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Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to timber management leases.

This bill will authorize timber management leases with private entities on State forest land for the purpose of active forest management, including afforestation, timber harvest, reforestation, fire prevention, and forest road construction and maintenance. In establishing a new program for timber management leasing and providing for industry-led forest management and harvest consistent with the Alaska Constitution and with State oversight, this bill will augment the State's ability to manage, market, and protect its forest resources.

Under this bill, the Commissioner of Natural Resources will be empowered to identify State forested land suitable for timber management leasing and to accept nominations of such land by private parties. After competitive solicitation, the Commissioner may enter into a renewable 55-year timber management lease with the best eligible applicant. This bill requires that the lease agreement provide for compliance with constitutionally mandated forest management practices and appropriate State oversight and compliance, while also leaving flexibility for the design of individual projects.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure