

**From:** [Tom Paragi](#)  
**To:** [Senate State Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** support for SB 188  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:46:01 PM

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Dear Senator Kawasaki and members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I was traveling last Thursday so could not speak in support of SB 188 to expand the Tanana Valley State Forest at the Senate State Affairs Committee. I urge support of this bill to advance out of your committee for consideration in Senate Resources..

Incorporation of unreserved state lands that are forest classified into the adjacent state forest protects resources and public uses that could be degraded through incompatible uses. Management for timber and other benefits in a state forest must follow statutes, regulations, and guidelines in a plan to ensure forest practices that protect or enhance forest health, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. These resources provide recreation, sustenance, fuel, and other beneficial uses to the public in addition to commercial uses managed by the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Designation of forest classified lands into a state forest also prevents transference to private ownership. Fragmentation of remote forested lands by residential or recreational homes tends to increase the risk of human-caused forest fires that can spread into timber.

The Tanana Valley State Forest is the only state forest that has a Citizen Advisory Committee. These local residents with knowledge across various roles (forest science, private landowner, timber industry, fish and wildlife, mining, recreation, etc.) periodically review proposals for timber sales and other activities to ensure compliance with the management plan. This system has worked well to guide management and reduce user conflicts over the last 4 decades I have lived in the Interior.

Thank you for considering my request to pass SB 188 out of your committee.

Tom Paragi  
1390 Pickering Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709