

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1993-1994 8672

8095 HOUSE RESOURCES

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Testimony before House Resource Committee on SB310

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important bill. I ask you to oppose SB310 for a number of reasons, each of which you have heard numerous times before. The Tanana Valley State Forest is used by interior Alaskan residents and visitors for a wide variety of commercial, subsistence, and recreational uses. Indeed, much that is unique and desirable about life in the Interior revolves around the broad expanse of boreal forest that surrounds Fairbanks.

In this day of mounting social and environmental problems, it is imperative that Alaskans seek to replace declining oil revenues with alternative economic bases. Two fundamental criteria that responsible economic development should include are sustainability and compatibility with existing lifestyles. I fully support local lumber mills and other value-added forest products businesses that employ and benefit Alaskans, and I believe there is potential for further development of this sort of locally owned enterprise. However, the FMAs mandated by SB310 do not satisfy either of these criteria, sustainability or compatibility, and are not even likely to help the local economy much due to automation and out of state hire.

The history of FMAs in other parts of the country reveals a legacy of short term prosperity followed by depleted, useless forests, economically depressed communities, and net economic losses to the state. Why, when the primary beneficiary of this brand of large scale logging is so clearly the timber industry, are so many legislators determined to pass SB310?

I would urge members of the House to make a number of fundamental changes to SB310 to protect Alaskans from the woes that have accompanied FMA-type timber sales in the Pacific Northwest.

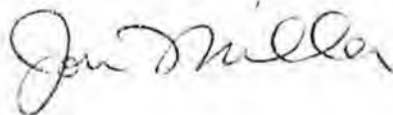
--The State certainly should not subsidize out-of-state timber companies by providing infrastructure or selling timber at a loss.

--Forests are a rapidly dwindling resource on a global level. In twenty years, the value of a mature spruce or birch tree will be many times its current value, both in terms of economic value and ecological value. It's no wonder the timber industry pushes for 20 year contracts...But it's amazing that the state is willing to comply. Please limit the length of sales to five years or less in order to secure realistic, competitive pricing.

--The state constitution currently requires that timber harvest on public lands be limited to the annual growth increment. Relaxing this requirement is very likely to lead to a rapid erosion of the timber base. Think ahead. What will our children and their children depend upon by the middle of the next century when the forests are cut, the oil pumped, and the fish gone? How about a little respect for future generations!

--Lastly, the trees should be cut, hauled, and processed locally by Alaskans, and by Alaskan businesses. We should use our forests in as sustainable, creative, and economically efficient methods as possible. We don't live in an optimal tree-growing climate...It will be a long time before our forests give us a second chance, so let's not blow it.

Jon Miller
2630 Home Run
Fairbanks 99709



*
Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kathy Miller. I am part owner of Miller, Inc. in Ketchikan. I am here today in support of SB310 and the managed use of our forest resources. The forest products industry provides sound economic development and guarantees year around jobs in the state of Alaska. We have provided for a family here, sent our children to school...and we plan to be here for the rest of our lives. However, federal decisions about the management of our lands could jeopardize all of that. This is why we must take steps to manage our state lands.

Timber dependent communities rely on a stable, predictable supply of timber at market prices. Forest Management Agreements make this possible, attract the investment necessary, and support our communities. We harvest at sustainable rates and have a healthy forest in Southeast Alaska.

The interior and southcentral regions of our state promise further economic and social development on a sustainable basis. SB310 provides for public comment, and Forest Practices Act provisions. It is a healthy bill, good for the environment, and good for the people.

Thank you for your time.

fax 225-1989

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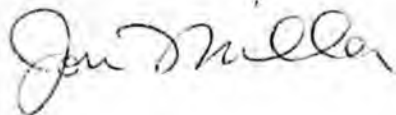
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Jon Miller
2630 Home Run
Fairbanks 99709



7. Do you live...

- In Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau
- In a town
- In a rural area

8. Does your community have:(Check all that apply)

- A road system?
- A ferry system?
- A scheduled airline?
- Handicapped bus transportation

9. Do you live...

- Alone in a home or apartment
- With family or friends in a home or apartment
- In a place with others who have disabilities (examples group home, nursing home, institution)
- At school
- Other (write in): _____

IF YOU WISH, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Do you or the person you represent have any of the following? (check all that apply)

- Physical disability
- Developmental disability (mental retardation, learning disability, speech communication, autism)
- Hearing disability
- Vision disability
- Behavioral disability (mental health, behavior problems)
- Environmental Disability (allergies, chemical reactions, etc.)
- Health problems
- Neurological problems

2. If you are on a cash economy or a combination of subsistence and cash, how much money did you or the person you represent make last year?

(Please use your OWN income if you have graduated or left school. If you are still going to school, use your family's income.)

- less than \$10,000 \$10,000 to \$30,000
- \$30,000 to \$60,000 More than 60,000

3. Did you answer the previous question based on how much money made by:

- You? Your family?

4. Where do you get most of your money (income)? (check only one)

- My wages Native Corporation Dividends
- Social Security My family
- Welfare benefits Other: (write in) _____

5. What is your race?

- White (Caucasian) Eskimo Black (African American)
- Aleut Asian Indian
- Hispanic Other (write in) _____

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kathy Miller. I am part owner of Miller, Inc. in Ketchikan. I am here today in support of SB310 and the managed use of our forest resources. The forest products industry provides sound economic development and guarantees year around jobs in the state of Alaska. We have provided for a family here, sent our children to school...and we plan to be here for the rest of our lives. However, federal decisions about the management of our lands could jeopardize all of that. This is why we must take steps to manage our state lands.

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The interior and southcentral regions of our state promise further economic and social development on a sustainable basis. SB310 provides for public comment, and Forest Practices Act provisions. It is a healthy bill, good for the environment, and good for the people.

Thank you for your time.

Fax 285-1989



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
 committee name
 committee on SB-310, dated APRIL 15, 1994
 bill/subject

I AM OPPOSED TO SB-310. TIME - HARVESTING WOULD STILL
 BECOME PRIMARY USE OF PUBLIC LANDS PUTTING MULTIPLE USE
 ASPECTS AFTER THE FACTS.

THERE IS STILL NO PUBLIC PROCESS AS THE ONLY COMMENT PERIODS
 ARE AFTER THE F.M.A.'S HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED.

FMA'S ARE A ECONOMIC GIVEAWAY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY. FAR TOO
 MUCH LEGISLATION IS SHOWN THROUGH WITHOUT EVALUATING THE
 ECONOMICS THIS ENDING UP AS A FINANCIAL BOUNDGEGLE COSTING US
ALL, DUE TO LEGISLATIVE SHORT SIGHTEDNESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL
 THAT THIS BILL AT LEAST ~~BE~~ ALSO BE DIRECTED TO THE FINANCE
 COMMITTEE FOR EVALUATION.

I ALSO INSIST THAT PUBLIC TESTIMONY IS SCHEDULED
 ON THIS BILL AS IT WAS NOT TAKEN TODAY.

Signed: James C. Minton JAMES C. MINTON
 Testifier

FLAT HORN LAKE PROPERTY ASSOC.

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 190121 ANCHORAGE, AK. 99519

Address

907-248-1865

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee
 committee name
 committee on SB 310, dated 4/15/94
 bill/subject

I am speaking as a business person in Sitka; I have lived and worked here for 20 years. I am speaking from personal experience.

Until yesterday Sitka and a significant part of the Tongass forest were burdened with a longterm contract. Under this burden Sitka has remained locked in the 1950's, when the contract was written. Under the contract, regardless of any new information that emerged, the Forest Service and ALC seemed locked into the agreements of the contract. All other resources were secondary to the terms of the contract, including the quantity of timber available, hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, and tourism uses. Under the contract small independent timber companies were forced out of business. Under the contract US taxpayers paid enormous sums — through the Forest Service — to meet the price structure terms of the contract. As the pulp company made greater + greater profits overseas as the value of the timber went higher + higher, the price they paid for the timber remained only slightly above give away. Under the contract, the overall stability of Sitka's economy has been reduced. I can see no reason to support SB310. Please vote against it.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Don Muller

Representing (Optional)

Box 1042

Address

Sitka, AK 99835 747-8808 (w)

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the RESOURCES
committee name
committee on S.B. 310, dated 4/25/04
bill/subject:

BY NOW YOU ALL HAVE PROBABLY REACHED SATURATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN S.B. 310. AS SUCH, I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO WEIGH THE TESTIMONY OF JUST ONE MORE CITIZEN VERY HEAVILY. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ON WED., 4/20/04 THERE WERE MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE PATIENTLY WAITING TO BE HEARD IN THE FAIRBANKS C.I.O. I WAS ALSO PRESENT ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

I BELIEVE THAT THE FORESTS OF THE TANANA VALLEY ARE SUCH AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE RESOURCE THAT THE PUBLIC MUST BE MADE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS. TO EXCLUDE US FROM THIS PROCESS IS NOT ONLY SHORT SIGHTED BUT ALSO POTENTIAL POLITICAL SUICIDE.

ALTHOUGH I AM REGISTERED AN INDEPENDENT, I HAVE ALWAYS VOTED FOR STEVE BECAUSE OF HIS BALANCED APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HAVING READ THE ORIGINAL S.B. 310 I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THAT STEVE ACTUALLY WROTE THIS BILL. WHILE THE AMENDMENTS REMOVE SOME OF THE WORST ASPECTS OF THE BILL THEY DO NOT RESULT IN LEGISLATION THAT THE MAJORITY OF SEN. FRANKS CONSTITUANTS CAN SUPPORT. PLEASE TABLE 310 SO THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE TANANA VALLEY CAN HELP YOU TO FASHION
Signed: A BILL THAT THE MAJORITY CAN SUPPORT.

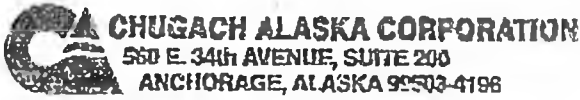
Testifier

Mike Muehl - ESTER CONSTRUCTION

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 170 ESTER, AK 99725

Address



TRANSMITTAL

TO: *BILL WILLIAMS*

FROM: *TIM PAGE*

RECIPIENT <i>C. Affirmed House Resources</i>	
COMPANY	DEPARTMENT
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	

DATE <i>4/18/94</i>	TELEPHONE NUMBER 907-563-8866	FACSIMILE NUMBER 907-563-8402
THIS MESSAGE IS FROM		
PACKETABLE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, FAX NUMBER <i>465-3773</i>	SFO #
IS IT BY (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)		PAGES SENT (INCLUDING THIS PAGE) <i>3</i>
TRANSMISSION METHOD		

REFERENCE

SB 310 TESTIMONY

MESSAGE

IN FAVOR OF SB 310.

CC:

REPLY

CC:

SENT BY:
KINKO'S
the copy center

4-12-94 ; 5:00PM ;
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
FAX: 907-462-3005
PHONE: 907-456-7346

KINKO'S- 907 456 3793:# 1

TODAY'S DATE 4/12/94 1epm NO. OF PAGES 3

TO Representative Williams
LOCATION Juneau
FAX NUMBER 465 3424
TELEPHONE NUMBER 1405 3793

SENT BY Don Parks
LOCATION
FAX NUMBER
TELEPHONE NUMBER 456-5054

COMMENTS

ALIGNED WITH TOP OF DOCUMENT

Kinko's makes no liability for loss of or damage to any data transmitted or received by any data transmitted with them

ALIGNED WITH TOP OF DOCUMENT

Interior Alaska Forest Association

April 5, 1994

Dear Representative Williams

The needs of the existing timber industry was not considered in the final version of SB310. What started out as a bill that would help our industry was whittled down to nothing by the end of the compromises. To be able to support this bill our top priorities, listed below, must be included:

1. ***AS 38.05.112(a) The department may not (sell or) harvest timber, except for isolated (personal) use timber harvest) sales of less than 50,000 board feet,.....***

Delete the (enclosed) words and add the underlined, this means wood in decks from a previous harvest would not have to have a new plan to be resold and small salvage clean up could be made without a long review process. Division of Forestry won't do these sales anymore because they are too small for all the effort.

2. ***AS 38.05.112(b) The commissioner shall base a forest land use plan on the best available data, including information provided by other agencies(.) describing the immediate and long-term effects of individual and collective forest activities on the timber base and on other resources and uses. ***

Delete the underline. It would be impossible for each sale to meet these stipulations and survive a court challenge. If absolutely necessary this could be moved to AS41.17.230 in the forest management plan for the state forest as a whole.

3. ***AS 38.05.112(d) A management plan prepared by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230 and AS 38.04.065(a) must consider and permit the uses described in (c) of this section. If the commissioner finds that a permitted use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of a state forest, the commissioner shall, consistent with AS 41.17.200, affirmatively state in the management plan that finding of incompatibility for the specific area where the incompatibility is anticipated to exist and the time period when the incompatibility is anticipated to exist together with the reasons for each finding. If AS 38.05.112(c)(1) is found incompatible or restricted, sound scientific data and documentation must be provided that clearly proves such incompatibility and the benefits of such restrictions.***

Add the underlined parts. The key in stopping the state forest from being locked up is the underlined parts, which reminds them

of the intent for state forests and requires proof of the need for restriction on harvest for any part of the state forest. After seeing what has happen in Mat-Su, it is our opinion and deep concern that if these changes are not added there is nothing to stop huge 1/4 mile buffers, 100 year rotation ages on birch (making them rotter), and individual tree selection harvest, all of which will kill our industry. If these Susitna Forest Guidelines were applied here about two-thirds of the commercial timber would be off limits for harvest. As written now Section 1 of SB310 will not stop this. Environmentalists don't object to logging outright, they make it uneconomical by endless conditions. That's why our additions must be made to SB310.

4. ***AS 38.05.122 (g)

(1) must be reviewed by a committee consisting of a representative of affected local government, and recognized experts in Forestry, local forest industry and Business.*****

Our association believes that there needs to be a blue-ribbon panel to approve the FMA to get the best deal for the state. Since any FMA would deal with hardwoods it should open new markets for our members. We endorse such an industry coming in, but we are taking a risk that the DNR will watch out for us. DNR's track record so far has been awful. We will support the FMA if there is a blue-ribbon panel to review the final proposal.

Are we overreacting? When a large sale was proposed in the Mat-Su in the late 1980's, environmentalists from Anchorage formed The Susitna Valley Association to kill the large sale. They didn't stop there. They pushed DNR into putting severe restrictions on existing industry. When ever environmentalists get loud and vocal, DNR placates them to keep them quiet. DNR's Division of Lands willingly bent over backwards meeting every demand of the environmentalists resulting in "The Susitna Forest Guidelines". After these restrictions went into affect, timber sales dropped from 12 timber sales to 1 sale a year. The person who designed these restrictions is an environmentalist and has now been put in charge of the timber section in forestry. These guidelines are not based on scientific fact or reasonable environmental controls.

It's the way planning is now done. They call it "consensus" where they try to satisfy everyone. So the radicals know all they have to do is to take an extreme way out position, get loud and intimidating, and they will get most of what they want. Reasonable controls to protect fisheries are already in the Forest Practices Act. We feel that they should prove any further restrictions.

The environmentalists know if they yell and shout, DNR and Division of Forestry will cave in. These agencies will bend over backwards to keep them quiet to the detriment of the people who make their living from the forest. Another example is the Kenai, where trees killed by beetles four years ago have yet to be sold. There have

been endless plans, committees, and public hearings, while the trees rot. The trees are now almost worthless. Yet, private land owners have been salvaging their trees with no problem. Just two weeks ago, the auction to salvage some of these trees was postponed to have yet another hearing because of environmentalists complaints. This is after four years of public process. DNR is becoming completely paralyzed by a small radical group. We are not afraid of sound scientific restrictions and we don't need most of the valley, only a small piece. But what we do need is protection in law, because DNR won't do it on it's own.

Environmentalists' restrictions are based on feelings, not facts. Our version of AS 41.17.230 requires that any incompatibility or the need for restriction on harvest such as buffers must be proven. You have to remember that only a small piece of the valley has been set aside for use, so we feel any restrictions must be justified.

As we said before, it doesn't matter if you have an FMA bill, because the restrictions that the environmentalists will put in the state forest plan will kill any FMA and the local industry.

Please help us get these final changes into SB310 so we can all get strongly behind it. We need this bill for our survival, but it must have our additions for us to support it. We know we can count on your help to make sure we protect the industry we already have.

Sincerely,

Don Parks
Parks Wood Service
456-5054

Al Pagh
Four Star Lumber

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES

P.O. Box 56622

North Pole, Alaska 99705

(907) 488-1546

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House District 34



House of Representatives

White in Juneau

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska

99801-1182

(907) 465-3743

FAX (907) 465-2381

TO: House Resources Committee and Interior Delegation
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE JEANNETTE JAMES
RE: SB310
DATE: April 18, 1994

Mr. Pagh requested that I distribute the following testimony to you.

TESTIMONY in
HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RE: **SB310**

4/15/94

by Albert M. Pagh, Four Star Lumber Co.
2849 Parks Highway
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-6643

My name is Albert Pagh and my son and I have owned and operated a sawmill and logging operation in Fairbanks for 24 years. I have worked in the timber industry for 53 years.

I am in favor of the concept of forest management agreements with some reservations. I would like to have wording in the SB310 that would require that the F.M.A.'s would be in predominantly hardwood stands. There are at present sawmills in the Fairbanks area that can

process all of the spruce that can be sold from the Tanana Valley State Forest and keep it on an even flow sustained yield basis. If the F.M.A.'s were on hardwoods they would have to be processed in-state as the hardwoods are of too low a quality to export as raw logs.

There were two truck loads of birch logs hand picked and shipped to Washington state to be processed. I followed one load to N.W. hardwoods and talked to the manager. He had a man take me out into the plant and watch the processing of logs into lumber and then watch the grading of lumber. Out of those hand picked logs, 16% made furniture grade lumber. The rest of it was pallet material. Had those logs been cut into lumber in Alaska, the shipping of the pallet material would have cost more than the lumber was worth.

There are a few small operations in Fairbanks that use a very small amount of hardwoods, but they have to be very selective in choosing the trees that they can use. It is impossible to tell if a standing tree is sound enough to use, so usually they have to cut many trees before they find one they can use. Most of the birch that is cut is used for firewood. We can not even give aspen away.

(51) If there was a pulp mill or chipboard plant the small operators could sort out what they could use and sell the rest to the pulp or chipwood plant. It would also give the sawmills in the area a place to dispose of tops and all other cull logs.

If the F.M.A.'s were for spruce, there is no doubt the high grade logs would be exported. The Seward mill is shutting down because they can make 50% more selling the logs for export than they can milling them. The Seward mill is a very modern state of the art sawmill. It was built a very few years ago at the cost of \$20 million. A pulp or chipboard plant would cost as much or more so they have to have a long enough contract to amortize their investment.

The Tanana Valley State Forest is about 1.8 million acres and if we were to cut an average of 14,400 acres per year it would take 125 years to cut the 1.8 million acres. The second crop would then be ready to be cut. When I say 125 years I am talking about spruce, as the hardwoods should be cut at 60 to 80 years or less. At the present time, less than 1000 acres a year are being cut.

(10/12) We have a lot of young people that have dropped out of school and it is very hard for them to find a job they can make a living at. A lot of them turn to crime. Working at logging does not take a college degree so I am sure we could take a lot of these young people off the streets and give them good paying jobs. Jobs in logging would be about 11 months a year and the processing plants would be year around.

Much has been said about tourists not wanting to come to Alaska and see clearcuts. Most tourists are my age or older and they come from a generation that either had to work or go hungry, so I don't think they begrudge us the opportunity to make a living.

Most clearcuts grow up with grass and brush in a couple of years and the most telltale marks are the boundaries that are relatively straight. Clearcuts generate good browse for animals. Fish and game managers like to see fires let burn to create browse, but I believe that is a terrible waste of our natural resource.

Logging requires access so road systems are funded by an allowance from timber sales. The roads are then used by all for recreation, firewood gathering, and also in some cases fire fighting to name a few. There are hundreds of lightning fires a year. Unaccessible fires usually are let burn if it isn't endangering someone's home. The timber is usually left to rot. The Rosie Creek burn, because it had access, was salvaged. There were over 20 million board feet salvaged. Under today's regulations written by environmentalists, the salvage of such timber before it spoils is impossible, even if it does have access. Take the Kenai Peninsula bug killed timber as an example. If fire destroys timber environmentalists say, "Oh, that is just Mother Nature's way." But if that same timber is logged and used to build homes, they think that is terrible.

(10/12) Alaska is a rich state in natural resources if the citizens are allowed to use the resources wisely as was intended under the statehood act. 8/10 of 1% of the 1.8 million acres per year is all that is required to support a viable forest industry in the Interior.

There are things in SB310 that have to be changed if there is to be any timber industry at all. There are millions of acres in the state that can not be logged, so I think 1.8 is very little to ask for. These are the available lands:

52,914,223 acres of National Parks
77,061,693 acres of National Wildlife Refuge
22,842,205 acres of National Forests
56,484,686 acres of National Wilderness
2,721,127 acres State of Alaska Fish and Game Designations
3,095,957 acres Park Designations
2,803,020 acres other designations
2,033,000 Forestry

Larry Paquin

April 14, 1994

23 year Alaska resident, recreational forest user, burn wood for heat at home

CS SB 310

SB 310 is a piece of loose legislation that should be scuttled. Here's why I am still opposed to it:

— There have been no cost-benefit studies on the effect of this far reaching bill.

Too much power is concentrated in the hands of Commissioner of Natural Resources, a political appointee, and not necessarily a professional in the field.

— The FMAs are in effect a carte blanche to corporate timber industries over a twenty year period. There is much potential for abuse and monopolistic policies in these agreements.

— Senator Frank suggested early on in SB 310 hearings that a value added provision would be a possibility with SB 310, he now says that is not constitutional. Who did the homework there? Without that guarantee SB 310 would be disposing of Alaskan timber at cheap prices. Some if not most could be exported to Japan, where they would benefit many times over from value added manufacturing there.

— No fiscal cost to SB 310? Who is to deal with massive timber cuts we know FMAs promote, who is to monitor effects? There is a fiscal cost and Fish and Game understands this! Does the house, it would be irresponsible to deny a cost to the state.

In the rush to reap Alaska's resources, we the citizens ask if the state has done its homework on the ramifications of this bill? Look at Alberta with giant FMAs, which were rushed into place to deal with dropping oil prices. Disasters as a whole, subsidized by the Province. Large tracts of timber bound up in long term contracts with the Province, often times squeezing out the little guys because FMAs put so much power in the hands of the corporations. Across Canada, from coast to coast, there are about 22 FMA's, one as big as the Province of New Brunswick, or about the size of Maine. Only two out of 22 are exemplimentary operations, the rest costly, wasteful, subsidized. The Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan plant, a small FMA, featured selective logging, no feller-bunchers, but rather chain saws were used; was not overcapitalized; had scrubbers holistically harvested; no chlorine was used in the processing. On the down side, most of the plants built under FMA agreements were highly automated (meaning few jobs there); required a high degree of specialized skill; used feller-bunchers to cut forest (replacing labor intensive jobs) plus feller-bunchers compacted the soil, making tree regeneration difficult. Lastly, much pollution was dumped into nearby rivers and into the air, causing health problems in some communities. Obviously the timber corporation have to be tightly regulated, which SB 310 doesn't begin to address.

— Where is the support system to support HB 310? The nurseries for the massive reforestation that will be required, not in place.

— Data floated around like a 16" spruce growing back in 35 years is unrealistic. And where are the forest inventories that might tell allowable cuts on these state forests we rush to reap? Not in

place, so how can scientific data be applied?

— Scuttle SB 310, it is loose legislation that is being rushed through to reap Alaskan resources, and we are told there are no expenses to the state. Costs to the citizens may be incalculable because the basic, yes standard studies, and research have not been done. Regrettable! There is a chance to do it right in Alaska; unfortunately SB 310, as it now stands, with its attempted quick fix, at the vaggeries of long term timber markets; ^{and} is not the answer. Listen to the experts, listen to the people, don't legislate their overviews out. Alaska is the last place to do it right, don't sell us out to the quick fix as was done in Alberta. We deserve better!

①

SB 310

PARKER

4/15/94

Alaska Sportfishing Assoc. & State Council
of Trout Unlimited Comments on SB 310

ASA & TU remain opposed to SB 310
despite the changes in the bill.

① The bill needs a strong, clear
and bullet-proof role of ADF & G
in being able to ^{reject or} remove lands from
consideration for FMAs.

② Because Senator Frank of
Fairbanks is the chief sponsor,
the bill ~~of~~ should be amended
to apply only north of the
Alaska Range. Let Senator Frank
prove that bill works there before
he imposes it on southern and
Alaska.

③ Delete § 4 of the bill. The
"and expansion" language is -

- unnecessary to accomplish FMAs
i.e. expansion ^{of business} occurs because of
FMAs, not because of this
"and expansion" language.
- nonsense to talk of expansion
of a lifestyle.

(2)

"expansion of activities" is equally poor craftsmanship. Eg., expanding moose hunting diminishes opportunity for good bulls, as can be seen by comparing the good opportunity to get bulls in Unit 13 compared to the poor opportunity in Unit 16 because of easier access to Unit 16. Similarly, every clean water king salmon stream between Homer and Talkeetna is ~~of~~ either closed to king salmon fishing or open only for 3-day weekends on very small portions of the streams. SB 310

invites such closures whenever timber road approach king salmon streams. The same true for trout fisheries and steelhead fisheries. They decline in quality as levels of use increase.

This bill (§4) is totally insensitive to the complexity of recreational use, the diversity of

③

the character of such use, and
how quality of experience
depends on levels of use.

Don't simply assume that
more use is better for all
users or better for the economy.

④ § 3 of bill needs redefining.

It needs to protect diversity of
recreational opportunity.
Needs to protect age cohorts
(i.e. age class composition) in
fish and wildlife populations.
That needs that baseline
data

The "best interest" finding
needs criteria per above.
DNR can drive a truck
through this language.

W 272-9377

L 274-5418

ASA & TU boards
5B 310

Jeff Parker

U.P. & K Council TU

Council B.L. of ASA.

unanimously oppose

Alaska Boreal Forest Council
P.O. Box 61237
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706-1237
FAX: 474-8343

April 14, 1994

To: All Representatives on the House Resources Committee: 6 pp. FAX material including this page, if problems receiving please call 479-8343 or FAX back to 474-8343

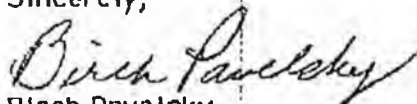
From: Alaska Boreal Forest Council

URGENT: information packet on SB 310 to read before Fri., April 15, 8:15 a.m. House Resource Committee Teleconference Hearings

The following material is respectfully offered in support of the need for regional and statewide cost-benefit analyses of all timber resources (state and private lands) before Forest Management Agreements (FMAs) are legislated for as the tool of choice in promoting a large-scale timber industry in Alaska.

Please read this when considering the current version of SB 310. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Birch Pavelsky

Position paper of the Alaska Boreal Forest Council on SB 310
Forest Management Agreements Bill
April 14, 1994

Summary

SB 310 seeks to promote large-scale timber industry in Alaska by legislating for Forest Management Agreements (FMAs). These long-term land leases guarantee a steady timber supply to the FMA holder for 20-year periods: long enough to justify the costs of building mill facilities and, perhaps, get a return on that investment.

If this were the whole story on FMAs, they, in conjunction with other inducements, could encourage the development of a value-added forest products industry in Alaska. However, the history of FMAs in Canada, the western United States and SE Alaska provide many lessons and cautions that must be incorporated into SB 310 in order to make it prudent public policy. For example, the Alaska office of the U.S. Forest Service reports that its experiences with two 50-year timber leases in SE Alaska have proven economically and environmentally disastrous. The Forest Service will not use Canadian-style FMAs nor the 20-year leases that SB 310 would promote (see pt. #3 in ABFC's position paper, following). The experiences in the coastal timberlands of Alaska as well as the Canadian boreal forests, which resemble those of interior Alaska, must be heeded if we are to avoid community and forest collapse.

We urge the Senate to amend SB 310 as follows.

A planning document including the entire timber base of a geographic region, i.e. one that takes into consideration private and public lands, both, must be completed before an FMA may be negotiated (see point #2 in ABFC's position paper, following).

An economic cost-benefit analysis, considering who benefits from an FMA and who bears its costs, is essential. (See Attachment 2: "A Proposal for the Study of the Best Economic Use for the Tanana Valley Forest"). This will allow the citizens of Alaska to assess the appropriate scale of forest development which is sustainable long-term. Given the potential impact of SB 310, it is imperative to do this analysis first.

As presently before you, SB 310 promotes spending Alaska's forest capital rashly. We urge you to consider the long-term consequences of such action. A cost-benefit analysis looking at various levels of economic development offers the citizens of Alaska the greatest opportunity to determine the wise future use of forest resources. Please amend SB 310 to accomplish this goal.

Attachment 1) "Position paper of the Alaska Boreal Forest Council on SB 310" (2 pages).

Attachment 2) "A Proposal for the Study of the Best Economic Use for the Tanana Valley Forest" by Dr. Colin Read (2 pages)

Alaska Boreal Forest Council
P.O. Box 61237
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706-1237
FAX: 474-8343

Position paper of the Alaska Boreal Forest Council on SB 310
Forest Management Agreements Bill
April 14, 1994

As it stands today, SB 310 is seriously flawed and should not be passed. It is too open-ended to provide prudent public policy. Many concerns raised by the public during Senate debate on SB 310 remain: some of the most important are listed below in the form of five questions. Legislators committed to responsible resource development should address these questions before the forests of Alaska are let in Forest Management Agreements (FMAs). Until these questions are resolved with appropriate data and legislative restraint, it is premature to promote the FMA as a tool of choice for developing a large-scale forest products industry in our state.

- 1) SB 310 effectively eases corporate access to private lands adjacent to state forested lands to ensure a ready and continuous supply of timber. What will prevent these lands from being overharvested as they are not stringently regulated?
- 2) How would harvest levels conform to an overall planning document for all forests of the Tanana Basin? What is the Basin's entire sustainable harvest potential and what are the cumulative effects of intensive logging on all the lands involved, be they private, municipal, or state? No such planning document now exists.
- 3) Is it a judicious use of our forest resources to guarantee their supply via an FMA for a 20-year or longer period? In a parallel situation, the Region 10 (Alaska) Office of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) says it has learned from its experiences with two failed 50-year contracts in Southeast Alaska that FMAs are unwise. Not only will the Forest Service not negotiate 50 year contracts again, but it will not consider even 20-year contracts, such as those that would be permitted by SB 310. Residents of Southeast Alaska and the Forest Service are now going through an "economic falldown" as a result of deficiencies in these contracts. The economic travail in Southeast Alaska is a direct result of changing market conditions and increased awareness of environmental damage. USFS now says that any sale strategy promoting a monopoly of the timber supply by large corporate interests is contrary to any of their preferred forest management alternatives. We will provide references to U.S. Forest Service sources if requested.

To cite just one concern with SB 310 along these lines: how does SB 310 incorporate changes in harvest technology that occur during the 20-year period allowed for in an FMA? On a recent Fairbanks Community Forest Forum field trip to Tanana Chief-directed timber operations, TCC foresters observed that their technology had changed each year for the past three to keep up with the latest harvesting method. Given that harvest technology, forest resource demands, and ecological knowledge are changing fast, we question the wisdom of committing any forest resources for such long periods.

- 4) The public would not be privy to which forests are being considered for FMAs until contracts were prepared. As envisioned by SB 310, the Commissioner of DNR would solicit and negotiate FMA contracts annually with minimum public and legislative oversight. We believe SB 310 concentrates too much of the decision-making power in the hands of the Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources.

- 5) With what data do SB 310 sponsors determine that timber cutting is the best use of the forest? According to a 1992 Legislative Research Agency report, the return on forestry operations in the state was 2.5 cents on the dollar invested. At the present time, fisheries, tourism, and research, each, bring in more money and produce more jobs than timber, and they all depend on a healthy, natural forest.

CONCLUSION

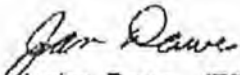
We believe that the citizens of Alaska deserve careful resource planning. Nowhere does the current version of SB 310 provide for such planning which must begin with an adequate and thorough forest inventory before FMAs are let. In addition, an integral part of the planning document for the Tanana Basin should be an economic cost-benefit analysis which considers who benefits from an FMA and who bears its costs. Please see attachment for a cost-benefit study ("A Proposal for the Study of the Best Economic Use for the Tanana Valley Forest") by Dr. Colin Read, Assoc. Professor of Economics at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. If SB 310 were amended to legislate for the creation of economic studies in the various regions of the state before letting any FMAs, many of our concerns would be addressed.

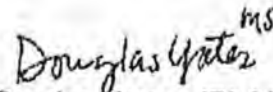
Indeed, if SB 310 could be amended to include provisions for

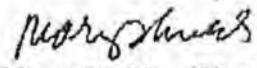
- a) fair public participation in resource management
- b) an overall planning document for the forest resources of each region of the state
- c) consideration of appropriate time-scales for contracts to harvest timber resources
- d) gathering the basic resource information which is still outstanding (such as completing the forest inventory that will provide the baseline data for sustained yield management of the forested lands), and
- e) adequate attention given to all other long-term forest-dependent values beside timber


it would address issues that we currently feel are being ignored. We would welcome the opportunity to put our energies to work in helping produce that document. We strongly request the House to consider whether the state's best interests might not be better served by proceeding with such an approach that is already possible within existing forest planning processes rather than continuing with the one embodied in the current version of SB 310. Thank you for considering our position on this legislation.

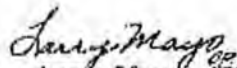
Sincerely,

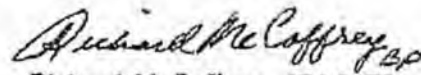

Janice Dawe, 479-8343
FAX 474-8343

^{ms.}
Douglas Yates, 479-8300


Mary Shields, 455-5469 (ph. and FAX)


Birch Pavelaky, 456-0500


Larry Mayo, 479-2954


Richard McCaffrey, 474-3473

for the Boreal Forest Council public process and economic subcommittees

A Proposal for the Study
of the Best Economic Use
for the Tanana Valley Forest

While all participants in the public dialogue on the forest resources in the Tanana Valley agree that they are valuable, an economic analysis of any type that quantifies these values does not exist. Yet without such an analysis, it is impossible to proceed with a long range forestry plan that will provide the greatest economic return to the Tanana Valley.

It is not surprising that an analysis which fully describes alternative development scenarios for forests in the Tanana Valley has yet to be performed. Expertise in regional and industrial economics and forestry are required. Fortunately, faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have been identified that are well positioned to perform such a complicated study at comparatively low cost. Indeed, given the value of the forest, our desire for a more complete and better informed discussion within the public process, and the lasting implications of a poor decision now, we probably cannot afford not to pursue such a study.

Components of the study must include:

- 1) Inventory Analysis - an assessment of the inventory base and a survey of additional information required to meet the inventory needs.
- 2) Input Analysis - a study of the best match between the sustainable forest inventory and the harvest and value added forest industry in the Tanana Valley.
- 3) Harvest Technology Analysis - the costs and benefits of various logging technologies by forest type.
- 4) Scale Analysis - a cost benefit analysis of the range of feasible development and value-added scenarios. Also, determination of the time scale of management agreements to match proposed industrial structure.
- 5) Market Analysis - an analysis of local wood products demand and export potential.
- 6) Job Creation Analysis - the level of income and job creation in the primary industries identified in the above sections.
- 7) Multiplier Analysis - the level of secondary income creation (the size of the multiplier) for various industrial alternatives.
- 8) Fiscal Analysis - the optimal size and type of state subsidies to encourage commerce, develop infrastructure, and enhance the multiplier.

There are a number of factors that warrant such a specialized study.

- 1) First, mandated sustainability of Alaskan forest resources requires an analysis of the inventory with a knowledge of the proposed value added industry.
- 2) Second, the forest harvest is dependent on the proposed scale and the transportation network supporting the harvest and the co-location of industry fed by public and private forest holdings. Such transportation infrastructure will require extensive State cooperation and may involve some subsidy.
- 3) Third, while lower-48 forestry development typically keeps a significant share of the income in the community, it is likely that some development scenarios for the forest of the Tanana Valley will drain profits and some jobs to sources outside Alaska. We must quantify the share of local income and job creation for each development alternative.
- 4) Finally, forestry development has certain ramifications on other Tanana Valley industries. Interactions between job maintenance and creation in the tourism and recreation industry and the scale and type of logging practices needs to be explored.

Such an economic analysis must be performed before sensible forest industry development can proceed. The modest costs for the study pale in comparison to the lasting value a well-conceived forest management plan will provide to the citizens of the Valley.

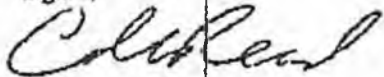
Principal Researcher - Dr. Colin Read, Assoc. Prof. of Economics, School of Management, Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks

Study Logistics:

- 1) Inventory Analysis - 2 person weeks
- 2) Input Analysis - 1 person week
- 3) Harvest Technology Analysis - .5 person week
- 4) Scale Analysis - 1 person week
- 5) Market Analysis - 1 person week
- 6) Job Creation Analysis - .5 person week
- 7) Multiplier Analysis - 1 person week
- 8) Fiscal Analysis - 1 person week
- 9) Conclusion and Presentation - 2 person weeks

10 week study for principal researcher(s)
10 weeks of support staff assistance

Signed,



Colin Read

Donald C. Pendergrast
1407 Holy Cross Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

April 15, 1994

Alaska House Resources Committee

Dear Members,

This letter is in response to the Tanana Valley State Forest bill that is before you. I feel that the bill takes too narrow a view. That is, regional planning documents must be prepared and referred to rather than just state lands. There is of course a lot of land in corporation holdings that should not be left out of the picture if reasonable plans are made.

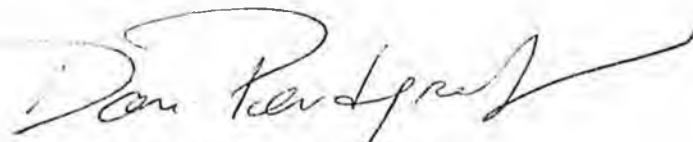
Further I believe that this bill promotes timber use over other uses, and I must ask what the consequences to tourism and fishery resources will be. I think that a cost benefit analysis for all uses, not just timber should be included.

I was surprised to notice in yesterday's Fairbanks Daily News Miner, that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division, had prepared a Fiscal Note on this bill. I was not surprised that this note did not see the light of day until the eleventh hour. This does not reflect well on the public process or openness in government.

I believe that this bill should be referred to the House Finance Committee, because it obviously has great financial implications for the interior.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Pendergrast", written in a cursive style.

Donald C. Pendergrast



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
 committee name
 committee on SB 310, dated 4-15-94
 bill/subject

I AM OPPOSED to SB 310.

THIS BILL HAS MANY PROBLEMS STILL, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL CONCERNED ALASKANS BE ALLOWED TO TESTIFY PRIOR TO THE BILL LEAVING HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

LONG TERM CONTRACTS ARE BAD PUBLIC POLICY, WITH POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES. WE SHOULD NOT FAVOR ONE INDUSTRY, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER INDUSTRIES. THE SUSITNA VALLEY FOREST ALREADY SUPPORTS A THRIVING AND GROWING ~~BE~~ MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RECREATION/TOURISM INDUSTRY WHICH PROVIDES HUNDREDS OF JOBS. FMA'S WILL THREATEN THIS INDUSTRY.

FMA'S ARE AN ATTEMPT TO IGNORE AND BYPASS FREE MARKET ECONOMICS, MAKING THIS BILL FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL UNDER ANY FORM OUT OF COMMITTEE.

Signed: Alan L. Pippard
 Testifier

SELF
 Representing (Optional)

10241 STILLWATER, EAGLE RIVER 99577
 Address

696-2656
 Phone No.



PINE'S SAWMILL

Box 4
TOK, ALASKA 99780Phone 883-2182
Fax 883-5217

MEMO

TO

Representative Bill Williams
 Chm., House Resources Committee
 State Capitol, Room 128
 Juneau, AK 99801

DATE	April 18, 1994
SUBJECT	Senate Bill 310 Forest Management Agreements

We support Senate Bill 310 and urge you to consider the importance of providing small operations with an adequate supply of timber. Small communities rely on small businesses for employment and we hope that such small businesses will not be lost in the interests of "big business."

We hope that the timber-sale process can be simplified. It doesn't make sense to cut back staff and at the same time cause the sales to be more complicated with the involvement of other agencies. It seems that the State would benefit with the harvest of timber and management of this renewable resource. The governor has sold out the timber industry to a preservationist controlled DNR who would lock out productive industry from State forests.

PLEASE REPLY TO: AD REPLY NEEDED BY: George and Virginia Pine

**ALASKA PULP CORPORATION**

400 BAYMILL CREEK ROAD • SITKA, ALASKA 99835-0700

TELECOPIER (907) 747-5588
TELEPHONE (907) 747-2211

March 28, 1994

TESTIMONY FOR SB 310

Senator Steve Frank
State Senate
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sen. Frank:

As a supporter of the timber industry, I have been following the debate over your logging bill (SB 310). You have stirred the wasp nest of the environmental constituency. However, public hearings, public debate and letters to the editor only represent a small segment of the population.

The Alaska Forest Association has twice done statewide public opinion surveys (1991 and 1993) that show overwhelming support of logging on state and federal lands. Here is some insight from the 1993 poll:

- More than half of Alaskans (55%) assign high importance to producing wood and paper products from Alaska's forests.
- Nearly three fourths (71%) assign high importance to job creation from Alaska's forests.
- When given a choice for forest management emphasis in the future, Alaskans prefer economic development (44%), over preservation (25%) and status quo (27%).

Don't think for a minute that your hearings have attracted the average Alaskan. You have merely rankled one constituency that is far better at getting its people to the microphones and telephones. They also love to write letters.

Respectfully,

Rollo W. Pool
Public Relations 747-2283



Alaska State Legislature

FA-465-3773

PAGE 1

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 (IN FAVOR OF)
 committee on SB 310, dated Chairman BILL WILLIAMS
 bill/subject

Within the last 2 months I have attended 3 conferences, spent 2 days in State Capitol Building, 2 weeks in Kenai - Mena Pass Area, have read numerous newspaper/editorial articles, spoke to State and Federal Agencies, University of Alaska Faculty, as well as a Preservationist Group who call themselves the Boreal Forest Council in Fairbanks, and have come to the conclusion that CONFUSION EXISTS!

Environmental elitist groups are confusing the issue by promoting half truths and emotions. The issue has become extremely polarized with no management occurring and the opportunity for good paying jobs being lost. Professional Forest Management is not occurring on State lands and this is what SB 310 is about. - Managing a renewable resource for its highest end product value through multiple use management with good paying jobs and an influx of money into the State's General Fund.

Signed: Jim Payne
 Testifier

SEWARD FOREST PRODUCTS

Representing (Optional)

560 E. 34th Ave Suite 200 Anchorage, AK, 99503-4146

Address

907-563-8866

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

PAGE 2

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

(IN FAVOR OF)

committee on B 310, dated CHAIRMAN BILL WILLIAMS

bill/subject

Contrary to what we hear the General Public is in favor of good sound professional forest management. They're not able to speak today because they're working. They're not in WILSON or a number of a "PRESERVATIONIST" class which advocates doing nothing.

I've been to Kamela, Africa to observe Forest Management Agreements and meet with the Canadian Government and individual provinces. FMA's are working; examples are Tachana Forest Products in Fort Nelson B.C., Miller Hardern in Whitecourt, Alberta, and Vanderwell Contractors in Alberta.

It's time for all sides to DE-POLARIZE and approach this issue professionally. Everyone who speaks at these teleconferences should be held accountable for what they say and back their statements up with facts and real examples instead of half truths and emotions.

Seward Forest Products supports this bill and regrets you adopt the concerns of the Interior Forest Association.

Thank you and if you have any questions contact me in Anchorage at 907-563-8866.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

SEWARD FOREST PRODUCTS

Representing (Optional)

560 E 34th Suite 200 Anchorage AK

Address

907-563-8866

Phone No.

Box 82115
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
14 April 1994

House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Legislators:

I wish to express my intense opposition to SB310, which would set up forest management areas and allow the natural resources commissioner to negotiate long-term contracts with logging companies. Proponents of this bill purport that it will allow the development of a large timber industry in the boreal forest of Alaska, which will create jobs and create a broader base for our economy--and at supposedly no cost to the people. These assertions are either naive, or blatant lies. As a self-employed business owner with an M.S. degree in biology, I am appalled that this bill is approaching approval by the legislature. I implore you to carefully consider the assertions of those who promote this bill.

Their first assertion: "It will allow the development of a large timber industry."

What kind of industry are they talking about? The only kind of timber industry that needs 20 year contracts are huge operations which will require timber harvest levels beyond the sustainable levels that our relatively unproductive (in terms of wood) boreal forest produces. Such industries use high tech machinery to harvest vast amounts of wood in a short time using clearcut logging techniques. The boreal forest can not support that kind of industry over the long term. What we would be doing is creating another boom-bust economic cycle--but in this case one of the most destructive kinds imaginable.

Do the people of Alaska want a huge timber industry developed in interior Alaska? NO! as has been most clearly expressed in public meeting after public meeting after public meeting. Giving the natural resources commissioner the power to negotiate contracts to establish an industry that is not wanted is tantamount to government over the people--not of the people, by the people and for the people.

Their second assertion: Such an industry would create jobs for local people. Would it?

The real answer is NO! Not in the short term, and especially not in the long term. In fact, it will cost us jobs, and it will cost us our ways of life. While the companies with which such contracts might be negotiated would likely build some kind of processing plants, which would no doubt create jobs, many of these jobs would go to highly trained equipment operators. Since few in Alaska have such training, it is a guarantee that the good, highly skilled jobs created would not go to current Alaskans.

But as the forests are cut down, those of us who depend on the tourism industry would find ourselves losing business. Why in the world do you think people come to Alaska? They can see cleared forests, processing plants, and industrial development at home--they don't need to travel thousands of miles and spend thousands of dollars to see that--and they won't.

In addition, small local logging companies would be outcompeted for the limited timber resources and forced out of business. People who heat their homes with wood, as do we, would find it harder and harder to come by--or more and more expensive to buy as the places to harvest it get further and further

away from town. The people who make their livings by trapping, and those who depend on subsistence hunting and fishing would find fewer and fewer places where the habitat existed for the wildlife they depend upon. In addition, many self-employed people, and business owners who chose to base their operations in Alaska because of its beauty would quickly find that the attractiveness of this place as a home deteriorating. And as entrepreneurs, many would decide to leave--taking with them the income they generate, the jobs they create, and the economic diversity which we so dearly need.

These scenarios are not imaginary--all one has to do to see the results of large scale industrial logging is to look at other places in the country, Canada, and the third world. Large scale logging companies have come in with big promises and left when the wood was gone. In their wake, the people are left without income, without a natural resource base, and with a damaged natural environment decades from recovery. Sure, forests can eventually recover from large scale logging (if intact forests nearby remain protected)--but does such recovery occur within the lifetimes of the people living in the region? No.

It appalls me to see intelligent, well-educated, wealthy Alaskans making the same stupid decisions that destitute third world countries made years ago. Selling off our raw natural resources to the highest bidders is not the avenue to a broad-based economy. It is the road to poverty and despair.

The way to create jobs based on the natural resources here is not to make it easy for huge corporations to come in buy our forests at discounted prices and export them to countries that long ago devastated their own forests--but instead to invest in the people here. We should be working to develop small, labor-intensive industries that harvest and use our forest resources to make products here. We can encourage Alaskans to set up small companies that make use of the forest resources in a diversity of sustainable ways. Birch wood is one of the most beautiful woods in existence. We should develop a small furniture industry based on that. Lingonberries (or as we call them locally, low bush cranberries) sell for \$7.00/jar in the grocery imported from Sweden--yet there are almost no small businesses developed to harvest and sell this valuable forest commodity. Likewise for birch syrup, and dozens of other forest products. The tourism industry here is barely underway--yet it is the third largest industry in Alaska. As wild areas become more scarce throughout the world, the value of our untouched forests as a tourist attraction can only increase.

We could create hundreds of jobs at a much lower cost than selling off public rights to our forests to some huge companies and allowing them to cut the trees down, export the wood, ruin our tourist industry, and attract new people to our state who will be unemployed as soon as the timber runs out--and it will run out--20, 30, or 50 years down the road.

Don't let stories of introducing new tree species, or more efficient forest management practices mislead you. The plants that grow here now do so because they are the best adapted to our severe climate--and you can look worldwide without finding anything better. Many intense forest management practices that supposedly increase forest yields are proving to be mistakes, as we learn more about how our forest ecosystems function--about how insect pest populations are kept in check naturally, how nutrients are recycled by soil invertebrates and fungi. Our scientific understanding of what works and doesn't work in forest management is growing by leaps and bounds. Twenty year contracts are absolutely ridiculous given that our scientific understanding of the forest and how best to manage it, is changing so rapidly.

The third assertion of this bill's proponents is that this forest management policy will cost nothing to the government, and will in fact make us money. Who in the world are they kidding?

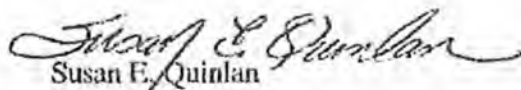
Have you ever seen a large industry that didn't require tending over by government? Who is going to build the logging roads these companies will need? And who will pay for that? Who is going to

ensure that they replant the forests --or replant them if the companies don't? And who will pay for that? Who will pay for the education of the children of the new workers who will immigrate here to work in the high tech plants? Who will pay the government employees needed to ensure that the logging companies log the areas they are supposed to, and follow necessary guidelines to ensure minimal damage to the forest. Who will make sure they leave buffer strips to protect our rivers and fish resources--and who will pay for these people? Who is going to pay the unemployment and welfare costs for the people whose jobs are displaced as the tourism industry declines, and other business that located here because of the forest and the wild beauty move away? Who will pay the higher salaries needed to attract professors to the University of Alaska--a place with a super computer, but in a place with dark freezing winters, and (due to large-scale logging) air pollution, a devastated landscape and few opportunities for fishing, hunting and nature enjoyment. Will anyone really want to live here?

Our state forest lands are public resources which should be managed to benefit all of the public--not for the benefit of a few business corporations. Management decisions about the future of our forests should be made by professional natural resource managers who listen to the public, not by politically appointed commissioners who may or may not have the interests of the public in mind, and who may or may not know anything about natural resources management.

In the name of common sense, in the name of representative government, get your heads on straight down there. Vote **NO! NO! NO!** on this ill-conceived bill!!!

Sincerely,


Susan E. Quinlan



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035
Phone 907/276-0700 Fax 276-3887

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Becky L. Gay

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RDC Testimony on SB 310 in Senate Resources Committee, March 16, 1994:

Good afternoon, my name is Carl Portman, Communications Director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. On behalf of RDC, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 310, *"an Act relating to the management and sale of state timber; relating to classification of state land that would preclude harvesting of timber or would designate harvesting of timber as an incompatible use; relating to the administration of forest land, proposals for state forest, and the determination of sustained yield; and providing for an effective date."*

RDC is a statewide, membership-funded, non-profit pro-development organization working on behalf of Alaska's basic industries, including oil and gas, mining, timber, fishing and tourism. RDC's membership includes the aforementioned industries, as well as the sectors which support those industries, such as construction, labor and other technical service providers, individuals, Native corporations, communities and a wide variety of Alaska interests.

RDC supports SB 310 because it would encourage reasonable timber harvesting and create long-term jobs in the forest industry.

The Forest Management Agreement concept is an idea whose time has come. FMAs will not supplant the ongoing timber sale program, but augment and enhance the current system. FMAs are a desirable tool in accomplishing responsible timber development. Specific terms and the conditions for harvesting the timber can be spelled out in the contract, and the cost of that development is born by the operator. The agreements would also require reforestation, clarify true multiple use practices and restate the primary purpose of state forests, that being commercial timber harvest under the principles of sustained yield, while perpetuating other beneficial uses. An FMA would be governed by the Forest Practices Act and before an agreement is finalized, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would be required to solicit public comment.

FMAs would also encourage the development of a multi-faceted, value-added forest products industry. FMAs can be negotiated to provide for local value-added manufacturing, something that DNR cannot do today because current law does not allow for negotiated agreements on timber sales.

Testimony on SB 310
in Senate Resources Committee

March 16, 1994
page 2 of 2

FMA's would provide a long-term stable supply of timber to the operator, which is a critical element in a company's decision to invest in value-added timber development. Opponents of timber harvesting, whether it's in the Tongass, Prince William Sound, the Gulf Coast, the Kenai Peninsula, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley or the Tanana Valley, object to long-term timber contracts. A long-term stable supply of timber, however, is necessary because value-added timber development is usually capital intensive and those investments require a long payback period.

Ironically, the environmental community espouses "sustainable development" and preaches "value-added" processing, yet opposes the direct actions necessary to make it happen. A recent quote from a leading environmentalist in the Anchorage Daily News regarding the long-term timber contracts in the Tongass sounds all too familiar. "Revoke the monopoly, open the markets, and other timber companies could come into Sitka to build new sawmills, furniture or musical instrument factories." Stop and think -- will those new opportunities ever see the light of day?

It's easy to preach sustainable development and value-added processing, but putting your money where your mouth is in Alaska requires fair and honest efforts to encourage new concepts that will provide for basic resource production and new industries to supplant the value of resources taken out of production.

In reality, the record shows the environmental community does not look favorably on timber harvesting, except perhaps small firewood cutting operations. It is not enough that two-thirds of the commercial timber in the Tongass is off-limits to logging and most of the timber in the Chugach National Forest will never be logged. It is not enough that 57 million acres of designated Wilderness in Alaska (enough to cover the entire state of Utah) is closed to commercial logging. It is not enough that 125 million acres of national park and national wildlife refuge lands in Alaska are also closed to timber harvesting. In Prince William Sound and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, private lands that may potentially be logged in the future are on a hit list for buyouts using funds from the Exxon Valdez settlement. It is not enough until the opposition has it all, even down to the small percentage of land that can be harvested on a sustained yield basis to help support our local economies.

Timber is a renewable resource, and while the environmental community may have deemed it politically incorrect to log, cutting trees is not an environmental crime. Trees do grow back.

With Alaska being a public land state and since most of our federal lands are now closed to logging, most future development will occur on state lands. FMA's offer a real opportunity for value-added processing and sustainable development in local communities.

If environmentalists really are serious about sustainable development and value-added processing, they should work with local interests and the legislature to pass SB 310

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 310.



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035
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Becky L. Gay

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RDC Testimony on CS SB 310 in House Resources Committee, April 21, 1994:

On behalf of RDC, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on CS SB 310, "an Act relating to the management and sale of state timber and relating to the administration of forest land."

RDC is a statewide, membership-funded, non-profit pro-development organization working on behalf of Alaska's basic industries, including oil and gas, mining, timber, fishing and tourism. RDC's membership includes the aforementioned industries, as well as the sectors which support those industries, such as construction, labor and other technical service providers, individuals, Native corporations, communities and a wide variety of Alaska interests.

During this session, RDC has testified on several occasions in support of SB 310, noting that Forest Management Agreements would encourage reasonable timber harvesting and create long-term jobs in the forest industry. The Forest Management Agreement concept is an idea whose time has come. FMAs are a desirable tool in accomplishing responsible timber development. Specific terms and the conditions for harvesting the timber can be spelled out in the contract, and the cost of that development is born by the operator. The agreements clarify true multiple use practices and restate timber harvesting as legitimate multiple use.

FMAs would encourage the development of a multi-faceted, value-added forest products industry. FMAs can be negotiated to provide for local value-added manufacturing. They would give the operator a long-term stable supply of timber, which is a critical element in a company's decision to invest in value-added timber development.

RDC believes the committee substitute provides for stronger legislation, addressing a number of concerns expressed by various interests. The committee substitute would:

- include provisions for greater public input, increasing the comment period on a tentative successful proposal and changes language to require DNR to solicit comments from the public and state and local government agencies;
- require that a successful proposed agreement be consistent with applicable land use management plans;

Testimony on CSSB 310
in House Resources Committee

April 21, 1994
page 2 of 2

- clarify uses that must be considered when evaluating a proposal, and
- retain existing Forest Practices Act definitions for sustained yield harvesting.

Forest Management agreements will not result in the wholesale clearcutting and destruction of our state forests as some have claimed. All provisions of the Forest Practices Act, including fish habitat, water quality, buffer zone and best forest practices considerations would apply to any Forest Management Agreement.

RDC recognizes there is a lot of opposition to this legislation, but we believe your committee has worked hard to address the opposition's concerns in the substitute. Opposition will remain, however, because some simply do not want to see the emergence of a viable forest products industry harvesting trees on state lands, period!

The record shows the environmental community does not look favorably on timber harvesting, except perhaps small firewood cutting operations. It is not enough that two-thirds of the commercial timber in the Tongass is off-limits to logging and most of the timber in the Chugach National Forest will never be logged. It is not enough that 57 million acres of designated Wilderness in Alaska (enough to cover the entire state of Utah) is closed to commercial logging. It is not enough that 125 million acres of national park and national wildlife refuge lands in Alaska are also closed to timber harvesting. In Prince William Sound and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, private lands that may potentially be logged in the future are on a hit list for buyouts using funds from the Exxon Valdez settlement. It is not enough until the opposition has it all, even down to the small percentage of land that can be harvested on a sustained yield basis to help support our local economies.

Timber is a renewable resource, and while environmentalists may have deemed it politically incorrect to log, cutting trees is not a crime. Trees do grow back.

Law, regulation, attitude and the creation of Wilderness and other highly restrictive land withdrawals have greatly limited timber harvesting. The result has been a very limited utilization of forest resources, while disease and insect attacks destroy wood, precluding beneficial uses. Natural mortality has, in many areas, surpassed growth.

Timber harvesting must be recognized as a legitimate multiple use in Alaska. It's important to encourage reasonable timber harvests and long-term jobs in the forest industry.

With Alaska being a public land state and since most of our federal lands are now closed to logging, most future development will occur on state lands. FMAs offer a real opportunity for value-added processing and sustainable development in local communities.

RDC appreciates the opportunity to testify and commends the committee for its efforts in making this legislation better. RDC urges the committee to move this legislation forward.



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

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Paul S. Glavinovich
Uwe L. Gross
Roger C. Herrera
Dan H. Keck
Jerome M. Selby

RDC Testimony on CS SB 310 in Senate Resources Committee, March 22, 1994:

Good afternoon, my name is Carl Portman, Communications Director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. On behalf of RDC, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on CS SB 310, "an Act relating to the management and sale of state timber and relating to the administration of forest land."

RDC is a statewide, membership-funded, non-profit pro-development organization working on behalf of Alaska's basic industries, including oil and gas, mining, timber, fishing and tourism. RDC's membership includes the aforementioned industries, as well as the sectors which support those industries, such as construction, labor and other technical service providers, individuals, Native corporations, communities and a wide variety of Alaska interests.

Last week RDC testified in support of SB 310, noting that Forest Management Agreements would encourage reasonable timber harvesting and create long-term jobs in the forest industry. The Forest Management Agreement concept is an idea whose time has come. FMAs are a desirable tool in accomplishing responsible timber development. Specific terms and the conditions for harvesting the timber can be spelled out in the contract, and the cost of that development is born by the operator. The agreements clarify true multiple use practices and restate timber harvesting as legitimate multiple use.

FMAs would encourage the development of a multi-faceted, value-added forest products industry. FMAs can be negotiated to provide for local value-added manufacturing. They would give the operator a long-term stable supply of timber, which is a critical element in a company's decision to invest in value-added timber development.

RDC believes the committee substitute provides for stronger legislation, addressing a number of concerns expressed by various interests. The committee substitute would:

- include provisions for greater public input, increasing the comment period on a tentative successful proposal and changes language to require DNR to solicit comments from the public and state and local government agencies;

April 20, 1994

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From	RDC		
To	House Resource Co. Committee		
Phone #	276-0700		
Fax #	276-3887		

- Howard McWilliams
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E. H. "Pete" Nelson
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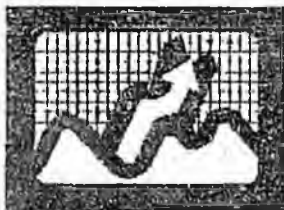
Testimony on CSSB 310
in Senate Resources Committee

March 22, 1994
page 2 of 2

- require that a successful proposed agreement be consistent with applicable land use management plans;
- clarify uses that must be considered when evaluating a proposal, and
- retain existing Forest Practices Act definitions for sustained yield harvesting.

RDC recognizes there is a lot of opposition to this legislation, but we believe your committee has worked hard to address the opposition's concerns in the substitute. Opposition will remain, however, because some simply do not want to see the emergence of a viable forest products industry harvesting trees on state lands, period!

RDC appreciates the opportunity to testify and commends the committee for its efforts in making this legislation better. RDC urges the committee to move this legislation forward.



Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation

April 14, 1994

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Hickel:

I was both shocked and disappointed to read the fiscal note attached to Senate Bill 310, the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) bill. This appears to be a latent attempt by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) to frustrate passage of a bill that is extremely important to long term economic development of one of our State's resources.

The analysis attached to the fiscal note is particularly disturbing, because it assumes expertise in the area of forest management by ADF&G staff without any apparent contact or consultation with the Administration's own experts in the field, namely, Division of Forestry (DOF) staff. Certainly the ADF&G would have a right to be upset if the forestry folks assumed knowledge of fish and game issues in preparing a fiscal note to a bill proposed by the ADF&G. Why then, this arrogant approach by ADF&G? In this instance much of the misinformation contained in the ADF&G analysis would have been avoided had they exercised the courtesy of consulting with forestry staff before preparing their document.

First, it should be made clear that while some comparisons between the Canadian experience with FMAs and Alaska are appropriate, for the most part they are not. The Canadian Boreal forest is much different than Alaska. For example, the ADF&G analysis suggests very large volumes of timber being involved in our FMAs. Such is not the case and would not be contemplated by any prudent forest manager. Clearly, 20,000 acres suggested by ADF&G has never been proposed, particularly not by DOF staff.

The assumptions used are for the most part invalid as follows:

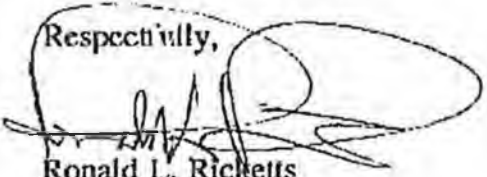
1. While large companies might be involved, neither huge plants nor very large quantities of timber are contemplated.
2. Again, the ADF&G continues to assume large scale operations which will not be the case.
3. Comparisons with the Tongass and the Interior are like comparing apples and oranges.
4. Because of the modest size of contemplated forest operations, current staff should be adequate for the purpose of oversight.

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Page 2

5. The assumption that large mills would be constructed and that there would be a rapid move to submit FMA proposals is unfounded. Likewise, the writer is presumably referring to the Louisiana-Pacific and Fibreform proposals, neither of which were seriously considered nor feasible for a variety of reasons.
6. The Fibreform proposal was never seriously considered by anyone and is not an appropriate example of a contemplated operation in the Interior.
7. Were the cited quantities verified with DOF staff? No!
8. The assumption that an oriented strand board manufacturing plant will be build in the Interior is also unfounded as is the basis for its timber requirements.
9. Again, the Fibreform proposal was ridiculous in its content, and was not seriously considered.
10. This is an example of fish and game biologists meddling in an area with which they have little or no knowledge.

Given the financial predicament in which this State finds itself, I am particularly concerned when an action such as proposed by ADF&G may frustrate a legitimate effort to boost our economy and support our tax base -- passage of SB310. I hope you will do the right thing and give Commissioner Rosier instructions to withdraw this fiscal note.

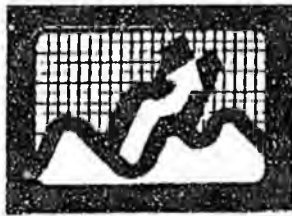
Respectfully,



Ronald L. Ricketts
Executive Director

RLR/lpm

cc: Commissioner Rosier
Commissioner Noah
Director Boutin (Division of Forestry)
Senator Frank
Senator Williams
House Speaker Barnes



Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation

April 20, 1994

VIA FAX

Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee

Dear Representative Williams:

Here is further testimony in support of SB 310.

Timber industry development in the Tanana Valley has been getting a bum rap lately. Perhaps some facts will shed a different light on the subject.

First, there are 29.2 million acres of land in the Tanana Valley. Of this, 22.7 million acres, or 77%, are closed to forest industry development because they are in parks, preserves, refuges, wilderness, recreation, special use or military withdrawal categories (both State and Federal). What is left is private, State and Borough land, 1.4 million acres (State owned) of which is classified by the State Division of Forestry as suitable for sustained yield forest harvest.

Of this total, the current estimate of the maximum amount which could be harvested each year on a sustained yield basis is 16,000 acres. Over a 20 year time frame, this represents only 1.1% of the total land in the valley.

As a practical matter, the actual harvest is likely to be much less than the maximum. A good example is found in the operations of the Slave Lake Pulp Corporation, a company operating under a 20 year forest management agreement (FMA) in northern Alberta. The company produces about 110,000 metric tons per year of bleached chemi-thermo-mechanical pulp, logging only about 4,000 acres per year to meet this output. The mill cost \$182 million (C) to build and employs 78 people, with another 55 working in the woods. Couple this operation with companies like Bob Zachel's Alaska Birch Works, (*News-Miner*, March 28, 1994), and we would have excellent utilization of the resource, while creating even more jobs.

Representative Bill Williams, Chair
Page 2

Some people have suggested that most of the jobs would be taken by unemployed woods and millworkers from the Pacific Northwest. I think not. UAF's Tanana Valley Campus, Hutchinson Career Center and the Fairbanks Private Industry Council each fulfill a training role in supporting our local workforce. Vocational/technical courses and on-the-job training would be provided and most of the jobs would go to Fairbanksans.

Incidentally, the Slave Lake Pulp FMA has been in effect since 1990, with clear benefits to both the Province of Alberta and the company.

On other issue, opponents of SB 310 have been particularly vocal, suggesting in print and at hearings on the bill that they represent the majority view on the subject. I wonder. A State-wide poll, conducted last year by the Alaska Forest Association indicates that:

- More than half of Alaskans (55%) assign high importance to producing wood and paper products from Alaska's forests.
- Nearly three fourths (71%) assign high importance to job creation from Alaska's forests.
- When given a choice for forest management emphasis in the future, Alaskans prefer economic development (44%), over preservation (25%) and status quo (27%).

The poll has a statistical accuracy of plus or minus 5%.

As I have suggested on a number of occasions, we need the investment which new industry will bring, along with new, full-time, year-around jobs, so that we can build our local tax base -- thereby providing the essential funds to pay for the services we expect from local government. We must recognize that the State can no longer be relied upon to contribute toward paying these expenses. Vote in favor of SB 310.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald L. Ricketts
Executive Director

RLR/lpm



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

HOUSE RESOURCES

committee name

committee on

SB 310

dated

4/15/94

bill/subject

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I would like to register my objections to SB 310. I am very concerned about the proposed changes in state forest policy which would make timber harvest a priority on state lands. State lands should be available and managed in a way that provides multi-use capabilities for the citizens of Alaska. I ask that if this bill is passed, which I believe it should not be, that you require FMA's to be consistent with municipal land use plans, that you include provisions for penalties and fines for contract & regulatory violations, that you FULLY FUND DNR and ADF&G so that they can adequately monitor the FMA's. I also feel that such legislation must make the contractor responsible for ALL costs to the state related to administration, monitoring, and enforcing the FMA. I would also like to see the state require that value be added to timber. Public resources should benefit the public so lumber should be pulled in Alaska and the FMA should include a local hire provision as well. I hope you will consider my recommendations and again I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:

Krista Rogerson

KRISTA ROGERSON

Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

Box 1386 VALDEZ AK 99686

Address

(907) 835-3788

Phone No.

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To <u>Rep Williams</u>	From <u>Udberg + Co.</u>
Co.	Co.
Dept.	Phone # <u>835-2111</u>
Fax # <u>2163-3793</u>	Fax #



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources
committee name
 committee on SB 310, dated 4/15/94
bill/subject

I would like to add my voice to chorus of those I have heard speaking in opposition to SB 310. My participation in public forums, as reader of the newspaper and as a citizen of this state, has left me with the lasting impression that a majority of those affected (local residents) by this bill are in opposition to it. In a representative Democracy it is your obligation to represent the will of the people. Please fulfill that obligation and dispense with this harmful piece of legislation. The reasons are plentiful and are more economic than ecologic.

Signed: Carl Roland CARL ROLAND
Testifier

Thank you very much.

Representing (Optional)
2382 Olivia Lane, Fairbanks AK
Address



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB310, dated April 15, 1994
bill/subject

I am primarily a recreational user of the Sanana Valley State Forest and my intent is supply of firewood is harvested there by either myself or local folks who cut firewood for a living. As a resident of Fairbanks, I am here to share serious concerns I have regarding Senate Bill 310. While the bill continues to undergo revision due to intense public pressure, it is still seriously flawed in that it does not honor existing multiple use.

The root of my concern is that SB310 places the priority for use of our forest on developing commercial, large scale logging operations rather than managing for existing multiple use such as subsistence, hunting + fishing, recreation, and small scale logging operations. SB310 takes land away from users such as myself and gives it away to big timber corporations from outside our state. Urge you to honor the diversity of use in our state forest and kill senate bill 310 in the house.

Signed: Mary Katherine Romberg
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
POB 81444 Fairbanks, AK 99708
Address

CARL ROSENBERG
1832 WOLVERINE LANE, FAIRBANKS 99708
479-3077

Dear Senator,

I am a woodworker and energy consultant. I am concerned about SB 310. I am concerned about the long term FMA's and the lack of public involvement. There has not been a valid forum for public input and for consideration of what the public wants for it's lands. I am concerned about closing out small, local, responsible, long term users of our timber resources. I do not support locking up our forests. I do not want to stop efficient utilization of our resources.

New jobs do not only come from resource extractive businesses, but can be replaced with those in resource conservation. I am an example of that. Energy conservation and weatherization jobs have been shown to be one of the best investments a community can make. The money stays in the community, and results of the work last a long time.

I have personally viewed the incredible waste by large scale timber harvest practices, in interior Alaska and Southeast. It is our responsibility to utilize our resources carefully, wisely and efficiently. Large scale resource extraction works in opposition to these ideals. Large scale timber development means large scale waste. I have seen it repeatedly throughout the state.

Short term financial boom end long term bust. I support local businesses that use our resources wisely and are locally responsible. It is time our legislators start listening to their constituency. We want long term, sustainable solutions.

Sincerely,

Carl Rosenberg



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
committee name

committee on SB 310 , dated April 20, 1994
bill/subject

This is the third time I took off from work, came to the LHO on time for a hearing and was not allowed to testify. I am infuriated. I oppose 310. It is not in the STATE'S interest. FMA's have not worked in Alberta, in Southeast & in Scandinavia. The Republican majority is intent on cramming this down our throats despite overwhelming public opposition we need to go back to a public process system if indeed the Forest Practices Act needs amending AT ALL.

Not one person I know supports this bill. It should be killed or at the very least TABLED UNTIL A comprehensive inventory & public hearings are conducted.

Signed: Ronnie Rosenberg
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
841 Ninth Av. Fairbanks AK 99701
Address



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Comm.
committee name

committee on SB 310, dated 4-20-94
bill/subject

It is correct to distinguish the Alaska boreal forest from forests both in other portions of Alaska & in the lower 48 however there are lessons which we can learn from large-scale, long-term intensive logging in these regions (FMA's).

The relatively low quality of our forests & their poor proximity to major markets implies that state gov't. would have to provide a large financial commitment (eg. providing infrastructure, absolving the FMA holder of responsibility for re-plant, tax abatements, etc) to attract companies to apply for FMA contracts. Further the state would have to evaluate impacts of such contracts on fish & wildlife populations & on watersheds.

Timber production is not the only value of forests. There are, among other uses, also fish & wildlife, recreational, life style aesthetic values which must be considered. For short periods, large-scale, intensive cutting may benefit a few spp. of wildlife. But if the goal of forest mgmt. in Alaska (as stated in SB 310) is intensification of commercial output & includes regeneration of merchantable species (not likely to be willow); it seems that wildlife values, among others, will be lost.

Twenty year contracts do not allow us as a state to respond to changes in technology, information re forest ecology, economics or societal values. (over)

Signed: Anne Ruggles
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
POB 82950 Fairbanks Alaska 99708
Address



Afognak Logging

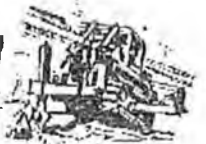
A DIVISION OF

Kodiak Lumber Limited

(907) 224-3130

Box 610

Seward, Alaska 99664



April 19, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Chairman, House Resources Committee
State Capital, Room 128
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Please support SB310 as good public policy to create jobs and protect forest health. We must manage our State lands because we cannot count on the Federal government to manage theirs. Forest Management Agreements will still have the protections of the Forest Practices Act, including stream buffers.

Sincerely,

Albert Schafer
Albert Schafer
President

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Comm.
committee name

committee on SB 310, dated 4-20-94
bill/subject

It is correct to distinguish the Alaska boreal forest from forests both in other portions of Alaska & in the lower 48 however there are lessons, which we can learn from large-scale, long-term intensive logging in these regions (FMA's).

The relatively low quality of our forests & their poor proximity to major markets implies that state gov't. would have to provide a large financial commitment (eg. providing infrastructure, absolving the FMA holder of responsibility to re-plant, tax abatements, etc) to attract companies to apply for FMA contracts. Further the state would have to evaluate ^{the} impacts of such contracts on fish & wildlife populations & on watersheds.

Timber production is not the only value of forests. There are, among other uses, also fish & wildlife, recreational, life style & aesthetic values which must be considered. For short periods, large-scale, intensive cutting may benefit a few spp. of birds. But if the goal of forest mgt. in Alaska (as stated in SB 310) is intensification of commercial output & includes regeneration of merchantable species (not likely to be willow); it seems that wildlife values, among others, will be lost.

Twenty year contracts do not allow us as a state to respond to changes in technology, information re forest ecology, economics or societal values. (over)

Signed: Anne Ruggles
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
POB 82950 Fairbanks Alaska 99708
Address

I would prefer utilization of our forests, state lands, to be driven by local market economies. Certainly the state should have a role in encouraging long-term, sustainable, locally-driven economies based on use of our natural resources. I see none of this in SB 310.

Finally - I'd like to make a comment on the public process practiced by the legislature on SB 310. I am a member of the Board of Game - we, too have a public process. We recognize that we are managing a public resource for the public. When we schedule public testimony we all sit and listen to everyone who signs up to testify no matter how long it takes. I urge you to do the same.

Afognak Logging

A DIVISION OF

Kodiak Lumber Limited

(907) 224-3130

Box 610

Seward, Alaska 99664



April 19, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Chairman, House Resources Committee
State Capital, Room 128
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Please support SB310 as good public policy to create jobs and protect forest health. We must manage our State lands because we cannot count on the Federal government to manage theirs. Forest Management Agreements will still have the protections of the Forest Practices Act, including stream buffers.

Sincerely,

Albert Schafer

Albert Schafer
President

Northern Timber Corporation

PO. BOX 1120
HAINES, ALASKA 99827-1120
TEL (907) 766-2821
FAX (907) 766-2832

copy to
TJER

March 4, 1994

The Honorable Mike Miller, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB310

Dear Senator Miller:

This note is written to express our support for SB310, and am optimistic that it will become law which will further benefit Alaskans.

I live in Haines which is surrounded by State forests only to see inter-agency and special interest problems destroy a valuable resource. It's disappointing that the Spruce Bark Beetle has become the "harvester" of the Chilkat Valley.

Sincerely,

NORTHERN TIMBER CORPORATION



Roger J. Schnabel
President

S/j

cc: AFA - Troy Reinhart

\SB310



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resource Committee
committee name

committee on SB 310, dated 4/20/94
bill/subject

~~to the~~ This bill seems to pave the way for a give away ~~or~~ export of this valuable state resource. Judging from the track record of other FMA's elsewhere, they seem mainly to facilitate resource extraction.

This resource will only grow more valuable with time, and selling a long term contract ~~at~~ for these resources at today's prices is to the detriment of the state. Especially if the state must make expenditures to facilitate this.

I oppose SB 310

Signed: Josh Nelson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 84244 Fairbanks AK 99708-4244
Address

April 20, 1994

House Resource Committee
Alaska State Legislature

I am a lifelong Fairbanks resident. I work in the visitor industry. This letter is the testimony I offered this morning to the House Resource Committee on SB310.

First I want to register my disappointment in the way your committee has handled the public hearings on 310. On Friday April 15th, at no time did you even acknowledge the people gathered statewide to offer testimony on SB310. Further you have decreed today that you have only 2 hours time to offer all of us, & only 2 minutes per person. Clearly many voices will not be heard by your ears. Rest assured we will not be silenced by filibustering myopia. This is our home. What we say is worth your time. We hired you; we can fire you.

That stated, allow me to speak my opposition to SB310.

Consider why, after decades of non-interest the forests of remote Alaska are suddenly interesting and potentially profitable to the timber technocrats. Plain and simple: this industry has destroyed its resource base everywhere else.

Also consider that people are spending millions of dollars every year to visit Alaska. They come here because we have what they want, what they no longer have: intact wilderness, standing & never-logged forests, wild & healthy populations of endemic species. If we destroy what we have, these people will take their dollars elsewhere.

The price of Alaska will only rise as everyone else continues to live beyond the capacity of their homelands. We must not cave in to pressure to irrevocably develop + destroy our forests.

We Alaskans must preserve what we have - manage it locally, sustainably, on a small scale for modest gain. You do not have the right to invite these rude outside profiteers to my home. I don't want them here.

Eventually the intact forests of Alaska will be worth more than all the timber ever produced the world over.

Oppose SB 310. Allow community councils to draft consensus forestry management proposals for consideration next legislative session.

Sincerely,



CRISTINA SCHNEIDER
P.O. BOX 80883
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
JOB DESCRIPTION

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS/TASKS OF JOB

Essential functions are those that you must perform to accomplish the objectives of the job.

% of importance Description
Time 1 - 5*

- 60% Moderating Teleconferences with responsibility for:
- 5 *Scheduling teleconferences (rooms-moderators-lines) and advertize teleconferences (newspapers-press-constituent fax tree) for interested people in the Fairbanks area & 5 VTS sites
 - 5 *Provide public with necessary legislative materials (bills, committee substitutes, amendments, etc for knowledgeable participation in teleconferences)
 - 5 *Enforce sponsor mandated protocols-time restraints
 - 5 *Sending participant lists and updates to chair
 - 5 *Compiling and entering final stats & forwarding to Juneau
 - 5 *Trouble shooting
 - 5 *Making necessary telephone calls to add sites, relay messages, etc.
 - 5 *Sending & Responding to E-mail messages concerning participants & teleconference concerns
- 35% Providing factual, accurate and timely information to the public on legislative and other state government activities with responsibility for:
- 5 *Responding to inquires from the public concerning legislative issues, including status of bills, resolutions & citations & other state government activities
 - 5 *Directing public to the appropriate legislation and/or controlling committee or agency by research of ALECSYS computer system, AAC's, Statutes or past files
 - 5 *Processing POMs, incoming & outgoing mail, telecopy documents & other materials in a timely & confidential manner
 - 5 *Monitoring activities of the legislature
- 5% Clerical Duties
- 5 *Assisting with mail pick up & delivery
 - 5 *Providing assistance on special projects
 - 5 *Moving equipment & supplies
 - 5 *Supervising an office as directed in the absence of the field or regional Legislative Information Officer

NON-ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Non-essential functions are those that you occasionally perform but are not necessary to accomplish the main objectives of the job.

Page 1 of 1

FAX TO Representative Bill Williams, House Resources Chair, 465-3793

April 15, 1994

Dear Rep. Williams,

I'm a lifelong Alaskan and I operate a business in Fairbanks with my father. I'm very familiar with Alaska's boom and bust economy, and I certainly favor a diversified economy. Although we're not opposed to logging, my family and I have grave concerns about SB310 as it now stands. I hope you'll address our concerns before you pass SB310 out of the House Resources committee.

First, reassure us that only a limited acreage of our total state forest will be committed to the long-term contracts, so our economy can remain diversified (and parts of the forest landscape will remain aesthetic). Be sure that the proposed Forest Management Agreements mesh with local communities' land use plans.

Promise us that the state is going to make money, and that our local smaller-scale loggers won't get shut out of the deal. Assure that there will be no state subsidization of this industry. (There will certainly be a cost to the state to conduct this business.)

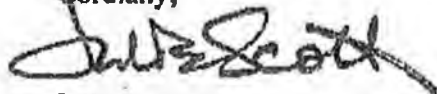
Show us that the companies will find it economic to build processing plants here. Reassure us that somehow, local hire can be mandated. Assure that out-of-state loggers won't come here seeking employment, only to eventually end up on our unemployment rolls. (My friends from Southeastern Alaska tell me that more than half of the people currently working in the timber industry aren't Alaska residents.)

I've read the bill that the Senate passed, and it doesn't address these concerns. Since we are venturing into new territory here, let's proceed with caution. At the very least, give the state an "out" by changing the language of the bill to shorten the length of the contracts. And if it's unconstitutional to mandate in-state processing and local hire can't be mandated, maybe SB310 needs to be reworked altogether.

I'm concerned that you haven't been hearing from a representative cross-section of Alaskans because we're busy with our lives, and testifying on legislation isn't a familiar process to us. But believe me, this bill is being discussed in many circles. Just in the last couple weeks I've heard opposition from people at the athletic club, at my quilt guild meeting, in our office and at a neighborhood potlucic. People are opposed to the bill (although not to resource development in general). As it stands now, this bill is not the optimum vehicle for developing our timber industry.

Thank you for considering these points as you address this legislation.

Cordially,



Julie Scott
PO Box 80435
Fairbanks, AK 99708
FAX (907) 479-4329



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name
 committee on SB 310 Timber Resources dated 4-14-94
bill/subject

- ① Feel timber should not be cut at all if we have to subsidize the effort.
- ② We should not sell any timber abroad unless its outside of a 200 mile radius of a mill. Anything within that radius should go to the mill or not be cut. Should get feds to adopt a similar rule.
- ③ No clear cuts should be allowed if visible from a main tourism thoroughfare such as the Seward Highway, Exit Glacier Road, Resurrection Bay etc.

Signed: Michael Sela MICHAEL SELA
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Box 912 Seward
Address

224-3125
Phone No.

PLEASE
FAX TO
H. RESOUR.

April 20 testimony House Resources SB 310
Rep Williams and committee

Hello. My name is Mary Shields I am a 29 year resident of Fairbanks. I work in tourism and I am an author. Everyday in the summer, visitors tell me how precious Alaska's natural beauty is. They tell me to be sure we don't make the same mistakes made other places outside. I tell them I will and I take my responsibility seriously. That is why I am here today.

Thankyou for listening to me. Unfortunately many people went home this morning and do not that the hearing is reopened. I hope you will schedule and publizie an evening hearing so working people can speak to you. Also many of us contributed in raising air fares to send 3 of Fairbanks ' finest and most creative minds down to you; Dr. Jan Dawe, Dr. Glen Juday and Dr. Colin Reed. I hope you will make time in your busy schedules to talk with them and learn from their expertise. I realize you are nearing the end of the session...you are stressed to the max and you must be very tired.

Please don't make foolish mistakes in your weariness. We the people will have to live with those mistakes forever.

The people in the Tanana Valley did not ask for large -scale timber development and we do not want it. That you could go ahead , after the overwhelming testimony across the state this morning is alarming.

And believe me the alarm is being heard clearly around Fairbanks.

I urge you to oppose SB 310 for the following reasons, and I will keep it simple.

1. The people living in the Tanana Valley have told you we don't want it.
This is very important to us, this is our home. We can put up with cold, dark and long winters, but we can't put up with living in the middle of a clear-cut. We don't have mountains, or tides or glacier nearby. We have trees.
2. There is no local-hire provision. Fairbanks would have a had time supporting new families who move to town from other depressed logging communities out-of-state. Please hold the bill until you can get a wave^{er} that will protect against out-of-state migration to take the jobs.
3. FMA's have been disasterous everywhere else they have been tried with only 1 or 2 exceptions. ^{cut} DOF can't even manage the present 1000 A. harvest without wasting a lot of the trees. If you doubt me, let me show you the Left Fork sales..and show you pictures of what a mess that is. Seeing current practices is what caused me to get active to stop more of the same BAD management. Management is more than just cutting down trees, although DOF seems to ignore this.

- 4. Some of the best foresters in North America, (Jerry Franklin, Gray Jones, Chad Oliver,) recently visited Fairbanks. They all said the management must start from the people up. SB 310 is coming from a few at the top down, and it is headed for disaster. Last Friday Senator Frank admitted that he didn't have a personal knowledge of how FMA's work or don't work. But he thought there were people who thought they worked. I'm sorry but that just not good enough. We have to live with these things and we expect a lot more homework on the part of our legislators.
Why is Senator Frank pushing so hard for this bill when his district is so opposed to it?
- 5. We don't have the economic or biological data to know it is worth the risk. We need a cost/benefits analysis before we give it all away along with all future options.
5. There is no local hire provision. Fairbanks would have a hard time supporting new families who move to town from other depressed logging communities.
- // 6. REAL value-added processing would provide lots of job using few trees. Small local business will be squeezed out if the jumbotron, International Industries are attracted by cheap "raw material" Competitive bids would bring much higher stumpage prices than the FMA system. The state really can't afford to give our resources away, and I hold your committee responsible for this protection.

CHANGE is coming , no mistake. But let's work together to invite change that will make our lives better. Yes we need jobs, but the people are not willing to pay the price of locking up our forest for the next 20 years.

Slow down...use your common sense...and hold off on this bill until we really know the costs and benefits in terms of all jobs using the forest, of clean air and water, and healthy habitat for people and wildlife.

Please attend or have your aides attend the next FORESTRY FORUM, in Fairbanks April 29-30 Herb Hammond, a well known forest ecologist, will share the experiences of British Columbia and try to help us learn from their mistakes. The people want to have community control of our forest. The 5 year plans and guidelines like the Susitna Valley has, are better ways to go. The public process must be respected. Public comments and not just to be given, they are to be listened to and worked with. We can not afford to divide our communities even more than SB 310 has already done. Fairbanks is a small town. We need to live together and work together to assure our best future

Mary Shields
po box 80961
Fairbanks 99708
455-6469 phone and fax

Mary Shields

TO: Bill Williams, House Resource Committee April 20, 1994

FROM: Peter Shepherd, 1012 Galena St. Fairbanks, AK 99709

SUBJECT: SB 310

I support SB310 and urge it's passage in the House.

Various anti-development groups and preservationist activists are attempting to derail this bill. Their objectives are largely personal opinion and reflections of an ideological bent towards "nature knows best". I suggest these groups have co-opted ADF&G (Habitat Division) participation in an attempt to block or impede this bill. The ADF&G estimates of annual expenditures are misleading, inaccurate, and intellectually dishonest, reflecting shoddy unprofessional work.

The so called "public outcry" against this bill has been led by the Northern Environmental Center and Boreal Forest Council of Fairbanks. These groups have spared little expense to impune the authors of this bill as well as to seek it's defeat. Suggestions that the entire Tanana Valley would be denuded of trees, small log processing operations would be eliminated, vast clear cuts imposed on the forests, and demands for fiber would outstrip forest sustainability are a few examples of their fear mongering tactics.

My professional opinion, as a retired wildlife biologist, is that enactment of SB 310 will permit and encourage maximum use of Interior forests without deleterious effects on wildlife or other forest uses. Indeed this bill compliments the recently signed into law SB77 habitat improvement requirements. Statehood gave us lands for an economic base, development of these resources on these lands is a constitutional mandate. Neglect of this potential, based on emotional rhetoric, will not benefit or insure a healthy economy.

Peter Shepherd

474-4685

OPEN LETTER TO ALL

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

Dear Editors

H. Resource

You would expect a group made up of Scientists, professional wildlife managers, and Conservative enforcement officers, to be correct, logical, and precise. But if you read Saturday's Compass (3/26/94 Anchorage Daily News) you would be as perplexed as I was. The policy of the Wilderness Society is anything but correct, logical or precise. At best it is an emotional (retorical) statement. I can't believe professionals would be associated with the likes. Caribou/Reindeer ranching is now practiced and only for a specific race of people. "Land occupied by ranched or herded game, is land from which free ranging wildlife is excluded." Ask these boys and girls why they aren't working to ban natives from using millions and millions of acres for Caribou raising. The policy seems to be - NO white Alaskans

Again and again the word unscrupulous is used. A word I'm ~~personally~~ familiar with and attribute to this type of misinformation. I mainly attributed it to ^{some} current and former state personel. Just recently Fish and Game's Commission's

Wayne Reagin attempted to misinform the public about Doug Welton and his intentions. Doug has been an ardent supporter for moose farming. An honest Joe trying to make and enhance his living. A darn hard worker, self employed and not wealthy i.e. he's typical of the majority of us. I'd love to see Wayne and his overpaid buddies work for themselves, where holidays ^{and} vacations aren't ~~pay~~ paid days off

"Game ranching poses the risk of spreading disease and parasites" and the paragraph goes on to cite tuberculosis. I should inform these professionals that our state is tuberculosis free. I'll address the reference to meat only with ^{the} ~~the~~ discredited DEC's competence. Talk to the people doing time for illegal meat sales. There will always be someone who will break the law, that doesn't mean driving 56 miles an hour is right

^W The public should contemplate the philosophical implications of reducing the status of wild species to privately owned domestic livestock.

This is a room with No walls. Fox, bison, elk
mink, muskox, Deer, Caribou (limited only to
natives), are all domesticated animals. When
you see them in the "Free ranging Condition"
does the fact that they are domesticated cause
your ~~to~~ philisophical feelings of "wild^{to} change?"
I guess the wildlife Society has already
answered that.

It's ironic that we consumptive users pay
nonconsumtives to control us. Maybe English
Common law ~~never~~ ~~left~~. still exists

Respectfully,



Robert Shumaker

P.O. Box 3712

Palmer, AK 99645

746-4453



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
committee name

committee on SB 310, dated 4.15.94
bill/subject

STATE AGENCIES ADMINISTERING PUBLIC RESOURCES SHOULD BE ACTING AS COORDINATORS + PLANNING ADVISERS TO LOCAL POPULACE (OWNER/OPERATORS, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND RESIDENTS IN THE REGION). DEVELOPMENT IS NECESSARILY SLOW AND AT SMALL SCALE TO BEGIN WITH IF LOCAL CONTROL BY THOSE AFFECTED IS TO BE MAINTAINED. GROWTH FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IF PUBLIC AGENTS FOSTER THESE LOCALLY CONTROLLED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP.

THIS BILL IS AN EXAMPLE OF STATE AGENCIES (+ THE LEGISLATORS) ASSUMING THAT THE PROCESS OF EXPLOITING RESOURCES FOR MONEY (IN THE NAME OF "THE PUBLIC") IS THEIRS TO EXERCISE. I OPPOSE THIS OPERATING PREMISE.

ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION DIRECTS RESOURCE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE PLANNING + ACTION SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL SMALL-BUT-GROWING OWNER/OPERATORS AND THOSE IN THEIR REGION TRYING TO LIVE WITH THE RESULTS,

Signed: David Steward
Testifier

SELF-EMPLOYED OWNER/OPERATOR (LOCAL BUOYANCY) ADDING VALUE TO LOCAL RESOURCES (CERAMIC)
Representing (Optional)
1009 P' CONNER
Address FBKS 99701



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ committee name

committee on S.B. 310, dated 15 April 1994
bill/subject

This bill is the first time I've ever felt motivated enough to figure out how to give testimony, and actually follow through. I am not a regular member of the AK Northern Environmental Center - I am a longtime resident of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley, and I love it here. I am in opposition to this bill. I used to live in Oregon and I know how the big timber companies operate. They will say now that they will only harvest a limited amount timber, but after 20 years, after people and their families have become dependent on logging at a certain rate, they will say they need more timber. They will pit jobs against quality of life. They will get their way until there is no harvestable timber left, and then they will leave - leaving people and their families with no work and bitter feelings. PLEASE don't let this

(over)

Signed: Susan A. Steinecker
Testifier

myself
Representing (Optional)

1610 Jones Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709
Address

happen to our community. The big timber companies are not in our best interest. Please rethink how to proceed with logging in the Tanana Valley.

I propose that you consider subsidizing the start-up of small local owned logging companies and mills. The price of lumber has risen dramatically. We can supply our framing, general construction, and log home construction, at a lower cost using local labor, local lumber, and locally owned companies that are investing in the long term, renewable resources of the Tanana Valley - not just for their children, but for their children's children, and on indefinitely.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING THE BIG TIMBER COMPANIES INTO OUR VALLEY - WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FUTURE WITHOUT THEM. I challenge you to be innovative, to think small, and to think forever.

Thank you.

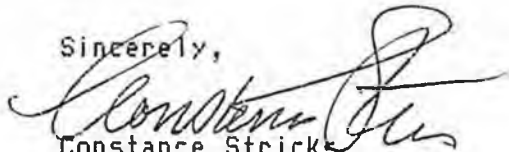
To: Bill Williams
Chairman of House Resources
FAX 465-3793

I am opposed to the passage of SB 310 as it is currently written. Amending the primary purpose of the State forests from multiple use to commercial timber development and creating the proposed long-term FMAs, I think will prove to be not only short sighted but, ultimately, detrimental to both the economy and natural resources of the State. The proposed long-term contracts and attendant obligations do not allow sufficient flexibility to react to changing conditions in, e.g. public values on land usage, critical habitat demands, or world market needs.

If such a bill is to be passed, the State must require that the contract period be reduced to no more than 5 years, that FMA harvest levels be adjustable to changing conditions, that FMA contractors be required to be responsible for scaling, road construction, reforestation and restoration of their areas, that fines and penalties be established for contract and regulatory violations, that overseeing agencies such as DNR and Fish & Game be funded sufficiently to monitor compliance, and, finally, that provisions exist for local hire.

After considering the issues and ramifications of SB 310, I feel that it is ill-conceived, panders to special interests, and attempts to support a bloated budget. As written, this bill's passage would demonstrate both negligence and irresponsibility on the part of our legislators to the people of the State. Alaska is still a very special place in terms of the extent of its wilderness areas and natural resources and the heritage this can offer our children. I feel it is encumbant on all of us to develop and nurture a proper relationship to this environment, and that it not be plundered for potential short-term gain. I think this bill viotates that trust.

Sincerely,



Constance Stricks
PO Box 81437
Fairbanks AK 99708



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB-310, dated 20 April 1994
bill/subject

I am opposed to SB-310 as written since I believe that the multiple-use management as stated in the current Sec. 41.17.200 should be retained. I believe that this Bill unnecessarily limits other economic development and recreational uses of forest lands by making them subservient to timber harvesting.

I also have reservations about the proposed possible twenty year lengths of contracts since the forests under consideration are mixed (about fifteen per cent white spruce and the rest approximately equally divided between hardwood-spruce and hardwood stands) and could probably be more efficiently and responsibly managed and harvested in shorter, possibly renewable, contracts.

I am a 30 yr resident of Fairbanks vicinity, and am an exploration geophysicist. Thanks you for your consideration.

Signed: Stenneth R. Jitoff

Testifier

Jell

Representing (Optional)

1191 Eastwood Lane Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Address (907) 457-8502

To: Troy
Fm: Thya S

1 page

Statement of Support for SB-310 Which Would Authorize Forest Management Agreements
by John L. Sturgeon, President Koncor Forest Products
March 1, 1994

Koncor Forest Products Company is a native owned company that has been involved in forest management in Alaska since 1977. Koncor currently has forest management activities in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound and the Kodiak area. These activities generate in excess of 300 full time jobs in Alaska with annual revenues in excess of \$60 million.

Koncor believes that the forests of Interior and Southcentral Alaska hold great potential for the development of a sustainable medium size forest products industry. Due to the lack of timber supply worldwide, markets for Alaskan forest products are very strong and expected to stay that way for the foreseeable future. This is critical since in past years timber markets for Interior type timber were not high enough nor stable enough to attract sufficient capital to develop infrastructure.

Since it is generally agreed that strong timber markets are here to stay the next most important component needed to develop an Interior timber industry is a steady, reliable supply of raw material. If investors can be assured of this steady reliable supply of raw material they will be willing to invest in the construction of infrastructure. This infrastructure would include the construction of processing facilities, mainline roads, rail loading facilities and the purchase of modern timber harvesting machinery. This infrastructure could be built without the need of government support in the form of loans or loan guarantees. This can be accomplished by the private sector if they have access to a long term, reliable supply of timber, assuming the timber is sold at market price and government regulations don't suffocate the industry. The forest management agreements that would be allowed under SB-310 would provide the basis for securing the needed long term reliable supply of timber.

While this legislation would provide an avenue toward the management of Alaska State forest lands, it would not do so at the detriment of the forest environment. The State of Alaska would still retain control of the land and the practices undertaken. However, this would result in much less cost to State government. Koncor believes that the Forest Practices Act and provisions of this legislation would result in protection of fish, wildlife, and other public resources.

The legislation still provides for public comment and comments by all public agencies. In no way would this legislation lock anyone out of the process. It would also not damage any of the other important industries which rely on the forest environment.

Alaska State forest lands are in need of careful management activities if we are to protect wildlife, watersheds and the economic values they contain. If we do not soon start the management of our State forest lands, the chance of some natural disaster, such as wildfire or the spruce bark beetle, destroying these values, will continue to increase.

In summary, Koncor supports SB-310 because it is a practical means to encourage the development of Alaska Interior forests. Forest management agreements, which would be authorized by this legislation, would provide the key component to building a strong forest industry in Alaska. These key components are a steady reliable supply of timber at market prices.

Susitna Valley Association
9600 Slaton Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99516 • (907) 346-1943

POSITION PAPER

April 10, 1994

CSSB 310: AN ACT RELATING TO TIMBER HARVESTING ON STATE LANDS

The Susitna Valley Association, a coalition of 69 organizations, plus over 4400 individual and business members, opposes CSSB 310. This position paper will address SVA's concerns regarding forest management agreements, as well as the proposed exemption of "small sales" from the Five-Year Timber Sale Schedule.

Forest Management Agreements (FMAs). The public in southcentral resoundingly opposed a large negotiated sale for the Susitna Valley six years ago. That proposal is similar to what is in this bill. The people again opposed various forms of the concept in the legislature from '87 though '90. We continue to oppose it as presented in SB 310.

Several surveys conducted in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough reveal that large-scale timber harvesting and long-term contracts, such as required for forest management agreements, are not popular concepts among over 90 percent of the Borough's resident population. SVA has enclosed a paper which summarizes those surveys.

The paper also provides a brief overview of the Susitna Forestry Guidelines project which involved thousands of people over several years. According to DNR, participants "strongly opposed expanded logging operations" for the Valley, and "cited the importance of the recreation and tourism industry to the Valley's economy and quality of life".

SVA expects, after listening to earlier testimony on SB 310, the response will be similar elsewhere in the state to FMAs being used to manage state multiple use forest lands.

In regards to SB 310, one of its major flaws is that it does not provide for public participation in deciding where the FMAs will be located. That decision will be made by the commissioner, or by a timber company requesting a specific area. The first opportunity for public "comment" is after an area is identified and proposals are received.

Even though SB 310 does require the commissioner to consider certain multiple use values in arriving at a decision, it has been SVA's experience that DNR does not have the data base or personnel to adequately evaluate or represent many of the nontimber uses of the forest land. SVA sees this as a serious gap in the credibility of the process, particularly for an area such as the Susitna Valley which has a complex remote recreation and related tourism economy.

SB 310 gives far too much authority to the commissioner in negotiating the terms of an FMA. Those negotiations, including decisions involving roads, reforestation, facility development, and silvicultural practices, will be made between the commissioner and the contractor outside of public or legislative purview. The general public, including

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Impacted businesses, local communities, recreationists, and property owners, appear to have no opportunity for input into these decisions until the FMA area comes up for renewal in 20 years.

There is no question that forest management agreements, once in place, advance timber harvesting as the priority use of the land. They close the door on other forest dependent uses and values that may be even more important economically and culturally than logging. They remove the necessary checks and balances so important in managing, rather than exploiting, our resources. They are expensive. In Canada expenses have run two to three times income, requiring long-term financial commitment on the part of the governing body. FMAs are not likely to be the answer to Alaska's fiscal problems.

The exemption of "small sales" from the Five-Year Timber Sale Schedule. If the intent of the proposed amendment in Section 2 of the bill is to allow flexibility for Division of Forestry, but still ensure that the bulk of the sales goes through the plan process, then the amendment is flawed for the Susitna Valley. It would exempt a full 67% of our sales from the current Five-Year Timber Sale Schedule.

A half-million board feet is not considered "small" in the Valley. While that volume may equate to only about 20 acres in southeastern, in the Su Valley where our so-called "commercial forest lands" average only 2549 board feet per acre, that equates to 200 acres. If the sale is for selective harvest, it can impact many times that area. These are substantial harvests in an area that has over 17,000 private properties, 52 remote lodges, and numerous small communities diffused throughout the area; not to mention a recreation and tourism economy that generates over \$15 million annually, and which has invaluable fish and wildlife habitat.

This proposed amendment is "broke" and needs fixing.

In conclusion SB 310 appears to accommodate a small group, primarily of outside corporate interests, who's sole purpose is to make money from cutting our trees. And, they've told you maybe they can make it work, but only if you give them full control over huge enough blocks of the forest land, and only if you commit the land to them with logging as the priority use for a long and indefinite period of time.

In support of responsible resource management and development, and in support of existing businesses that are dependent on an intact forest, SVA asks that you reject this bill. Thank you.

Loisann G. Reeder, President
Mike Bronson, President, Wasilla Chapter
Robertla Sheldon, President, Talkeetna Chapter

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**THE PUBLIC HAS REPEATEDLY VOICED OPPOSITION TO
LARGE-SCALE TIMBER HARVESTING IN THE SUSITNA VALLEY**

Senate Bill 310

1987 SUSITNA VALLEY TIMBER SALE PROPOSAL

The administration proposed a large-scale negotiated timber sale, similar to a forest management agreement, on 200,000 acres in the middle of the Susitna Valley. The public overwhelmingly and soundly rejected the sale. The sale was ultimately withdrawn, and the Susitna Forestry Guideline Project was initiated (details below).

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Forest Management Program; Databank Mat-Su, for Matanuska-Susitna Borough; July 1989.

General. Random phone dialing survey of 250 Mat-Su Borough residents. 19 residents were from the Susitna Valley (Talkeetna - 11; Willow - 8), with the rest from Wasilla, Palmer, and Big Lake.

Large or small scale? Only 6 percent favored large operations. 79.2 percent of those interviewed wanted the Borough to build upon the small logging operations that currently exist in the borough, rather than attract large national or international operations.

Long term Forest Management Agreements? Only 4.4 percent favored the longer contracts conducive to Forest Management Agreements. Almost 60 percent of respondents preferred short-term timber contracts of 5 years or less.

Summary. Among the most emphatic points made by respondents, according to the researchers, was that timber development and processing which might occur should be small-scale, utilizing local labor, and be done in an environmentally sound manner. Further, that timber harvesting should be done utilizing fairly short-term contracts and that there be no clearcutting.

ISSUE QUESTIONNAIRE; Rep. Curt Menard; February 1990.

General. Questionnaire published in the Frontiersman, a Wasilla newspaper. 860 respondents. Questions were on a variety of issues, including one on timber harvesting.

Timber Harvesting. Only 9.8 percent of the respondents supported "large scale" timber harvesting. 58 percent approved, basically, of nothing larger than is presently being cut. Another 32 percent would accept "moderate scale", but "moderate" was not defined.

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SUSITNA FORESTRY GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENTS, Susitna Forestry Guidelines Project; Department of Natural Resources; Adopted December 1991.

General. Was a 4 year project. 2000 people, including 1200 property owners in the planning area, requested to be on the project mailing list. Hundreds of people attended meetings which were held in Talkeetna, Trappers Creek, Skwentna, Alexander, Willow, Wasilla, Palmer, and Anchorage. The project's Citizens' Advisory Committee consisted of 81 organizations, businesses, and local governments.

Review and Analysis of Comments on the Public Review Draft. (DNR, May 1991; 130 pages of comments, single-spaced) **"SCALE OF LOGGING** Keep it small, keep it near existing roads, emphasize recreation: Many comments supported small-scale logging, harvests near the road system, and harvesting for personal or commercial use. However, they strongly opposed expanded logging operations and new access into remote areas. Many of the comments cited the importance of the recreation and tourism industry to the valley's economy and quality of life."

At the final public meeting, 4,100 signatures of individuals who "are opposed to large-scale timber sales in the Susitna Valley", and who support the premise that "forest management agreements are inappropriate means of administering our public lands", were submitted by the Susitna Valley Association. These are on file with DNR.

Response to Public Comments. (DNR, May 1991) **"THE BIG ISSUES Scale, Location, And Timing of Logging And New Roads.** Almost half the comments received were concerns about the scale of logging and extent of new roads. Most said that logging should be small-scale, local operations, near existing roads, and that new roads into remote areas were unwanted. Many were concerned that logging would harm remote recreation."

Dated: March 22 1994

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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name
 committee on SB 310 (CSSB310), dated 3/30/94
bill/subject

I Hereby request that
 the public hearing on this
 bill be extended and rescheduled.

The public has been shut out,
 wrongfully shut out.

I OPPOSE Bill SB310 based
 on lack of public process, economics,
 bad public policy, citizen rights, &
 environmental questions. There's NO need for
 this Bill!

Signed: James J. Ayres
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 68 Talkeetna 99676

Address

MSG 278-7436

Phone No.

DT: 4/20/94
FR: Jim Sykes
TO: House Resources Committee
RE: Testimony on SB310

My name is Jim Sykes, my residence is northeast of Talkeetna in the Susitna Forest.

I believe you are headed for dangerous legal territory with this bill, and quite frankly I don't see the need for it. We do Comprehensive plans, coastal zone management plans and community plans to prioritize likely uses. I chaired a long community planning process for the 300 square miles of the Chase Comp Plan. Our forest is one of multiple uses, like most forests. This bill creates an unnecessary conflict with the already established planning process and prioritizes trees for commercial timber harvest. The proposed amendment to Section 5 should be stricken.

You should also be aware that where plans are in conflict, it triggers a higher level of review before industry can proceed. For example, if the federal government wants to do something that goes along with a management plan, only an Environmental Assessment may be required. If the project is in conflict with a plan, the National Environmental Policy Act kicks in and a full Environmental Impact Statement is required. This bill could actually create that kind of conflict.

Worse than that SB310 gives the DNR Commissioner almost god-like authority to develop whatever long term forest management agreements she or he feels like. It definitely shuts out the public process, where there is already not enough citizen participation. If you don't have an example of what an FMA is going to look like, you shouldn't pass legislation giving full

authority to the DNR Commissioner to figure it out in the absence of public process.

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The worst part of this proposed system is that we are basically paying people to cut down our trees and cart them off. We lose in two ways--getting only 10 cents in return for every dollar spent, and the resource is gone. Former State Forester Ted Smith testified before the Chase Comp Plan committee that the Susitna Forest could not be profitable without subsidies for roads and bridges. It's time for the state to wise up and quit being the sucker for anything that sounds like economic development. We have to ask who benefits while the state pays.

Section 2 c is one of those "One-size-fits-all" kinds of laws that won't work. Exempting a sale of a half million board feet in Southeast Alaska might be 20 acres, in my forest it might be 200 acres. Timber sales should be made on an as needed permit basis for sales lasting up to 5 years in length. All timber sales should have extensive public input from communities most affected before they are considered.

Several years ago the values of tourism, recreation and remote uses were figured to have a yearly financial benefit greater than cutting down and selling the entire Susitna Forest. We have a multiple-use forest where recreation is the primary benefit along with local loggers who historically cut from 500-1500 acres a year.

In summary, there is no need for this legislation. I urge you in the strongest terms not to pass it. If I were Governor, I would veto it. If it becomes law and I become Governor, I will work to repeal it in the next session.

I thank you for your time, and hope you will make a wise decision.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it!
Jan Sykes

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMENTS ON

CSSB 310 (RES) FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

[April 5, 1994]

The Tanana Chiefs Conference cannot support the passage of SB 310 in its current form. The original bill was flawed from public process, environmental and industry perspectives. It undermined established public input and planning processes; employed questionable environmental standards; and failed to address the needs of the industry. The bill as reported out of the Senate Resources Committee reinstated public input and planning processes, and strengthen the environmental standards necessary to protect subsistence, but failed to address the needs of the industry needed to promote sustained economic development of a forest products industry in Interior Alaska. If the bill merely promotes the harvest and export of round timber without support for the development of value added processing and coordinated forest industry management, it will add nothing to the Interior forest products industry and further the economic control of Alaskan natural resources by outside interests.

VALUE ADDED PROCESSING

The bill's prime sponser rightfully asserts that the current Interior industry practice of cutting trees for round log export merely harvests the investment principal contained in our forest. True economic development will only occur with the introduction of timber processing into the Interior, such as the development of particle board, pelletizing or similar plants. to process our natural resources. Unfortunately, this bill does not address these concerns. While the prime sponser has expressed strong support for value added processing, he has expressed equally strong concerns over the legality of such requirements. Rather than avoid the issue, however, the legislature should seek to resolve the underlying problem.

The controversy focuses upon the US Supreme Court decision in *South-central Timber Dev. v Wunicke*, 467 US 82 (1984), which

invalidated the former Alaskan in-state processing requirements. This holding acknowledged that federal policy in Alaska also requires in-state primary processing, but invalidated the method used by the State to achieve the same result. The Court's opinion, however, did not prohibit other means available to the State to promote in-state processing. The Court made specific suggestions as to how the State could constitutionally encourage in-state processing. Specifically, the Court noted that Alaska could

- 1) obtain express Congressional authorization.
- 2) choose to sell its timber only to companies who maintain active primary processing plants in Alaska,
- 3) provide a directly subsidize the primary processing industry with discounts on timber sales or cash grants
- 4) pay to have state timber processed and enter the market only to sell processed timber.

The clearest solution to the problem is to for the State to provide for value added processing contingent upon obtaining Congressional authorization, and than seek Congressional authorization. The fact that federal policy currently supports the practice on federal timber sales suggests that such an authorization would merely allow the State to do the same thing that the federal government does now. Other alternatives would include the restriction of FMA's to contractors that maintain processing plants in the State, or providing discounts to such contractors.

Any of these methods may be used to promote value added processing. The concept of forest management agreements (FMA's) has merit, however, the failure to address the value added issue transforms what otherwise might be a good concept into an illusionary symbolic act.

COORDINATED TIMBER DEVELOPMENT

The bill shc ild authorize the State to coordinate timber sale offerings and FMA management with adjacent landowners who wish to participate in the FMA. A possible major advantage of an FMA is to integrate management of an entire forest system irrespective of property ownership. In Alaska State, federal and Native property