



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Director's Office

555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907.269.7644
Fax: 907.269.7654
www.dec.alaska.gov

February 9, 2018

The Honorable Senator Meyer, Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
The Honorable Senator Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Rooms 103, 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators Meyer and Giessel,

During the Department's presentation on SB 164 in the State Affairs Committee, questions were raised by Senator Coghill about the Alaska Grown marketing program, and how the records being proposed for confidentiality under the bill would be used to verify that a producer was eligible to use the Alaska Grown trademark and logo. Below is some clarifying information about this topic.

Current practice is that, upon request from the Department of Natural Resources, DEC would share records and information about animal imports that would assist them in determining if the animals had spent the required amount of their lives in Alaska to be labeled "Alaska Grown". These records may include the importation permit and health certificate, which would list the animal ID, the age of the animal, the source of the animal, and the date that the animal entered Alaska.

Under SB 164, both DNR and DEC would still be able to release these records if either Department determined that there was a threat to the health or safety of an animal, crop, or the public. If the issue was not related to health or safety, such as determining eligibility for the Alaska Grown program, the Department of Natural Resources could still require that the producer prove eligibility by providing those records or other records directly to them. Since the Alaska Grown program is voluntary, the producer could choose to submit the proof or not. If they did submit the records to DNR, they would be exempt from the Alaska Public Records Act as outlined in the bill.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carpenter".

Christina Carpenter
Director

cc: Dr. Robert Gerlach, State Veterinarian, DEC Division of Environmental Health
Arthur Keyes, Director, DNR Division of Agriculture