

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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February 27, 2009

Senator Donny Olson, Chairman
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill 127 - Establishing the Southeast State Forest and relating to the Southeast State Forest.

Dear Senator Olson,

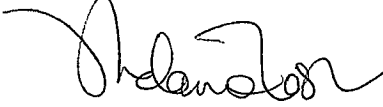
Please accept this request for your consideration to schedule SB 127 before the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

This bill would establish a new Southeast State Forest (SESF) in Southeast Alaska. The SESF would be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. Designated lands include 20 parcels totaling approximately 25,291 acres on Prince of Wales, Tuxekan, Kosciusko, Heceta, Revilla, and Gravina islands, and on the mainland at Crittenden Creek. Lands in the State Forest would continue to be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and harvest and recreational activities. Legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that some land will remain available for long-term forest management, and enable thinning to increase timber volumes.

The bill is supported by the Alaska State Forest Association, hunting and recreation groups as well as all surrounding land owners. Attached are a Sectional Analysis, DNR's zero fiscal note and background materials and maps.

If you have any questions regarding the bill, or to make arrangements for department to respond to questions please feel free to contact Melanie Lesh, Special Assistant, Department of Natural Resources, and Legislative Liaison at 465-4730, or Marty Freeman, the Forest Resources Program Manager at 269-8473.

Sincerely,


for Thomas E. Irwin
Commissioner