the Sealaska bill would help Sealaska maintain jobs in rural and predominately Native communities.

Sealaska provides over 360 jobs and, including direct and indirect employment and payroll, Sealaska in 2008 supported 490 jobs.

Sealaska employment and its contractor employment combined is the largest for-profit sector employer in Southeast Alaska.

In 2008 Sealaska Corporation, Sealaska Timber Corporation and Sealaska Heritage Institute spent \$45 million in Southeast Alaska.

Including both direct and indirect employment, Sealaska-related employment totaled nearly 490 workers and \$21 million in payroll in 2008.

Failure to pass this bill will mean an end to Sealaska's timber program as early as 2012.

Because the U.S. Forest Service is either unwilling or unable to offer an adequate timber supply in Southeast Alaska, the remaining industry relies on Sealaska timber to survive.

The Alaska Forest Association testified, "AFA strongly supports the passage of HR 1408 without delay. Passage of this bill is critical to the future of our remaining industry."