

Alaska's agriculture industry is growing, and we have so much potential to do more. We need a Department of Agriculture to more quickly and fully realize the potential of the agriculture industry. Please support Senate Bill 128.

Having a department will bring more focus to the agriculture industry's needs. A cabinet-level position means agriculture will be at the table, proposing budgets and policies to better serve our farmers and ranchers. There will also be more consistency through changing administrations; a department means there will always be a commissioner focused on agriculture. A commissioner brings more clout when dealing with larger markets, other departments and federal agencies. This is an important step to building a strong agriculture industry, which will build a stronger Alaska.

Senate Bill 128 is a great way to improve our food security. We can get a department started and make changes as needed in the future. Supporting agriculture will improve our food security, diversify our economy, and help Alaska become more self-reliant.

Thank you,

Ron & Marji Illingworth

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