

"Hon. N. J. Sinnott,
Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.

January 20, 1926.

Dear Mr. Sinnott:

Reference is made to your letter of December 22, requesting a report on the bill (H.R. 6261) to authorize the exportation from the State or Territory of timber lawfully cut on any national forest or on the public lands in Alaska.

The bill, if enacted, would legalize the export of timber lawfully cut on any national forest or on the public lands in Alaska from the State or Territory where grown if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Department concerned, the supply of timber for local use will not be endangered by such export. As permanent legislation it would make unnecessary the provision carried in the annual appropriation bills for the work of this department during the last 20 years and which, in the act making appropriations for this department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926 (act of February 10, 1925. 43 Stat. 822, 833), reads as follows:

'And the Secretary of Agriculture may, in his discretion, permit timber and other forest products cut or removed from the national forests to be exported from the State or Territory in which said forests are respectively situated.'

The act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11, 35), authorized the sale of timber on the national forests 'to be used in the State or Territory in which such timber reservation may be situated, respectively, but not for export therefrom.' Beginning with the act of March 3, 1905 (33 Stat. 861, 873), making appropriations for this department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906, the above-quoted provision of the act of June 4, 1897, has been vacated for the ensuing year, at first with the exception of Idaho and South Dakota, but since 1913 without such exceptions. During these 20 years the timber business on the national forests has grown