

Support an Alaska Department of Agriculture and Food REINSTATE an Alaska Department of Agriculture

- <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/support-an-alaska-department-of-agriculture/>



- **Target:** Alaskans and State Legislature Body
- **Sponsored by:** Ruby Hollembaek, Farmer/Rancher

We are one of 2 states, Rhode Island and Alaska, who share the distinction of NOT having a cabinet level department or agency of agriculture.

Reinstate the Department of Agriculture.

In 1945, the Alaska Territorial Legislature created the Alaska Department of Agriculture for the purpose of promotion and development of agriculture. Agriculture is specifically identified in the State Constitution. Prior to statehood, there was a Territorial Commissioner of Agriculture who headed the Alaska Department of Agriculture. Certain functions in Agriculture were established prior to statehood, such as creation of the Agricultural Revolving Load Fund in 1953 with a \$1 million authorization.

In 1953, major direction for the department was similar to what it is today - regulatory work including animal disease control, plant pest control and grading of produce, promotion of a larger and more stable agriculture industry by seeking larger markets and improving marketing techniques and providing financing of viable agricultural endeavors.

Alaska became a state in 1959, and statutory authorizations for agriculture were established in Title 03. Regulations were rapidly developed with adoption of the first regulations in July 1960 addressing surface sales, leases, homesteading (including auctions for amount of high bid and improvement of credits of up to 90% of the purchase price), as well as leasehold locations. Effective 5/23/64, regulations were amended so that timber sales, material sales and other uses were also allowed if consistent with public interest. Grazing leases were initiated in April 1970 as short-term leases only. Disposals of agricultural land were restricted to agricultural interest sales and leases effective August 1976, and amended in 1978 to clarify that disposal of leasable minerals could still take place. No exception was made for locatable minerals, non-agricultural surface leases, etc.

SUPPORT an Alaska Department of Agriculture and Food

An Act establishing a state department of agriculture and food and relating to its powers and duties; relating to the powers and duties of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources; and providing for an effective date.

HB 191 was introduced at the request of the state-wide Alaska Farm Bureau. HB 191 establishes a new state Department of Agriculture and Food with the intent of using the current Division of Agriculture's budget. Currently, statutes and regulations that govern food, food products, land sales, loans, land development, and animals are spread between the [Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), and the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) (DEC). HB 191 is an effort to stream-line government by bringing agriculture and agricultural foods products under the purview of one department.

A Department of Agriculture and Food would allow for a singular focus that would enhance agriculture and food security in Alaska. Agricultural policy has been inconsistent and prone to changes with new administrations, retirements, or economic changes. This ever-changing policy has hampered the development of a strong agricultural economy.

In 1974, Governor Hammond stated that "the state needed a renewable resource economic base to sustain Alaska after the oil was depleted." In 1976, Governor Hammond in an effort to develop renewable sources in the state established the following goals:

- Broaden the economic base of the state through agriculture production;
- Stabilize real food cost by increasing local food;
- Provided alternative job opportunities through expanded agriculture;
- Improve rural life by developing an economic base through agriculture.

Today people want to know where their food is coming from, they want to feel the security of having a farmer growing and storing food close by, they want to be at the farmers market on Saturday buying food from their neighbor.

Under a Department of Agriculture and Food, farming can expand to meet the needs of Alaska's residents, providing meat, milk, vegetables and grains for the table. Alaska's biomass can be used to heat homes and power cars, and fiber can be used to manufacture goods. Agriculture is a renewable resource that provides independence and industry into the future for the State of Alaska

**we signed "Support an Alaska Department of Agriculture and Food
REINSTATE an Alaska Department of Agriculture"**

150
09:21, Nov 06, Mr. Scott Hollembaek, AK

149
11:33, Oct 27, Flora Deacon, AK

148
02:56, Oct 23, Mr. William Johnson, AK

147
14:29, Oct 22, Mr. David Poppe, AK

146
20:18, Oct 20, carrie sisson, AK

Yes

145
15:28, Oct 18, Mr. Cody Beus, AK

144
14:37, Oct 11, Mr. Brian Bourne, NJ

143
10:48, Oct 07, Name not displayed, AK

142
08:04, Oct 07, cheri dean, AK

yes

141
15:25, Sep 30, Ruth Edwards, AK

140
17:44, Sep 28, Leslie Bobo, AK

yesYES

139
08:29, Sep 24, Ms. Aimee Hollembaek, WA

138
11:15, Sep 22, Mr. Bill Burton, AK

Yes, we need to promote more Agriculture in Alaska to be able to take care of all the people in Ak. in case of some natural disastor, loss of outside transportation, or man made diastors.

137
17:36, Sep 18, Suzanne Taylor, AK

136
15:40, Sep 17, annie messer, AK

Thank you for caring about supporting citizens in the prospect of utilizing the resources we have in Alaska to promote agriculture. Do you care about where your food, fiber and fuel comes from? I DO, and am extremely worried about the influence of mega companies like monsnato has on agricultural and related legislastion.

135

10:29, Sep 16, Mrs. Bessie Meyer, AK

134

13:08, Sep 13, Ms. Diane Claassen, AK

133

14:28, Sep 10, Mrs. Kathleen Fields, AK

WE so need this.. and have for a long long time.

132

08:20, Sep 10, Brenda Peterson, AK

131

21:29, Sep 06, Jeannie Pinkelman, AK

130

13:55, Sep 06, Victoria Naegele, AK

A Department of Agriculture with more autonomy ought also to put more effort into educating young Alaskans on the sources of their food and fabric. This educational effort shouldn't be on the backs of Alaska farmers but part of a complete education promoted by the state for its students.

129

09:47, Sep 05, Mr. Stuart Davies, AK

I serve on the BAC. I care about Alaska being able to feed itself. Unfortunately, this topic has become a political football with many who previously supported this initiative changing sides and who are now not supporting it. I feel the Div. of Agriculture should support 100% local food production. I invite you to review the operations at Mount McKinley Meat and Sausage in Palmer and draw your own conclusions.

128

14:30, Sep 03, Mr. Scott McCasland, AK

127

19:41, Sep 02, Mr. Harold Moore, AK

126

06:26, Aug 19, Greg Kuijper, AK

Alaska is in a very unique situation when it comes to growing our own. The cost of shipping everything to AK is about to jump bigtime. When all our ships switch to low sulfur diesel from heavy fuel. Call your elected representative. Ask them what they're doing about this.

125

14:45, Aug 16, Mr. PAUL HUPPERT, AK

124

20:38, Aug 03, Ray Lasley, AK

123

13:12, Aug 03, Mr. Tom Aklestad, AK

Local ALASKA GROWN ALL THE WAY !ALASKA GROWN!! YOU HAVE NOT ENJOYED A GOOD FOOD ITEM UNLESS IT CAME FROM THE GREAT LAND!! ALASKA # 1.

122

14:41, Aug 02, Chet Chambers, AK

121

16:48, Aug 01, Chris DuBois, AK

120

22:56, Jul 26, Brian Olson, AK

119

23:28, Jul 19, Ms. Charlotte Jewell, AK

I support local business including agriculture & food production.

118

11:17, Jul 14, Dr. Patricia Holloway, AK

117

08:03, Jul 08, Roy Stamey, AK

116

17:39, Jul 05, Name not displayed, AK

115

21:38, Jul 03, Mr. Dale Gardner, AK

114

18:24, Jul 03, Margaret Wilson, AK

Yes, I live in the heart of the Matanuska Valley In Palmer, AK.

113

10:11, Jul 02, Mr. Thomas Aklestad, AK

Come on let Alaska in on all the funding and be recognized as part of the rest of the USA. Just look at ALL the resources we have here. It's a MEGA Bounty of natural resources here and it's not going any time soon. YES, It should be from our LOCAL RESOURCES! ALASKA all the way!! It can be done..

112

17:52, Jun 30, Sharon Walluk, AK

111

12:25, Jun 30, Aleks Pfaffe, AK

Absolutely. I want my food and supplies to come from as close to home as possible to support my community and reduce my carbon footprint.

110

12:15, Jun 29, Mr. kenneth blatchford, AK

kenneth e. blatchfordabsolutely

109

11:28, Jun 29, Mr. Brian Lyke, AK

I do! I wish there was more infrastructure for farmers in this state. A food processing facility would go a long way for agricultural sustainability in Alaska.

108

10:01, Jun 29, Mr. James Eastwood, AK

107

09:09, Jun 29, Mrs. Rebecca Radey, AK

YES!

106

09:07, Jun 29, Mr. LOWELL NOORLUN, MN

105

08:47, Jun 29, Ms. Pam Rule, AK

104

22:02, Jun 27, Mr. Deanna Cooper, AK

Shortest supply route the better

103

11:46, Jun 27, Lisa Sadleir-Hart, AK

102

14:08, Jun 26, Larry Marsh, AK

There is nothing more basic, more vital than food production. As a young state, we should be doing much, much more to ensure that the future of agriculture and food production in our state is a vital and sustainable economic component for all residents. Local and regional food production is the foundation for a more efficient and sustainable agricultural economy.

101

09:00, Jun 26, Name not displayed, AK

100

01:03, Jun 26, Tom Paragi, AK

I am also on the Board of Directors for Fairbanks Community Cooperative Market. Our goal is to open a full service grocery that will buy quality local products first, purchasing from outside of Alaska only when a quality local option is not available.

99

23:43, Jun 25, Dr. Bob Johnson, AK

98

23:21, Jun 25, Mr. Joe Want, AK

97

23:18, Jun 25, Ms. Sara Stoops, AK

96

17:09, Jun 25, Enke Gendendorj, AK

yes highly

95

06:05, Jun 25, Elinor Poll Ramos, AK

94

23:45, Jun 24, Randy Bozelle, AK

93

20:40, Jun 24, Neil Wagner, AK

92

20:17, Jun 24, Eli Fleischer, AK

91

15:50, Jun 24, Edda Mutter, AK

90

11:44, Jun 24, Deirdre Helfferich, AK

Local food production is more popular and more important an issue than ever. We cannot go on focusing on only one or two sectors in the Alaska economy; local agriculture production produces jobs, improves health, creates community, and makes Alaska more secure.

89

10:56, Jun 24, Ms. E Roderick, AK

88

10:24, Jun 24, Paula Williams, AK

Not only will this make Alaskans more food secure, but it will support a stronger and more diverse economy.yes.

87

08:45, Jun 24, Mrs. Chris Ford, AK

Yes! I have been struggling with raising Poultry as organic as possible in the town that I live in. It has been very challenging. I prefer to buy local when I can but no one farms grains here. I have resorted to feeding my birds wild greens in the summer and fish through out the year along with the organic grains I get at the local feed store.

86

07:23, Jun 24, Jane Eisemann, AK

We have barely scratched the surface of what we can do here in Alaska with regards to food and self reliance.Yes I care about where my food, fiber and fuel comes from. Of course the closer to home the better!

85

06:41, Jun 24, Susan Cable, AK

84

04:12, Jun 24, Mrs. Kate Veh, AK

Yes.

83

02:03, Jun 24, Mr. Maxwell Hobson, AK

82

01:57, Jun 24, Mrs. Diane Gustafson` , AK

We need this to enable our state to not rely on outside interests to provide for our peoples life needs.Yes, I want to enable our state to provide for its own constituents as well as create jobs for our people.

81

00:31, Jun 24, Mr. Brian Roberts, AK

80

00:29, Jun 24, Mr. Christopher Crews, AK

AK needs HUGE Ag investments right now. In 20 or 30 years It's going to be one of the only places in the US that shouldn't be in a perpetual drought condition and will have temps that allow food to grow.Absolutely!!

79

23:15, Jun 23, Dr. karl monetti, AK

78

21:14, Jun 23, Ms. Rosemary Froese, AK

77

20:50, Jun 23, Heather Preece, AK

It is so important that our food, fiber and fuel comes from as close to home as possible.

76

20:37, Jun 23, Sharon Ferguson, AK

75

19:54, Jun 23, Mrs. Joette Storm, AK

It is our personal responsibility to take action in securing our own food supply and protecting agricultural land and resources.

74

16:54, Jun 23, Ethan Stoops, AK

Thank you for caring about supporting citizens in the prospect of utilizing the resources we have in Alaska to promote agriculture.

73

16:53, Jun 23, Mrs. Anya Van Hoecke, AK

72

16:45, Jun 23, Mrs. Dawn Stoops, AK

71

16:12, Jun 23, Rhonda Hubbard, AK

Absolutely, and so should everyone else.

70

15:54, Jun 23, Ms. Martha Shaddy, AK

69

15:34, Jun 23, Ms. Shaun Lott, AK

68

15:16, Jun 23, Ms. Cindee Karns, AK

This is absolutely VITAL to Alaska's survival, but it also needs to go hand in hand with a small farm bill. I'm sure we want big corporate farms here planting franken corn. Yes, all Alaskans should care.

67

15:07, Jun 23, Terri Pauls, AK

66

15:05, Jun 23, Dora Wainwright, AK

Alaska Grown is very important for our state.

65

14:45, Jun 23, Dr. Craig Gerlach, AK

I support Alaskan agriculture, Alaskan farmers, and a strong local livestock and horticultural system, one that will produce local food for regional and statewide consumption. Yes I do care, and I prefer for food, fiber and fuel to be Alaska grown, Alaska produced.

64

14:05, Jun 23, Ms. Doris Robbins, AK

63

14:01, Jun 23, Ms. Catherine Whitney, AK

62

13:35, Jun 23, Frederick Vahl, AK

61

12:59, Jun 23, Ms. Debra Gritman, AK

Absolutely, it would be nice to have the US support itself. Maybe someday.

60

12:53, Jun 23, Susan Sommer, AK

59

12:52, Jun 23, Mrs. Donna Jones, AK

58

12:42, Jun 23, terrisa kercher, AK

57

12:33, Jun 23, Mr. Richard Seifert, AK

This is very important to all of us, and i am a member of the Board of the Fairbanks community Cooperative Market in order to help support and further such efforts through marketing and merchandising of local food, as well and educating about food security and healthy eating.

56

12:28, Jun 23, Mr. Greg Obeso, AK

55

11:56, Jun 23, Julie Smith, AK

54

11:54, Jun 23, Barbara Rowland, AK

See need to push NON-GMO AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA as we do this.YES!

53

11:52, Jun 23, Sue Singler, AK

52

09:33, Jun 23, Mr. Bryce Wrigley, AK

There is a great need for a more focused and proactive approach to increasing our food security. That cannot happen without a more autonomous agency. As currently constituted, any goal or initiative for developing agriculture must pass scrutiny of DNR, who evaluates agriculture's role with how it fits the overall goals of DNR. To direct the development of this critical resource long-term, it is vital to have a dynamic, forward thinking Department of Agriculture and Food that is not subservient to the vagaries of a much larger agency whose main focus is non-renewable resources development.

51

07:38, Jun 23, Shelley Rainwater, AK

50

07:36, Jun 23, Chris Johnson, AK

49

00:21, Jun 23, Mr. Ronald Illingworth, AK

48

23:41, Jun 22, Mr. David Johnson, AK

47

22:35, Jun 22, Mr. Charles Bingham, AK

46

13:48, Jun 10, Ms. Deb Blaylock, AK

45

19:03, Apr 14, Mrs. Patricia McMurren, AK

44

10:26, Apr 14, Mrs. cathleen melbostad, AK

43

14:39, Apr 11, Mrs. Robin Korte, AK

42

15:50, Apr 05, Ms. Janet Vanairsdale, AK

41

15:08, Apr 04, Ms. Heather McCausland, AK

40

15:58, Apr 01, Mr. Ed Laurson, CO

39

19:16, Mar 30, Mrs. Saskia Esslinger, AK

38

14:17, Mar 22, Jimmie Ellison, AK

You betca, this needs to be brought to the attention of ever Man, Woman and child in Alaska.

37

17:00, Mar 17, Dr. David Ianson, AK

36

17:28, Mar 07, Mr. David Selmsen, AK

35

17:16, Feb 28, Nancy Richmond-Bentley, AK

Everything is local including food. Alaskans should have more support in their agricultural endeavors.

34

22:11, Feb 27, Edward Gagnon, AK

33

17:53, Feb 21, Holly Sheldon Lee, AK

32

13:33, Feb 18, Mrs. Anna Denis, AK

31

18:23, Feb 15, Ms. Anne-Corinne Kell, AK

30

16:17, Feb 15, Ms. Trisha Costello, AK

29

01:06, Feb 12, Ms. Mary Ernsberger, AK

28

14:57, Jan 31, Mr. Kevin Irvin, AK

27

16:30, Jan 29, Mrs. Doris Ethier,

26

01:15, Jan 21, Ms. Triena Slatter, AK

25

12:24, Jan 04, Mr. david lendrum, AK

24

04:44, Dec 29, Mr. STEVE KLEIN, VA

23

01:10, Dec 28, Mrs. Nina Stone, AK

22

03:53, Dec 26, Mrs. Petra Haisam, Egypt

21

22:19, Dec 25, Julie Luke, AK

20

09:13, Dec 18, Name not displayed, NJ

19

17:30, Dec 15, Ms. deboorah hayes, AK

18

17:15, Dec 15, Mr. Wes Hamrick, AK

17

15:58, Dec 15, Name not displayed, AK

16

15:02, Dec 15, Mrs. Jamie Woodside, AK

15

08:32, Dec 10, Mr. David N Moore, CT

14

20:25, Dec 07, Ms. Tahajra Worrell, Barbados

13

06:20, Dec 04, Ms. Emily Smith, PA

12

18:34, Dec 02, Mr. Chris Enders, MI

11

00:40, Dec 02, Mr. charles mclachlan, United Kingdom

10

08:13, Nov 30, Ms. Andrea Oefinger, CT

9

21:09, Nov 29, Mrs. Pam Boland, GA

8

20:01, Nov 29, Ms. Sacred Space, AB

7

16:49, Nov 29, Mr. David Dunkleberger, PA

6

14:34, Nov 29, Mrs. Jo Coelho, New Zealand

yes=the economy

5

14:30, Nov 29, Name not displayed, ON

4

13:19, Nov 29, Ms. Jacquie Bridonneau, France

3

11:58, Nov 29, Mr. mike barbieri, NV

2

11:15, Nov 29, Mr. Steve Fields, AK

I advocated this back in the early 90's when I sat on the SWCD Board. I was thought of as a pariah. Glad this is moving forward.

1

11:05, Nov 29, Ms. Ruby Hollembaek, AK

Let's make the next decade in Alaska's economic structure really count!