

Speakers for June 4 – House Resources Food Security Subcommittee

Cara Durr, Alaska Food Policy Council

Cara is the Director of Public Engagement for the Food Bank of Alaska, overseeing their policy and advocacy efforts. She holds a MA in International Studies with a focus on Development, and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. She serves on the Governing Board for the Alaska Food Policy Council and holds a seat on the national Feeding America Policy Engagement and Advocacy Committee. Born and raised in Alaska, she enjoys the challenge of increasing food access in her home state, where there are few roads, high prices, and unique cultural considerations.

Amy Seitz, Alaska Food Policy Council

Amy Seitz is a 3rd generation farmer on the Lancashire Farms of Soldotna. She serves as the Executive Director of the Alaska Farm Bureau, a non-profit working to improve the economic well-being and expansion of agriculture, and to enrich the quality of life for all Alaskans. She works closely with Bryce Wrigley, the President of the Farm Bureau, who is the founder of the Alaska Flour Company in Delta Junction.

Pete Kennedy, Esq.

Pete Kennedy is a lawyer and consultant living in Florida. For the past fifteen years he has worked on issues governing raw milk production and distribution. From 2004 to the present he worked with the Weston A. Price Foundation (WAPF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to restoring nutrient-dense foods to the American diet; it is the leading raw milk advocacy group in North America.

From 2007 to 2017, he worked as an attorney for the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund (FTCLDF), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit designed to protect the right of farmers and consumers to engage in direct commerce. For FTCLDF he consulted on and drafted raw milk legislation and herdshare agreements. I worked on embargo, seizure and recall cases involving raw dairy products and investigated claims of foodborne illness outbreaks attributed to raw milk consumption. In most cases, raw milk did not turn out to be the cause of illness.

Robert F. Gerlach VMD, Alaska State Veterinarian

Dr. Gerlach works for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as the Alaska State Veterinarian. He is responsible for animal health regulations, animal disease surveillance, manages the State's Fish Monitoring Program and is the State's Fish Advisory Program Coordinator.

Dr. Gerlach graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Veterinary Science; he then received his Veterinary Degree (VMD) from the University of Pennsylvania. After several years in private practice he returned to academic pursuits and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in pathophysiology and toxicology at the Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Institute. As attending veterinarian his

research involved studying the effects of age on pulmonary function, as well as, evaluating the impact of different toxicants on respiratory function and the immune system.

In 1987, he moved to Alaska and worked in private practice until being hired by the state to manage the State's Fish Monitoring Program in 2001. Working with state and federal partners and commercial, recreational and subsistence fisherman over 10,000 fin fish and invertebrates, over 90 species, have been collected and analyzed for environmental contaminants. The data generated by the program is used by Department of Health and Social Services to develop fish consumption advice for Alaska residents. In 2003 Dr. Gerlach became State Veterinarian.