

HB

132

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Rep. Carl Gatto



MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Gatto Co-Chair House Resources Committee and
Rep. Johnson Co-Chair House Resources Committee
FROM: Rep. Gatto
DATE: March 28, 2007
RE: Request for Hearing
CC:

Enclosed you will find a committee packet for HB 132 "An act designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska Agriculture Day." I have included a sponsor statement, the most recent version of the bill, and other supplemental material.

I would appreciate a committee hearing before the House Resources committee at your earliest convenience. I appreciate your time and look forward to your reply.

Please contact my staff member Sandra Wilson at ext 3163 with any questions or comments regarding this request.

Thank you

Alaska State Legislature

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Session:

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Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
District 13 - Palmer

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 132

"An Act designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska Agriculture Day."

HB 132 acknowledges the importance of agriculture in Alaska. This bill is in recognition of the farmers and those in related industries who feed our state and add more than \$50,000,000 annually to the economy of the State of Alaska. Agriculture in Alaska has truly great potential particularly in the area of pharmaceutical corn and other highly advanced areas of agriculture. It is crucial that we take every opportunity to take advantage of the strengths of this state and educate our students and our workforce in the value of modern agriculture to our economy and our society.

As a Representative of Palmer, member of the NCSL Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and the CSG Agriculture and Rural Policy Task Force I know firsthand the need for, and value of, agriculture in Alaska and urge your prompt and favorable action on this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB132-DOA-AS-3-27-07
 Bill Version: HB 132
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title Designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska RDU Centralized Administrative Services
Agriculture Day Component Administrative Services
 Sponsor Representatives Gatto, Salmon
 Requester _____ Component No. 46

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation should have no fiscal impact on the agency.

Prepared by: Rosezella Michalsky, Executive Secretary
 Division: Administrative Services
 Approved by: Kevin Brooks
 Agency: Department of Administration

Phone 465-5655
 Date/Time 3/27/07 8:00 AM
 Date 3/27/2007



Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom

Victoria Naegele, director
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907-746-2172; fax 746-2173; AKAITC@alaskaafb.org

Representative Carl Gatto
Room 411 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 16, 2007

Dear Representative Gatto:

I appreciate your introduction of HB 132, Alaska Agriculture Day, in 25th Legislature. This bill is important to help raise the visibility of agriculture in this state, and provide an impetus for greater agricultural literacy among our students and population at large.

In working with the Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom program for the past eight years, I have been alarmed how little about agriculture many Alaskans know. Far too many have no idea what agriculture is. Those who know may not realize this state has any agricultural production, and it is very clear that people in other states largely consider Alaska as a state without agriculture.

Given Alaska's ranking in agricultural production, that is too close to the truth. We live in a state that relies almost entirely on food brought to us from thousands of miles away. In a world of conflict and uncertainty, that is a real security risk. Only through support of our state's agricultural industry can we inch away from that 97-98 percent import figure, and begin helping Alaska farmers feed Alaskans for at least a few days.

Alaska AITC continues to work on many fronts to promote agricultural literacy. Just released is the new "Hopeful Harvest" series of Alaska agricultural history lessons to supplement the state

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requirement for Alaska studies. There was no mention of agriculture in the standards, written by the Alaska Department of Education, and no lessons devoted to our important and rich Alaska agricultural history until "Hopeful Harvest."

While the designation of a special Alaska Agriculture Day may seem a superfluous thing to some, it provides a focal point for Alaskans to unite for a moment to consider who grew or raised the food we eat. It gives us a chance to appreciate the rich soil with which some areas of the state are blessed. It gives us a chance to thank those who help provide us with food.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to help with this effort once again. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help make a reality this permanent designation of the first Tuesday in May as Alaska Agriculture Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Naegele". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Victoria Naegele

Sandra Wilson

From: Bryce Wrigley [deltaswcd@wildak.net]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 3:34 PM
To: Sandra Wilson
Subject: Alaska Ag day

Dear Representative Gatto,

I was pleased to read about your bill extending Alaska Ag Day a permanent status in the state. I support the designation with enthusiasm and hope your bill has a good reception among the other lawmakers. To many of us involved in agriculture, every acknowledgement of legitimacy from the state is most welcome. Much is made of the money that was spent on developing agriculture in Alaska, but when looked at in perspective of other efforts to develop industries in the state, it has been a pittance. In the last 50 years, \$71 million has passed through the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund. So for an average of \$1.4 million per year over 50 years, there is now an agricultural industry that grosses nearly \$50 million per year. That does not look like a failure to me. For some reason though, that is what the state has been led to believe.

So, thank you for your bill and good luck.

Bryce Wrigley
Alaska Farm Bureau President,
Delta Chapter