

**From:** [Taylor Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Department of AG  
**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025 1:32:12 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my strong support for the creation of a Department of Agriculture in Alaska. I truly believe that establishing this department would be in the state's best interest. Our farmers and ranchers are facing significant challenges and desperately need support to thrive. As a 26-year-old with a passion for farming, my dream of starting a farm feels increasingly unattainable due to the lack of resources and assistance available here. A dedicated department could make a real difference, providing the necessary support to help both current and future farmers succeed in Alaska's unique environment.

Alaska has a unique agricultural environment, and local farmers face challenges like short growing seasons and extreme weather. A dedicated Department of Agriculture could provide resources, research, and support to help farmers maximize production and improve yields in these challenging conditions. As Alaska experiences shifts in climate, agriculture must adapt to new conditions. A department could support farmers in transitioning to sustainable practices, experimenting with climate-resistant crops, and finding ways to cope with changing weather patterns.

Alaska relies heavily on imported food, which can be expensive and vulnerable to disruptions in supply chains. A Department of Agriculture could help promote local food production, reducing dependency on outside sources and improving food security for residents. The agricultural industry could provide new opportunities for economic growth, especially in rural communities. A department could promote agricultural jobs, support small farms, and help diversify the state's economy.

Farmers and agricultural producers may have difficulty accessing funding and grants without a centralized body to advocate for their needs. A Department of Agriculture could create programs that provide financial support to local producers for equipment, land conservation, and infrastructure development. A state Department of Agriculture could help create stronger partnerships between government agencies, farmers, and local businesses. By bringing these stakeholders together, Alaska could create policies that support agriculture and build a thriving local food system.

Lastly, I am surprised that Alaska, a state of our vast size and resources, remains one of only two states that does not have a Department of Agriculture. Given the unique challenges and opportunities our state faces, it's hard to understand why we haven't yet established this crucial branch of government. It's time for Alaska to take this step and provide the support our farmers, ranchers, and future agricultural leaders need to succeed.

Thank you,

Taylor Wilson

