

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizen's Advisory Committee  
PO Box 83783  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

February 12, 2015

House Resource Committee  
Senate Resource Committee

The Tanana Valley State Forest Citizen's Advisory Committee (TVSFCAC) supports passage of HB87 / SB32. This legislation will provide the mechanism for the Department of Natural Resources to respond more appropriately to changes and trends in forest products markets without violating our State Constitution regarding management of State lands on a sustained yield basis.

The TVSFCAC agrees with Governor Walker's statement: "Competitively bid timber sales are the preferred sale method under most conditions." However, negotiated sales provide another valuable option for State timber sale program managers. With passage of this bill, the DNR Commissioner will be allowed to offer longer term timber sale contracts and/or develop sales directed at specific clients when the terms of the sale are determined to be in the best interest of the State of Alaska.

This legislation will also eliminate the somewhat ambiguous criteria for high-volume negotiated timber sales. For example, the qualification of terms such as: "high local unemployment", "underutilized manufacturing capacity", and "underutilized timber supply" have been a source of administrative distraction when DNR has attempted to efficiently address the needs and concerns of the forest products industry in Alaska.

The TVSF Citizen's Advisory Committee strongly urges our Legislators to pass HB 87 and SB 32 in this session.

Sincerely,

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Chair, TVSFCAC  
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CC:

Bill Walker, Governor  
Kevin Meyers, Senate President  
Senate Resource Committee members  
Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House  
House Resource Committee members  
Mark Myers, DNR Commissioner  
Edmund Fogel, DNR Deputy Commissioner  
John 'Chris' Maisch, State Forester  
Marty Freeman, for the Board of Forestry