



ALASKA FARM BUREAU, INC.

Bryce Wrigley, President
bjwrigley@gmail.com

Amy Seitz, Executive Director
amy.seitz@gmail.com

March 18, 2015

Representative Mike Chenault
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Thank you for your efforts to increase resource development in Alaska. The Alaska Farm Bureau supports your efforts with HB 100.

As you are aware, opening the Agrium plant again will benefit the agriculture community. For years many farmers purchased fertilizer from the Nikiski plant. When Agrium closed, fertilizer had to be shipped in, adding a significant increase to the operating costs for hay, barley, oats, straw, etc. This, in turn, increased the costs to farmers purchasing these products for feed, as well as for consumers wanting to purchase local food.

Having a local fertilizer source is not just an economic benefit to agriculture, but also solidifies Alaska's food security. Imagine the incalculable value of having an in-state fertilizer source in the event of some major disruption in West Coast ports.

The Alaska Farm Bureau also supports this bill for the other economic benefits to Alaska. There will be an increase in jobs, the obvious ones at the plant, as well as the indirect jobs generated by a facility like KNO. Having a steady market for gas supplies gives a reason for explorers to invest.

The economic benefits from increasing gas exploration and production as well as decreasing the costs for the agricultural industry are many. Each dollar we can keep in Alaska, instead of going outside for things such as fertilizer, will get re-circulated in feed stores, grocery stores, hardware stores, etc.

Thank you again for efforts to benefit the gas and agricultural industries with House Bill 100.

Sincerely,



Bryce Wrigley, President
Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc