

Lynn Gattis

From: Monica <lilkaidoo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:04 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Good Morning,

My name is Monica Millard and I am a herd share member. I have been drinking raw milk for around three years and it is of value to us because I am allergic to cow milk. I tried goat milk from the store as well, but it has an unpleasant taste and wasn't really agreeing with me either. The first time I had whole, raw goat milk was a life changer for me, not to mention it is more cost effective and supports local farmers. Please vote yes on HB 16.

Please send an email with a comment in support of herd share to House.Finance@akleg.gov – comments received no later than 8:00 am will be distributed to all committee members. Include your name and residence address, the bill number (HB 16), and your comment—even if it's brief and simple it will still have a positive impact. For example:

Hi, my name is _____ and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for _____ years and it is of value to us because _____. Please vote yes on HB 16.

Lynn Gattis

From: Brandy Nelson <sourdoughgirl@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:03 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Brandy Nelson and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for about 5 years years and it is of value to us because we want to be healthy and to support local farmers. Please vote yes on HB 16.

Sincerely,

Brandy Nelson
35242 Hager Blvd
Soldotna Alaska, 99669

Lynn Gattis

From: Julie Wendt <karlukacres@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:45 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: House Bill 16

Categories: Lynn

Hello,

I am writing to let you know of my support for House Bill 16. This would be beneficial to so many Alaskans. I have a small dairy goat farm and do sell herd shares. I would love to see that written up into a statute. I would also love to be able to provide my community with products like yogurts and cheeses. I have had many customers ask me for these kind of products. This would be a great bill to pass to help Alaskan farmers and the communities we provide with safe, sustainable and local foods.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks,
Julie Wendt

Karluk Acres

Lynn Gattis

From: Julie Wendt <karlukacres@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:45 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: House Bill 16

Categories: Lynn

Hello,

I am writing to let you know of my support for House Bill 16. This would be beneficial to so many Alaskans. I have a small dairy goat farm and do sell herd shares. I would love to see that written up into a statute. I would also love to be able to provide my community with products like yogurts and cheeses. I have had many customers ask me for these kind of products. This would be a great bill to pass to help Alaskan farmers and the communities we provide with safe, sustainable and local foods.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks,
Julie Wendt

Karluk Acres

Lynn Gattis

From: Amy <amy@woodenspoonsalaska.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:26 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: I support herd share

Categories: Lynn

Hi, I support house bill 16. Participating in herd share taught me so much about where food comes from and the importance of supporting local agriculture.

Sincerely,

Amy Nicolaisen

Sent from my iPhone

Lynn Gattis

From: Gina Wilke <ginamwilke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:41 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Vote yes on HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Gina Wilke and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for a few years and it is of value to us because it is our main source of dairy nutrients and it gives our gut the biome it needs to be strong. We enjoy the taste immensely. We believe in food freedom and the right to choose raw milk over the processed options at the grocers. Please vote yes on HB 16.

*With gratitude,
Gina Wilke*

*1512 Nichols Street
Anchorage, AK 99508*

Lynn Gattis

From: Athina Tennant <athinatennant@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 11:39 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: YES on HB 16!!

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Athina Tennant, I reside in Chugiak, Alaska and I am a herd share member out of Meadow Lakes, Alaska. My family has been drinking raw milk for 3 years now and it is of value to us because, my 3 year old is, easiest explained, allergic to life. She has cluster allergies to include entire food/plant families. When she was a baby, I was unable to nurse her. She had allergic reactions to donor milk due to the foods eaten and passed through the donor Mom's milk. She was also allergic to ALL infant formulas here in the United States. When she was 3 months old, one of my Aunts found a formula out of Germany that would ship to Alaska for me to try with her. It was expensive, but my baby was able to eat without having a horrible allergic reaction. When she was just over a year old, I tried her on regular milk from the store. She had an allergic reaction. I tried her on organic milk from the store, she had an allergic reaction. I tried her on lactose free milk from the store. She had an allergic reaction. It seemed like my nightmare with milk for her, would never end. It didn't make sense to me, because the formula she was on from Germany, was cows milk formula! So, I started looking into local farm shares. I found our first farm share for goat milk. We were with that farm share for just over a year and it was amazing for both of my children! Neither one had issues with their stomachs hurting and my baby, now almost 4, wasn't having any allergic reactions. We got to know our farm share, knew exactly what they were feeding so I didn't have to worry about an allergic reaction due to cross contamination in their feed. We have been with our current farm share for 2.5 years for raw goat and Jersey cow milk, plus added another child to consume the raw milk. We get chicken eggs through the farm share that I don't have to worry about causing an allergic reaction in my middle daughter and have 4 ducks of our own that also reside at the farm. It had made a world of difference in my family's life, having the wonderful love and care given into the attention to details of the amazing family that we have our farm share with in Meadow Lakes, Alaska.

I vote YES on HB 16!

Athina Tennant
704-995-5704

Lynn Gattis

From: Amy Seitz <amy.seitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 10:40 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 16 support letter
Attachments: AKFB HB16 support.doc

Categories: Lynn

Co-Chair Foster and Co-Chair Wilson,
Attached is a letter from the Alaska Farm Bureau in support of HB 16 LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT; LABELING.
Thank you,
Amy Seitz, Executive Director
Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.
907-252-5064

Lynn Gattis

From: Trina Davis <trinadavis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 10:14 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Vote YES on HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Trina Davis and I am a herd share member in Palmer, Alaska. I purchased a goat herd share because my toddler had difficulty eating. Because of low nutrient intake his growth and emotional development was greatly hindered, but worse and more concerning was his physical condition. His bowels were not working properly and his blood sugars would not stabilize. He was rarely well and sleep was fitful and filled with night terrors including screaming, hitting, and crying. It was terrifying and heart wrenching. At some point I felt inspired to have him drink raw goats milk, a whole food filled with live bacteria (that support a healthy gut bacteria balance) and helps to keep bowels working properly. Although my son still struggles to eat food at the age of 4 (despite our continued efforts to work with him) he is developing in all areas quite well now. Goats milk is making up the difference for where his solid food intake lacks. His bowels are actually working and he is developing very well. Raw goats milk has been our saving grace. It saved my son from having a feeding tube.

Please support HB 16. Please protect Alaska's farmers, consumers and herd share owners.

Please vote YES on HB 16.

Sincerely,

*Trina Davis
1137 S Katie Circle
Palmer, AK
99645*

Sent from my iPhone

Lynn Gattis

From: Jim O'Connor <joconnor@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 9:37 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: House Bill 16

Categories: Lynn

Dear Alaska Legislature,

I write in support of HB 16 and hope that you will also support it. Farming is not an easy thing in Alaska. Increasing the freedom of farmers helps them and their herd share members.

Thank you,
Jim O'Connor

Lynn Gattis

From: tedmarcy@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 8:09 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: RE: House Bill 16

Categories: Lynn

Dear House Finance Committee,
I am emailing in regards to changing House Bill 16 from a regulation to a statute. We are thankful to be able to participate locally in a herd share. We love supporting local business and quality products are very important to us. Our food supply is of high importance to us and we would also enjoy being able to purchase value-added products from our herd share provider. Thank you for taking time to read this and for taking our wishes into consideration in your vote.

Respectfully,
Ted and Marcy Tompkins (Anchorage, AK)

Lynn Gattis

From: Sneg Gurmusha <gurmusha@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 7:35 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please,vote YES on HB 16

Categories: Lynn

*Hi, my name is Liza Sokolov and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for 4 years and it is of value to us because it provides us with nutrients without hormones, bleach and other chemicals that are used in milk from store.
Please vote yes on HB 16.*

Lynn Gattis

From: Deanna O'Connor <deanna@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 7:10 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: House Bill 16

Categories: Lynn

Hello,

My name is Deanna O'Connor. I live and own a small business in Nikiski, Alaska. Besides being a small business owner, I am also a goat herd owner.

I offer herd shares so that my friends in town can have fresh raw milk. I am often asked if I can also provide cheese, and I tell them no, because value-added products are currently excluded from allowable herd share practice. Being able to provide yogurt, cheese and kefir would help me provide better nutrition to my shareholders and better financially support my herd.

I am writing to you now to ask you to support HB16. Help us support food independence in the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration,
Deanna O'Connor

Lynn Gattis

From: clwilcox@acsalaska.net
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 7:10 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 16 Local Food Procurment

Categories: Lynn

Greetings,

I am writing in support of HB 16 for herd share protection and support for herd share products, such as cheese and kefir. My family has had a herd share for over 10 years. We have enjoyed the excellent, high quality milk provided by our local dairy farmers. We considering this access to raw milk to be very important for our homestead cheese making, as the commercially available, ultra-pasteurized milk fails to make cheeses.

In addition, supporting our local dairy farmers is very important to Alaska's food security.

Please vote yes on HB 16.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Christine Wilcox
907-632-1496
Spruce Tip Farm and Nursery
10001 Hampton Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

Growing food, and building soil and community.

Lynn Gattis

From: Margaret Hallam <maggiebhallam@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 6:05 PM
To: Karla Hart; Rep. Geran Tarr
Cc: House Finance
Subject: HB 16 Herd Share/Raw Milk Testimony

Categories: Lynn

From Maggie Hallam
owner and operator of Cripple Creek Organics Residing at 1310 Cripple Creek Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709 Letter of Support for HB 16

Dear House Finance Committee,

I run a small herd share operation with two cows. At present, there are approximately fifty members in my herd share. I would welcome the opportunity to make raw milk products for my herd share members for several reasons.

First, making raw milk products during my cows' peak milk production would allow me to have fewer herd share members. Less people means less for me to manage every day. Matching the members picking up milk daily to the milk supply takes a great deal of attention. When the cows are at peak production, I am generally at my busiest. Finding and educating new herd share members is time consuming. I hesitate to put on additional people when I know the milk production will be dropping off within a few months. Due to the nature of raw milk and the lack of insurance available to producers, I want to know my customers. They are hand-picked for the most part. This takes time as well, but I feel it is worth the effort in the long run.

Secondly, being able to make product would help me develop a plan for moving forward. There is a giant chasm between running a raw milk herd share and building a Grade A facility. Being able to make foods such as yogurt, cheese, and butter would help me better understand both the skill set needed and how my herd share members feel about those products.

Lastly, I believe a farmer needs to lead by example. By making excellent raw milk products, I can show my herd share members what is possible. Additionally, when members make milk products, they are actually increasing their own food security. Raw milk is highly perishable, but many milk products are stable and capable of storing for a long period of time. It's a win-win situation.

Sincerely,
Maggie Hallam

Lynn Gattis

From: Laurie Miller <art4lifelm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:49 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 16

Categories: Lynn

I am in Favor of house bill 16! I currently am a herd share member. I love the milk and the ability to contribute to a sustainable ALASKAN farm industry!! We need more LOCAL businesses like this. I am in favor of house bill 16!

Lori miller
3528 Knik Ave.
anchorage, ak. 99517

Sent from my iPhone

Lynn Gattis

From: Suzy Crosby <scrosby@ak.net>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:12 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: In support of HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Apr. 22, 2019

Greetings to the members of the House Finance Committee (Co-Chair Representatives Foster and Wilson, Vice-Chair Representative Johnston, and Representatives Ortiz, Josephson, Knopp, LeBon, Tilton, Merrick, Sullivan-Leonard, and Carpenter):

Thank you for devoting your time to consider HB 16, which would expand the definition of herd share to allow value-added products such as yogurt, kefir, cheese, etc. in addition to fluid milk. Pete Kennedy from Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund stated the legal opinion that "if a person has the right to choose to drink raw milk (which Alaskans do, through herd share), that person should also have the right to have their milk made into the product of their choice, by the person of their choosing."

As herd share farmer/producers ourselves, we are very much in support of HB 16. Broadening the terms of herd share to include other dairy products such as kefir, yogurt, and cheese would be a 3-way win.

Win #1: Dairy producers inevitably see a surplus of milk from spring through fall, and a shortage in the winter. It's a perennial challenge to figure out ways to balance out that uneven supply, and one of the best ways for a goat farmer to put away the maximum amount of milk in the least amount of space is to make it into chèvre (goat cheese) and put it in the freezer for use through the winter when fluid milk production is down. If a herd share farmer could legally market even that one item to herd share members, the added value in "farmer math" would equate to being able to purchase an extra bale of hay from each gallon of milk produced.

Win #2: Consumers would benefit by having more locally made products available. One of the reasons herd share is continually gaining in popularity is that a growing number of Alaskans want to know where their food comes from, and keep the food chain as short as possible. Google "Locavore Movement" and you'll find many websites devoted to this concept. Whenever people taste the cheese we make from our goat milk, the first thing they say (after "Wow!!") is "Can I buy this cheese from you?" My answer is always "Sadly, no, it's not legal in Alaska, even via herd share". It would be wonderful for consumers to have a legitimate avenue to obtain fresh locally made cheese, yogurt, and other value-added dairy products.

Win #3: Because these products would be within the restrictions of herd share, the closed-loop scenario that the DEC values remains intact. Herd share producers keep records and contact info for their consumers, and can easily communicate with them as needed. By the same token, there is a direct line of communication from consumer back to producer in the event of any issues or problems. Unlike public sales at a farmers' market, the traceability would remain unchanged under the terms of HB 16.

Please give your support to HB 16. It will lay the groundwork to solidify and protect the legal standing of herd share and provide an on-going benefit to both producers and consumers of local dairy products.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzy Crosby

Cottonwood Creek Farm

Suzy Crosby & Mike Pendergrast

Email: packnmilk@ak.net

<http://www.localharvest.org/cottonwood-creek-farm-M52985>

<https://www.facebook.com/CottonwoodCreekFarmAK>

Lynn Gattis

From: Carol Fritz <carol.fritz1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 4:42 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Carol Fritz
Subject: HB16 - I support Herd Share

Categories: Lynn

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Carol Fritz and I live in the Matanuska Valley and am a Herd Share member. I have lived in Alaska for over 38 years and was raised in Montana. I have been drinking raw milk all of my life because it has more nutritional and health benefits. I also use local milk to make my own milk kefir, which is very beneficial for my husband who has Crohn's disease and the rest of my family's health. We drink and use both local cow milk and goat milk and cheese. It would be very valuable to Alaska to legalize local value-added products, such as yogurt, kefir and cheese, within the terms of herd share. This would be a valuable decision which would benefit both producers and consumers.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol Fritz
907-355-4123

Lynn Gattis

From: Travis Cooper <travis.ray.cooper@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 4:03 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: In Favor of HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Hello,

This is Travis Cooper and I am a voter living in the Spenard area of Anchorage. I support HB 16 and encourage you to vote yes on this bill. I have been a herd share member for two years and feel more connected to my food and community because of it. I think anything we can do to support and expand food production within our state is important to support.

Thanks again for voting yes,

Travis Cooper

Lynn Gattis

From: Michelle Church <akherbandorganics@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 1:06 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Re: HB 16

Categories: Lynn

I am writing to add my support to HB16, in particular, allowing value added products to be available under a Herd Share program. Allowing the addition of value added products like cheese, yogurt and kefir increases the availability of income for producers throughout the year. Allowing value added products also opens up opportunities for other farmers to have a market for herbs and flowers for the milk share farmers to utilize in their production of those value added products.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice of support for this program. The economic value of agriculture should not be underestimated in building sustainable economic diversity in our communities.

Michelle and David Church
Owners of Moonstone Farm (and herd share customers)

Lynn Gattis

From: Melissa M Reimers <aksavvylady5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 9:18 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: herd share

Categories: Lynn

please pass this bill by putting it into a statute - it's a awesome idea to grow ag in alaska and get quality healthy products to the community.

thank you

melissa reimers, a valley protein producer

Lynn Gattis

From: barbara@alaskabike.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 9:23 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: chris.tuck@akleg.gov
Subject: Please support HB 16

Categories: Lynn

Dear Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee,

For nine years, I have been supporting a local goat herd in Alaska in order to enjoy the weekly dividend of fresh, healthy goat milk and value added products (delicious and nutritious yogurt, kefir and cheese).

I've maintained a herd share for two reasons: first to support the local Alaskan food producer, which helps to insure our food security (which is a BIG DEAL for me!), and secondly to receive the freshest, most delicious and most nutritious dairy products possible.

I understand there's a bill in the House Finance Committee (HB 16) that is under consideration. I sincerely hope you vote favorably on this bill, protecting my herd share and others from wavering political regulation and putting it into statute, and also legalizing the value added products, as well.

This would be a win for those of us who value our Alaskan farmers and wish to retain our rights to choose the food we want.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Best regards,

Barbara Rowland
659 Lynnwood Dr
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 223-2327

Lynn Gattis

From: Judith Faber <msjudithfl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 9:30 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Herd share

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Judith Faber, 6191 D Hayfield Rd Wasilla, AK 99623 ____ and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for ____4____ years and it is of value to us because I need it for my health. Please vote yes on HB 16. Judith Faber
[ent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Lynn Gattis

From: Svetlana Nikolaeva <nikolaeva8080@mail.ru>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:00 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Bill HB16-YES

Categories: Lynn

Hi, my name is Svetlana Gapeslina and I am a herd share member. My family has been drinking raw milk for 9 years and it is of value to us because it is nutritious delicious whole raw and very local. Please vote yes on HB 16.

Svetlana
3287 N Gunflint trl
Wasilla AK
99623

Sent from [Mail.ru](#) app for iOS