

Mallott: Native corporations are good business for Alaska

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of NOLs, timber harvest would still occur. Since the sale and harvest of any timber, including harvest to capture NOLs, must comply with the State Forest Practices Act and other applicable laws, Sealaska cannot see any direct correlation with NOL sales.

The environmental issues raised by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game relate rather to the adequacy of the Forest Practices Act and regulations. The only relationship between timber harvest and NOLs would be the effect on the agency's ability to enforce their regulations. The fact that Sealaska received four notices of violations is clear evidence that the regulatory system is functioning properly whenever lapses in logging standards occur.

In regard to the violation notices reported in your article, Sealaska is very disturbed that our operations re-

quired any notice of violation from the regulatory agencies. As a result of these notices, Sealaska has initiated immediate corrective action and instituted additional procedures to prevent future occurrence. By referencing the notices of violations without offering Sealaska an opportunity to respond unjustifiably characterizes Sealaska as an environmentally irresponsible company.

With further research you would find that there are extenuating circumstances without an opportunity for Sealaska to respond to these notices which were not covered in the article. Reference to these notices is a blatant attempt to discredit Sealaska and to characterize it as an environmentally irresponsible company intent on capturing NOL sales without concern for the environment.

The article serves to discredit the environmental efforts of Sealaska and the

entire logging industry by giving credibility to sweeping, unsubstantiated statements condemning the logging industry by an ADF&G field biologist. These broad generalizations have no basis in fact and represent personal, unprofessional bias of a single individual. Your failure to offer others in the industry and regulatory agencies — including others in the Department of Fish and Game — an opportunity to respond perpetuates the unprofessional bias and insults the integrity of Sealaska, the logging industry and the *Anchorage Daily News*.

Throughout the article, the fundamental concept you seem unable to grasp is that Native corporations are good business for Alaska and that Alaska benefits from strong Native corporations. I find it hard to apologize for making shrewd business decisions, particularly when others also receive special financial consideration in the Tax Reform Act or

receive other forms of government financial incentives.

Your article has taken every single opportunity to diminish the success of our Native people's economic ventures and ability to hold our own in the business world.

Your lack of business acumen and understanding of what helps drive the Alaska economy is unfortunate. Consequently, your article fails to recognize an important success story to Alaska at a time when success stories are desperately needed. The success of these transactions depend, in large part, on the confidence of businessmen and government officials.

For the sake of an inflammatory article, you have seriously jeopardized the success story. In the future, I would appreciate more intelligent, fair and balanced reporting.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Mallott

Sealaska Chief Executive Officer