

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Juli Lucky  
**Subject:** FW: Rural vet board member  
**Attachments:** image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Lea McKenzie [mailto:deltalea@icloud.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 11:59 AM  
To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Rural vet board member

Dear Committee Members

Yesterday I heard the news that sets are mission of improving rural vet care in Alaska in backwards direction. In the commerce there was an addition to SB 51. This added a rural vet member. The is horrible news for rural Alaska. This sounds like a vet board manipulation or a vet with financial concerns of non profit vets coming to Alaska and taking what they claim as their money. If a small town vet gets on the board instead of a public person from the bush, rural Alaska will never see the help that it needs. Small town vet are the ones most complaining about non profits vets. Dr Crusberg might have an interest in being on the board. He's hatred towards non profit vets and spay/neuter is well seen in his letters. Please read his letters and the newspaper article where he states his concern is financial.

Letters attached.

If you have any question please call me at 907 505 0265 Lea Ann McKenzie

April 4, 2006

To: Heart For Animals     ATTN: Lea Ann McKenzie  
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: Clinton W. Crisberg, DVM  
Delta Veterinary Service  
PO Box 588  
Delta Junction, AK 99737

I just took the skin stitches out of an animal that was "sprayed" by your organization utilizing the Bush Vet in someones garage on March 26, 2006. The new owner was disgusted that such procedures were being done in that place without proper equipment & facility. I have to agree. It is very unprofessional & bordering on malpractice to be conducting business in that manner.

I am also very disappointed that you & your organization are supporting such low grade operations. I have invested a substantial amount in time, effort & money to provide a clean, up to date facility to serve the animals of Delta Junction. Why you see fit to try & save a few dollars by bringing in a cut rate guy is very insulting & I believe not in the best interest of the animals in the long run. The "Bush Vet" has nothing invested here, doesn't care & is not here to provide aftercare or emergency service afterwards. He is a good veterinarian but he practices poorly.

I feel that I can no longer support your organization and will encourage all the people I know and all the business I know to not support you as well.

In my opinion your organization should concentrate on finding stray or abandoned animals a good home, let the new owners worry about sterilizing their new pets. The notion that spray/neuter clinics reduce.

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Juli Lucky  
**Subject:** FW: Public testimony on SB51 and HB144

**From:** Scarlett Hall [mailto:bushalaska1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster ; Rep. Paul Seaton ; Rep. Les Gara ; Rep. Jason Grenn ; Rep. David Guttenberg ; Rep. Scott Kawasaki ; Rep. Daniel Ortiz ; Rep. Lance Pruitt ; Rep. Tammie Wilson ; Rep. Cathy Tilton ; Rep. Mark Neuman ; Rep. Louise Stutes ; Sen. Lyman Hoffman ; Sen. Anna MacKinnon ; Sen. Click Bishop ; Sen. Peter Micciche ; Sen. Mike Dunleavy ; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof ; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** Public testimony on SB51 and HB144

Re: SB51 and HB144 Public testimony

Good Day,

My family and I live in a remote part of Alaska and veterinary care is almost non-existent. The board is not friendly to rural Alaska. Low cost spay/neuter clinics and other veterinary care has been hindered by the board. It is an obvious favor to veterinarians who apparently do not care that work gets done in the villages, expecting that potential clients might not make the 550 mile round trip drive (in our case from Eagle to Delta).

For many years I was the Rabies Vaccinator Layperson until the state removed us from the program. That leaves our area hurting for rabies shots. The town of Eagle approached the state and the board asking for the program to be continued in our area and that we would shoulder the full cost but were turned down. Why???

The board does not need to be extended for 8 years. Two to three years would be fine. That way we might get a chance to have a voice and be heard.

Also, a rural person from a small community of less than 1000 needs to be on the board. Otherwise there is no one to speak for those of us who need veterinary care and cannot get it.

Please change the wording of the bills to include a rural person from a very small community and do not extend the board for 8 years. We are struggling to get help out here and the current board does not seem to understand the problems that we face. Having someone on the board and being able to replace the board at a more reasonable amount of time would help greatly.

Thank You,

Scarlett and Wayne Hall

P O Box 161

Eagle, AK 99738

989-785-0597 (computer phone)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Juli Lucky  
**Subject:** FW: SB 51/HB144

**From:** Kimi Ross [mailto:coppervalleyvet@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 2:38 PM

**To:** Rep. Neal Foster ; Rep. Paul Seaton ; Rep. Les Gara ; Rep. Jason Grenn ; Rep. David Guttenberg ; Rep. Scott Kawasaki ; Rep. Daniel Ortiz ; Rep. Lance Pruitt ; Rep. Tammie Wilson ; Rep. Cathy Tilton ; Rep. Mark Neuman ; Rep. Louise Stutes ; Sen. Lyman Hoffman ; Sen. Anna MacKinnon ; Sen. Click Bishop ; Sen. Peter Micciche ; Sen. Mike Dunleavy ; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof ; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** SB 51/HB144

Dear Legislators,

My name is Kimi Ross. I have been an Alaska resident since 1997, living in the NW Arctic region of the state (where I was a teacher) and more recently in the Copper Valley area. I have had a recreational dog team, raised goats and chickens, and had house cats and dogs. Animals are an important part of my family.

As a Bush resident, and then as a rural resident, access to veterinary care was limited. Even as a teacher with income, finding the time and resources to get regular veterinary care was difficult, and often left me without a basic support system for providing for my animals, especially in the face of an emergency. While residing on the road system, vet care appeared to be more in reach, but in reality, the ability to establish a relationship with a veterinarian willing to serve as a resource was difficult and there were times my animals suffered as a result.

My experience with lack of vet care became a driving force for earning a veterinary degree myself. I graduated in 2016 and came back to the Copper Valley, where I am currently practicing. My perspective has changed from pet/animal owner to that of veterinarian and I have a better understanding of the cost of providing services in a rural area. Nevertheless, I am convinced that quality veterinary care can be provided, to start my own practice and try to address some of the needs of rural residents and improve the welfare of animals under their care.

I strongly support adding a *rural public member to the veterinary board, rather than a rural veterinarian*, as proposed in SB 51/HB 144. Veterinary regulations and issues impact everyone in the state and having a rural/Bush perspective on the board will help ensure the veterinary needs of rural residents are not overlooked. This is not only in the interest of animal welfare, but public health as well, as the potential for transmission of zoonotic disease is increased in areas where there is limited availability or access to veterinary expertise.

Sincerely,  
Kimi L Ross

*"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you." Job 12:7*

**Kimi L. Ross, DVM**  
Copper Valley Veterinary Services  
PO Box 170  
Copper Center, Alaska 99573  
907-822-4321

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Josie Breeding Owen <josie@flyAAT.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 11:31 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Louise Stutes; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** SB51 and HB144  
**Attachments:** Veterinary Work.pages.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Image 6.jpg; ATT00002.htm

Re: SB51 and HB144

Hello Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to ask that you please support legislation to place a resident from a rural Alaska village resident (preferably from a village of less than 1000-people) on the Alaska Veterinary Board. This position would allow rural Alaska to have a voice about animal health and safety, as it relates to living in village communities.

As a co-owner of a small rural air carrier, my husband and I interact and work with many rural village communities that have been negatively impacted by lack of veterinary access. We help when we can by donating air fare for animals to fly to town for veterinary care, such as routine vaccinations, spay/ neuters, surgeries, responsive services and adoption. However, of many people living in remote areas, the additional expense beyond travel, which includes hotel, car rental, and boarding an animal in town, are barriers to access for animal health and wellness. Animal health care has implications for public health and wellness, and thus we need to take care of each to ensure the public health.

At our business, we have long believed that flying veterinarians to the villages would be the best way to serve the communities and their animals. However, when we started asking our Anchorage veterinarians about the prospect of traveling to our rural villages, we learned that most city veterinarians have practices, and they simply cannot take the time away from their local commitments, let alone commit to the time they felt would be required to remain in the villages and ensure appropriate access to aftercare. Recently, we met Brian Barube of ANTHC's Environmental Health Program and the Alaska Native Rural Veterinary, Inc. (a group of volunteer veterinarians and veterinary assistants) who share a similar mission to take traveling veterinarians to villages to provide vaccinations, spay and neuters and other services. The veterinary clinics were a success from both the anecdotal feedback from our customers and village friends who participated and from the actual data collected. Attached below is a copy of the data results from their recent visit to our Upper Kuskokwim Villages.



**ALASKA AIR TRANSIT**

2331 Merrill Field Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99501

T 907-276-5422  
F 907-276-5400

e-mail: [charters@flyAAT.com](mailto:charters@flyAAT.com)

16 March 2017

News Bulletin: Thank you.

The free local spay and neuter veterinary clinic sponsored by Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Rural Veterinary, Inc. and Alaska Air Transit provided the communities of the Upper Kuskokwim with the following veterinary services in support of healthy pets and healthy communities:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| McGrath - | 18 spays and neuters,<br>50 vaccinations, and 5 exams;  |
| Nikolai - | 18 spays and neuters,<br>1 tumor removals, 30 vaccinations,<br>5 exams, and 1 euthanasia; and |
| Takotna - | 15 spays and neuters, 4 exams,<br>and 25 vaccinations.  |

We would like to extend a big thank you to the volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians who donated their time and skills as well as all of the local community members who helped organize and make this wellness event happen!



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lea Mckenzie <deltalea@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Louise Stutes; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Berta Gardner; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Cc:** LIO Delta Junction  
**Subject:** Rural vet board member

Dear Committee Members

Yesterday I heard the news that sets the mission of improving rural vet care in Alaska in a backwards direction. In Commerce they made an addition to SB 51. This added a rural vet member. The is horrible news for rural Alaska. This sounds like a vet board manipulation or a vet with financial concerns of non profit vets coming to Alaska and taking what they claim as their money. If a small town vet gets on the board instead of a public person from the bush, rural Alaska has little chance of getting the help it needs. The answer for help in rural Alaska isn't going to come from vets permanently licensed in Alaska. Some of Alaska vets do offer some relief, this relief is a drop in the bucket. Dr Crusberg might have an interest in being on the board. His hatred towards non profit vets and spay/neuter clinics is well noted in his letters. Please read his letters and the newspaper article where he states his concern is financial.

Letters attached.

If you have any question please call me at 907 505 0265

Lea Ann Mckenzie

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Pamela Lynn <aksunshine123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Louise Stutes; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** Rural veterinary problem and solution

Dear Finance Committee members,

I have heard that you are deciding on whether or not to have a rural vet on the veterinary board as an act of representation for the people in the bush. I want to say that I appreciate your efforts in trying to solve our very serious situation and severe lack of veterinary care in the rural communities, but, this will only make it worse. I have learned that rural vets have caused a lot of our problems in obtaining traveling, low cost vets. If you truly want to help our animals and protect the people from an impending rabies epidemic, I would recommend that you instead vote for a rural "public member" on that board. This will be the best scenario for now to have real honest representation for the bush people and their animals.

Thank you for all your hard work

Pamela Samash

Nenana, AK

907-322-2201

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** heather <heazim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 7:21 PM  
**To:** Heather Zimmerman  
**Subject:** Veterinary

Hello,

My name is Heather Zimmerman. I am a nineteen year resident of Talkeetna, Alaska. I have been a dog musher since 1995.

Veterinary medicine is much needed in rural Alaska. The distance to a veterinarian for me is 1 hour away. This can mean life or death for an animal.

Veterinary medicine for animals should come far before economic interests everywhere. That goes for human medicine too. I support a rural non veterinarian to be on the State Veterinary Board. I believe they will better represent the whole rural population rather than a person already in the industry.

I feel one public member from a road system rural town and one from a village not on the road system would create a more comprehensive and diverse group to represent the veterinary needs of rural Alaska.

Please don't let red tape take away from delivering veterinary care in rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

Heather Zimmerman  
Talkeetna Alaska 99676