

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Traxler <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:45 PM

To: Noah Hanson <Noah.Hanson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Note to Alaska Senate Majority

My name is Andrew Traxler, I own the Sawmill Business Papoose Milling. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have about House Bill 104. My cell phone number 1-907-[REDACTED]

We have the potential to have a vibrant local lumber industry. I make a fair living running my sawmill business. Presently I'm producing 25 new homes this summer. I produced 30 last year. I'm booked up for this year. I turn work away every day. The limiting factor is log availability. I do not want any more logs than I get now. I want other sawmill businesses to exist like me with log access. I've seen many businesses close due to lack of timber access. There is 1,200 Woodmizer sawmills presently in the state of Alaska. There is currently five commercial grade Woodmizer sawmills like mine in Alaska. Only a few have access to logs to mill. Can you please pass house bill 104 so that we can produce for Alaskans.

Andrew Traxler
Papoose Milling

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eric Campbell](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Expedited timber sales
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:57:41 AM

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in favor of the expedited timber sales. We need more jobs and cheaper lumber in Alaska and anything we can do to make that happen is better.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric Campbell



Sterling, AK. 99675

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Josh Leatherman](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:57:04 AM

Hello,

I am a sawyer and carpenter. I have been operating my sawmill for 11 years continuously. Timber sales have kept my mill running. Over the years I have seen many sawmills come and go. The number one reason for sawmills shutting down in Alaska is a lack of timber supply. Without a steady consistent supply of timber to fuel our small sawmills we will be forced to continually barge in lumber from Washington. This has very little economic value to us.

Timber sales are hard to come by and when scouting for “over the counter negotiated sales” there are too many restrictions on what and where timber can be harvested.

Alaskan’s need access to timber sales to keep our communities stocked with local grown and harvested lumber. The bill addresses the need to harvest timber subject to damages by fire and insect but in my opinion also needs to include the harvesting of over mature timber. I am not advocating large clear cuts but small scale selective cuts that would benefit local communities and create healthier safer forests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Josh Leatherman
Precision Timberworks
Seward,AK
907-[REDACTED]

From: [Agim Delolli](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: House Bill 104
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:58:20 AM

I support house bill 104, we need to manage our forest quicker.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Traxler](#)
To: [Sen. Click Bishop](#)
Subject: HB104
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 7:14:01 AM

Mr Bishop,

I'm writing you to stress to you the importance of HB104. I speak for the logging and sawing industry in the Matsu Valley and surrounding areas. Through my eight years in business the loggers and sawyers have chosen me to be the voice of our industry. They have done this because I have a passion like they do, that are forest will no longer be left to die and be wasted. Wasted by fire, bug infestation, and disease. We want a science based harvest that responsibly manages our reforestation. Present law is to slow for us to harvest before the trees are no longer usable. Our forest is past it's maturity in many places. We need to harvest our forest on the edges of the dead. Where the trees are still usable. This can be managed by our foresters, they are competent and love our forest, present laws does not let them keep up with the fast moving death of our forest.

These are the businesses that I speak for.

Timber Line Sawmill and Cabin Company

Papoose Milling

Bond Brothers Logging

Webster's Wood

Mat Valley Milling

BST Milling

Elsie Creek Logging

Evergreen Enterprises

Presently my business is buying living trees in your district. The good sawlogs from your district our hauled to the Matsu Valley where I mill them into homes. The log truck then loads up at a Matsu Borough timber salvage harvest with beetle kill spruce firewood and hauls it back to your district. This provides dry wood for your area, it's needed for the wood stove smoke issue you have.

The Matsu Borough assembly has already passed Expedited Timber Harvest. It is working, we are harvesting and managing the Borough forests. The Matsu Borough code was changed like how this bill will change the way the state does timber harvest.

Here is contact info for the Matsu Borough forester and the Borough Manager. I worked with them to setup this process, of expedited timber harvest at the borough level Call them ask them about the way we are doing this and how well it is working. These are there cell phone numbers, easier to get a hold of them that way.

Mike Brown
Borough Manager
1-907-[REDACTED]

Emerson Kruger
Mats Borough Forester
1-907-[REDACTED]

I have also been communicating with Helge the head state forester for years. Please contact him if you have any doubts that HB104 is needed. This is his cell number also.

Helge Eng
1-907- [REDACTED]

I'm having a hard time stressing to you how important this bill is. If you have any questions here is my info.

Andrew Traxler
Papoose Milling
1-907- [REDACTED]

I don't want to watch any more businesses close due to lack of logs. I never want to have to tell one of these businesses that I don't have enough logs to share with them. Our forest is being wasted all around us.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

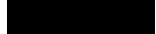
From: [derek.galbraith](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Timber Sales
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:31:20 AM

Hello,

This is to let my interest known that I'm in full support of Expedited Timber sales in Alaska. It's something that needs to be done to allow the wood industry to continue, fire suppression management, and done right, a healthy forest that is a renewable resource.

Thanks for your time,

Derek Galbraith



From: [Ronald Wehrli](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: In Support of HB 104 Expedited Timber Sales
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 12:00:04 PM

As an Alaskan resident of over 40-years, and owner of Eagle River Sawmill & Kiln, I am in support of HB 104 Expedited Timber Sales.

It simply makes sense.

Respectfully,

Ron Wehrli
Eagle River Sawmill & Kiln
[REDACTED]
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-0758
[REDACTED]

<http://eagleriversawmill.com>

DUNS # 116588515

SDVOSB - USMC
Member - NFIB
Made In Alaska Program

Providing Products, Services and Support to Alaskans

From: [Keith Simmons](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:04:07 AM

I support, and encourage your support for HB 104. This seems like a very “common sense”, Bill.
Thank you,
Keith Simmons
Sent from my iPad

From: [Barbara Kennedy](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104 timber sale
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 7:07:48 PM

I support HB 104. It is everyone's interest to remove diseased and dead standing trees to preserve habit and reduce fire danger. This will also provide locally sorced lumber, provide employment, bring local lumber products to the market for building and fuel.

Thank you,
Barbara Kennedy
Kenai peninsula

From: [Karen Wolf](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:13:48 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Very poor bill streamlining chopping down old trees

KILL this Bill !

Wright and Karen Wolf
and sons

From: [Parker Guide Service](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:31:48 PM

I believe HB 104 is needed and should be implemented ASAP to insured best use of our forests nuthatch are going to waste and or rot, much needed at this time, please support its passage!

Thanks

Bruce Parker

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [M Breinholt](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:53:44 PM

To Whom,

As an Alaska resident, I 100% oppose HB104. There should NEVER be expedited timber sales, in fact for the sake of our planet there should never be any timber sales. Trees are important for the removal of CO2 in the atmosphere. Dead or dying trees are important to ecosystems as they provide food and shelter to other organisms. But if and when trees do need to be removed, it should be a careful, scientifically accurate gesture where all parties, including the public are involved.

In my time in Alaska, four years, I've been saddened to see a state run by greed. I thought Alaska would be different but I was wrong.

Sincerely,

Michelle Breinholt
Willow, AK

From: [drbucks4](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: timber bill
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:00:29 PM

HB104 seems like a blatant attempt to circumvent current rules and public comment concerning timber sales in the future. It is so broad and "flexible" it is an invitation to bad decision making.

Chop it down.

Typed by a monkey thumb JT

From: [Charlotte Tanner](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Bill HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:12:13 PM

ATTN: Dan Ortiz

Please oppose bill HB 104.

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 2-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.

This is a "timber grab" with no science behind it.

Thank you.

Charlotte Tanner, [REDACTED] Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: [Ivan Demientieff](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Access to timber
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:40:59 PM

Good afternoon to respected leaders

I Ivan Demientieff am in full support of the bill to approve the harvesting of trees. I am Alaskan native I built my house with my own hands from timber.

Which doesn't take very much at all if an individual puts his or her mind to it.

I new from the start I would never be offered a home, so I took every penny i could save to purchase a lt28 Wood-Mizer. I still didn't have enough and living in poverty I am grateful that Wood-Mizer took it upon themselves yo trust I would pay when I can.

Without Wood-Mizer or timber I would have nothing. We currently battle our local corporations over timber harvest. I will be honest you walk into a stand of ten trees, only three out of that is worth harvesting. We don't ask for much and out in rural Alaska we will take what we can get. If you don't work for the tribes the store or the city. You have no job,

Please consider my words for I will respect any decisions you make.

I'm 38 years old I served as 1st chief for ten years and also serve as city mayor.
I am always looking for any ideas to bring economic development for my people.
Thank you for your continued work for us.
Ivan Demientieff

Sent from my iPhone


From: [Pete and Gretchen Pederson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 3:29:17 PM

We oppose HB104 for multiple reasons.

Sincerely,
Robert and Gretchen Pederson

From: [ANISSA BERRY](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: opposed to HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 6:10:31 PM

I am opposed to the plan for the DOF to expedite timber sales without the public being involved. The definition of what constitutes “expedited” is controversial and subject to interpretation. There are no guidelines nor scientific criteria for what defines a “threatened” forest. This is an open-ended tool for the DOF to offer timber sales that fall in to the hands of special interest. It is not in the public good to let the state’s forestry management have more leeway to impose their judgement on what constitutes “threatened” without the public being able to weigh in. The reason that we have standards, guidelines and forest plans is for proper management of the state’s resources for public good. HB 104 is akin to allowing a kid into a candy store with no supervision.

Anissa Berry

Haines, AK 99827

From: [Bee Long](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104 Expedited Timber Sales
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:32:42 PM

1. Why is this needed? We have a salvage sale process within a 2 year window. Is this not adequate?
2. There are no definitions or guidelines for burnt, infected, or threatened forests.
3. There is no size limitation.

It seems like this could be used politically to do a timber sale without public process.

For the above reasons, I oppose this bill.

Becky Long
Mat Su

From: [Rebecca Siegel](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Public Comment on HB 104
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:45:02 PM

To whom it may concern:

I will be at work at 3:30 on Monday, April 24, so I will be unable to testify in person. Instead, I would like to submit the following written testimony:

My name is Rebecca Siegel. I live in Brevig Mission, AK. I am opposed to HB 104 for the following reasons.

1. HB 104 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. I am concerned that the bill includes no definitions or scientific guidelines for any of these terms. I fear that this could put our state forests at the mercy of politically appointed state commissioners.
2. 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 2-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.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Siegel



Brevig Mission AK
99785

From: [Joanne Shipley](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: House Bill 104, the Expedited Timber Sales Bill
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 4:16:46 AM

It's amazes me in this time of "climate change" that we are cutting anything. Please explain.

Joanne Shipley

From: [Nathan Borson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: No on HB 104
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:45:29 AM

Dear Senate Resources Committee,

I oppose HB 104; please kill it. Alaska already has a timber salvage sale law. This bill seems to be a way around public process and environmental reviews, for no good reason. I want to continue to have a say in how our state timber resources are managed, even those that may be "threatened" by fire, insects, and disease.

Sincerely,
Nate

[Nathan Borson](#)

[REDACTED]

Gustavus, AK 99826

[REDACTED]

From: [Terri Yeager](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: House Bill 104
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:12:52 AM


Dear Senate Resources Committee,

Please oppose this bill based on the incredibly important reasons as identified below.

- 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 2-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 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.

I appreciate your consideration in advance of our environmental issues.

Thanks, Terri



From: [Thom Ely](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 104 Public Testimony
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:52:09 AM


Dear Legislators,

HB 104 is an ill conceived bill to turn back the clock on resource use when clear-cut timber harvest was the primary purpose on State Lands. We now know better. Leaving the old growth trees standing and breathing for our planet is the priority now, versus turning them into cardboard boxes for Amazon shipments.

There are many factors that need to be considered when planning for and proposing timber harvest. We can see the effects of hasty and poor planning on State, Federal and private lands where the environment has been degraded and wildlife has been negatively impacted.

Rather than stepping back in time to the days of poor public resource use and planning, the State needs to rewrite its Forest Management Regulations and Practices to reflect the current climate needs and care for the environment. Please put this bill in the recycle bin.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely

Haines, AK

From: [Ellen Larson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: UPDATED Testimony re HB104
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:28:36 AM

Please replace the testimony that I emailed on April 23, 2023 (see below) with this updated one.

Also, please send a quick replay so that I know that this was received.

Thank you.

This is my updated public testimony
Re HB 104, EXPEDITED TIMBER SALES.

Here are 3 of my major issues with this bill:

1. Where is there a provision for allowing ample time for public comment prior to the disposal of State timber?

2. There is no sale size limitation specified.

3. The bill does not clearly specify the criteria that would be utilized to determine whether an area is "threatened" by fire, insects, or disease.

This is a critical part of the decision- making process.

It appears that under HB 104, the DNR Commissioner could bypass public process and have ultimate discretion in determining if an area is "threatened."

This is unacceptable.

Alaska has a salvage law in place.

For these reasons (along with others), I strongly oppose HB 104.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony, an essential part of a strong democracy.

Ellen Larson
Haines, Alaska

From: Ellen Larson
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:46 PM
To: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov <Senate.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony re HB104

My name is Ellen Larson and I have been an Alaska (Haines) resident since 1977.

This is my public testimony
Re HB 104, EXPEDITED TIMBER SALES.

Here are 3 of my major issues with this bill:

1. Where is there a provision for allowing ample time for public comment prior to the disposal of State timber?

2. There is no sale size limitation specified.

3. The bill does not clearly specify the criteria that would be utilized to determine whether an area is "threatened" by fire, insects, or disease.

This is a critical part of the decision- making process.

It appears that under HB 104, the DNR Commissioner would have the freedom to determine if an area is "threatened."

This is unacceptable.

For these reasons (along with others), I strongly oppose HB 104.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony, an essential part of a strong democracy.

Ellen Larson
Haines, Alaska

From: [Mike Martin](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: Maranda@seacc.org
Subject: House bill 104
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:21:07 AM

Good day.

My name is Mike Martin and I currently live in the Yukon.

I recognize that my testimony may not hold much weight as I am a canadian citizen however I do frequent your beautiful SE Alaska every year (except COVID) and can only admire how pristine and healthy your wilderness is.

As a canadian that once lived in BC, I can at least caution you not to do what we have done to our once pristine and beloved Coast.

We got greedy and defied the concept of sustainability and are now paying the price. We have lost over 90% of our Old Growth Forestes and the species and ecosystems that rely on them. We are currently at the cross roads of short term Old Growth Forest cutting industry versus protection for long term indigenous and all human rights, species rights, and conservation of wilderness and sustainable initiatives.

It is much easier to cautiously allocate resources in a sustainable manner than it is to give too much and then have to take back or recover what was already promised.

I recognize that wood is a resource that we all use and that peoples livelihoods depend on a certain amount of resource extraction so I am not suggesting that no harvesting take place but it must be done in a truly sustainable manner.

Intact ecosystems have incredible offshoot values such as Salmon habitat and tourism attraction and quality of life for locals.

Our governments rely on perpetual growth to maintain a 'healthy' economy but unless we adopt a truly sustainable economic model, we are destined for collapse. Over time, there is no way around that. None.

In closing, it appears to me that there needs to be stronger language with regards to the extraction of the resources and a much more cautious approach needs to be written into the bill.

The language must reflect the concept of sustainability as a top priority.

It should also be mentioned that although Forests may be subjected to disease or fire, these are also natural occurrences and many species also rely on these events to prosper as well. It mat be cyclic for some species but they do require this to happen. Woodpeckers are a great example of that.

Thank you for taking the time to read what I wrote.

In short, if we do not adopt a truly sustainable approach, we will eventually fail. BC has proven that with its' Old Growth Forestes and its's Salmon.

Sincerely,

Mike Martin

Whitehorse

