



100 Cushman Street, Suite 210
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Representative Josiah Patkotak
Chairman, House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Sent Via Email: Grace.Ervine@akleg.gov

RE: Support for HB 98 Forest Land Use Plans; Timber Sales

Dear Chairman Patkotak:

Aurora Energy Solutions supports House Bill 98 Forest Land Use Plans; Timber Sales. Aurora Energy Solutions (Solutions) is a swiftly growing business in Fairbanks that produces kiln-dried firewood, compressed logs, and premium wood pellet fuel. These products utilize local raw materials, generate a positive economic impact in the community, and are making a meaningful contribution toward combating air quality problems in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

HB 98 streamlines the timber sales process, ensures efficient forestry planning, and retains the oversight of a respectable public and agency review process. Furthermore, HB 98 provides predictable timber harvests and greater certainty for businesses, employees, and customers.

Aurora Energy Solutions needs a stable, predictable, supply of wood to produce its products and is interested in purchasing long-term, negotiated timber sales from the Division of Forestry. Solutions is forecasting an annual demand of 250 truckloads of pulp grade spruce materials for pellet and compressed log production, and an additional 500 truckloads of birch logs for firewood.

While this new venture into firewood has improved the species variability of the produced products, Solutions must ensure a consistent supply of wood to meet demand. Interruptions during a timber harvest after a sale has been purchased can be ruinous. HB 98 provides efficient forest management planning and more predictable timber harvests without jeopardizing the public process.

Finally, HB 98 leaves intact AS 38.05.123 which manages negotiated timber sales for the local manufacture of wood products. This section ensures domestic manufacturers, like Solutions, are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me at chad@heatyourway.com or (907) 488-6055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Schumacher".

Chad Schumacher
General Manager
Aurora Energy Solutions, LLC