



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION/OF FORESTRY

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March 24, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Giessel

The Alaska Board of Forestry is pleased to convey its support for CSSB 32 (RES) to broaden the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) authority for negotiated timber sales. The Board of Forestry provides a forum to discuss and resolve issues on forest practices and management of forests on state land (AS 41.17.047(b)). Board members represent diverse constituencies – the timber, fishing, and mining industries, Native corporations, professional foresters and fish and wildlife biologists, and environmental and recreational organizations.

The Board has repeatedly discussed the DNR authorities for timber sales in the context of timber industry needs in southeast Alaska, as well as the demand for long-term sales for biomass energy in the interior. In general, we strongly support use of competitive timber sales to ensure equal access to resources by all parts of the timber industry. However, we recognize that negotiated sales may be a valuable tool in specific cases, particularly to retain wood processing jobs in local communities under economic stress. The Board unanimously supports the proposed changes that provide DNR with the flexibility to use negotiated sales statewide when appropriate, subject to a best interest finding, and the requirements for Forest Land Use Plans and Five-year Schedules for Timber Sales.

Sincerely,

John “Chris” Maisch, State Forester
Chair, Alaska Board of Forestry

Cc:

Senate Resources Committee

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| Member | Representative Kurt Olson |
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Alaska Board of Forestry

Ron Wolfe, Alaska Native Corporations
Eric Nichols, Forest Industry Trade Association
Wayne Nicolls, Non-governmental Professional Forester
Chris Stark, Environmental Organization
Erin McLarnon, Recreation Organization
Mark Vinsel, Commercial Fisherman's Organization
Denise Herzog, Mining Organization
Matt Cronin, Non-governmental Professional Fish/Wildlife Biologist