

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HOUSE BILL 22 Version A

"An Act relating to shared ownership; and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products."

EMAILS IN SUPPORT

Index
2.22.21

1. Bill Simpson, Fairbanks
2. Alex Austin, Wisconsin
3. Ross Beal, Fairbanks
4. Mary Calmes, Fairbanks
5. Michelle Charlton, Fairbanks
6. Temple Dillard
7. Dorte Dissing, Fairbanks
8. Andrea Fraga, Sitka
9. Janelle Eklund, Kenny Lake
10. Art and Patty Griswold, Golden Heart Dairy
11. Brady Gross, Fairbanks
12. Maggie Hallam, Cripple Creek Organics
13. Shelly Jensen, Fairbanks
14. Chris Jensen, Fairbanks
15. Scott Justesen, Fairbanks
16. Janet Kidd, Fairbanks
17. Mette Kaufman, Fairbanks
18. Justin Maple, Fairbanks
19. Haley McCaig
20. Alana McLaughlin
21. Patricia Miller, Fairbanks
22. Erica Moeller, The Roaming Root
23. Jennifer Nu, Fairbanks
24. Genevieve Perreault, Fairbanks
25. Joe Orsi, Orsi Organic Produce
26. Amy Pettit, Executive Director, Alaska Farmland Trust

27. Karen Pyne
28. Tim Quintal, Fairbanks
29. Christie Shell

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: HB 22 -- milk herd shares and value added products
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:22:34 PM

Hello Thatcher Brouwer (and Representative Tarr)-

I live in Fairbanks and I'm writing in support of House Bill 22, "An Act relating to shared ownership; and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products." I support milk herd shares and the inclusion of value-added products in herd share legislation. This is a way to get more local food products to Alaskans. It reduces the amount of import of food to our communities and keeps the money that would go to Outside producers in Alaska, supporting local businesses.

Thanks,

Bill Simpson

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99775

--

Bill Simpson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:07:39 AM

Hello-

I am a livestock nutritionist from Wisconsin. I work with a few farmers in Alaska. One of my clients sent me the information on House Bill 22. Although I am not from Alaska, I think this is great and will benefit the Alaska dairy industry.

Dairy cattle's milk production is curved. Often peaking around 1 month after freshening and gradually decreasing after. At peak production, excess raw milk may have to be dumped. This bill allows producers to not only use excess raw milk in different ways, but offer their herd share members a broader range of products.

Thank you for your time.

Alex Austin, B.S.
Livestock Nutritionist
Crystal Creek Natural, LLC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this e-mail and attached document(s) contains confidential information that is intended only for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby advised that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the information is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete it from your system.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: HB 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:28:17 PM

To whom it may concern:

I thoroughly endorse HB 22 in hopes of it's passage. I'd love to be able to purchase dairy products from small family dairy farmers who struggle everyday to keep producing while their costs keep rising.

Ross Beal

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks Alaska 99707

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Cc: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20:43 PM

Greetings.

I want to go on the record in favor of House Bill 22 An Act relating to shared ownership: and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products.

Thank you for putting this bill forward and supporting agriculture in the state of Alaska. I too think that agriculture is key in the economic future of Alaska. Food security is finally being recognized for the place it deserves in our economy and in the lives of all Alaskans. Good stewardship of the land is integral to good agricultural practices as well as the health of people and the environments we inhabit.

Wishing you success in passing this bill and good health in the days to come.

Mary Calmes
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Mary Calmes
[REDACTED]

Laughter: The tangible evidence of hope.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for HB 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:48:11 PM

I am writing my legislature to ask for its full, non-partisan support of House Bill 22 which would allow small scale dairy producers to sell milk and dairy products legally and responsibly.

I participate in a herd share program with a local dairy farmer in Fairbanks. I grow as much of my own food as I can during our summers and my family hunts all of our own meat to fill our freezer. Supporting my local farmer is important to me, because I grew up around dairy farms in upstate NY that are all gone now. One aspect that is missing in our household is access to locally made cheeses, butter and other milk products. Allowing our local farmers to sell their milk products will give Alaskans access to another form of nutrition that can be accessed year round, since herd animals are obviously kept year round. Please support our local farmers and our families that want access to more local food products, too!

Agriculture is a bright spot in our state and our economy. Food security in Alaska is a big deal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Charlton
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, 99709

From: [REDACTED] Temple Dillard
To: [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2021 2:48:55 PM

I support such food security. Discontinue the disallowance. I'd love to be able to buy milk and butter from my livestock owning friends without violating frivolous laws.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:34:56 AM

Good morning.

I just learned that House Bill 22 would put the herd share program in statute and allow herd share owners to receive products produced from raw milk.

I think that is a fantastic idea. You have my full support

Thank you!

Dorte Dissing

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House bill 22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:30:57 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of House Bill 22. Passing this bill would bring more opportunity for Alaskan ranchers and farmers to diversify their offerings, and bring in much-needed income from value added products. Alaskan consumers could enjoy a wider range of locally produced dairy products, in a state where local food producers truly are heroes!

Increased opportunities for Alaskan farmers and ranchers helps ensure that they stay here, and stay in business, which is good for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Andrea Fraga

Middle Island Gardens LLC

Sitka, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:58:19 PM

Greetings,

I am in full support of House Bill 22, "An act relating to shared ownership; and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products." Raw milk is so very healthy. I grew up on a family farm on raw milk many years ago and am very healthy for it. My parents drank raw milk before I was even born. My teeth came in straight and I never had to wear braces. Dr. Weston A. Price studied many people around the world in the 1930's and found the most healthy people were those that drank raw milk and raw milk products and/or healthy saturated fats. Faces were round giving much room for the teeth to come in straight. There were none or very few cavities.

Thank you for your time on House Bill 22. I hope that it passes.

Sincerely,
Janelle Eklund
Kenny Lake, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Raw milk
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 7:19:16 PM

Hi. We are in favor of the bill and we have several customers that keep asking about value added products. At this time we have over 70 customers picking up product. Please call us if you have questions or need any more support.
Thank you,
Art and Patty Griswold
Golden Heart Dairy
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for HB22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:00:01 PM

Hi!

I've been an Alaskan resident for over 10 years now and think food security for Alaskans is a big deal! I would love to see HB22 passed to support herd share programs in our state and increase the availability of small-scale dairy producers' reach to Alaskan customers legally and safely.

Thank you!

From Fairbanks,
Brady

--

Brady Gross
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: support for House Bill 22
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:24:34 AM

Hello Representative Geran Tarr,

I am writing in support of House Bill 22 (to allow herd share members to share raw milk products). I am a farmer residing in the Fairbanks area. I have operated a herd share for cows' milk for five years. It is from this first hand experience that I make the following points:

- The limiting factor in the growth of my milk production is the management of the customers. I currently milk two cows. At peak production, there were over sixty people to be scheduled for weekly milk pick-up.
- Raw milk is highly perishable. If not matched with a herd share member immediately, it must be dumped. The income from that milk is lost.
- Milk products themselves are food security. That is how milk products came about. Today I am eating aged cheddar that was made from last winter's milk. What a contrast to raw milk with a shelf life of 7-10 days.
- Stable milk products could be offered to herd share members during periods when milk production is low or has seasonally stopped, enabling me to even out my income stream. This has the added advantage of keeping members in the loop. Starting and stopping production is extremely time consuming as it requires a great deal of communication with all members.
- Being able to share milk products would enable me to triple my milk production (at least) without adding more people to the herd share. Additionally, each trip a member makes for their milk is time better spent as they can also stock up on additional products.
- For myself, the opportunity to make products would be a critical step in the direction of running a Grade A creamery. I have spent years making cheese on a home scale. Without an outlet for my results, and no reason to practice on a larger scale, I am essentially stuck. I have considered this problem relentlessly. The approval of this bill would be the change I need to move forward.
- There is also a benefit for the greater agricultural sector of Alaska. More milk production means I would be buy more hay and more barley. I would produce and sell more compost which would fuel more gardens to grow more vegetables.

In closing, here at the end of road, with 100% of our dairy products being shipped in from the lower 48, I emphatically support House Bill 22. Let my farm be an example at how we can bring back a small-scale, diverse, sustainable food production.

Sincerely,
Maggie Hallam

Cripple Creek Organics



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support House Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:16:52 PM

Dear Alaska legislator,

I'm in full support of Bill 22.

Thank you
Shelly Jensen
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: HB22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:22:08 AM

Hello. I am a resident of Fairbanks and strongly support HB22. Thank you for your work on this project.

Chris Jensen

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22: Yes
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:51:03 AM

Greetings, Representative Tarr.

House Bill 22 is an excellent piece of legislation. I participate in a herd share and the quality of life for me and my family is greatly improved for it. I would love to experience more freedom in the use of our herd share milk, especially cheeses. I've been making some of my own cheeses, and it is truly an artisan craft. To be able to share with other herd members or to have other members' cheeses available to me would be a boon to local agriculture. One of the reasons Alaska does so much better than the rest of the country when the economy heads downward, is our local resources and our ability to sustain ourselves locally. HB 22 contributes to that sustainability and independence. You have my support.

Enjoy the day,

Scott Justesen

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Cc: [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Subject: House Bill 22
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:55:22 PM

Hello Mr. Brouwer. I hope you are doing well.

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 22: An Act relating to shared ownership; and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products. As an owner of a herd share in Fairbanks, I have enjoyed safe, healthy milk from a local dairy farmer for the past 3 years. The farmer gives all herd share owners the opportunity to see her complete milking process, from barn to milking station. Thus, we all gain an understanding of how the process works and the steps taken to make sure the cows are well taken care of and the milk is processed safely.

I feel way more secure in consuming this milk, compared to outside, large-scale dairy operations. Since my local dairy is small, it is much easier for the dairy farmer to maintain quality control of the milk. In fact, she has much more incentive to employ best practices than industrialized dairy operations, as all it would take is one bad batch, and the likely loss of at least some of the share owners. We've all seen recalls of various food products over the years, as a result of Listeria and E. coli outbreaks. And yet, these companies still operate. So the argument that raw milk is not safe to consume is unfounded. It does have a more limited shelf life, but I think all herd share owners bear this in mind when determining what quantity they want to purchase.

House Bill 22 is critical for providing Alaskans more options for securing local food, which as we have all seen during this pandemic, is not necessarily a given. It also will help support a local business that is providing a valuable service to the community. The passage of HB 22 would mean the difference between having to dump surplus fresh milk and being able to offer herd share owners value-added products such as fresh cheese curds, aged cheddar, yogurt, butter, brie, ice cream, etc.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my experience as herd share owner or if there is anything else I can do to support HB 22.

Sincerely,

Janet Kidd, Fairbanks

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House Bill 22 support
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:21:55 PM

Dear Representative Tarr,

I am writing to share my support of House Bill 22. I am a herd member in a small local dairy in Fairbanks which has provided my family fresh local dairy products that we otherwise would not have had access to. I feel restricting small dairy (and all agricultural) operations from doing the work that allows access to local food resources makes no sense as the local and sustainable food movement continues to grow in Alaska and across the country. I am heartened to see efforts underway to protect small farmers from overly-restrictive legislation that would deprive them of their livelihoods (and their life's work; my father was a small farmer whose work was wholly motivated by his passion to feed his community) and depriving their communities access to clean, local, nutritious and sustainable food.

Thank you for your efforts to protect our local food supply.

All the best,
Mette K

Mette Kaufman
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for house Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:40:30 AM

House bill 22 would revolutionize the ability of small dairy producers in Alaska to better serve the larger food system we have. This would aide the closing of a gap that currently requires out of state products being shipped in and I am in huge and tremendous support of this bill.

Thank you

Justin Maple

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks 99710

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: In support of HB 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:38:36 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my support for House Bill 22. As a current member of a local herd share, a food security advocate, and someone who appreciates fresh, local food options, this bill will be a game changer! In these uncertain times, more than ever, we need to do everything we can to support the well-being of our communities and this bill is a bright spot in that vision.

Thank you,

Haley McCaig

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Cc: [Maggie Hallam](#)
Subject: Support for House Bill 22
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:59:37 AM

We need more food security and access to healthy, Alaskan grown food. My family and I support House Bill 22.

In health,
Alana McLaughlin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: House bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:01:03 PM

Dear Thatcher Brouwer,

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 22. Alaska needs more food security and this bill is a firm step towards achieving it. I sincerely hope it passes.

Sincerely,

Patricia Miller

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for HB 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:33:34 PM

Hello Rep. Brouwer,

I'm email in support of HB 22 and expanding Alaska's dairy laws. For a number of reason I'm sure you're familiar with, agricultural sustainability should be a focus of our state, and supporting our small farmers is instrumental in gaining the food security and independence many in our state want.

Thank you for your time,
Erica Moeller
Owner,
The Roaming Root

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for House Bill 22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:09:02 PM

Hello Thatcher and Rep. Tarr,
I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 22 to support Alaska's dairy producers. I know of small producers in Fairbanks who offer the community outstanding quality milk from well-taken care of cows, all done in a way that produces a fresh local food product for the community and keeps local dollars circulating locally. Thanks for this bill. I hope that it passes.

Cheers,
Jennifer Nu
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Genevieve Perreault](#)
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: HB22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:37:47 AM

Hello, I am writing in support of HB22. I believe Alaska needs improved food security and I support farmers' efforts in selling their products locally. I'd much prefer to buy local dairy, produce, and meat instead of relying on food shipments from the lower 48 that can be imperiled by weather, pandemics, geopolitical/border issues, or other catastrophes. And I'd much prefer to support in-state small-scale local food production than out-of-state industrial agriculture and factory animal farms.

Thank you,
Genevieve Perreault
Fairbanks

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
[Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Subject: Support for the passage of House Bill 22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:53:07 PM

Hello Representative Geran Tarr,

I have been a commercial grower in Southeast Alaska for over a decade and would like to offer this letter of support to help the the passage of House Bill 22 which would allow for small-scale dairy farmers to sell cheese, yogurt and other value-added products along with the fresh milk they already offer to their herd share members

All of us in agriculture have been faced with many challenges, particularly in this past year with COVID and our AK economic downturn I support any effort that would enable any sector of our state agriculture industry to become more resilient, sustainable, and profitable

Sincerely,

Joe Orsi

--

Orsi Organic Produce

<http://www.orsiorganicproduce.com/Home.html>

***Alaska Grown, Locally Produced
& Certified Naturally Grown***



<https://certified.naturallygrown.org/producers/5995>

<https://www.panhandleproduce.com/#the-farm>

<http://saltandsoil.localfoodmarketplace.com/Products>

24 July 2019 Ag-Matters interview Orsi Garlic:

<http://www.radiofreepalmer.org/2019/07/24/agmatters-orsi-garlic-2019-7-24/>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Cc: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Re: January 2021, Agriculture Update
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:34:37 PM

This is great!
So glad to see HB 22 and happy to throw our full support behind it!
Cheers to a productive, safe and successful session Geran!
Sincerely,

Amy Pettit, Executive Director
Alaska Farmland Trust

[REDACTED]

Don't forget Farmland Trust when you Pick.Click.Give in 2021!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Support for House Bill 22
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:00:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brouwer,

I am a member of a small herd share in Fairbanks and I fully support the passage of House Bill 22.

I have been happily enjoying locally produced milk for months however I have not been able to purchase as much as I would like since my farmer is not able to fully grow her business due to restrictions in place at this point. My farmer assures me that passage of this bill is what she needs to expand to her full potential.

I love being able to purchase milk locally, support a local business and contribute to the further expansion of Alaskan agriculture. We have certainly learned over the past several months how important it is to increase Alaskan food production.

Is it appropriate at this time to contact my Senator and Representative in support of this bill?

Thank you,
Karen Pyne

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: Strongly support HB22
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:13:12 AM

Thatcher Brouwer:

I would like to express my strong support for HB22 concerning the sharing and sale of raw milk products. Food security is of utmost importance for our state and this bill would contribute substantially to that end.

Tim Quintal
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thatcher Brouwer](#)
Subject: In support of HB22
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:06:47 AM

Good morning,

I personally want to go on the record in favor of House Bill 22 An Act relating to shared ownership; and relating to the sharing and sale of raw milk and raw milk products.

Thank you for putting this bill forward and supporting agriculture in the state of Alaska.

Christie Shell