

JANUARY 6, 1968.

Re Treasury Department balance of trade and Alaska round log export proposal to Department of Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman.

Hon. JOSEPH BARR,
Under Secretary of the Treasury, Department of Treasury,
Washington, D.C.:

Round log export from national forest lands in Alaska will force immediate and permanent closure of all of Alaska's sawmills and will prevent construction and operation of new sawmills now in planning stage. Long standing U.S. Forest Service policy of requiring primary manufacture of logs in Alaska has enabled the members of the Alaska Lumbermen's Association to develop a vigorous and expanding sawmill industry in Alaska based upon export of manufactured timber to Japan. Continued growth of this industry is essential to the economic well being of all of Alaska. Our association is totally opposed to your Alaska round log export proposal to Secretary Freeman. Balance of trade and Oregon-Washington export problems should not be solved at the expense of Alaska's sawmill industry. We believe development of a Japanese export sawmill manufacturing industry in Washington and Oregon to be the only practical and fair solution and one which would serve all segments of the National and Northwest economy rather than only the favored few. We stand ready to make our experience available to you as an aid to your further consideration of the matter of round log export from Alaska. Letter follows.

ALASKA LUMBERMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

JUNEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Juneau, Alaska, January 11, 1968.

HENRY H. FOWLER,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.:

Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce urges retention of Forest Service Regulation providing for primary manufacture of logs harvested in Alaska. Removal of this regulation would seriously affect economy of Alaska industry now engaged in such manufacture for export. We see no advantage to anyone in export of a raw product rather than a processed product.

ROBERT A. WELLS, *Manager.*

JUNEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Juneau, Alaska, January 11, 1968.

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.:

Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce commends and urges continuation of Forest Service regulation prohibiting export of raw logs from Alaskan forests. Development of forest product industry in Alaska is vital to our future and would receive a severe setback with any change in this regulation.

ROBERT A. WELLS, *Manager.*

NEWS FROM ALASKA'S GOVERNOR WALTER J. HICKEL

January 8, 1968.

JUNEAU.—Gov. Walter J. Hickel emerged from an emergency session today with executives of Alaska's timber industry and officials of the U.S. Forest Service, declaring the state will do everything possible to head off what may be a federal effort to ease the U.S. balance of payments situation at the expense of the Alaska timber industry.

Hickel called the meeting after receiving reports that the Treasury Department has proposed a plan for improving the U.S. balance of payments—a plan apparently keyed to the opening of round log exportation from Alaska to Japan.

The proposal, reportedly backed by some Pacific Northwest members of Congress, appears intended, Hickel said, to hold log exports to Japan from Washington and Oregon to a 1966 level, while allowing exportation of enough round logs from Alaska to give Japan as many logs as it imported in 1967.