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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Edgmon:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to timber management leases.

This bill will authorize timber management leases with private entities on State forest land for the purpose of active forest management, including afforestation, timber harvest, reforestation, fire prevention, and forest road construction and maintenance. In establishing a new program for timber management leasing and providing for industry-led forest management and harvest consistent with the Alaska Constitution and with State oversight, this bill will augment the State's ability to manage, market, and protect its forest resources.

Under this bill, the Commissioner of Natural Resources will be empowered to identify State forested land suitable for timber management leasing and to accept nominations of such land by private parties. After competitive solicitation, the Commissioner may enter into a renewable 55-year timber management lease with the best eligible applicant. This bill requires that the lease agreement provide for compliance with constitutionally mandated forest management practices and appropriate State oversight and compliance, while also leaving flexibility for the design of individual projects.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, written in a cursive style.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure