



Alaska Forest Association

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sent via email February 7, 2025

The Honorable Robyn Niayuq Burke and The Honorable Maxine Dibert
Alaska State Representatives
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: AFA Support for HB 72 Timber Management Leases

Co-Chair Niayuq Burke and Co-Chair Dibert,

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for HB 72, Timber Management Leases. The AFA is one of Alaska's oldest trade organizations representing a variety of members in the forest products industry in Alaska. AFA's members include small, medium, and large operators, tribal organizations, contractors, industry support organizations, and individuals from across the state of Alaska.

While HB 72 does not alter the State's allowable cut, it does create a more flexible program that meets the needs of our industry. HB 72 allows individuals and small businesses, which all our operator members qualify as, to procure long-term leases for timber. In doing so our operators can continue to grow the \$100 million in industry investments in communities statewide, provide revenue in the form of lease payments to the general fund, and increase the value of industry infrastructure and attract additional investment in our industry in AK. AFA supports HB 72 and looks forward to answering any question you may have regarding our industry or our support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this piece of legislation. You may reach me at either afa@akforest.org, or 907-225-6141.

Sincerely,

Tessa Axelson
Executive Director

cc: House Resources Committee Members
Commissioner John Boyle
Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director Governor's Office