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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 18, 2023

Submitted electronically to:

Representative.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov; Representative.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov;
Representative.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov; Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov;
Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov; Representative.Frank.Tomaszewski@akleg.gov

State of Alaska Legislature
House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Support for HB 104, an act relating to expedited timber sales

Dear Representatives Cronk, Rauscher, McCabe, McKay, Sumner, and Tomaszewski:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) writes in support of HB 104, an act relating to expedited timber sales. RDC is a statewide trade association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. Since 1975, RDC's purpose has been to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through our mission of growing Alaska through responsible resource development.

This bill represents a long overdue and practical approach to addressing very serious forest management, wildfire and infestation problems plaguing our state forests. Establishing an expedited sale process to allow for the responsible harvest and management of forest areas that present immediate wildfire danger, or, as we have seen with respect to the spruce bark beetle infestation through much of southcentral Alaska is a win-win for all. Not only does it allow the State to more nimbly mitigate the risk of danger presented by these threats, but it can further support and benefit a statewide timber industry and the manufacture of additional and new state forest products.

For these reasons, RDC supports passage of HB 104. Please feel free to share our position with your colleagues as this bill progresses. Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director

