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Lumber Company Seeks Funds

Schnable Lumber Company of Haines is appealing for financial aid from companies and individuals throughout Alaska to help pay costs of new litigation in the firm's court battle with the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC).

In a landmark ruling, Judge Allen Compton of Juneau on December 31, 1980 required the preservationist organization to pay \$25,000 in court costs and attorney fees to the private Haines lumber company they had sued, after the plaintiff's charges had been denied. SEACC appealed the ruling two weeks later, but on January 30, a court order was issued ordering SEACC to pay.

However, Schnable Lumber Company is now forced with continued litigation costs and preparing briefs for presentation to the State Supreme Court after SEACC filed an Appeal for Stay March 2.

John Schnabel, president of the lumber company, said, "It is important that we not lose by default the opportunity to uphold this landmark decision." Schnabel said his company "is tapped out and does not have the funds to pay its aged trade accounts. We cannot finance another round of litigation," Schnabel added.

The Borough of Haines has provided \$3,500 to obtain a transcript of the trial and Schnabel's attorney has agreed to continue the case on hopes the company can find a way to pay him.

"I need help and I am turning to those that have an interest in seeing this case closed to the advantage of all of use," Schna-

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Lumber Company

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bel commented. "In this time of need, I ask you to contribute to Schnabel Lumber Company whatever assistance you can afford."

In the original court action, SEACC, represented by the Sierra Club Defense Fund, sued Schnabel Lumber Company and the State of Alaska over a long-term timber sale in the Haines area, which preservationists said would destroy eagle habitat and eagles themselves. The timber sale was the result of an extensive land use plan, compiled by local governments of the Haines area and the State, which addressed the eagle's needs. A special study conducted by the Haines-Klukwan Resource Study Group also showed that logging would not be detrimental to eagles utilizing the Chilkat River Valley.