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Sponsor Statement

SB 255

SB 255 authorizes the conveyance of specific State-owned land parcels to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The transfer advances both local and statewide interests by placing land into the stewardship of the level of government best positioned to manage it efficiently, responsibly, and in a manner consistent with long-term community needs. The parcels identified in this legislation are intended for uses that support economic development, infrastructure planning, recreation, and community services. Conveying this land to the Borough enables more timely development decisions, which are difficult to achieve under continued State ownership.

This transfer promotes sound land management by reducing administrative burdens on the State and allowing the Department of Natural Resources to focus resources on broader statewide priorities. Local ownership improves land use efficiency, enhances coordination with existing infrastructure, and supports responsible development aligned with adopted local plans and processes. The bill also advances a long-recognized State policy of empowering municipalities to govern local land use. The conveyance encourages economic activity, expands the local tax base, supports job creation, and enables community investments. Local management of these lands will ensure decisions are made with full awareness of local conditions and priorities.

For questions or comments please contact Ryan McKee at (907) 465-1459