



Alaska Forest Association

432 Carlanna Lake Rd

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www.akforest.org

sent via email April 21, 2026

The Honorable Ashley Carrick and the Honorable Andi Story
Alaska State Representatives
Chair and Vice Chair, House State Affairs Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: AFA Support for HB 218 Tanana Valley State Forest

Chair Carrick and Vice Chair Story,

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for HB 218, Tanana Valley State Forest. 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. Specifically, AFA has members currently operating in the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF).

AFA supports HB 218 and expansion of the TVSF for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- By designating the ~600,000 acres of additional land as State Forest, management of the lands will transfer to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR's) Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP), with a primary focus on timber management. This will continue to ensure the production, use and replenishment of timber resources while at the same time supporting other beneficial uses of public lands. AFA operators in the region are reliant on DFFP's sales to support their small, family-owned businesses. Expansion of the forest provides assurance to these operators that sustainable, long-term supply will be provided to their businesses. This in turn allows them to make decisions regarding infrastructure, equipment, and operational investments. Operators in the region currently produce value-added products from the TVSF which include log cabin kits, local use lumber, and timbers for North Slope oil producers.



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- Expansion will also support further investments in infrastructure such as roads which are built for harvesting timber. These roads can be maintained for future use while also improving access for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, berry picking, subsistence, and tourism.
- The lands proposed to be included in the expanded State Forest have already been identified in Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) area plans for forest use (forest classified) because of their productivity potential for growing timber.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for the expansion of the TVSF and HB 218. You may reach me at either tessa@akforest.org, or 907-225-6141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Tessa Axelson

Executive Director

cc: House State Affairs Committee Members

Jeremy Douse & Ashley List, DNR

Lee Cruise, Governor's Office