

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for SB200
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 1:34:28 PM

Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

As an Alaskan producer/agriculture supporter, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. The passage of this bill is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

My family's original Alaskan homestead is slated to be turned into one acre lot size subdivision this summer. There's been a loss of over 200 acres of productive agricultural property locally (south Kenai peninsula) in the last 5 years. If this trend continues I will no longer be able to produce beef, pigs, sheep, horses or hay. I've been reached out to several times recently about subdividing or selling my small lot, and it's not getting any easier to keep the farm alive with high costs of fuel, fertilizer, feeds, and other inputs. Without a tax reduction local farms will have no choice but to reduce production or close altogether.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,
Katy Jones

Rocking J Ranch
Homer Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 2:07:46 PM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,
As an Alaskan producer/agriculture supporter, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. The passage of this bill is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

As someone looking to establish a multi-revenue agritourism/experimental orchard, it is critically important to me that I am taxed fairly and that I can establish as many forms of revenue as possible - and supply line farming production is critical to me being able to have a viable farm.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,
Raina Collins
(Business Licensing Pending) Arctic Raven Industries, DBA White Raven Orchard & Apiary,
DBA White Raven Apothecary
Mat-Su Borough

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 4:41:52 PM

Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

As an Alaskan producer/agriculture supporter, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. The passage of this bill is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

In my life, I have seen many thousands of acres which should grow food and other agricultural produce which were converted to subdivisions, industrial parks and shopping malls. Those developments increase the value of property and so are favored by land control entities, to our detriment. In Alaska, it is more important to preserve and encourage agriculture than anywhere.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,

Laurenc L. DeVita

Sweetroot farm

Homer AK

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: SB200
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 11:44:22 AM

Hello House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

My name is Mimi Rooney and I am the owner of Brown Dog Flower Farm in Palmer, Alaska. I am writing to once again voice my support for a version of SB 200 that includes non-food farms such as my own.

I have been farming in Alaska since 2008. In the summer of 2022 my partner and I were able to buy land to expand our farm operation. I currently grow cut flowers on 1.5 acres and sell my products in an annual community subscription, at local farmers markets, to floral designers, and for weddings and other events.

By all measures my operation is a farm. I start seedlings, plant out my crops, care for soil, deal with nutrient and pest management, and harvest crops for sale. Sales of flowers grown on my farm far exceed the \$2500 minimum and I file a Schedule F. I have also participated in multiple programs through the US Department of Agriculture that define my cut flower operation as a farm. My land, however, does not qualify for an agricultural tax assessment under State Statute as it is written.

Our state has a growing number of mixed crop flower farms, all of which contribute to the local economy through the purchase of supplies, provide fresh Alaska Grown products to customers across the state, and maintain valuable soil acreage as farmland rather than putting it in development. It is important to allow these farms the same tax deferment status that other growers in the state have for land and structures used for farming activities. This will help growers deal with rising costs and encourage more local production of a wide variety of agricultural products.

Failing to include these and other “non-food” farms in this statute is a missed opportunity and, frankly, unfair. If the goals of this bill are local economic development, conservation of Alaska’s extremely limited agricultural lands, and supporting the growth of a healthy and more independent agricultural sector, excluding farms such as my own is counterproductive. Allowing tax deferment for small scale food producers (\$2500/annually) but not larger scale farms of other types, on the other hand, lets some producers take advantage of a significant tax benefit even though their impact on the local and economy and industry is relatively small.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mimi Rooney

Brown Dog Flower Farm

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB200
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 4:26:20 PM

Hello,

I urge you to support SB200 including all farms.

We need food security that our local growers can provide in urban and rural areas.

Sincerely,

Margaret Timmerman

2417 Tulik Dr, Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 200
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:40:34 PM

Please don't remove non food farms from SB 200. We are struggling with rising fuel and fertilizer costs. Good labor is next to impossible to find. We are an economic driver in our state and it's important to keep farm lands farm land. Don't make us sell out to housing developers to make ends meet

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Kurt Weichhand
Scenic Place Peonies
[REDACTED]
Homer AK 99603
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 200.
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:41:05 AM

I urge you to support all forms of farming.

Thank you
Barbara Dahl

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 200
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 6:45:14 PM

Hello House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

My name is Mimi Rooney and I am the owner of Brown Dog Flower Farm in Palmer, Alaska and I am writing in support of SB 200.

I have been farming in Alaska since 2008. In the summer of 2022 my partner and I were able to buy land to expand our farm operation. I currently grow cut flowers on 1.5 acres and sell my products in an annual community subscription, at local farmers markets, to floral designers, and for weddings and other events.

By all measures my operation is a farm. I start seedlings, plant out my crops, care for soil, deal with nutrient and pest management, and harvest crops for sale. Sales of flowers grown on my farm far exceed the \$2500 minimum and I file a Schedule F. I have also participated in multiple programs through the US Department of Agriculture that define my cut flower operation as a farm. My land, however, does not qualify for an agricultural tax assessment under State Statute as it is written.

Our state has a growing number of mixed crop flower farms, all of which contribute to the local economy through the purchase of supplies, provide fresh Alaska Grown products to customers across the state, and maintain valuable soil acreage as farmland rather than putting it in development. It is important to allow these farms the same tax deferral status that other growers in the state have for land and structures used for farming activities. This will help growers deal with rising costs and encourage more local production of a wide variety of agricultural products.

Thank you for your time,

Mimi Rooney
Brown Dog Flower Farm

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 200
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 2:36:19 PM

Please include ALL farmers in SB200. We would like all farmers to be supported and removing non-food farmers is not right.

Thank you

--

Robin Lindahl
Warm Memories
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please make farm use "all" farms crops
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 2:56:26 PM

By not supporting all agriculture crops, farming will be greatly impacted and will result in losing land that's currently under production, What waste! Let it grow back into willows. Please help us keep farming. Don't penalize Peony farmers. My business plan accounted for this tax break for farm use.
Marc and Ann Lee
Family Farmers

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Correction Request: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 3:30:36 PM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

As Alaskan producers, we are writing to express our strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. Food security is essential to Alaska's future, and producers like us are working every day to strengthen it.

Our roots began as a suburban homestead that consisted of perennials like asparagus, annual vegetables, chickens, and honeybees. Over time, we expanded into commercial farming to make a greater impact. Today, floriculture is the backbone of our small, agriculture-based business because it provides the sustainable revenue needed to support additional crops with lower returns on investment. Rising labor and input costs have made commercial produce production financially unviable at this time. We are growing slowly and intentionally so we can remain part of Alaska's agricultural landscape for years to come. Our budget is tight and high property taxes add further strain on our operations.

The passage of SB 200 is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms like ours survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming and is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,

Isobelle and Ryan Mahoney
Red Cabin Farm (Homer, Alaska)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for SB 200
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 12:55:45 PM

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Sincerely,
Dorothy DeBlauw
District 30/Kobe Ag
Sent from my iPhone

From: Kevin Klott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 9:34 PM
To: Rep. Donna Mears <Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose SB 200 – Protect Anchorage Taxpayers

Dear Representatives Mears and Himschoot,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 200, or at minimum to preserve the local control amendment that was added in the Resources Committee.

This bill would mandate that Anchorage expand its agricultural property tax exemption to horse farms, peony farms, and commercial greenhouses that do not produce food. Because of Anchorage's tax cap, this cost would be shifted directly onto residential property owners and renters. These are people who are already bearing a significant tax burden.

I do not believe the State Legislature should be dictating to Anchorage that it must subsidize non-food-producing properties. The amendment offered by Senator Dunbar was a reasonable compromise: it preserved the exemption for existing food-producing properties while giving Anchorage the local authority to decide whether to expand it further. That the sponsors found even this unacceptable is deeply concerning.

I ask that you protect Anchorage homeowners and renters by opposing the removal of the local control provision. Let Anchorage make this decision for itself.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Kevin Klott

From: red bradley [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 4:01 PM

To: Rep. Donna Mears <Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 200

No there should not be an exemption as outlined in your bill > these are operations that are income generating > as with any other business they should pay their fair share of taxes regardless.

There is a big difference between supporting farms that provide food security and those that are generating income from peonies, animal boarding and riding lessons or growing marijuana while shifting the burden to homeowners.

Let's get real . . . this is bad policy on your part.

red

[REDACTED]

From: Samuel Knapp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:11 PM
To: Senate Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Public Testimony for SB 200

Hello,

Thank you to the Senate Community and Regional Affairs committee for reading my testimony. My name is Sam Knapp, and I live in Fairbanks. I own and operate Offbeet Farm, which is a small vegetable farm focusing on storage crops sold during the winter. The farm stores roughly 30,000 lb. annually and sells through a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, local wholesale, the FNSB school district, and winter farmers markets. (The reason I'm unable to call in to testify is that the meeting coincides with a CSA pickup day.)

In its current form, I do not support SB 200. While I support opening tax breaks to some farmers engaged in floriculture, I believe the proposed changes to AS 29.45 make it less likely that municipalities will elect to enact those tax breaks compared to the current status quo. I was a core part of the effort to exempt farm-use buildings from property taxes in the FNSB in 2023. Food security was core to our arguments and was why, I believe, the tax exemptions received such strong public support, with 78% of voters voting yes. The FNSB assembly removed the exemptions passed in Proposition 2 in 2024 when updating borough code to match changes made in state law; every tweak you make to AS 29.45 has consequences. We're now trying to reinstate the tax exemptions passed by the voters for farm-use buildings, but it's gotten more difficult. The assembly is concerned with the costs and the benefits to borough residents. However, our core argument of improved food security is undercut by the changes proposed in SB 200—the removal of the food product mandate. The addition of floriculture may leave some leaders asking, “How would this benefit the community?” Much of the floriculture in Alaska is with peonies sold for export, and while agricultural exports do bring economic benefits to communities, those benefits are nebulous compared to agricultural goods produced and sold within a community. To make farm-use tax policy more palatable to municipalities, I suggest either retaining the language mandating food production or amending SB 200 so that the \$2,500 threshold must come from in-state sales. That way, municipalities can offer tangible benefits to residents when choosing to subsidize farms via tax policy—on one hand more food produced locally, and on the other hand more agricultural products grown locally. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Knapp

Offbeet Farm
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]
<https://offbeetalaska.com/>

Pronouns: he, him, his



ONE SEALASKA PLAZA, SUITE 302 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
TEL (907) 586-1325 • FAX (907) 463-5480 • WWW.AKML.ORG

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

March 25, 2026

RE: Public Testimony for SB 200

To: Senate Resources

The Alaska Municipal League, representing Alaska's 165 local governments, appreciates the effort to clarify and modernize the farm use assessment statute in SB 200. We generally support the intent behind the technical fixes advanced within this legislation.

Our concern is with the bill's expansion of the underlying exemption. As revised, the definition of "farm use" is broadened to include flowers, and the definition of "livestock" is expanded to expressly include horses. The bill also removes prior language tying qualifying agricultural products to human or animal consumption or the sustenance or grazing of livestock, and it deletes the requirement in the definition itself that the owner file a Schedule F.

From a municipal perspective, that is a significant policy change. It moves the bill beyond a narrow food security rationale and toward a broader tax preference for a wider range of private business activity. This is an expansion in principle, not merely a clarification. The targeted response to support food production is now broad and imprecise. The intent to support small, local agricultural producers is lost in the broadness of the bill. The shift away from a clearly food-oriented standard, combined with the broader inclusion of horses and flowers, risks turning a limited policy into a subsidy for certain businesses rather than a focused measure to strengthen local food systems.

We appreciate the movement toward technical fixes in this bill. However, the expanded exemption in the current form is problematic in principle and should be narrowed before the bill moves forward. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure food security in Alaska is advanced, with local governments in a position to be partners in its progress.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nils Andreassen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please pass SB 200
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 10:16:17 AM

I am a farmer and strongly support the passing of this bill. We farm out of passion, not profit, and feel good providing food for hundreds of people (Alaskans). We cannot afford to do without the support of this bill. Please, for everyone that eats, pass this bill.

River Bean
[REDACTED]

Arctic Organics
[REDACTED]
Palmer AK 99645
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB200
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 9:10:23 AM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Thank you for consideration of house bill 200.

Farming in Alaska has challenges as it does everywhere. One major hurdle is the high price of real estate and property tax. Although, farming is typically lower profits than most industries, it requires much more property/land in order to produce crops than most any other industry. This constitutes a problem for farmers, and many states and municipalities reduce or wave property tax for farming purposes.

Please consider quickly advancing HB200 in order bring needed relief for Alaska farmers as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Potter

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Rep. Donna Mears](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#)
Subject: Re: Should the Legislature raise property taxes in Anchorage to subsidize horse farms?
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 7:53:43 AM

Hello Senators,

I am a property owner in Anchorage, I am NOT interested in paying extra property taxes, so that those wealthy enough to own horses and farms, don't have to. Thanks, but no thanks.

Happy to support no or reduced taxes for farms that produce food sold locally, and that is all.

Thank you,

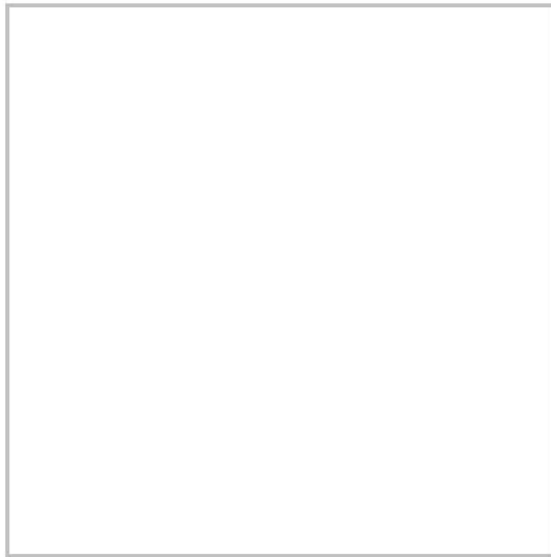
On Mon, May 4, 2026 at 3:11 PM Sen. Forrest Dunbar <forrest@senatordunbar.ccsend.com> wrote:

Should the Legislature raise property taxes in Anchorage to subsidize horse farms?

This week the State Senate is considering SB 200, a bill to expand the mandatory agricultural exemption on property taxes beyond goods for human and animal consumption. This bill would extend property tax subsidies to horse farms, peony farms, and commercial greenhouses producing things other than food, and is supported primarily by senators from Kenai and the Matsu Borough.

In Anchorage, because of the operation of our tax cap, the cost for this mandatory exemption within the municipality would be spread among other taxpayers— primarily residential taxpayers, both homeowners and renters.

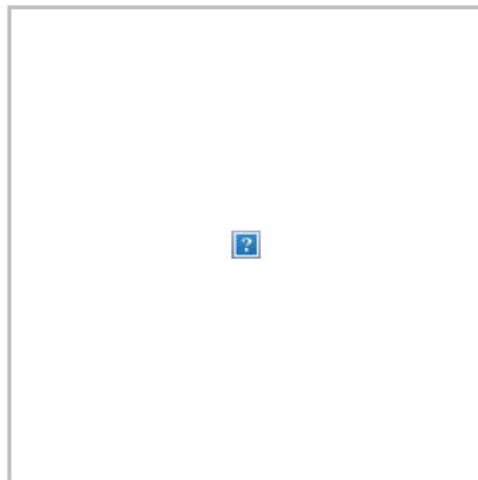
In the Resources Committee, I amended the bill to give local control to Anchorage and let Anchorage decide which parts of the exemption they wanted to adopt into our property tax law through ordinance. Unfortunately, an amendment is now planned to remove this provision and **MANDATE** that Anchorage expand the exemption to horse farms and other new, non-food properties (Anchorage always maintained the ability to keep the exemption for the handful of properties that already get it for growing food).



Please email your senator and let them know whether they should shift more property taxes onto residential property taxpayers. Again, all we asked for in Anchorage was the ability to make it optional and let our own local government decide—the ability to continue the property tax exemption for existing food-producing properties was never taken away. But that for some reason was unacceptable to the sponsors; Anchorage *must* be mandated by the State to expand this exemption to non-food producing properties, they argue.

If the bill passes, it goes next to the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee, which is chaired by Representative Donna Mears and Representative Rebecca Himschoot. Their email addresses are rep.donna.mears@akleg.gov and rep.rebecca.himschoot@akleg.gov. They will also be deciding whether to shift property taxes from horse farms onto homes in Anchorage and could benefit from hearing your voice.

Sincerely,
Senator Forrest Dunbar

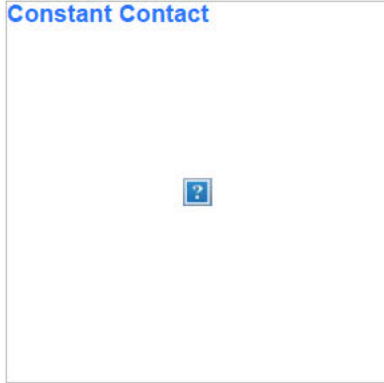




Office of Senator Dunbar | Alaska State Capitol 120 4th St, Ste 125 907-465-6944 | Juneau, AK
99801 US

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Constant Contact



From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please support the passage of SB 200
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 2:27:44 PM

My name is Nathan Heeringa, my wife Krista and I own and operate Far North Flowers, a peony cut flower farm here in Fairbanks.

We started our farm in 2012. Once we were able to meet the requirement that 10% of our gross income came from our farm operations in 2015, we qualified for Farm Use Deferral, which made the property taxes significantly less compared to the residential rate on our farm.

When I came to the Fairbanks Borough Assessment office last year with my tax return documents to fill out my farm use deferral application I was given a new form that excluded peony farming. I was told that I could "write in" Floriculture-Peony cut flowers under the list of qualified farming activities, but it was rejected and we had to pay the residential rate.

We provide seasonal employment to local youth who need an entry level job to build skills, a resume, and provide a reference for future employment. Several of our past employee's pursued higher education and are now providing professional services in our community. We take pride in being a "stepping stone" in their journey to a successful career.

The additional cost of having to pay residential property tax on our farm is a significant cut into the profitability of our farm, which is crucial to continuing its operation.

Please support SB 200.

Sincerely,
Nathan Heeringa

--

Far North Flowers
beauty to be shared

Nate + Krista Heeringa
Fairbanks, Alaska
farnorthflowers.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB200 is necessary to save farming
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 11:30:32 AM

I purchased 40 acres of land in 2016, cleared 8 acres, built 1500' of road, added 18" of top soil, ran electricity and added storage, as well as 40' refrigeration van and planted \$20,000 of peony roots. I spent several hundred thousand to develop this farm land. I sell peonies all over the US and can tell you the profit margin is very thin. The farm use tax break made all the difference in covering our costs. Peony farming is "farming". The land is cleared and under production, it just happens the crop is peonies at this time. This land has provided employment dozens of seasonal workers over the years. Please help us get the Farm Use tax break re-established.

Marc and Ann Lee
Family Farmers

Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

As an Alaskan and small market gardener & producer, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. The passage of this bill is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

This past year has been difficult to our food prices, despite what the inflation rate of 3% published states. Prices go far beyond that, making it so incredibly costly to live here, let alone afford the feed we bring in to feed our livestock. This coming season will bring more price increases to our food in this state. SB 200 does make a difference, and we need it passed.

The small producers do bring relief and quality food to our communities, and we need to see your support of this. This year, we need to focus on feeding our communities, thus the passage of SB200 is crucial.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,

Nancy Tone
Nancy's Alaska Farm Products


Anchorage AK 99507

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 11:46:27 AM

Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I am a 31 year old vegetable crop producer in Anchor Point, and every single day I am faced with increasing hardships and burdens when trying to produce food for my Alaskan community. The 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture paints an incredibly worrisome picture of the state of agriculture in our great nation. 39% of farmers are 65+ years old, coupled with a 9% REDUCTION in the replacing generation of farmers ages 35-64. We are staring down the barrel of a food security, and national security crisis.

The world is a difficult place right now, but I do believe there is hope! Since 2017 producers under the age of 35 have grown by 4%. These young farmers need all the help they can get battling almost non-existent margins, juggling multiple off-farm jobs to keep the lights on, skyrocketing land prices and input costs, and global economic disrupt to the supply chain. SB200 is a small but mighty helping hand for the next generation of farmers to continue battling day in and day out against the Goliath that is driving many producers out of food production in our great Alaskan communities.

Food security is objectively national security. A small break in the supply chain to Alaska has, and will continue to have, devastating consequences for communities. An argument over a slight loss in property tax revenue going to municipalities as a result of SB200 won't even be a part of the conversation when thousands of Alaskan begin emigrating from the state due to complete lack of affordability. Alaskan farmers are some of the most resilient and critical members of our communities, and SB200 is an incredibly effective way to make sure we remain secure, durable, and prosperous into the future as a state.

As an Alaskan producer, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

I ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow and provide resilience to Alaska.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for SB 200 Farm & Agriculture Land Assessment
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 9:47:06 AM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

As an Alaskan agriculture supporter, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 200 and to emphasize the critical need for this legislation to encompass all farmers across the state. The passage of this bill is essential because our agricultural land is under constant pressure from rising values and development; once prime soil is subdivided for housing or condos, it is lost to production. By providing a predictable property tax reduction in state statute, Alaska can help family farms survive and be available for future generations.

This program is critical for the entire agricultural ecosystem, including non-food sectors like floriculture and horse farming is essential for direct growth in the industry and growth in secondary industries such as equipment dealers, feed stores, and soil suppliers. At a time when farmers are facing skyrocketing costs for fuel, fertilizer, and freight—factors the state cannot control—SB 200 offers a meaningful way for the state to lower a fixed cost and help these businesses stay viable.

Supporting our farmers at this level fuels economic development through agritourism and value-added manufacturing, creating local jobs and ensuring that money continues to circulate within our communities. Alaska needs every one of its farmers to build a secure, resilient, and thriving future.

I garden, but not commercially. I shop the farmers' markets, and buy local produce as much as possible. With about 5% of our food currently being produced in the state of Alaska, we are vulnerable to disruptions (increased fuel costs, and decreased fertilizer availability, for example). We need to produce more food locally.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 200 to ensure our agricultural industry continues to grow.

Respectfully,

Anne Freitag

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99502

Respectfully,

Rebecca Knudsen
Working Hands Farm Alaska
House District 6

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Genevieve Mina](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#)
Subject: tax breaks for ag lands
Date: Sunday, May 10, 2026 7:08:51 PM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I do not support Anchorage's inclusion in SB 200.

I don't believe it's our city's best interest to support our inclusion in this bill. Our main agricultural interest is food security. We need policies that explicitly advance this goal, and allowing Anchorage horse farms and other non-food growers to access tax breaks does nothing to advance more food production. Hunger is off the charts here and people do not have easy access to subsistence foods. Anchorage also does not have a sales tax like many other communities; our property taxes are it.

The citizens of Anchorage should get to decide how this is applied to us, and we can work out a solution that works best for our community.

Would you like it if we decided tax policies for your communities?

Sincerely,
Emily Becker

--

Emily Becker
[REDACTED]

Scott Mudge, President
Scott.Mudge@yahoo.com



Ken Hoffman, Executive Director
khoffman@alaskafb.org

March 13, 2026

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 200 – Property Tax Reductions for Alaska’s Farms

Chair Giessel and Senate Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Alaska Farm Bureau and our statewide membership of farmers, ranchers, and agricultural supporters, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 200 Farm & Agricultural Land Assessment. This legislation is a practical, common-sense measure designed to provide much-needed relief to an industry that is both a national outlier for its growth and a victim of rapidly rising global input costs.

While Alaska is one of the few states in the country where the number of farms is actually increasing, our producers are fighting significant economic headwinds. According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, production costs for Alaska’s farmers have surged by 33% from 2017 to 2022. These costs—many of which are outside a farmer’s control—threaten the viability of an industry essential to diversifying our state’s economy. SB 200 provides a critical tool to offer these hard-working Alaskans relief where it matters most: their bottom line.

Agriculture in Alaska is evolving and is very diverse, SB 200 ensures our tax policy reflects that reality by including our non-food farmers in the property tax reductions. The growth in these sectors is not just theoretical; it is proven:

- **Floriculture and Bedding Crops:** Sales grew from under \$13 million in 2017 to over \$16 million in 2022.
- **Cut Flowers:** This sector has seen a staggering 150% increase in sales over the same period.

Whether a farmer is growing potatoes or peonies, they are keeping land in active production and contributing to the local economy.

Supporting the growth of all agricultural sectors creates a ripple effect throughout our local communities:

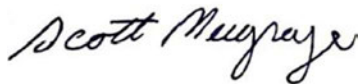
- **Agritourism:** Domestic and international visitors travel to Alaska specifically for peony-related events, spending money in local hotels, restaurants, and retail stores.

- **Manufacturing:** We see an emerging market for value-added products like specialty teas and extracted oils for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, which create local jobs.
- **Supply Chain:** Growing our industry creates the "critical mass" needed to attract new suppliers to the state or spark the emergence of Alaska-based businesses for things like fertilizer and pest control.

Ultimately, SB 200 offers a clear choice: we can provide a modest tax tool that allows a farmer to scale their business, or we can watch that land be subdivided and sold for development, ending its productive economic life.

We urge you to support SB 200 to ensure Alaska agriculture continues to grow, innovate, and employ our neighbors.

Sincerely,



Scott Murgage, President
Alaska Farm Bureau