

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,

Thomas Malone
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