

Ed King

From: mike falvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:29 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB-104

Please do not pass HB-104 there is no reason to rush into logging- let's take our time - invite public comment and make wise decisions on how we use our resources Thanks. Mike Falvey P.O. Box 126 Gustavus

Sent from my iPhone

Ed King

From: ANISSA BERRY [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 7:47 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB104

House Resources Committee,

I am opposed to HB 104. It removes the public from discourse about the management of timber from our state lands. This bill is seen as a giveaway of our trees without scientific or public scrutiny.

Anissa Berry
[REDACTED]
Haines, AK 99827

Ed King

From: Penny Livesay [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 7:21 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: Please vote NO on SB 104

Our forests are far more valuable standing than cut down - to sequester carbon, to absorb and filter increasingly erratic and severe precipitation, to provide unfragmented habitat in the face of drastic declines in biodiversity, to offer recreation and tourism to support local communities long-term. HB 104 does not adequately define how forests would be considered "threatened" by fire, insects, or other perils, nor provide adequate safeguards against reckless, unnecessary destruction with an unproven pretext that the forest is "threatened." Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. The new proposed rule does not seem to provide for adequate public input or require any legitimate scientific review to determine if the expedited sale is necessary or ecologically appropriate.

Extractive industries have proven time and again that they can and will destroy the environment and leave local people - often low-income rural communities - with long-term pollution, erosion, and fewer options for long-term, sustainable development. Please do not pass this ill-advised legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura P Livesay

Ed King

From: Someone Else [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 1:28 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: OPPOSE House Bill 104, The Expedited Timber Sales Bill

I oppose this bill on the grounds that it's an expedited timber grab, attempting to weaken public process! The timber sales process is already too rushed as it is. This is a tragedy that our nation should avoid at all costs. Isn't it bad enough what is happening to our climate, and it's reasons like this, destruction of pristine forests that is fueling it!

I oppose, oppose, oppose!

Virginia Bottorff
[REDACTED]
Syracuse, NY 13205

Ed King

From: rick bellagh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:34 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: House bill 104

Dear committee,

I would like to weigh in on House bill 104. I believe that not spelling out scientifically what is acceptable for inclusion in these salvage logging areas , not setting size limits, and taking out opportunity for the public to weigh in on how the state designates these timber sales is giving too much power with too little guidance. These are our public forests, and they are the lungs of the planet. Let's proceed slowly and carefully. Please put in safeguarding language to ensure that the sense and tenor of this law are clear to all parties, and that the voice of the owners of the forest (i.e., the citizens) are never excluded.

Thank you,

Richard Bellagh

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99802

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Ed King

From: shelley stallings [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:22 PM
To: House Resources
Cc: Shelley Stallings
Subject: HB 104

To: The House Resources Committee and the Department of Natural Resources

I strongly oppose HB 104. It seems this bill would allow timber sales on State of Alaska lands without providing for public comment. This is not democracy or in the public interest. Any use of State of Alaska's natural resources should be open to public comment and oversight.

This is the type of government management which gives the State of Alaska a poor reputation among her residents. It looks like the state government is trying to hide its activities from the public.

Do Better,

Shelley Stallings in Ketchikan

Ed King

From: Bee Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:00 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104 Expedited Timber Bill

HB 104 Expedited Timber Bill

3/23/23

Dear House Resources,

I am opposed to this bill because I see no point to it besides to deny or dilute public process in timber sales.

- We already have a timber salvage sale law that provides for threatened areas. Is this not enough?
- There is no definition or guidelines in the bill as to what constitutes a "threatened area".
- This bypasses the public process in order to dispose of the timber quickly. All power is in the hands of the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

For these reasons, please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Becky Long

Ed King

From: Thom Ely [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 7:14 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

Dear Legislators,

I oppose HB 104 because it removes the public from decisions affecting our public lands. There is no reason to expedite timber sales. These sales are often sold at a loss on the dollar for the State to companies that profit by exporting the logs overseas.

The DNR Forestry program is already operating in a days gone by fashion where the impacts of timber harvest are overlooked for short term profit by private companies. It's time to restructure how our public forests are managed, not give away our resources for nothing.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely
[REDACTED]
Haines, AK 99827

Ed King

From: Doris Loeser [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 6:40 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

Hello,

I am against House Bill 104, which is irresponsible regarding our Southeast Alaska forests.

Doris Loeser

former Alaska teacher in Southeast Alaska

Ed King

From: thomas polatty [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 6:25 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Expedited timber sales

This legislation is ill advised for so many reasons. These forests need to be preserved from easily compromised politicians. The criteria for what gets cut is way to vague. The obsession with killing everything as fast as possible needs to end now!

Sent from my iPhone

Ed King

From: elizabeth avino [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:14 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB104 - I Oppose

Please be informed I oppose the HB-104 bill because once again greed and money exploiting nature, animals in their habitat and tricking people in believing this is for the people. Shame on you.

Ed King

From: Annie Goodenough [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:00 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104 comment

- Please note my comments below concerning House bill 104
- HB 104 proposes to offer state timber sales that speed up timber disposal processes on state lands, and give the DNR Commissioner ultimate discretion in deciding if an area is “threatened.”
- HB 104 would allow timber sales to be offered quickly in any area that has been affected — *or may* be affected — by fire, insect infestation, or disease.
- The bill defines “expedited timber sale” as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- There are no specifics in the bill as far as what information will be used to decide if an area is “threatened” by fire, insects, or disease. Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. This bill seems to be a way that the Division of Forestry could bypass public process to dispose of State timber very quickly. From *my* first reading, it seems as if timber sales under this bill would not include any opportunity for public comment, and there is no sale size limitation.

Thank you for your time,
Ann Goodenough
Juneau, AK

Ed King

From: Eric Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:27 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

Dear sirs.

Please consider HB #104 for what it is.....a land grab which excludes public participation and ignores science based decision making and leaves all the specifics of a timber sale up to the whim of a single political figure.

Our world as we have known it is falling apart in many ways.....war.....climate change.....political unrest.....moral breakdown.....economic and financial instability.....and a real challenge to democracy. This bill addresses two of those breakdowns.....climate change and the challenge to democracy.

The cheapest and fastest mitigation method to address climate change is to leave trees to grow and mature.

The only way to bolster democracy is to increase public participation in decision making at all levels.

Please **DO NOT VOTE TO ADVANCE THIS BILL.**

Sincerely

Eric Jones

Ed King

From: Conor K [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:25 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

Members of the House Resources Committee,

My name is Conor Kincaid. I have been living in Juneau, AK for 18 years. I am a private citizen, who's testimony here represents my own opinions.

I am concerned about how HB 104 could affect responsible timber sales in the State. I live within walking distance of a forest that was clear-cut decades ago. It is clear that the forest does not support as productive of a habitat as other old growth forests surrounding it. I rely on deer hunting, berry picking, and foraging to supply nutritious food while reducing my bill at the grocery store. These activities require old growth forests that is incompatible with most logging practices.

I think the premise of utilizing timber before it is destroyed is noble. However, as the bill is written, it is too vague on describing what forests are at risk. Potentially, ANY forest is at some risk of burning. It leaves a politically appointed individual to ultimately make the decision. This is not a high enough bar to clear when approving habitat destruction that takes centuries to recover from.

I fear that this bill, as is, could threaten forests in my area that I use to thrive. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Conor Orion Kincaid
Lemon Creek neighborhood
Juneau, Alaska

Ed King

From: Kendall Van Horssen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:23 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Opposed to HB 104

Hello,

I wanted to make it clear my opinion on HB104. I am opposing this bill for the following reasons:

- HB 104 proposes to offer state timber sales that speed up timber disposal processes on state lands, and give the DNR Commissioner ultimate discretion in deciding if an area is “threatened.”
- HB 104 would allow timber sales to be offered quickly in any area that has been affected — or *may* be affected — by fire, insect infestation, or disease.
- The bill defines “expedited timber sale” as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- There are no specifics in the bill as far as what information will be used to decide if an area is “threatened” by fire, insects, or disease. Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. This bill seems to be a way that the Division of Forestry could bypass public process to dispose of State timber very quickly.
From *my/our/SEACC’s* first reading, it seems as if timber sales under this bill would not include any opportunity for public comment, and there is no sale size limitation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kendall Van Horssen

Ed King

From: Salome Starbuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:23 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Opposition to bill

I oppose the HB 104 bill for the following reasons:

- HB 104 proposes to offer state timber sales that speed up timber disposal processes on state lands, and give the DNR Commissioner ultimate discretion in deciding if an area is “threatened.”
- HB 104 would allow timber sales to be offered quickly in any area that has been affected — or *may* be affected — by fire, insect infestation, or disease.
- The bill defines “expedited timber sale” as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- There are no specifics in the bill as far as what information will be used to decide if an area is “threatened” by fire, insects, or disease. Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. This bill seems to be a way that the Division of Forestry could bypass the public process to dispose of State timber very quickly. From my first reading, it seems as if timber sales under this bill would not include any opportunity for public comment, and there is no sale size limitation.

~~ Salomé Starbuck

Ed King

From: Sam Matos [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:16 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

To whom it may concern;

Passing this bill would circumvent environmental oversight and careful deliberation. For this reason, I oppose the passage of this bill.

Sam Matos, Willimantic, CT

Ed King

From: Melody Shealy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:12 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104

I oppose HB 104 for so many reasons!

Melody G. Shealy

Walhalla High School

Supervised Studies/Online Learning

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Ed King

From: Batty Roy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:09 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: I oppose HB 104

Respectfully,

I oppose this bill because we have the most corrupt governor in the history of Alaska. Any money made under him will not reach the people of Alaska.

I also oppose for the following reasons.

- HB 104 proposes to offer state timber sales that speed up timber disposal processes on state lands, and give the DNR Commissioner ultimate discretion in deciding if an area is “threatened.”
- HB 104 would allow timber sales to be offered quickly in any area that has been affected — or *may* be affected — by fire, insect infestation, or disease.
- The bill defines “expedited timber sale” as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- There are no specifics in the bill as far as what information will be used to decide if an area is “threatened” by fire, insects, or disease. Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. This bill seems to be a way that the Division of Forestry could bypass public process to dispose of State timber very quickly. From *my/our/SEACC’s* first reading, it seems as if timber sales under this bill would not include any opportunity for public comment, and there is no sale size limitation.

Sincerely
Carmen Bydalek

Ed King

From: Katie Rooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:36 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 104 Testimony Expedited Timber Sales

Hello Members of the Committee,

I'd like to submit testimony on HB 104, Expedited Timber Sales. I plan to call in on Friday, but would also like to submit this testimony in writing.

HB 104 would give the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources even more discretionary power and authority to sell Alaska's timber. While a Best Interest Finding would apparently still be required, it appears as if there would likely be no public process associated with such "expedited" sales.

Another question would be, what is the destination of this timber? If it will be possible to offer such "threatened or damaged" timber in the round for export to Asian markets, then this bill should die a quick death. Under the proposed bill at (d)(5), the commissioner is supposed to consider whether the damage or threat would eliminate (or possibly eliminate) commercial success of locally manufactured high value-added wood products. If the timber would be sold in the round to Asia, then this factor is already at issue--that would certainly eliminate commercial success of locally manufactured high value-added wood products. So no foreign destination for these expedited sales should be allowed.

The language in proposed 38.05.124 states: "Notwithstanding the provision of AS 38.05.112-38.05.117 and 38.05.120..."--"notwithstanding" means "in spite of," so this appears to imply that the Commissioner could offer for sale any parcel he wanted to, as long as he could claim it was "under threat" from fire or insect infestation. There is no provision for how the Commissioner would come to that decision. What science would be used? What expertise would be used? The Governor's office has recently mandated, with Administrative Order No. 343, a move to "dumb down" the State of Alaska in terms of eliminating a requirement for most employees to have a 4-year degree. What would this mean in terms of forestry expertise, if forestry were affected by the elimination of the 4-year degree requirement? A bunch of high school graduates wandering around in the woods, seeing some insect holes in a tree trunk, and reporting "high danger of infestation" seems a likely scenario. This is one of many problems with accountability inherent in HB 104.

Alaska already has a solid provision for salvage sales (38.05.117). It already allows the Commissioner to offer timber for sale that "will lose substantial economic value because of insect or disease epidemics or fire, if not salvaged within two years." Alaska doesn't need more leeway to offer timber for sale. If the two-year window applicable to salvage sales doesn't apply in these so-called "expedited" sales, then any determination that the timber is "at risk" is faulty. It would be impossible, or at least difficult even for a skilled scientist to accurately predict that in 3 years, or 5, or 10, that the timber would likely be destroyed by insects or fire. Rain can fall, and bugs can die. This is simply another way for the State to justify cutting timber when there's really no reason to do so.

Provision (b) of the proposed bill allows for negotiated sales of "not less than" seven years. If a sale could last for 7 years or more, potentially, then how could the perceived "high annual" risk to the area be legitimate? Provision c states that the commissioner shall find that the timber either already has been damaged or infected or that it is in an area of **high annual** [emph. added] **threat of fire or of insect or disease epidemics**. How is this "annual threat" to be determined? What science and technology will be used to establish a clear threat? How are these "areas" determined? High fire danger depends on, primarily, weather. I was a wildland firefighter before coming to Alaska. As weather isn't predictable seven years, or even two years out, aside from general trends, this is an unreasonable metric.

Proposed Amendments: (to be clear, HB 104 should not go forward; however, I submit the following proposed changes for the Committee's consideration)

- Adapt the existing Salvage Sale section --without adding a new Expedited Timber Sales section. Add some qualifying language pertaining to perceived threats in the next 2 years;
- (a)--qualify how "high annual fire danger or insect or disease epidemics" will be established --how will the threat be established, and by whom?
- (b) timber sale..."may be negotiated for a term of not more than two years" --in keeping with already-existing salvage parameters. (Instead of 7 or more)
- (d)(1)--creates, or will create, a public safety issue--change "will" to "may"
- (d)(4)--add "may" to "negatively affect (s) businesses that depend on a steady, long-term supply of timber"
- (f)--..."concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest" --clarify how this will be accomplished. What personnel actions will be eliminated? Reduced? What public processes will be eliminated or reduced? Typically the public can comment at least once, after a Preliminary BIF is issued. Will that be the case with expedited sales? Or will the public have no voice at all?

I thank the Committee for their consideration and for everything they do in service to the State of Alaska. I look forward to the opportunity to give verbal testimony at Friday's hearing.

Thank you.

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Respectfully,

Katie Rooks, MS
Environmental Policy Analyst
phone cell: [REDACTED]
Pronouns: she/her

We acknowledge the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people who have been stewards of the forests and waters of this land since time immemorial and continue to do so today, and on whose land we each do our work and live our lives.

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
2207 Jordan Ave, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ed King

From: James T Greeley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:31 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: No on HB 104

- I am an Alaska oyster farmer and property owner
- I oppose HB 104
- HB 104 proposes to offer state timber sales that speed up timber disposal processes on state lands, and give the DNR Commissioner ultimate discretion in deciding if an area is “threatened.”
- HB 104 would allow timber sales to be offered quickly in any area that has been affected — or *may* be affected — by fire, insect infestation, or disease.
- The bill defines “expedited timber sale” as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- There are no specifics in the bill as far as what information will be used to decide if an area is “threatened” by fire, insects, or disease. Alaska already has a salvage sale law that provides for these types of timber sales in a two-year window. This bill seems to be a way that the Division of Forestry could bypass public process to dispose of State timber very quickly. From *my/our/SEACC’s* first reading, it seems as if timber sales under this bill would not include any opportunity for public comment, and there is no sale size limitation.

James Thomas Greeley Sr
206-[REDACTED]

Ed King

From: Jeff Fair [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:45 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB104

Dear Legislators,

For 30 years now I've been an Alaskan freelance writer and independent wildlife biologist (MS Wildlife Ecology) working out of and living in Palmer for the past 20 years.

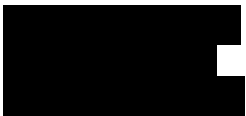
The woodland forests represent a lot of different wild habitats for a lot of different species that make Alaska so special.

The last thing we need is a law that would ramrod decisions on what and where to cut. Too much of Alaska is already forced to make decisions and commentary and replies during short-time schedules. It is obvious that we don't want to rush into something only to realize later that we regret cutting down a particular stand. It takes decades to replace a habitat. Let's make certain we leave enough time to make good decisions.

Thanks for your kind consideration of this,

Jeff

Jeff Fair
Author of *In Wild Trust*
[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645



Ed King

From: Terri Yeager [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 7:22 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB104

Please do not approve this bill. There are many environmental and cultural concerns. One that is of particular note:

putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.

Have a Great Day

Terri Yeager

t [REDACTED]

412 [REDACTED]

Ed King

From: kanaan bauser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:37 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Oppose HB 104

- Please don't pass HB 104
- The bill defines "expedited timber sale" as meaning a sale that shortens the time frame for each step of the timber sale process and concentrates personnel actions to maximize the amount of qualifying burnt, infected, diseased, or threatened timber available for harvest. But it includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for what any of these terms mean, putting state forests at the whims of politically appointed commissioners.
- Thanks,
- Kanaan Bausler
- [REDACTED]
- Juneau, AK
- 99801

Ed King

From: James Taggart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 3:31 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Opposition to HB 104

Hello House Committee,

As a concerned citizen of Alaska and a Father, I worry this bill would allow timber harvest to be fast tracked to approval without an opportunity for public comment.

I am concerned about the future my daughter will inherit with continued carbon emissions. Without migration through our natural resources such as forests, I would like to know more about how this bill would balance carbon emissions and timber harvests. I think it is important to our state economy that we do not allow our planet to warm beyond 1.5 C.

Thank you,
James Taggart
[REDACTED] Sitka AK
[REDACTED]

Ed King

From: Welling Pope [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 10:54 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: The Bill HB 104 strongly needs to be opposed!

I strongly oppose the Bill HB 104 because it uses unscientific evidence supported means to expedite timber sales carelessly rapidly without giving full careful consideration to the surrounding forests' etc environments, and scientific analysis of the conditions of the trees selected for "expedited timber sales".

Furthermore, the "expedited timber sales" may disallow any public comment, and these "expedited timber sales" may not respond to any size limits scientifically deemed necessary to preserve existing forests and surrounding, etc., environmental areas.

For these reasons I, and any reasonable fair person, would oppose HB 104 strongly.

Respectfully commenting,

Mr. Welling T.Pope, [REDACTED] West Roxbury, MA 02132-2427

Ed King

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 10:12 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: Expedited Timber Sale

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Bill before you is a bit of a wolf in sheep's clothing. On its surface it appears to be a good thing, but in reality it gives a free weapon to those who wish to profit from the exploitation of our natural resources. The big flaw in this Bill is that it can be potentially misused.

The creation and control of our National Forests has come at great expense and with great foresight, it would be a great pity to advance this bill without more examination. Our National Forests, our Parks and the Trees within them define our State and our Nation. Cutting them down expeditiously is certainly not in our best interest.

Thank you.
Tim Murray
Wrangell, AK