

Northland Wood Products, Inc.

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March 11, 2021

Representative Patkotak

State Capitol Room 102

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Patkotak and Committee Members,

On behalf of Northland Wood Products, Inc., I am writing this letter of support for House Bill 98. We believe the passage of this bill will improve the proper use and management of our State's timber resource. As an example, the current warming trends have brought beetle infestations and fires to the Interior and South-Central Alaska. One of the best ways to combat this devastation is through continued management by our state foresters and by the development of our forest industry. A case in point for limiting management and development would be the crippling effect of the California fires.

Northland Wood is one of the largest domestic producers of lumber, timbers, and value-added forest products in the state. We harvest an Alaska renewable resource and with the help of 40 – 50 employees, we manufacture products that are purchased by our citizens throughout the state. Our operations benefit and support our communities in many ways. Our customers appreciate the option of being able to purchase their lumber from a local manufacturer, made from our local forests, rather than an imported product from the "Lower 48". We compete with the behemoth mills of the Pacific Northwest and Canada, whose operating costs per bdft are a fraction of ours. It is critical for us to continually find new efficiencies. Access to negotiated timber in areas of current development and streamlining the timber procurement process would greatly help to reduce cost and ensure that we have a reliable source of raw material.

We believe the review process is an important part of proper forest management, but we ask that it be balanced with the needs of our community, industry, and forest management.

Sincerely,

Jason Knoles

President

Northland Wood Products, Inc.

"Your Local Lumber Industry"