



**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BOARD OF FORESTRY**

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1450  
Anchorage, AK 99501

April 3, 2009

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-chair  
House Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 515  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Stoltze,

The Alaska Board of Forestry is pleased to convey its support for HB 162 to establish a Southeast State Forest. The Board of Forestry provides a forum to discuss and resolve issues on forest practices and management of forests on state land (AS 41.17.947(b)). Board members represent diverse constituencies – the timber, fishing, and mining industries, Native Corporations, professional foresters and fish and wildlife biologists, and environmental and recreational organizations.

The Board of Forestry was briefed on the concept of a Southeast State Forest at the November 12, 2008 Board meeting, and on the specifics of HB 162 at the March 18-19, 2009 Board meeting. HB 162/SB127 would establish a 25,291-acre state forest consisting of 20 parcels in southeast Alaska. This land is currently part of the state timber base, but susceptible to future changes in land use designations. Dedication to long-term management helps provide for long-term forest management to support the southeast timber industry and ensure continued multiple use. It also secures a land base suitable for thinning to increase the volume of second-growth timber and reduce impacts on wildlife habitat.

I am pleased to report that on March 18, 2009 the Board unanimously voted to support passage of House Bill 162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Maisch".

Chris Maisch, State Forester  
Chair, Alaska Board of Forestry

Alaska Board of Forestry

- Ron Wolfe, Alaska Native Corporations
- Rick Rogers, Forest Industry Trade Association
- Wayne Nicolls, Non-governmental Professional Foresters
- Rob Bosworth, Environmental Organization
- Erin McLarnon, Recreation Organization
- Mark Vinsel, Commercial Fisherman's Organization
- Jeff Foley, Mining Organization
- Matt Cronin, Non-governmental Professional Fish/Wildlife Biologist

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

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April 10, 2009

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chairman  
House Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 515  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 162 – Establishing the  
Southeast State Forest

Dear Representative Stoltze,

Please accept this request for your consideration to schedule HB 162 before the House Finance 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, the Southeast Conference, and Resource Development Council along with recreation groups and 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, 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,



Thomas E. Irwin  
Commissioner