

**From:** [Susan A](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** SCCR1  
**Date:** Monday, March 03, 2025 10:00:24 AM

---

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Senate Special Concurrent Resolution No. 1 (SSCR 1), which disapproves Executive Order No. 136 issued by the Governor of Alaska. It is my firm belief that rejecting this executive order is in the best interest of Alaska's agriculture, tribal communities, and fiscal health. The creation of a new Department of Agriculture, as proposed, would introduce unnecessary bureaucracy, disrupt current operations, and further strain the state's limited financial resources.

### 1. Unnecessary Expansion of Government

The establishment of a new Department of Agriculture represents an unwarranted expansion of state government that would only add another layer of bureaucracy to an already complex and resource-constrained system. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) already effectively manages agriculture-related functions, and duplicating these efforts through a new department would lead to administrative inefficiencies and wasteful spending. This unnecessary bureaucracy would consume millions of taxpayer dollars that could be better spent supporting existing programs that directly benefit Alaskan communities, particularly Alaska Native tribes.

### 2. Disruption of Effective Operations and Risk to Tribal Sovereignty

The Department of Natural Resources has long been a reliable steward of agricultural operations in Alaska. A shift of responsibilities to a new department could cause significant disruptions in the delivery of services to farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders. Moreover, the failure to consult with Alaska Native tribes about this shift is concerning. Under Executive Order 13175, the state is required to consult with tribes when decisions affect their interests and resources. The lack of consultation violates the principles of tribal sovereignty and undermines the relationship between the state and Alaska Native communities. Additionally, the shift in management could inadvertently infringe on tribal land use rights and subsistence practices under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2021). These tribes have rights that must be respected in any government reorganization that affects agricultural and land management policies.

### 3. Fiscal Irresponsibility and Unnecessary Expenditure

The financial burden imposed by Executive Order No. 136 would be significant. Establishing a new department requires funding for new staff, infrastructure, and administrative processes. In a time when Alaska faces budget deficits and fiscal pressures, such a proposal is fiscally irresponsible. The creation of a new department would not only lead to inefficiency and additional operational costs, but it would also divert precious resources from existing programs that serve communities most in need, especially those in rural Alaska and among Alaska Native populations. Rather than expanding the government, these funds should be allocated to supporting existing agricultural initiatives, fostering sustainable growth, and improving public safety and services in Alaska's most vulnerable communities.

#### 4. Lack of Transparency and Strategic Planning

A major concern with Executive Order No. 136 is the lack of transparency and a clear, well-developed strategic plan for how the creation of a new department would improve Alaska's agricultural practices. Without a cost-benefit analysis, it is impossible to justify the proposed reorganization. This plan lacks transparency in how it would address long-term sustainability or resolve current agricultural challenges. Strategic planning should involve thorough consultations with stakeholders, including Alaska Native communities, to ensure that long-term sustainability and economic stability are prioritized. Without such plans, this reorganization will likely result in further inefficiencies and a lack of coherence in the management of state resources.

#### 5. Harm to Long-Term Sustainability and Alaska Native Communities

The creation of a new Department of Agriculture risks diverting resources from sustainable practices that directly benefit Alaska's communities, including Alaska Native tribes. These communities rely heavily on the management of natural resources, including fishing, hunting, and subsistence rights, which are central to their cultural, economic, and nutritional well-being. By creating a new department that does not fully address the needs of these communities and fails to prioritize sustainable resource management, the state risks exacerbating the challenges faced by rural Alaska Native communities. It could also undermine the subsistence rights of Alaska Native people by overcomplicating existing systems that already respect tribal sovereignty and cultural practices.

#### Conclusion: A Strong "No" Vote Is Critical

For all the reasons outlined above, I strongly urge the Alaska State Legislature to vote "no" on Executive Order No. 136. This executive order risks introducing unnecessary inefficiencies, financial burdens, and disruptions to well-established agricultural systems. Moreover, it fails to respect the sovereignty of Alaska Native tribes and undermines their rights under federal law. Rejecting this executive order is a necessary step to protect Alaska's agricultural sector, safeguard tribal rights, and ensure fiscal responsibility for the future of the state.

By rejecting Executive Order No. 136, the Alaska State Legislature will make a critical decision to ensure that the state remains focused on the efficient use of taxpayer funds, respectful governance, and sustainable practices that benefit all Alaskans, including our Alaska Native communities.

Thank you for considering this important issue.  
Susan Allmeroth  
Two Rivers  
Myself

#### References

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1624 (1971).

Bureau of Indian Affairs. (2021). Tribal consultation. U.S. Department of the Interior.  
<https://www.bia.gov/tribal-leaders/consultation>

Clinton, W. J. (2000). Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. Federal Register, 65(218), 67249-67252. <https://www.archives.gov/files/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/13175.pdf>

U.S. Department of the Interior. (2021). Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. U.S. Department of the Interior. <https://www.bia.gov/service/self-determination>