

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing today in support of SB87 and HB93 LUMBER GRADING PROGRAM. I would strongly encourage you to support these bills. These bills will allow Alaskan sawmill operators to be trained and certified to produce quality dimensional lumber for local use. This will create many local small business opportunities in our communities and provide a much-needed value-added product from our forestry resources.

Because I didn't need building permits or construction loans, I was able to harvest and mill dimensional lumber from my property and build a shop and attached in-law apartment. I have seen first-hand the quality of the dimensional lumber that can be produced. I have also seen much of our timber resources here on the Kenai Peninsula either used for firewood and burned as slash. Much of this material could be harvested, produced into dimensional lumber, and sold to local consumers. And that is just in Kenai. I can see an even bigger benefit to our rural communities off the road system where shipping dimensional lumber adds significant costs. Quality lumber produced by local businesses and used in their local communities is a WIN, WIN, WIN situation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dennis*

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