



## **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

### **Office of the Borough Manager**

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January 18, 2012

The Honorable Senator Linda Menard  
Alaska State Capitol  
Room 9  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Menard,

I am very pleased to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 159 which will establish the Susitna State Forest. This bill will establish a new State Forest from state lands presently used for timber harvest. The Division of Forestry will be able to manage the State Forest for a long-term supply of timber to local processors, and retain the land in state ownership for multiple uses.

The Mat-Su Borough and its residents will benefit from a state forest in the form of an economic boost from a sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base. The Susitna State Forest would be managed as part of the State Forest System and would be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat, harvest, and recreational activities.

Demand for state timber sales is steady and growing, and personal use sales for fuel wood have also increased. Local mills depend heavily on state timber for their raw material supply and there is a growing interest in the use of wood in the form of round wood, chips or wood pellets for both commercial and residential space heating. At the same time, active management will also help reduce wild land fire risk by breaking up large fuel types and encouraging initial regeneration by hardwood species.

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse this project. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

John M. Moosey  
Borough Manager

JM/al