

HOUSE BILL 217 THE ALASKA FOOD FREEDOM ACT

REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR



FOOD FREEDOM GOALS

1

Increase direct
producer to
consumer sales

2

Support
entrepreneurs

3

Create more
opportunities for
small scale
producers

4

Strengthen our
local food systems

5

Grow our local
economies

HOUSE BILL 217 DOES FOUR THINGS

- Adds food freedom language, including defining Farmers Markets in statute
- Allows farmers to sell products through online purchasing mechanisms
- Gives DNR receipt authority for Alaska Grown logo
- Gives state and municipalities more freedom to purchase more Alaska grown produce 7% to 15% procurement differential



- Farmers Market Definitions:
- "Farmers Market" means a building, structure, place, or platform used by two or more farmers for the direct sales of farm and food products to consumers
- "Farm and Food Products" means any agricultural, horticultural, forest or other product of the soil or water, including but not limited to, fruits and fruit products, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, fish and fish products, shellfish and shellfish products, grain and grain products, apple cider, kombucha, ornamental and vegetable plants, nursery products, fiber or fiber products, firewood, and cut flowers
- Online sales option to update “face to face” regulations

ALASKA COTTAGE FOOD LAWS NEED UPDATES



ALASKA FARMERS MARKET SALES

\$1.25 MILLION FAIRBANKS
\$500,000 HOMER
\$100,000 KODIAK
\$19,000 MT. VIEW



- First state to pass policy was Wyoming in 2015
 - *"Wyoming has had roaring success[,] and we continue to capitalize on those aspects," Lindholm tells me, "in fact the Agriculture committee for the State of Wyoming will spend the summer studying ways to expand on the Food Freedom Act."* (Wyoming State Rep. Tyler Lindholm (R))
- Bills have been considered in Utah, Maine, Colorado, Virginia
 - *"Food Freedom means more small farms."* (Virginia Food Freedom)
- Alaska Farm Bureau \$5 Alaska Challenge could raise \$180 million for Alaska economy

A FOOD
FREEDOM
MOVEMENT
IS
GROWING
ACROSS THE
UNITED
STATES AND
LOCALLY



INVITED TESTIMONY

ALASKA FARM BUREAU
ALASKA STATE CHAMBER
HOMER FARMERS MARKET
TANANA VALLEY FARMERS
MARKET
KODIAK FARMERS MARKET