

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE



***Session:***

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## REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CRONK

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### HOUSE BILL- 104

House Bill- 104 is written to accomplish five main goals:

1. To increase public safety by reducing wildfire risks.
2. Provide timber resources in abundance for industry growth.
3. Reduce firefighting costs to the state.
4. Provide fuel for biomass energy production and expansion.
5. Increase local job opportunities.

Alaska's timber resources are plentiful and sorely underutilized. In the Interior when a tree is harvested it is one less tree for mother nature to burn. When insect infestation occurs, timber dies by the millions of board feet. Even so much of this dying or dead timber is usable. We must aggressively make this fire ready, and beetle killed timber available before it deteriorates.

This legislation directs our State Forester and the Division to focus on areas of commercial timber where fire dangers are high as well as areas under insect infestation as a priority.

HB – 104 has the support of: Governor Dunleavy, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Alaska Forestry Association, and other Industry users.