

From: [Maridon Boario](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of support
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 8:18:54 AM

SB 208

From: Tim and Lisa Meyers
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Maridon Boario
Subject: Letter of support

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing as a constituent from the Bethel region and a farmer in Western Alaska to express my strong support for Senate Bill 208 and House Bill 296.

Access to affordable, workable land is one of the biggest barriers facing farmers across our state. While Alaska has significant land resources, the current leasing structure often makes it financially unrealistic for small agricultural producers to expand or even sustain their operations. The requirement to appraise land based on its highest possible use, rather than its agricultural value, creates lease rates that are out of reach for many farmers.

This issue is actively preventing agricultural development. In cases I'm familiar with, parcels historically used for farming are being appraised as if they were intended for industrial or commercial development. This results in lease costs that do not reflect the realities of farming, especially in rural Alaska where margins are already tight and operating costs are high.

SB 208 offers a practical and much-needed solution by restructuring the fee schedule to account for agricultural use and land limitations. By aligning lease rates with actual farming value, this bill would make it possible for more Alaskans to access land, grow food locally, and contribute to the state's food security and economic resilience.

Supporting Alaska's farmers means supporting local food systems, reducing reliance on imported goods, and strengthening rural communities. Legislation like SB 208 and HB 296 is a critical step toward making agriculture viable and sustainable in our state.

I strongly encourage your support of these bills as they move through the Senate Finance Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to our region.

Sincerely,

Tim Meyers

Meyers Farm

Bethel, Alaska

Tim & Lisa Meyers

www.meyersfarm.net

meyersfarm@gmail.com

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." Albert Einstein