SB
772

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER: Finance

(7)

4/7/82

Date: April 15, 1982

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Resources has had SB 772

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for construction of a plant quarantine station at the plant materials center (AS 03.22) operated in cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural Sciences; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

[ ] do pass [ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendments(s)

[ ] replace with CS for _____ [ ] same title [ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" [ ] New Fiscal Note

[ ] reports it back without recommendation

[ ] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

CHAIRMAN

H 60 (Rev. 3/81)

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE ORIGINAL.

772

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Senator Jalmar Kerttula
State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Kerttula:

I am sorry that I am unable to come to Juneau to testify personally before your committee concerned with a plant quarantine facility associated with the Plant Materials Center. I support your efforts to establish a quarantine center in Alaska and would like to relate some experiences and offer some observations that may be useful in developing legislation for this purpose.

There are many potentially hardy and adapted varieties of food, fibre and ornament crops available from foreign sources that ought to be tested in Alaska. The other states have had the opportunity of utilizing the genetic resources of the world in developing a more dependable food supply and esthetically satisfying environment. This opportunity existed because of their efforts to import plants prior to the advent of more stringent import regulations and because the federal plant quarantine facilities are more appropriately located from a climate standpoint. The federal plant quarantine facilities are less useful to us in Alaska because of the great difference in photoperiod and climate. Plants from northern sources tend to go into dormancy at longer daylengths which confuses the officials into thinking that they are diseased and therefor they are destroyed before they can be tested in Alaska. This ability to develop hardiness at the longer daylengths is essential for winter survival in the northern latitudes. Since plant material from the northern sources will have the most potential for adaptation to our climate we need a method of importing these for test and possible distribution to users.

Certain plants are more restricted in the import regulations that pertain to them. Members of the rose family are in the most restricted categories. This family contains most of the temperate zone tree fruits and the raspberries and strawberries as well as many ornamental trees and shrubs. The residents of the state are very interest in obtaining the material available in Canada and other northern countries but have been unsuccessful during the last 10 to 15 years. The interesthas been so great that I understand that there have been efforts to illegally import these restricted plants. Illegal importation is certainly a much less desireable option for Alaska than is a well run and responsive plant quarantine facility in the state.

The federal officials have been quick to inform us that there are ways to get these materials imported, however we have been largely unsuccessful. The system does seem to work for the people in the rest of the U.S.

I have even been unsuccessful in obtaining plant materials that I know is available at the National Arboretum that I have offered to pay propagation costs on. We need better systems for importing plant material to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Dinkel

Donald H. Dinkel
Professor of Plant Physiology
320 Resources Bldg.
474-7187

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE ORIGINAL.

ALASKA

STATE LEGISLATURE

MEMORANDUM

JOHN MANLEY
HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4/14/82

RE: REQUEST OF 1:10 P.M.

PER YOUR REQUEST ATTACHED IS BACK GROUND INFORMATION ON:

SB 275

SB 759

SB 525

SB 772

SB 87 - WAS WAIVED BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Rep

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

SB 772: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for construction of a plant quarantine station at the plant materials center (AS 03.22) operated in cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural Sciences; and providing for an effective date."

Sec. 1: Appropriates $400,000 from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources for construction of a plant quarantine station at the plant materials center operated in cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

Sec. 2: The appropriation is a capital project and is subject to relevant existing law, which requires that the funds will not lapse to the general fund, but shall be carried forward to subsequent fiscal years (AS 37.25.020).

Sec. 3: Immediate effective date.

PRIME SPONSOR: Kerttula

CO-SPONSOR(S): Bradley

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE
Resources Committee

Offical Business

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairma
VIC FISCHER, Vice-Chairman
BRAD BRADLEY
DICK ELIASON
DON GILMAN
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI

POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp
Senator Fischer
Senator Bradley
Senator Eliason
Senator Gilman
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturuglewski

March 26, 1982
1:40 p.m.

Beltz Room
Room 211 - Capitol

Hearing:

SB 772 Making a special appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for construction of a plant quarantine station at the plant material center operated in cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

SB 803 Establishing the land clearing account in the agricultural revolving loan fund.

SB 804 Making a continuing appropriation of repayments of the principal and interest on loans made by the Alaska Agriculture Action Council for land clearing to the land clearing account in the agricultural revolving loan fund.

SB 843 Relating to surface coal mining and the underground effects of underground coal mining.

SB 697 An Act relating to the Alaska Renewable Resources Corporation.

SB 772

Paul Huppert, Matanuska Valley farmer, explained that a quarantine center is needed at the latitudes of the Matanuska Valley for plants brought in from that latitude. This would require modification of existing facilities at the plant material center, and employment of a person to collect plant material worldwide.

Nick Carney, Director, Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, explained that the appropriation would pay for construction of a "screen house". Bud materials would be reproduced inside, with the screen restricting movement of insects, thus inhibiting the spread of disease. The long term fiscal needs are minor, as most of the infrastructure is already in place.

Bob Palmer, Alaska Agriculture Action Council, expressed support for the bill, stating that it was long overdue.

Senator Sturgulewski moved SB 772 with individual recommendations.

MAR 15 1982

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management
Agricultural Experiment Station

March 10, 1982

The Honorable Bettye Fahrenkamp
Chairman, Senate Committee on Resources
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

This is in response to your request for comments about SB 776 and SB 772.

SB 776. This bill would transfer the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station from the University of Alaska to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

From an operational standpoint, there are major advantages in locating the Agricultural Experiment Station within the University of Alaska, as is now the case, rather than within a state agency. The U.S. Congress recognized the value of close relationships between agricultural experiment stations and universities when it passed the Hatch Act in 1887. The full title of the Hatch Act is "An Act to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges established in the several states under the provisions of an act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the acts supplementary thereto". The colleges established in the several states were the land grant colleges created by the Morrill Act of 1862.

Specifically, the Hatch Act established a partnership between the federal government and the states and provided continuing federal funds for state agricultural experiment stations. An article in the January 25, 1982, issue of Fortune magazine, entitled "The right remedy for R and D lag", specifically mentioned federal support of agricultural research in the United States as the most successful government subsidy of all time.

Nevertheless, the Hatch Act did not preclude the use of federal Hatch funds for agricultural experiment stations that are established by state legislatures as units separate from land grant universities. In actual practice, however, all state agricultural experiment stations in the United States are

now associated administratively with universities in their respective states. Moreoever, Title XII programs of the federal Foreign Assistance Act foster this administrative association in underdeveloped countries to enhance agricultural development in those countries.

An advantage of this arrangement is that agricultural scientists have the opportunity to work with university scientists in related disciplines. This association fosters cooperation among workers in various areas of scientific inquiry and has led to discoveries involving ideas and concepts from agricultural as well as non-agricultural sciences. In addition, it gives agricultural scientists the opportunity to teach in undergraduate and graduate programs and to participate in extension education that transfers new technology to the agricultural community.

These advantages are summarized in the following statement published in 1981 by the Division of Agriculture (including the Resident Instruction, Experiment Station and Extension Sections) of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges:

> A unique strength of the agricultural colleges of the Division is the interrelationship of teaching, research and public service programs. Generally, staff members work in basic research, and students are the beneficiaries because they are taught by educator-researchers. An integrated academic departmental structure (teaching, research and extension) makes it possible to disseminate practical information not only to students but also to farmers and other practitioners in related fields. The mutually supportive functions of teaching, research and extension strengthen institutional academic programs and provide an excellent environment for students to learn about the interdependency of research and teaching.

Nevertheless, these advantages can be obtained in Alaska only if the staff, research programs and facilities of the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station are funded according to a plan that will bring the Experiment Station to the level necessary to support Alaska's agricultural development goals. Numerous reviewers and consultants have indicated that the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station now lacks the capability to provide research that is essential to meet the goal of 500,000 acres of new land in crop production by 1990. A report to the Alaska State Legislature in February, 1982, from the Alaska Agricultural Action Council outlined a plan for the development of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Although the Alaska State Legislature appropriated over $112 million for agricultural development since 1977, as outlined in House Research Agency Report 81-5, the University of Alaska budget request for FY 83 contained no new operational increment packages for the Agricultural Experiment Station. In view of the intense competition for new budget increments within the University, I am at a loss to know how the Agricultural Experiment Station can secure funds to provide research essential for the success of current and

projected state investments in agricultural development. In a number of states, however, the Agricultural Experiment Stations are administratively associated with the land grant universities, but state appropriations for the Experiment Stations are independent of the general university budgets.

SB 772. This bill would appropriate $400,000 to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the construction of a plant quarantine station at the Plant Materials Center near Palmer to be operated in cooperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station. This facility would have important benefits for Alaskan agriculture.

The Plant Materials Center is an integral part of Alaska's agricultural industry. The Center produces foundation seed from new and improved varieties of breeder seed developed by the Agricultural Experiment Station. This work is valuable because it increases seed of new varieties of small grains, grasses and legumes adapted to Alaska, and makes this seed available to seed growers in sufficient quantities for commercial production of certified seed. In addition, the Plant Materials Center also tests seed for growers and farmers to ensure high quality standards in Alaska's seed industry.

Another major function of the Plant Materials Center is to evaluate and propagate varieties of trees, shrubs, and other plants that are adapted to various uses and conditions in Alaska. Unfortunately, many perennial trees, shrubs and other plants that are propagated asexually and that perform well in states at more southerly latitudes are not adapted to Alaska's soil, climate and day length. In other northern countries such as Canada, the Scandinavian countries and Russia where northern agriculture is more fully developed than in Alaska, superior varieties of these plants have been developed and could have economic value in Alaska.

Plants cannot be brought into the United States, however, without going through a quarantine for as much as two or three years. This quarantine is important to prevent the importing of detrimental insects and plant diseases into the United States. However, federal plant quarantine stations are located in the "Lower 48" and not in Alaska. Consequently, many plant materials developed for superior performance in other northern countries cannot be imported into Alaska because they are not adapted to survive a lengthy quarantine in a more southerly state.

Consequently, a plant quarantine station in Alaska would permit Alaskans to benefit from plant materials developed and selected at northern latitudes, and would save the time and costs required to develop and select similar plant materials in Alaska. In addition, a plant quarantine station in Alaska would provide a means for the Agricultural Experiment Station to obtain plant materials from northern countries to incorporate in its research program.

In summary, a plant quarantine station at the Plant Materials Center would be a major benefit for Alaskan agriculture.

Sincerely,

James V. Drew

James V. Drew
Dean and Director

JVD:ntg

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST
Bill/Resolution No. SB 772
Title Quarantine Facility
Requested by _____ Date _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected DNR
Program Category Affected _____
BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected _____
(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

		FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 85	FY 86
100	PERSONAL SERVICES	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8		
200	TRAVEL	11.4	9.4	9.4	9.4		
300	CONTRACTUAL	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.8		
400	COMMODITIES	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0		
500	EQUIPMENT	35.0	6.0	6.0	2.0		
600	LAND & STRUCTURES						
700	GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
	TOTAL	150.0	119.0	119.0	115.0		

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	150.0	119.0	119.0	115.0		
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

To operate properly and to be accredited the Center will need a reasearch pathologist at U of A, Ag Experiment Station. Estimated cost for one professional man/year is $130.0. The Quarantine Station would need the services of such a person for 1/3 of the year. The costs for this service, a necessity of approval by USDA, are not included in either this fiscal note or the 5 page project report.

IV. DATE 2/24/82 PREPARED BY _____
AGENCY DNR
PHONE 376-3276

Original: Legislative Finance

Agricultural Experiment Station
Palmer Research Center
Box AE
Palmer, Alaska 99645

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

March 1, 1982

The Honorable Senator B. Fahrenkamp
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator:

I have been asked to prepare a fiscal note for the proposed Plant Quarantine Station legislation S.B. 772. It is my understanding that the $400,000 proposed in the bill would be for the capital improvements of a modest facility located within a buffer zone from agriculturally developable areas of at least 100 acres.

To operate the facility in a manner that would meet the federal criteria for such a facility the staff, the facility, and the procedures would have to be approved by APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service). They have expressed a willingness to work with the state in developing a program.

It is anticipated that a high priced virologist, plant pathologist would be working about one-third time on plant pathology research in the state in connection with the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Sincerely,

Sigmund H. Restad
Assistant Director

cc: Senator Jalmar Kerttula

bc

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST
Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill 772
Title Establishing a Plant Quarantine Station in Alaska
Requested by Senator Kerttula Date

II. FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected University of Alaska - Agricultural Experiment Station
Program Category Affected 1 0 - Agricultural Research in Horticultural and Plant Pathology
BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected
(Note: If more than one budge nponent is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analys ection.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

		FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
100	PERSONAL SERVICES	36,000	74,200	103,000	113,600	124,000	136,000
200	TRAVEL	2,000	3,000	3,300	3,600	3,900	4,200
300	CONTRACTUAL	3,000	4,800	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000
400	COMMODITIES	5,000	6,000	6,500	6,900	7,500	8,000
500	EQUIPMENT	30,000	31,000	7,000	6,000	10,000	7,000
600	LAND & STRUCTURES						
700	GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
	TOTAL	136,000	119,000	124,000	135,300	149,000	163,000

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	133,000	119,000	124,000	132,300	144,000	153,000
FEDERAL FUNDS	3,000	-0-	-0-	3,000	5,000	10,000
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	1 Virologist - Plant Pathologist + 1 Technician	2	2	2	2	2	2
PART TIME							
TEMPORARY							

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

The proposal is based on the assumption that the plant quarantine program has to be qualified virologist that will meet U.S.D.A. plus standards for their program and the quarantine work would not be full time but the remaining time could be research and cover an agriculturally virology program that does not exist at present but is extremely important to the development of Alaska agriculture. This staff should be 1/3 plant quarantine and 2/3 agriculture research with RES.

IV. DATE 2-22-82 PREPARED BY
AGENCY Agricultural Experiment Station
PHONE 474-7237

Original: Legislative Finance