

**From:** [Taylor Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Department of AG Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:20:46 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to you again in regards to the Department of AG. I had some thoughts this morning about the impact it could have on our local businesses. I work for Craig Taylor Equipment, and if you aren't familiar with us, we have been around since 1954. Our mission is to be Alaska's most trusted and reliable source for building Alaska's future. We are Alaska's exclusive dealer for John Deere AG & Turf division, Bobcat equipment, DEVELON, Peterbilt, Bluebird and more. We serve a wide array of industries that are vital to Alaska's economy, including agriculture, mining, construction, and transportation. I foresee our company doing really well with the establishment of the Department of AG. This would give us the opportunity to sell more agricultural equipment. Additionally, the department's establishment would likely spur the need for key infrastructure, such as processing and cold storage facilities—both of which are desperately needed in our region. Construction equipment would need to be used to build those facilities. It would also support our Peterbilt stores as we have more trucks on the road going from farms to facilities. Mountain View Trucking and Wilson Brothers are two local companies already committed to working with local farmers and being their distributor.

The benefits of this initiative extend beyond Craig Taylor Equipment. Other local suppliers, such as Pioneer Equipment, ESI, and White Spruce would similarly stand to gain from this development. The economical impact goes beyond our equipment dealers. Local feed stores such as Cadre Feeds, Alaska Farm Supply, Alaska Feed Company and so many more would benefit as there will be a bigger need for their services. Agritourism is on the rise and Alaska greatly benefits from tourism. Large scale farms would also give us a chance to really step into agritourism and market that to travelers coming in. Agritourism here is different than in the lower 48 because of our unique produce. For example, our carrots are much sweeter than anything you can find in the states because our long, cool summer days allow the root to develop a higher sugar content. Of course we also have the giant vegetables we are able to grow.

As agriculture continues to expand, there is a valuable opportunity to introduce an AG mechanics program at colleges or trade schools. This initiative would benefit individuals transitioning out of the military who are interested in pursuing a career in this field, as well as FFA students who have gained experience in AG mechanics during their school years. Such a program would help foster skilled workers to meet the growing demands of the industry.

Another positive impact would be securing contracts for camps that house oil field workers and miners to exclusively purchase meat and produce from local farmers and ranchers. It's difficult to understand why, with 7,000 head of cattle on Umnak Island, we are not seeing that beef on Alaskan shelves, despite the potential for local sourcing. We have the space to raise livestock here and hardly anyone can afford to do it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these thoughts. I sincerely hope you will give these ideas serious consideration, as they have the potential to positively impact our local economy and strengthen Alaska's agricultural industry.

-Taylor Wilson