



ALASKA FARM BUREAU, INC.

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March 21, 2016

To: Alaska Board of Game members

Subject: Proposal 90 follow-up comments

After listening to public testimony on proposal 90 (removing sheep and goats from the clean list) I am compelled to respond to a couple comments and suggestions that were made. It was suggested that the board should pass proposal 90 with a delayed implementation of two years. One comment was also made that this would make sure we came to the table to work something out.

The implication that the only way to have members of the livestock industry at the table is to hold a threat such as this over their heads is infuriating, especially when it was the Alaska Farm Bureau who reached out to start discussions.

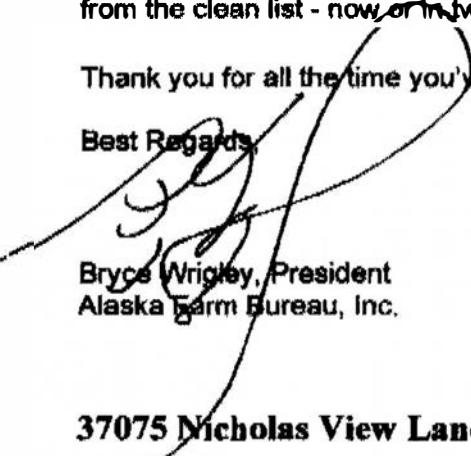
There was no effort to contact sheep or goat owners, agriculture organizations, the State Veterinarian or the Division of Agriculture prior to submitting proposal 90, even though it has a huge impact on the industry. Discussion on this issue should take place; it should include wildlife biologists, the State Veterinarian, the Division of Agriculture and stakeholders. If these discussions had taken place first, we may have already been well on our way to an agreeable plan.

To have a true collaborative effort, proposal 90 needs to be voted down so we can have a clean slate to start with. If maintaining separation of wild and domestic sheep and goats is the goal, removal from the clean list is not the answer. We can continue to have separation between wild and domestic sheep and goats without such drastic measures as proposal 90.

Initial conversations have already started to look at high risk areas that don't have natural or man-made barriers and also options to put up barriers of some sort. The State Veterinarian, Division of Agriculture and wildlife biologist are all willing to come to the table. I urge you to let these conversations continue without the threat of removal from the clean list - now or in two years.

Thank you for all the time you've put in to listening and reading public comments

Best Regards,



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