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House Bill 202

“An Act relating to the sale of food products by the producer to the consumer.”

House Bill 202 provides a mechanism for the direct sale of food products between producers and consumers. Current regulations are overly burdensome for the producers and create additional product cost which is passed onto the consumer.

House Bill 202 allows the consumer the freedom to choose the products they want to purchase. The consumer, not the government, should be held accountable for their own decisions. Consumers have different expectations of products they purchase from a local farmer than those purchased from a supermarket. Consumers can be responsible for making informed decisions about where they shop, the products they purchase, and the amount of risk they are willing to accept. With the correct information, consumers can become informed about the potential hazards relating to different local food products.

The producer is the person who grows and raises or produces the food which is being sold. At the point of sale, the producer shall provide written information to the consumer disclosing the product has not been inspected by a governmental agency, provide proper handling instructions for the product and provide a warning that the product may be harmful to a consumer's health if handled improperly. The product is not to be resold.

The producer's gross sales may not exceed \$200,000 in one calendar year. Under HB 202 these food products are not subject to regulation, testing, inspection, penalties or enforcement by Department of Environmental Conservation.

House Bill 202 is important because it will allow for the growth and development of Alaska's local food industry.