

From: kbgarrett@alaska.net
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Input regarding State budget
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:31:18 PM

Hello,

Having worked in state employment for 30 years, it's my opinion that creating a separate Department of Agriculture is a waste of state funds. DNR is not a particularly large department in the first place, and it already has a Division of Agriculture. Bulk up that division, if that is what is needed, but don't waste staff time and state funds to create an entirely new department. From an administrative and technological perspective, it creates a mess, especially when more things are tracked in online systems. It impacts more than the new department when all the enterprise-wide systems need to be updated. State employees are already dealing with a lack of experienced workers, and adding this change is unnecessary.

In addition, I would like the State's budget to be focused on maintaining a strong educational system, a defined benefits retirement plan and increased wages to help retain state employees, and maintenance of the ferry system. If an income tax and a reduced PFD are needed to fund those goals, I am in support of that, too.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

Kim Garrett