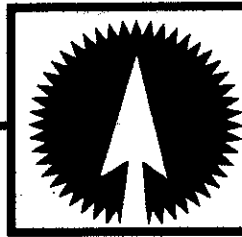


Alaska Forest Association



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March 19, 2020

Senator Peter Micciche
Chair – Senate Resources Committee
AK State Legislature
State Capitol Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator John Coghill
Vice Chair – Senate Resources Committee
AK State Legislature
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Alaska Forest Association Support for CSSB NO. 160(RES)

Dear Chairman Micciche and Vice Chairman Coghill,

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) is an industry support organization dedicated to promoting the interests and needs of Alaska's forest products industry. AFA is pleased to provide support for the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill (CSSB) NO. 160(RES), *"An Act amending and repealing negotiated timber sales statutes; addressing forest land use plan appeals; and providing for an effective date."*

CSSB NO. 160(RES) provides the following primary benefits:

- The Bill provides the State of AK, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry (DOF) with the ability to negotiate sales with any user of timber resources.
- The Bill does away with the ability to appeal a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP), which in turn allows the State of AK to conduct timber sales more efficiently, without compromising environmental review and public comment requirements and processes.
- The Bill provides the State of AK with the ability to offer small volume timber sales with greater efficiency.

Each of the benefits identified above are of importance to the AFA and the industry members we represent. The AK timber industry is reliant on a predictable timber supply from a variety of landowners, including the State of AK, DOF. Limitations on sales by federal land owners such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the transition from old growth (OG) to young growth (YG) timber under the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan, and prevailing market conditions in China including COVID-19 and tariffs on AK timber necessitates legislation such as CSSB NO. 160(RES).

AFA looks forward to continuing to support CSSB NO. 160(RES) as it moves through the legislative process. Please contact me at either tessa@alaskaforest.org, or 907-225-6114.

Sincerely,

Tessa L. Axelson, MPA
Executive Director

Cc: Senate Resources Committee Members – via email
Commissioner Corri Feige, DNR – via email
Laura Ogan, DNR – via email
Chris Maisch, DNR – via email