



Submitted By
Christina Abel
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:17:57 PM
Affiliation

Prop 64 is a waste of time and money. There is not enough evidence to support the need for regulation of domestic goats and sheep. This has not been a problem in Alaska. The state is already so broke you had to rob the PHD fund. Tell these outsiders to take a hike! Unneeded and unnecessary.



Submitted By
David Abel
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:55:02 PM
Affiliation

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I'd like to speak out against proposition 64! The state board of fish and game has no right to regulate domestic animals that are used for food sources, this is just another case of an outside organization trying to rule what happens in Alaska. I would support protecting the mountain goats and sheep if their had ever been an issue but there hasn't, and the idea of putting domestic sheep and goats on the unclean list is plan stupid! There is a thriving agricultural market for goats, mind your own damn business and leave sheep and goats to the dept of agricultural!!



Submitted By
Jason A Frank
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:52:04 PM
Affiliation

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P.o. box 116
14044 N Glenn Hwy
Sutton , Alaska 99674

I oppose proposition 64.



Submitted By
Theresa A Frank
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:12:16 PM
Affiliation

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Address
PO Box 116
Sutton, Alaska 99674

I oppose proposition 64 - Take no action



Bryce Wrigley, President
bjwrigley@gmail.com

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

October 23, 2017

Alaska Board of Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Members of the Board of Game:

The Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc. is urging the Board of Game to vote down Prop 64 – removal of domestic sheep and goats from the “clean list”. This issue was originally brought up as Prop 90 for the 2016 statewide meeting cycle. Prop 90 was a shock to the agriculture community, as there were no attempts to have a discussion on the issue behind the proposal and there has been no indication that such drastic measures are needed in Alaska.

After the Board of Game postponed prop 90, suggesting the different parties come to the table and try to find an agreeable way to move forward, the Alaska Farm Bureau put together a working group consisting of sheep and goat producers, Wild Sheep Foundation, Dept. of Fish and game, the State Veterinarian and Division of Agriculture. The Alaska Farm Bureau and sheep and goat owners have spent time educating themselves on the issue of respiratory disease in domestic and wild sheep and goats; reading studies performed on bighorn sheep and gathering facts relevant to Alaska.

Sheep and goat owners, the Alaska Farm Bureau, individual veterinarians and the Office of the State Veterinarian have not only spent time educating themselves on the issue, but also taking time out of their normal, busy work load and covering costs to voluntarily participate in a study to gather facts specific to Alaska and the prevalence of mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (Movi) in the state.

The basis of this proposal is from a situation happening in the lower 48. There is no evidence to show that Alaska is going to experience population losses like the bighorn sheep have experienced in western states. The facts and science are showing that we have a very low risk of domestic sheep or goats transferring the pathogens of concern to Dall sheep.

When the original proposal (prop 90) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- According to the National Ag Statistics (NASS), in the late 1960's Alaska had 27,000 domestic sheep with declining numbers since - 2014 NASS has domestic sheep and goats at 1400.



- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Studies have been conducted on bighorn sheep, but very little is known about the impact on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep – neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi.
- Alaska is a fence in state with no open grazing on public lands.

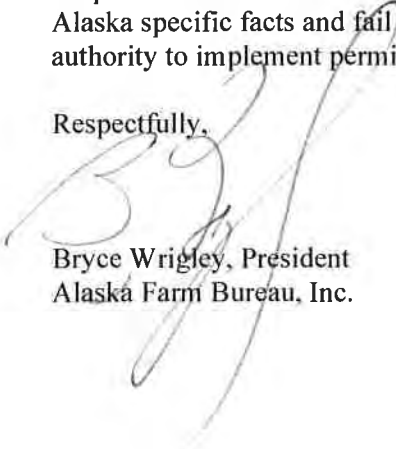
Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the fencing requirement being pushed (double fencing with a “buffer” zone) would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the “buffer” zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the “clean list” is unfounded; there is not a preponderance of evidence that domestic sheep and goats in Alaska are a threat to our wild sheep or goats, the Department of Fish and Game does not have authority to manage livestock, this authority falls in the Office of the State Veterinarian.

Voting down prop 64 will be the best way to move forward with discussions on this issue. The best approach to move forward would be a working group continued for three years to 1) review results of the current study, 2) perform a risk assessment and 3) hash out options that match the level of risk. While waiting on final results of the Movi study, the group would work on developing an education and outreach program.

The suggestion that the agriculture community would only come to the table with a threat like this, and that postponing instead of failing the proposal to ensure the discussion continues is offensive. Our producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and willing to discuss options based on facts and science, but are unwilling to bend over and accept burdensome, costly restrictions based on fear instead of facts. In contrast to this effort, representative from WSF have not demonstrated a willingness to work in good faith and find a solution that works for all stakeholders.

Prop 64 seems to be a solution looking for a problem, we urge you to base your decision on these Alaska specific facts and fail the proposal. The Office of the State Veterinarian already has the authority to implement permitting, testing, etc. if the facts and science demonstrate the need.

Respectfully,



Bryce Wrigley, President
Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.



Submitted By
Virginia Altenberger
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:15:04 PM
Affiliation

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907-315-5205

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Ginnafred1@yahoo.com

Address
3230 E Escondido Ave
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64!

The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska.

Please take this comment and Take No Action on Prop 64.



Submitted By
Kristi alton
Submitted On
10/26/2017 6:25:23 PM
Affiliation

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North Pole, Alaska 99705

Do not limit our ability to raise small farm animals such as goats. That is a huge example of government overreach!



Submitted By
Jacqueline Ambrus
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:26:52 PM
Affiliation
Tanngrisnir Nubians

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2245958438

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j.ambrus@aol.com

Address
120 Tall grass
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

I am an Alaska resident outside of the state with my husband who is in the military. I find it highly frustrating that goats will not be allowed in Alaska and will definitely impact my choice to live in the state following his military career if you decide to remove them from a clean animal that can be owned by citizens of the state. We had always intended to come back to Alaska but we now have a herd of dairy goats and if we cannot bring them with us we will never return to Alaska.



Submitted By
John Anderson
Submitted On
10/26/2017 12:58:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
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Address
2473 Green Acres Driv
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Dear Board of Game-

I am commenting today on Proposition 64, as presented for your consideration.

I am adamantly opposed to the removal of domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list", and the proposition in its entirety for the following reasons:

- 1) The State of Alaska has not identified or mapped the "typical range" of wild sheep and/or goats.
- 2) Alaska is not a free range state, as domestic livestock are fenced due to predator threats.
- 3) Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi.
- 4) Domestic sheep and goats represent food security for many Alaska homesteaders and hobbyists, and the explosive growth of the local food movement includes a number of smaller farms and ranches who are investing in Alaska's rising livestock production numbers.
- 5) The Office of the State Veterinarian has been instrumental in maintaining the health and well being of animals within Alaska's borders. They already shoulder the responsibility of assisting in protecting Alaskan wildlife, through their many programs.
- 6) Removing domestic flocks from the clean list will also punish 4-H participants, their supporters who purchase the animals at various fairs across the state, and the sponsors of those auctions.

Adopting Prop64 will have wide ranging effects state wide. Not only will it cause 100s of residents to destroy their investment without reimbursement, it will shutter quite a number of cottage businesses for fiber and fiber arts, the myriad of products created with sheep and goats milk, charcuterie endeavors, specialty cuts for our local restaurants and markets, and many other uses and entrepreneurial efforts. The approval of Prop64 would have real world, long lasting consequences on Alaska's already struggling agriculture sector. Most importantly, it will serve only to make Alaska's food security even more precarious going forward.

The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska specific facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

John Anderson
Fairbanks, AK



Submitted By
Margaret Anderson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:49:10 PM
Affiliation

I oppose regulations being considered against owning sheep or goats in Alaska.



Submitted By
Anastasia Anisimova
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:59:40 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop.64 - we need protection for people, their lifestyles and their animals, not more government regulations !



Submitted By
Shamarie Apling
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:41:22 AM
Affiliation

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9077150566

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Address
3360 N Travelair Dr
Wasilla , Alaska 99654

I oppose Prop 64



Submitted By
James Armitstead
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:54:04 PM
Affiliation
Mr.

This all stems from an outside special interest group spreading propaganda regarding a virus that doesn't exist in the State of Alaska.

It is already illegal to use pack animals while hunting, and we do not free range herds on public lands like L48; keeping the domestic and wild populations separate. All animals imported into the State are required to have health certificates already...

Volunteer testing is underway, double checking the health of the domestic population.

This proposition is ridiculous, there are other ways to protect our wild and domestic animals. My family owns a herd share in a milk goat herd, and we buy goats and sheep to fill our freezer in the fall. My wife and daughters spin wool and mohair (from goats) to make winter clothing. I oppose more regulations on keeping these valuable domestic animals that are so important to food security in Alaska.



Submitted By
Theresa Armitstead
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:51:43 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

This all stems from an outside special interest group spreading propaganda regarding a virus that doesn't exist in the State of Alaska.

It is already illegal to use pack animals while hunting, and we do not free range herds on public lands like L48; keeping the domestic and wild populations separate. All animals imported into the State are required to have health certificates already...

Volunteer testing is underway, double checking the health of the domestic population.

This proposition is ridiculous, there are other ways to protect our wild and domestic animals. My family owns a herd share in a milk goat herd, and we buy goats and sheep to fill our freezer in the fall. I also spin wool and mohair (from goats) to make winter clothing. I whole heartedly oppose more regulations on keeping these valuable domestic animals that are so important to food security in Alaska.



Submitted By
Nanette Arneson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:36:52 AM
Affiliation
Animal owner/ farm land owner

Please take no action on the proposition regulating domestic goats and sheep.



Submitted By
Brittney Ashcraft
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:12:13 PM
Affiliation
4H youth

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9079782431

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callie14onyx27@gmail.com

Address
915 Haman St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Vote no on Prop 64. I am in 4H and have taken a goat project for 6 years. I want to be able to continue my goat projects. I take good care of my animals and provide all that they need but I don't have the money to meet the criteria to have my goats if you pass this. Fencing is expensive. Double fencing would be impossible for me to afford. I have other friends in 4H who also do goat projects. All of our animals are not anywhere near the Dall sheep populations.

Please vote no so we can continue having the freedom to have the animals that we would like. Goats and sheep are great assets to our lifestyle.

Thank you,

Brittney Ashcraft



Submitted By
Susan Ashcraft
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:01:20 PM
Affiliation
4H Leader/Goat owner

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915 Haman St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

To whom it may concern:

Please vote NO on Proposition 64!! This prop serves only those who created , the Board of Game. It does not take into consideration all of those of us who are small farmers who rely on our animals to benefit our families, and our communities. My daughter is in 4H- and this youth organization helps to keep kids from being "idle". One of the sucessful ways they do this is through livestock projects. My daughter and many, many other youth in the state of Alaska take Market projects. Meat goats are one of those projects. If this prop passes you are denying youth the opportunity to grow and learn about their world through animals.

Thanks,

Susan Ashcraft,

4h leader, mom and resident of Alaska



Submitted By

Kathryn Athow

Submitted On

10/27/2017 5:34:26 PM

Affiliation

North American Packgoats Association (NAPgA)

Please don't pass proposition 64. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. All the current information, and forced captive studies, has been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not done mapping of Dall sheep habitat to define areas of true concern. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment (to date only 6 domestics out of 334 have tested positive for M.ovi bacteria) and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, the current Proposal 64 should be shelved. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict personal rights, without due cause, to own domestic small ruminants on personal property. If you love seeing domestic goats and sheep at the Fair, if you enjoy a dairy herd share for raw milk, if you purchase local lamb or goat meat, if you spin fiber for art or warmth- please vote no action on Prop 64. Thank you.



Submitted By
Gary Baldwi
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:12:53 PM
Affiliation

I appose prop 64.



Submitted By
Marie Baldwin
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:40:11 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)
- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,

Marie Baldwin



Submitted By
Keith Barkwood
Submitted On
10/8/2017 1:28:00 PM
Affiliation

Prop 64. Please do not restrict our ability to freely own goats and sheep in our Great State. Removing goats and sheep from the clean list because of pressure from one special interest group would be a tremendous mistake, and compromise our already fragile food security in the state. It is appalling you would consider this proposition in light of the lack of any information which would demonstrate that our wild sheep population is at risk of contracting pathogens from domestic species. Thank you in advance for rejecting prop 64.



Submitted By
Kim Barrett
Submitted On
10/8/2017 8:30:01 AM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop. 64. To ban domestic sheep & goats is just moronic. There has to be another way to control disease.



Submitted By
Audrey barrington
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:15:20 AM
Affiliation

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907-351-3382

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4801 Canterbury way
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

TAKE NO ACTION ON PROP 64



Submitted By
Melissa Bayer
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:39:00 AM
Affiliation

I OPPOSE Proposition 64, removing domestic goats and sheep for the "clean" list and request that NO ACTION is taken in the matter.

Many Alaskans depend on the keeping and raising of domestic goats and sheep for food and..... pets. These animals are family members in many cases and treated just like cats and dogs and do not leave the immediate vicinity of their homes and towns for vet visits. Many of these animals are part of children's 4-H projects at the Alaska State Fair.

To remove these animals from the "clean" list would cause major disruption in local state agriculture, the Alaska State Fair and the Alaska 4-H program. Many small business owners that provide breeding for personal milk and meat animals would lose everything.

During all my research, I have yet to come across a direct link of M.o.vi causing any Dall Sheep deaths in Alaska. I understand this may be an issue in other states, where open grazing is allowed. This is not a cause for concern in Alaska. There are many natural barriers separating domestic sheep and goats from the wild. The M.o.vi virus can only be transmitted by close contact between animals.... which is almost impossible with all these natural barriers Alaska has to offer.

I again ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposition 64.



Submitted By
Teresa Beck DVM
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:50:15 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077467387

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tbeck@mtaonline.net

Address
840 S Cobb St
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please say NO to Prop 64. This is bad for Alaskan agricultural growth. We need Alaska to develop our agricultural producers for FOOD Security and sustainability. Prop 64 is a direct attack on Alaskan Agriculture. There is NOT enough evidence mycoplasma in the very few domestic sheep and goats in Alaska would pose a remote risk to the wild populations. This is an extreme over reach of government. How much would this cost the taxpayer to regulate and enforce? Alaska does NOT need this at this time. Please oppose Prop 64. Sincerely, Teresa Beck DVM, a practicing and licensed Veterinarian in Palmer, Alaska



Submitted By
Kaitlyn benedict
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:41:33 PM
Affiliation

Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Sheep and goats are part of the livelyhood of many of our neighbors. I am opposed to prop 64.



Submitted By
Rebekah Bennett
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:43:39 AM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing to ask you to oppose and take no action on proposal 64. My husband, five kids and I have a small farm that includes dairy goats and Icelandic sheep. We rely on the milk from the goats as a part of our healthy diet as well as using it in handcrafted soap that we sell and use ourselves. Our Icelandic sheep provide meat for our family as well as wool that my daughter spins and sells at the local yarn shop to boost her college fund. Our animals are a big part of our lives, and help us grow our own sustainable food and fiber. I ask the Board of Game to take no action on Proposal 64.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Bennett



Submitted By
Anne Benson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:43:47 PM
Affiliation

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9072320085

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PO Box 1844
Palmer , Alaska 99645

I oppose Prop 64!



Submitted By
Kim Bergey
Submitted On
10/17/2017 6:08:08 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game Members,

Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in state, meaning all animals are to be fenced on your property at all times. Alaska has many natural barriers (rivers, mountains, predators and highways) to help prevent wild Dall sheep & domestics from coming into contact. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. All the current information, and forced captive studies, has been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not done mapping of Dall sheep habitat to define areas of true concern. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment (to date only 6 domestics out of 334 have tested positive for M.ovi bacteria) and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, the current Proposal 64 should be shelved. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict personal rights, without due cause, to own domestic small ruminants on personal property. It is my belief, that the State Veterinarian should complete the risk assessment to determine if a "real" risk is present. Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Game take no action on Prop 64. Alaska is in great need of realistic regulations that are reflective of the special conditions that exist in Alaska. It is never in Alaska's best interest to blanket adopt what others are doing, so I again recommend no action on Prop 64.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim



Submitted By
Marguerite Bishop
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:26:09 PM
Affiliation

Leave people alone about their goats. We have less than a million people here in this state and it's three times the area of Texas! Take care of real business and stop getting into people's lives We live here because there is less red tape Let owners have their goats I oppose the bill that takes their rights away to have them



Submitted By
Debra Blaylock
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:48:23 PM
Affiliation
Dodo's Garden

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Members of the Alaska Board of Game

I ask that you do not enact Proposal 64. The proposal will adversely affect domestic sheep and goat owners. The proposal places unneeded requirements on owners which are extremely costly and will adversely affect them. Many sheep and goat owners rely upon the animals to supplement their food security (which is tenuous at best in Alaska) as a source of meat and milk. To others, these animals are simply pets which are an important part of their family. These animals are also a valuable learning tool for our children involved in the 4-H and FFA programs. Yet others use these animals as a source of wool and other commercial products as a source of income.

On our farm, the animals are an important source of compost material for my small gardening and farming business. I rely on them as a source of manure for my compost piles. The sheep we have is a companion animal to our horse and the goats are important to weed control and fall clean-up on the farm. They are also a source of much joy and entertainment. We value them and rely on them.

There are many unanswered questions about this proposal and until factual and reliable information is brought forward, this proposal and any future similar proposals should not even be considered.

Stop pursuing this! Invest your time and efforts into something more productive. Stop harassment of small scale farmers for no factual reason. We are an important asset to the food security of the State.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Aurora Boney
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:35 PM
Affiliation

Sheep and goats SHOULD be allowed, and kept on the clean list.



Submitted By
Wade Boyle
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:23:05 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on prop 64. There is no reason to make goats and sheep illegal for the full state of alaska. There is no evidence that there is a Movi outbreak in alaska and most residents would not impact the sheep population as they don't live near sheep.



Submitted By
Jodi Bradison
Submitted On
10/25/2017 11:57:14 AM
Affiliation

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Trina Brandt
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:05:47 PM
Affiliation

Oppose proposition 64. Take no action. Alaska is a fenced state, livestock pose minimal to no threat to our wild sheep and goats. This proposition is a slippery slope that should be avoided for agricultural growth of our state.



Submitted By
Kathy Briggs
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:12:29 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on Prop 64.

There is not enough evidence that this bacterium is a threat to the wild populations of sheep and goats. the impact of prematurely acting in our already stressed economy would be devastating.

thank you



Submitted By
Samantha brose
Submitted On
10/17/2017 7:17:48 AM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern: I'm writing this comment for all my fellow friends and 4-h members who will be affected by prop 64, one I can't even begin to tell how I feel about this being back again. It's so frustrating. This will greatly affect the 4-h community and our farm community by having no goats or sheep in Alaska. It should not even be an issue there is no cases in the state of Alaska with hosts or sheep affecting the doll sheep or getting them sick. This will mean no goats or sheep at the fair, no kids will be able to show or market at the fair, no farmers selling goats milk (lots of people have allergies to milk) no handmade soaps and potions. This makes me sick... this is wrong. No one should decide whether or not we have an animal or not. Farm goats and sheep are confined and have to contact with doll sheep this should not be an issue. I am strongly against prop 64.



Submitted By
Jenifer
Submitted On
10/23/2017 11:46:28 AM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

Proposition 64 is not only unnecessary it's also written as a contradiction. One cannot legally own a sheep or goat if they are removed from the "Clean List", as a permit will not be issued to any animal that isn't on the "Clean List". This means that this proposition is to eradicate all sheep and goats from the state of Alaska. One must question how this will impact the agriculture and self-sustainability of Alaskans. It will affect many within the state as those who raise them will no longer be able, the State Fair will no longer have sheep or goats for exhibit, no local fiber or fiber exhibit at the fair, 4-H will be limited, and those who rely on sheep and goats to help sustain their families will be forced to give up that right.

The sample testing of M.ovi in the state proved that it's not a relevant factor. It was way below prediction. Even if the numbers had been higher the Alaska predators make it a moot point, as no domestic livestock would survive long enough to make it into the wild sheep habitat. Owners of sheep and goats work hard to keep their livestock safe, healthy, and disease free. We understand the WSF desire to do the same for the native wildlife population, but M.ovi isn't an issue in domestic livestock in the State of Alaska. There has never been a documented case of disease transmission between domestic sheep/goats and wild sheep in Alaska. It simply isn't very probable with the states conditions and predator population. This Proposition will not affect Dall sheep positively or negatively. It will do nothing positive for the wildlife, the people, or the state. I ask the Board of Game to take no action on Proposition 64.

Jenifer Buck



Submitted By
Joe Buck
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:36:44 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing to you to oppose Proposition 64 and ask that you take no action. This proposition isn't just asking to rid the state of domestic goats and sheep; it's asking families to give up their family raised, beloved pets; their self sustainability, their way of life. I have watched my children bottle feed goat kids at all hours, spent time together watching in anxiety and excitement as our goats kidded, even mourned the loss of the few goats that we've had pass. Our children devote a part of their morning and evenings making sure they have water that's warm in the winter and cold in the summers, that the hay feeders are always full, minerals and baking soda is fresh, and that each goat that desired attention received it. I've watched my wife, heavily pregnant, up all night waiting for a goat to kid in freezing temps, so she could be sure that everything went well and that the kids got dried and fed.

These aren't just nameless livestock that hold no emotional or financial value. We spend countless hours and dollars choosing and buying our goats, caring for them, testing annually for diseases, making sure they are receiving the right vitamins and minerals throughout the year, watching over them for any changes in their health, supplying adequate housing in our harsh winters, and the time we spend just bonding with them. In return our goats call out in demand for attention when they see us, they provide milk for our family which we also use to make cheese, caramels and soaps; and they teach responsibility to our children. This proposition will devastate our family and many others.

This state can't afford to put more restrictions and another burden on its residents over something that was brought before this board without any evidence of a problem, testing or investigating, into M.ov1 and whether it even has an affect or is a threat to the Dall sheep population. There has never been a die off of Dall sheep due to M.ov1. Even still, only testing on domestic sheep and goats has been analyzed or even called for. The chances of contact is so limited and the sample testing showed nothing that points to a possible future exposure. Sheep and goats have been in this state since at least the 60s and not one report has been made of cross contamination or contact. This Proposition will not affect Dall sheep positively or negatively. It will do nothing positive for the wildlife, the people, or the state. I ask the Board of Game to take no action on Proposition 64.



Submitted By
Kimberly Burns
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:55:54 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073782529

Email
Sleepyhollowfarmsak@gmail.com

Address
1080 Ichabod St
North Pole , Alaska 99705

Dear Board of Game, I am writing to you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. Domestic goats and sheep mean so much to our family for meat, milk, and fiber. We each have a story unique to us for why we own domestic goats and sheep. The devastation of taking goats and sheep off the clean list will cause us to have our children suffer. We depend on the milk for our children. The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would come in contact. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.o.vi. None. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.o.vi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a screaming low risk factor in opposition to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting. Another point - If domestic goats and sheep are removed from the clean list owners are left in purgatory. Per the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game website, animals not on the "clean list" cannot be permitted. That makes them illegal to own. The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game needs to map the critical habitat areas of the most concern for contact with domestics. Oh. And another point - M.o.vi needs a host, it does not live in the environment and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators. I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64."



Submitted By
Barbara Burrill
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:02:32 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-745-4984
Email
blazerak@yahoo.com
Address
PO Box 617
Palmer, Alaska 99645

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do NOT remove domestic Goats and Sheep from the "clean list". There is no hard evidence in Alaska to support such a "knee-jerk" reaction to what happens in the Lower 48. Many locals in our community rely on their flocks to survive. Do not remove their only means of supporting their families!

Sincerely,

Barbara J Burrill



Submitted By
Kari Butler
Submitted On
10/25/2017 1:04:00 PM
Affiliation
Alaskan Resident

Please consider who you are harming by taking sheep and goats off Alaska clean list. It is the self sufficient farmer who relies on goats/sheep for food, milk, cheese, chores and to raise their children with chores. I for one could not afford the expensive fence fixes or more testing per year, I test my goats for relavent diseeseases and health concerns and that is costly per year, but it is important to me to keep my herd healthy.

Please put this issue to rest and ignore the future requests to do the same. Alaska is different than the lower 48, we don't have wondering herds of goats and sheep roaming the mountain side, and if we did they would be bear bait or starve.

While I wrote maybe more for the last time, I am fed up with people continuing this conversation and wanting the small guy to bend over and get out of the way. The bottom line for me is this conversation needs to go away. Goats and sheep should remain clean and fences that WSF have recommended should be dismissed.

The Board of Game have so much other important items on the list. Please address those items and don't just table this - eliminate it - WSF doesn't have a scientific leg to stand on.



Submitted By
Narda Butler
Submitted On
10/10/2017 9:46:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-250-6987

Email
Nardalyn@gmail.com

Address
10501 Schuss Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I am opposed to Prop 64. I am a sheep owner in Anchorage and I do not think the state should be creating regs for a problem not yet shown to exist. The State Veterinarian is currently conducting a study to document the presence within domestic sheep and goats of the specific mycoplasma bacteria whose transfer to wild populations is the concern of Prop 64. Until the data indicates this a real concern, the proposition is addressing a myth. When and if the data supports the risk of transmission of the bacteria from domestic to wild populations, the proposition warrants consideration. Until then, it is a hasty, knee jerk reaction to unsubstantiated fear.



Submitted By
Natalie Butts
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:51:12 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 3570579
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grdnbug@yahoo.com
Address
3151 S Dawn Lake Dr
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Please do not ban goats and sheep in Alaska, The likelihood of them coming into contact with wild ones is very, very low and testing of private animals is very high in this state. Alpacas and Llamas can also carry the same diseases so you'd have to ban them also. It's an Americans right to own animals and enjoy them.



Submitted By
Veronika Byers
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:08:12 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop 64. Please take no action.



Submitted By
Aubrey Byrne
Submitted On
10/24/2017 2:27:20 PM
Affiliation
Goat Herd Share Member

Phone
9076963473
Email
aubreybyrne@me.com
Address
17423 Alice Loop
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

I am a owner in a Goat Herd Share, and my daughter has been a 4-H member with team members who raised sheep and goats. We raise chickens for both eggs & food in addition to our goat herd share ownership. We appreciate the chance to be able to raise our own animals the way we want to for our own health, while at the same time helping to secure Alaska's food supply. This is a basic right of all people! The goat raiser with whom I own a share of her herd recently emailed me very concerned about Proposition 64. Last year this was called Proposition 90, was also vehemently opposed in public comments, and was deferred to this year reincarnated as Proposition 64. I have attached a letter she wrote which opposes Prop 64 with facts, reason, and passion. Hopefully I am not the only concerned Alaskan submitting this and similar letters to you. Thank you for your time in reading and carefully considering your decision on this ill-conceived proposition.

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thornhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In light of the fact that the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Byrne



Submitted By
Anton Bzowy
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:35:39 PM
Affiliation

I am asking that you reject Prop 64 for the following reasons; 1) There is not a proven threat to the wild sheep in this state.(just a theory) 2) The wild sheep in Alaska probably have a better chance of disease from the dirt from the boots or equipment of a sheep hunter that has previously harvested a Big Horn who now is hunting Dall Sheep than from a domestic stock animal living miles away from Dall Sheep habitat. (similar to water shed contamination from felt wader soles)

I also do not own or receive economic benefit from domestic sheep or goats but I do support the idea of others being free to do so in an environmentally friendly way. I enjoy hunting sheep in Alaska when I can and take very seriously the ability for not only me but future generations to have greater opportunity via both herd and habitat management.



Submitted By
Amanda Camargo
Submitted On
10/3/2017 6:49:44 AM
Affiliation

Good day,

In regards to Prop 64, I believe it is a rash and inappropriate move to remove domestic goats and sheep from the clean list. This regulation is in response to moves in the lower forty-eight and data showing cross contamination of Big Horn sheep from domestic animals. However, the board must bear in mind that we, Alaska, are not the like the lower forty-eight. We have a huge sparse of land, with natural barriers already in place to prevent the mingling of domestic sheep and goat sheep with Dall Sheep. I'd also like to point out that there isn't no existing evidence to support claims that domestic livestock has cross contaminated any Dall Sheep and that Dall Sheep are not Big Horn sheep. There is current research in progress to either validate or Prove false these claims. If any actions are to be taken it should be to shelve Prop 64 until all research and results have been completed and analyzed to their fullest extent.

If any futur regulations are to be implemented it should include regular testing of animals for common diseases, as well a proper containment fences. Which I can assure you, most responsible owners do already.

Prop 64 would change the lives of thousands of local farmers, hobbyists and families. It would also mean no more 4H for domestic sheep and goats at the Alaska State Fair, which would adversely affect the economy. People rely on the milk, meat, wool and products from these amazing animals. Please consider all the comments and concerns that have been submitted addressing Prop 64 and make the right choice for Alaska and it's residents, no Prop 64.



Submitted By
Bill Campbell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:37:41 PM
Affiliation

Please TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64 as the small dairy and home herds of domestic goats and sheep DO NOT present hazards to the wild populace of wild and indigenous herd of sheep and goats. Please do not let the boisterous few take away from the many in regards to this subject



Submitted By
Dan/Teresa Campbell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:43:45 AM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)

There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.

There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi

Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.

Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,
Dan & Teresa Campbell



Submitted By
Carmen Cancio
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:37:53 PM
Affiliation

I strongly oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production. Period!!!!



Submitted By
Valerie Carlson
Submitted On
10/26/2017 3:31:18 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078416544
Email
Valleygirl_58@hotmail.com
Address
PO Box 585
Palmer, Alaska 99645

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been a goat owner, learning from and about them for the past 2 and a half years. I have never in my life been so instantly fascinated and in love with an animal like I have our Alpine goat family members. Raising and caring for them has been such a joy for me and my two young girls. I am so excited they get to grow up living the "farm life", and learning responsibility as we do our twice daily milking and feedings. They adore their "goat buddies" just as much as our dog and cat and have already learned so much from them and I am forever grateful living this lifestyle is shaping them to be kind, caring and responsible human beings.

My husband is lactose intolerant which is why we got ourselves involved in goats to begin with, as he can drink goat milk and consume the dairy products I make from it with no medical issues. His health and quality of life have improved tremendously. My daughters prefer their creamy goat milk goodness to cows milk, and my youngest it is all she has ever known. I cannot even imagine our lives without these invaluable animals.

I was recently informed of the proposition to take goats off the clean list, and essentially make owning them illegal without permission from the state. I am not normally a politically involved citizen but I was shocked and scared at the thought of someone saying we could no longer own our precious goats. I read the proposal and understand they say a "permit can be obtained", but I have done research and heard that this is not true since "permits cannot be obtained for unclean animals". This therefore sounds like an attempt to make this law sound less scary than it is. I am shocked that it is even being considered. Farming and subsistence living is a right all Americans have the option of pursuing, better living and better health are something everyone is pursuing. Permits are not required for farming or owning any other domestic animals. No permits are required for any other farm animals, even though chickens are constantly in contact with wild birds and eaten by wild carnivores, as well as horses and cows coming in contact with moose. I have owned all of these animals and have seen this happen uncountable times and know innumerable stories of similar encounters. Never once have I seen an illusive dall sheep or mountain goat anywhere near my goats, or even ever heard of this happening to others. I have no idea how data has been gathered but this incidence is non-existent or negligible in Alaska according to my research. And if the incidence of them coming in contact is so low or non-existent it makes sense that the data for Alaskas "wild goats and sheep" obtaining diseases from domestic goats or sheep is also non-existent or so low it shouldn't even be considered. With all this data, as well as Americans constitutional rights, I have no idea why or what the rationale for this meeting and consideration of this prop are considering the actual data as well as the freedom of citizens to farm and own farm animals without permits.

I can only pray common sense and justice are the only considerations, and that thousands of Alaskans as well as goats aren't negatively affected by a personal agenda by the Board of Fish and Game that is not in the best interest of Alaskans, Alaskan wildlife or Alaskan domestic creatures. As a registered nurse I understand communicable diseases, and there is no data that makes this seem in any way that the wild sheep population will display any benefits from this law since the amount of contact is negligible. The risk vs benefit ratio is so unbelievably on the side of the hundreds of thousands of humans benefitting from farm fresh goat milk and healthy lifestyles that even if there were a small risk to wildlife this benefit to humans should outweigh it no questions asked.



Submitted By

lisa carpenter

Submitted On

10/26/2017 10:14:20 PM

Affiliation

My family has a small, hobby farm in wasilla. Our goats are our family! Two are even from the local animal shelter. Please, please allow us to keep our goats. This proposed regulation is ludicrous! I've read as much as I can and spoken to other people in the community and we are adamant: Let us keep our farms with goat and sheep.



Submitted By
Charlene Chase
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:32:02 AM
Affiliation

Please do not act on Prop 64. Goats and sheep have been a very important part of farming and agriculture for many, many years. Because we are a fenced in state, unlike the lower 48, Alaska does not have the same problems and should not be treated the same.



Submitted By
Laurie Childers
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:02:55 PM
Affiliation

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Michelle Church
Submitted On
10/24/2017 4:12:02 PM
Affiliation
none

Phone
(907) 354-1887
Email
moonstonefarm05@gmail.com
Address
2141 S Church Street
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I strongly oppose this regulation! It is unnecessary government overreach into the decisions of individuals to decide what foods to feed themselves and their families. There is absolutely ZERO evidence that this regulation will provide protection to wild sheep and goats. There is ABUNDANT evidence it will negatively impact the livelihoods of sheep and goat owners and ABUNDANT evidence of a negative impact on our ability to make personal food choices. Please follow the advice of the professionals in this area and remove this ridiculous and burdensome regulation.



Submitted By
Charlene Clark
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:24:31 AM
Affiliation

Phone
4193770244

Email
tlc3199@yahoo.com

Address
6267 Aldona Cir
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Karen Clary
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:13:05 AM
Affiliation

Phone
(997)315-8859

Email
Hqrse49@yahoo.com

Address
Po box 876712
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Please know that I'm against prop 64.



Submitted By
Brandy Coe
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:50:24 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-373-7383

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Dolmacita@hotmail.com

Address
3800 N. McCormick Ln
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I oppose prop. 64. Goats and sheep are an important part of Alaskan farming and way of life. Local meat, fiber, and dairy are a necessary component to becoming a more sustainable State.



Submitted By
Sage cohen
Submitted On
10/9/2017 5:52:52 AM
Affiliation

Allow domestic animal husbandry. Regulate it. But allow it. I support being able to raise domestic sheep and goats for milk meat and/or wool and hide. Why not? Higher quality products than commercially available. Not everyone can hunt. Food security. Less need for imports.



Submitted By
ALEXANDER COKER
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:39:37 PM
Affiliation
TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64



Submitted By
Tobias Comley
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:34:50 AM
Affiliation

I would like to oppose prop 64. As a family I do not own sheeps or goats, but very dear friends of mine depend on the resource the goats and sheeps offer. Such as milk and meat. I would like them to keep their valuables reaources. As, once again I appose prop 64.



Submitted By
Benjamin Cook
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:24:56 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 299-4743

Email
Akcharris@yahoo.com

Address
35642 Sun Eagle Dr
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

Dear Board of Game members: No to taking goats and sheep off the clean list When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted: Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics) There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America. There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks. Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this. Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game. Respectfully, Benjamin Cook



Submitted By
Garnett Coonrad
Submitted On
10/17/2017 8:38:19 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on proposition 64. This regulation, if approved, would take away my freedom to own domestic sheep or goats on my own property in Alaska. There are currently studies being done to assess the risk of sickness to wild sheep populations in Alaska. Taking action before these studies are completed is ridiculous, since there have been no cases of a wild sheep death in Alaska due to contagion from a domestic animal. Alaska is vastly different from the lower 48 states in geography and wild animal habitat. Using data from outside of Alaska is illogical. Please wait to move on proposition 64 until data from within our great state of Alaska has been gathered and studies by veterinary experts have been completed. Thank you. Garnett Coonrad



Submitted By
Kai Copeland
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:09:31 PM
Affiliation

Dear Sir/Ms I hear by state that I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production. I am against taking domestic goats and sheep off the clean list.



Submitted By
Shara Cormier-Podobinski
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:19:36 AM
Affiliation
Alaskan resident

Phone
907-982-8000

Email
afsnowangel@gmail.com

Address
3861 Tyburn Dr
Beale AFB, California 95903

Please TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64



Submitted By
Christie Cox
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:34:38 PM
Affiliation

Please vote no on Prop 64. In Alaska, there are already laws regarding fencing and livestock that help prevent issues. We are also a proud group of people who are self sufficient. Goats and sheep are incredibly hardy, and easy to maintain in comparison with other larger livestock such as cows. Removing goats and sheep removes a lot of people's self sufficiency as well. This is a bad law that hurts the people of Alaska and does NOT help our wildlife.



Submitted By
Suzy Crosby
Submitted On
10/26/2017 5:05:45 PM
Affiliation
Cottonwood Creek Farm

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9078631276
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scrosby@ak.net
Address
PO Box 873406
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposal 64, and ask you to TAKE NO ACTION on it. The requirements of this proposal (obtaining permits, building "department-approved" fencing, and completing costly testing) are ill-conceived, hugely exaggerated, and according to ADF&G, essentially unenforceable. Although the proposal makes casual reference to the ease of obtaining a permit, it's not that simple according to the ADF&G website, which states the following: "*If a particular mammal, bird, or reptile species does not appear on this list, it may not be imported to Alaska or possessed as a pet or livestock in Alaska, and the Department of Fish and Game cannot issue a permit allowing its importation or possession.*" <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pets.exotic> Removal of domestic sheep and goats from the Clean List would simply put livestock owners into a state of legal limbo, meanwhile providing not a single benefit or safeguard to the health of the wild sheep population.

The premise of Prop 64 references the lower 48 model of large commercial domestic herds in open-range grazing areas that adjoin or overlap bighorn sheep habitat, where wild sheep die-offs have been linked to extensive and on-going exposure to domestic sheep. In contrast, Alaskan sheep and goat owners maintain their flocks and herds on small private fenced acreages, with no access to Dall sheep habitat due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions. It is both irrational and unreasonable to use anecdotal evidence from the lower 48 when considering regulations for Alaska's unique environment. Any valid risk assessment whose findings are to be used in Alaska must be done in Alaska, and be based on fact and science instead of suspicion and assumptions.

In what can only be described as a freak incident, a wild mountain goat did find its way into downtown Palmer in September of 2016. (Although unverifiable, both the timing and the logistic challenges make it easier to believe that human intervention was involved than that the goat managed this unlikely journey alone and unaided.) The Mat-Su Borough's website says: "*Mat-Su Borough Animal Care Chief Matt Hardwig arrived on scene in disbelief. He knows about sheep and goat habitat. "I've never heard of a goat or sheep on this side of the Mat-Su River," Hardwig said. Biologists from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game darted and tranquilized the goat and returned it to its habitat, Hardwig said.*" <https://www.matsugov.us/news/mountain-goat-takes-a-rest-downtown-palmer> The only logical conclusion to be drawn from this: if ADF&G's policy is to return an untested animal to the wild after possible exposure to any number of domestic pathogens, this entire discussion is rendered moot.

There has never been a single documented case of Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae (M. ovi) transmission from domestic sheep or goats to Dall sheep in Alaska, or in the bigger picture, to Dall or Stone sheep in the wild in either Alaska or Canada. In 2016 when faced with the loss of wilderness access the North American Pack Goat Association worked together with the Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman WA to develop a testing protocol for the purpose of determining the prevalence of M. ovi in their pack goats. The completed 3-part test series included 468 goats, and final results showed a 4% prevalence rate for the disease. While testing was underway, the WSF's head vet, Dr. Tom Besser published the following statement in the summer 2016 edition of Wild Sheep Magazine: "*This expected low prevalence of carriage of M. ovi by pack goats is currently being tested through a program sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Research Service Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, WA. If that low prevalence is confirmed, a duress event in the form of a disease outbreak is highly unlikely. I believe that M. ovi test-negative pack goats represent a negligible risk for triggering pack goat outbreaks in bighorn sheep and that it would be reasonable to take this into account when setting public lands policies.*"

Encouraged by that response, Alaskan sheep and goat owners followed suit in 2017 with voluntary participation in a study using the same protocols as NAPgA, and supervised by our state vet. This was done at no small expenditure of time and money on the part of each of the participating farmers, and under the risk of not knowing what the results would be. The study is still on-going, but to date 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska have been tested for M. ovi. Of that number under 2% (a total of six animals, consisting of four sheep and two goats) tested positive. This extremely low prevalence (less than half of the NAPgA study's 4%) certainly does not justify enacting the sweeping regulation called for by Prop 64.

Besides causing a severe economic burden to Alaskan sheep and goat owners and the businesses that provide feed and other services for them, the passage of Prop. 64 would also have significant cost impacts to the State of Alaska, at a time when budgets are being cut at every turn. The last thing the state needs is a new regulatory compliance program to implement and administrate, for the sake of purportedly preventing a hypothetical crisis that has neither occurred, nor been proven to likely occur in the future.

Finally there is the matter of the personal freedom of private citizens to raise their own food on their own private land. At no time or place in the history of our nation has there ever been a measure imposed on any segment of the population that would so drastically impair the



capability of families to provide for their own needs, meantime devastating an entire community whose lives are intertwined with and dependent on their animals. Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. The passage of this proposal would set a disturbing precedent that could be used to push even more restrictive measures elsewhere, or with other livestock species. PC528 of 2

I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements, and neither individuals nor the State can afford the costs of implementing and enforcing this program. It is incumbent on you to make a decision that is reasonable, farsighted, equitable to all involved, and fully defensible in the aftermath -- not one that merely appeases the insistent demands of a well-heeled special-interest group. Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and TAKE NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzy Crosby



Submitted By
Amanda CROSS
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:40:59 PM
Affiliation

I oppose proposition 64. Do not pass.



Submitted By
Jayme cupples
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:16:01 PM
Affiliation

To whom this may concern:

As a life long Alaskan, born and raised in Eagle River, I have always loved this state. However, as of late, the governing bodies have been sending Alaska into a tailspin. Making this beautiful state even more difficult to live in. I have livestock, including having goats. What kind of state are we living in that would place laws on one of the most important livestock in the state? That would force people to register their animals or have them slaughtered? To force citizens to restrict their activities with their animals to their registered properties so they can't even go on walks, go hiking, go to the fair or transport their goats for whatever reason it may be? What kind of controlling government are you looking to create? The vast majority of wild goats and sheep in Alaska live far beyond where people take their goats. Why not just ban certain mountains in high risk areas and not a blanket ban across the state for most likely the most popular farm animal in the state?

If this bill passes, the shock wave will hit everything from the state fair, local small business feed stores, raw milk and meat producers, families, important breeding programs, and so much more. Alaska is already suffering enough, why make this place more miserable by allowing one control-freak of a vet and a small band of governing leadership to dictate what is best for the biggest state in the US and all the people that would be impacted by such a terrible ban? Please understand that the more Alaska is crushed under this current government body, the more people will leave. There's no reason to stay if everything that makes Alaska a great place to live (dispite the inherent difficulties) is taken away. Don't pull the trigger on Alaska .. Don't be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Do not pass prop 64.



Submitted By
Sandra Daniels
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:07:31 PM
Affiliation

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2064590093

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sandradaniels63@yahoo.com

Address
18418 Driftwood Dr East
Lake Tapps, Washington 98391

REGARDS to PROP 64 which is to prevent the "possible" transfer of a bacterium. It's not fair for people who raise goats and sheeps to have their rights taken away. People raise these animals for food, milk and pets. They do not spread diseases. AND MOST people do not live anywhere near wild goats and sheep.

ALASKA is not the lower 48! Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would come together. Alaska has natural barriers to prevent wild Dalls & domestics from forming friendships.

There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. There have been no baseline studies on Dall sheep as carriers of M.ovi until recently. All the current information, and forced captive studies, have been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not done mapping of Dall sheep habitat to define areas of true concern. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment and determine a risk versus regulation protocol the current Proposal 64 should not be acted on.



Submitted By
Heather DeBolt
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:00:35 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on prop 64.



Submitted By
Alivia DeBusk
Submitted On
10/9/2017 9:01:19 AM
Affiliation

I'm not sure why we're letting special interest groups from outside dictate what happens in Alaska. In Alaska it is already illegal to use pack animals to hunt, and goat and sheep are not intermingling with wild sheep and goats. All this bill would do is force Alaskan businesses to close based on laws that are not right for our state. Please say no to this regulation.



Submitted By
Kelly Dellar
Submitted On
10/11/2017 11:55:33 PM
Affiliation
N/A

Phone
907-441-0506
Email
kellydellar1@gmail.com
Address
2171 S Yukon Circle
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

The foundation for Prop 64 by the WSF is to prevent the possible transfer of a bacterium, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi), to the wild Dall sheep population. M.ovi has been associated with pneumonia outbreaks in Big Horn sheep in the lower 48.

However, there has not been a single documented case of M. ovi transmission in the State of Alaska, British Columbia, or the Yukon between domestic livestock and wild thinhorn sheep populations. Ever. In light of the fact that there were 30,000 domestic sheep in Alaska in the 1970's, a number which dwindled to 20,000 in the 80's and is finally down to approximately 1000 at present, there is absolutely no evidence to support the notion that domestic livestock in this state are putting our wildlife at risk.

All of the current information and studies have been on Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. No studies have been completed on Thin Horn sheep, (Dall sheep) susceptibility to the bacterium in the State of Alaska.

Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would commingle . Alaska has many natural barriers to help prevent wild Dall sheep & domestics from coming into contact.

In 2017, Alaskan sheep and goat owners participated in a voluntary testing program using the same protocol as NAPgA, with duplicate samples sent to a second lab for added reliability. Out of the 334 animals tested to date, a total of six animals (under 2%) were positive for M. ovi. This extremely low prevalence in Alaska demonstrates a negligible risk as well, especially when combined with the lack of commingling between wild and domestic species. As part of an overall risk assessment this study clearly validates the point that removing domestic sheep or goats from the clean list would serve no useful purpose.

Removing domestic sheep and goats from the clean list as Prop 64 requests would have far-reaching negative impacts on farming and sustainable living in Alaska. Prop 64 was haphazardly written prior to determining if a risk exists, and without careful consideration of a logical and workable plan to reasonably address that risk. Please remove Prop 64 from the BOG proposal list as it serves no useful purpose.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Kimberly Delph
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:31:14 PM
Affiliation

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If this proposition is put in it will affect our small farmers. Goats and sheep are a large part of our agriculture and by passing proposition 64 and making it illegal to own them you will see a trickle down affect through the entire state in our agriculture. I do not personally own any farm animal but I full support all of our state's farmers both small and large. Thank you for taking the time to look at my message and consider my concerns.



Submitted By
Teresa denton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:57:34 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077152125

Email
teresadenton94@hotmail.com

Address
2400 W Lake Lucille Dr
Wasilla , Alaska 99654

Leave sheep and goats on clean list



Submitted By
Gerald DeVilbiss
Submitted On
9/15/2017 7:22:45 PM
Affiliation
farmer

Phone
746-2575

Email
windyriverfarm@gmail.com

Address
6505 N. Wolverine rd. Palmer, Ak. 99645
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please do not take sheep and goats off of the clean list. There is no scientific data that conclusively proves domestic sheep and goats transfer diseases to wild sheep and goats. If you arbitrarily take them off the clean list it would devastate small sector family farm production and all those farms and business that supply products to these small farms.

Sincerely,

Gerald DeVilbiss



Submitted By
Kristine DiBartolo
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:05:11 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9073151654

Email
Kristineinalaska@gmail.com

Address
2040 n Midtown dr
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I oppose goats and sheep to be taken off the clean list.



Submitted By
Melissa Dishman
Submitted On
10/16/2017 11:26:45 PM
Affiliation

Prop 64: Please be sure to look at all the data that has been gathered regarding prop 64. The Wild Sheep Foundation's own research shows that domestic sheep/goats have never posed a threat to our wild sheep here in Alaska. Removing domestic sheep/goats from the clean list would only harm the lifestyles and way of life for Alaskans and do nothing to protect or benefit the wild sheep in our great state. The Wild Sheep Foundation has a history of being a bully organization, please do not subject us to their made up scare tactics. Thank you



Submitted By
Kristen M Donchess
Submitted On
10/8/2017 8:51:51 AM
Affiliation
1989

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4257367037

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kristen.donchess@gmail.com

Address
1696 N OGrady Cir
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Prop 64 is ridiculous. We raise goats and really enjoy it. Please don't change Alaska. There are other ways to protect the wild animals.



Submitted By
Connie Duran
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:25:56 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-357-0557

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jocon@mtaonline.net

Address
PO Box 877303
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Why on earth would the Government want to do this to the small farmer and hobby people?? There seems to be a want to keep people who love their animals from having a good life style. There are no credible stats up here in Alaska to even warrant such a move. Why do the few get to ruin it for the many in this issue? Seems big money may be the problem here, and possibly the eliet hunters who couldn't give a hoot about the little guy. My goats are smarter than the usual progressive. Please, just leave us little guys alone and quite trying to think you are smarter than God!! Most of us who have goats or sheep work HARD to keep our animals healthy. Please do not put this in to a law!!!! Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
Maureen Eldridge
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:56:19 PM
Affiliation

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Thom Eley
Submitted On
10/24/2017 8:57:46 AM
Affiliation
None

Phone
9075622496

Email
thom@mapmakers.com

Address
4611 Pavalof St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Do not ban goats from Alaska. That is the dumbest idea that I have ever heard (herd). Goats are a livelihood to many folks. Deal with some real issues.



Submitted By
Theresa Elliott
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:10:22 AM
Affiliation

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907-715-6134

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yankeegal@mtaonline.net

Address
PO BOX 877207
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska.



Submitted By
Shonda Erickson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:45:04 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop 64



Submitted By
Renee Everhart
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:41:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-947-2119

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Renееeverhart@yahoo.com

Address
1551 E Tattler Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Take No Action on Prop 64. If more studies are needed, it would be a shame to separate Alaskans from their livestock and pets.



Submitted By
Judith Faber
Submitted On
10/26/2017 12:06:21 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-376-2648
Email
msjudithf@yahoo.com
Address
6191 S Hayfield Rd
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In light of the fact that the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Judith Faber



Submitted By
Desiree Ferguson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:48:05 PM
Affiliation

Say no to prop. 64 do not do this to alaskans we should be sble to keep our sheep and goats this will weaken alaska econimics. Sincerely
a consened alaskan goat farmer



Submitted By
Alexa Fetta
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:21:12 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-355-8343

Email
lexy@wealthxpro.com

Address
2160 E 56th Ave
A108
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Please do NOT take action on Prop 64!



Submitted By
Vincent Feuilles
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:54:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073288161

Email
feuilleslives@gmail.com

Address
15182 W Big Lake Lodge Rd
Big Lake, Alaska 99623

Please vote no on Prop 64. In Alaska, there are already laws regarding fencing and livestock that help prevent issues. We are also a proud group of people who are self sufficient. Goats and sheep are incredibly hardy, and easy to maintain in comparison with other larger livestock such as cows. Removing goats and sheep removes a lot of people's self sufficiency as well. This is a bad law that hurts the people of Alaska and does NOT help our wildlife.



Submitted By
Paul Finch
Submitted On
10/16/2017 8:26:13 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-687-0722

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pfinch58@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 55156
North Pole, Alaska 99705

North Country Farm on Eielson Farm Rd, North Pole maintains a Boer meat goat herd of about 30 winter breeding stock and up around 70 head after kidding time through summer forage time to be marketed for meat and breeding stock. The whole process of Prop 64 is burdensome on already difficult agricultural work. The fear, anger, and division this has caused among farmers against hunters, and vice versa, (both are good, solid Alaskan and American groups) is totally not worth the perceived benefit as the actual risk has not been adequately assessed and the actual benefit has not been justified. Furthermore, any enforcement of this measure will be difficult, expensive, and problematic at best if not violent and unconstitutional at worst. If passed, this would signal the demise of our goat operation as the financial and regulatory burden is simply unbearable. We will look back and regret this wasted effort and angst as history is written. We have much greater work to do both on the farm and other issues in our great state. Please defeat Prop 64, otherwise it will undoubtedly be decided after a protracted legal battle in the courts. Thank you



Submitted By
Marcia Fischer
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:18:38 AM
Affiliation

Please continue to allow us to keep our sheep and goats. No not remove them from the clean list. These animals do not roam free in this state and pose no risk to wildlife. Thank you



Submitted By
Colleen R Fisk
Submitted On
10/24/2017 3:25:22 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078919608
Email
colleenfisk@gmail.com
Address
2310 Eagle St
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Board Members,

Regarding Prop 64, I would encourage the Board of Game to REJECT this proposal. The impact on the sheep and goat owners throughout the state would be harmful to small business owners who sell the meat or wool from their and those who receive some of their food for the year from their animals. The difficulties in fencing the domestic animals in, not to mention the extra permit and testing required, to protect the wild goats and sheep are unreasonable and unnecessary. The initial findings of the *Movi* survey show that few domestic goats and sheep have the infection, and there is little evidence that the wild sheep and goats even have contact with domestic sheep and goats.

I grew up in the Mat-Su Valley and raised sheep as a 4-H project to sell at the Palmer State Fair each year. The money I raised from those sheep went towards a college education, and I know there are many other youth around the state who do the same. While my family probably would have been able to have the space and ability to build up a double fence and get permits disease free certification, many other families would not, and if Prop 64 passes, many 4-H youth will be deprived of the ability to raise sheep as a project animal. Of course they could choose another animal, but sheep are easy to care for and handle compared to other project animals such as pigs and steers, but still able to earn a significant amount of money compared to the smaller market animals such as turkeys.

Please take into consideration the economic impact on small business, youth learning livestock care, and those who depend on the animals for their own sustenance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen R. Fisk

Anchorage, AK



Submitted By
Louise Fode
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:18:59 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-980-1880

Email
louisefode@gmail.com

Address
1340 W 73rd Cir
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

I oppose Prop 64. We need goats and sheep for sustainable agriculture in AK. The risk of domestic goats and sheep interacting with wild goats and sheep is very low. I am concerned that this Prop is being supported by an Outside lobbyist that has no knowledge of or concerns for true Alaska issues.



Submitted By
sara foose
Submitted On
10/26/2017 6:11:43 PM
Affiliation

I strongly oppose this measure. I do not think this should be a law. As far as I Know, we have no sheep/goats near the area where wild ones are. The risk of passing diseases is minute & does not warrant this attention.



Submitted By
Kelly Fox
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:01:00 PM
Affiliation

No to Prop 64. Domestic sheep and goats are vital for our local economy as well as for small farmers, homesteaders, and local business.



Submitted By
Grace Franklin
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:53:34 PM
Affiliation

Passing a law to restrict the ownership of certain livestock such as goats, to the point where it is illegal to own them, is plainly ridiculous. The risk they pose to the natural ecosystem in Alaska is all of 2%. I am certain that the benefits these animals offer are far greater than that 2% risk. Don't illegalize goats.



Submitted By
Kimberly Fuchs
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:50:14 PM
Affiliation

No on 64. Sheep and goats are needed in alaska for our agrucultural needs and economy.



Submitted By
Gavin Gaffney
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:26:03 PM
Affiliation

This prop will affect far to many family's who rely on goats and sheep. Passing this on a "this might happen" basis will do far more harm than good to Alaskans. Please do not let this pass.



Submitted By
Sara Garsha
Submitted On
10/23/2017 7:12:35 PM
Affiliation

Please consider the following:

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In light of the fact that the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Jerika George
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:12:21 PM
Affiliation

I oppose proposition 64! Alaska needs small farming and better agricultural options!



August 30, 2017

Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Sent by email to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Re: PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) submitted comments strongly opposing adoption of Proposal 90 in March 2016. Proposal 64 is a reissuance of Proposal 90, and these comments are now re-submitted, with additional information regarding the work that DEC has undertaken on this topic in the 18 months since Proposal 90 was tabled.

First, it must be made extremely clear that neither the Board of Game nor the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has statutory authority over domestic mammals that are confined and under the care of a human being. That authority lies with DEC at AS 03.05.

The ADF&G regulations at 5 AAC 92.029 address permits for possession of live game. The first section prohibits possession, importation, release, or exportation of live game unless the person holds a possession permit issued by ADF&G. The next section contains a list of species commonly referred to as the "clean list" which includes animals defined in statute as domestic and may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from ADF&G, but may not be released into the wild.

Proposal 64, like Proposal 90 in 2016, seeks to eliminate domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list" and require a permit for possession, with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat. The permit would require certifications that animals are disease free "when testing becomes available" and require containment in an ADF&G "approved facility." Sheep and goats located more than 15 miles from Dall sheep habitat would still require a permit, which would be issued without stipulations.

ADF&G and the Board of Game have jurisdiction over "game" which is defined in AS 16.05.940(19) as "any species of bird, reptile, and mammal, including a feral domestic animal, found or introduced in the state, **except domestic birds and mammals**" [emphasis added]. According

to this definition, the ADF&G and Board of Game lack authority or jurisdiction over domestic animals, including sheep and goats as listed in Proposal 64. Only in the case where domestic mammals are released or escape into the wild and no longer under the care and husbandry of a human being, are they considered feral. It is only at that time could they fall under the authority of the Board of Game and ADF&G.

DEC has clear jurisdiction over regulation of livestock when they are confined and under the care and husbandry of a human being. In accordance with AS 03.05.013, the Commissioner appoints the State Veterinarian to enforce the requirements of AS 03 relating to animals, agriculture, and food. Specifically, DEC and the State Veterinarian have the authority to issue orders and permits and to require the inspection, testing, quarantine, embargo, custody, care, and destruction of animals in order to prevent the spread of pests or contagious or infectious disease (AS 03.05.11).

As part of DEC, the OSV currently regulates the health and importation of livestock, including sheep and goats. In order to prevent the spread of infectious disease, imported livestock must be examined by a licensed and USDA accredited veterinarian, who issues a health certificate certifying the livestock are disease free and also meet species specific vaccination requirements. The State Veterinarian also has the authority to re-test any imported animal if there is a concern about the animal's health, as well as to place animals into quarantine or have them destroyed.

Due to the structure of farms in Alaska, (fewer and smaller flocks of sheep or herds of goats than other states, no free grazing with a requirement for fencing, fewer imports) the risk of disease transmission from domestic livestock to wildlife is lower than in other areas of the country. According to ADF&G, Dall sheep populations in Alaska are generally considered to be healthy. Mass die offs due to respiratory diseases that have decimated wild sheep in the Lower 48 are not known to have occurred in Alaska.

The wildlife resources of the State of Alaska are invaluable, and it is critical that the health of wildlife populations are protected for all residents. Towards this end, a working group was established in 2016 by the Alaska Farm Bureau and the Wild Sheep Foundation to address the concern of maintaining the health of the wild sheep populations in Alaska. Representatives from ADF&G, the Department of Natural Resources, and DEC participate in the meetings to provide technical expertise.

To better understand the prevalence and distribution of respiratory disease and the impact, if any, on wild sheep and goats in Alaska, at the urging of the multi-agency working group, the OSV is conducting a voluntary study in collaboration with the USDA Agricultural Services Laboratory in Washington State and the Washington State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to determine the prevalence of *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* (Movi) and *Mycoplasma conjunctivia* in domestic sheep and goats





ADF&G Board of Game
Proposal 64 Opposition

2

August 30, 2017

and captive ungulates. This study will proceed for the next 18 months attempting to reach sheep and goat owners in all regions of the state. Additional information about this study can be found here: <https://dec.alaska.gov/ch/vet/Movi.html>. In addition, the ADF&G Wildlife Veterinarian, Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen, has also initiated a study with USDA Agricultural Services Laboratory to screen wild sheep, goats, and ungulates for Movi.

The collection of information from both of these projects will help identify *actual* health threats and guide state agencies to develop strategies within their respective statutory authorities to reduce risk of introduction of disease pathogens to wild sheep and goats, while still allowing the growth and development of agriculture in our state.

Reiterating my comments in 2016, I strongly urge the Board of Game to reject Proposal 64, and for ADF&G to take no further action to remove domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. F. Gerlach, VMD".

Dr. Robert F. Gerlach, VMD State Veterinarian

cc: Bruce Dale, Director, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation





Submitted By
Pamela Gjertson
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:56:32 PM
Affiliation

Regarding Proposition 64, I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Nicole Goolsby
Submitted On
10/25/2017 9:41:23 AM
Affiliation

Hello, last year I sent in a comment with many details on why I opposed prop 90, and now with this prop 64, I want you to know I oppose it as well. I will share a comment which sums this up pretty well. "It is utterly outrageous that a group of hunters should attempt to push for a ruling which, although providing them no guaranteed benefit, would do irreparable damage to our food supply, our lifestyle, our livelihood and our passion in the process. Hunters and farmers have peacefully co-existed in Alaska for a long time and should be able to continue to do so."

I started my adventure with goats three years ago and I completely fell in love with them. They have given my family and I much joy. I am lactose intolerant and the goats milk is much better on my stomach than cows milk . My goat provides my family and I with milk and cheese. I have spent many hours training another of my goats to pull a small cart and my nephew loves getting rides in it. I have also raised goats for meat, a cow would be out of the question because of it's large size and massive appetite but it is quite realistic for us to raise a meat goat every year or so.

My animals are kept in an enclosure on my property for their protection and I have gotten them tested for some of the main goat diseases because I believe health is important. I think you will find that most goat and sheep owners around Alaska do the same for the safety of their animals.

- Thank you for your time



Submitted By
Neil Gotschall
Submitted On
10/17/2017 10:19:44 AM
Affiliation
Alaska Resident

I understand if the BOG should pass Prop 64 domestic goats and sheep would be illegal to own in the State of Alaska. No permits are issued for animals not on the clean list.

I am against the passing of Prop 64.



Submitted By
Julia Graham
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:54:30 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078414335

Email
Juliag@mtaonline.net

Address
900 A Grantham Road
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Oppose proposition 64!



Submitted By
Lena Green
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:56:36 PM
Affiliation

i would like to oppose proposal 64. I have a 10 year old daughter who was born with down syndrome and can not drink cows milk. So we have invested a few thousands \$ in milk goats. They are from top of the line breeding for Heath. If I was unable to provide this healthy food for my family it would impact us greatly. Along with the milk we make keifer and cheeses as well. Please to not take away my right to provide my own healthy food to my family. Than you Lena Green



Submitted By
Michelle Greensfelder
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:17:17 PM
Affiliation
None - resident

Phone
907 707 0266

Email
Chaoswoman@msn.com

Address
1460 N Branding Iron Ln
Apt 2
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Take no action on Prop 64.



Submitted By
KEN GRIDLEY
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:29:33 PM
Affiliation

TAKE NO ACTION ON PROP 64. LEAVE AS IS.



Submitted By
Kim Gross
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:17:54 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 885 4771

Email
Kimeca@googlemail.com

Address
9132 Cranberry st
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.

Kim Gross



Submitted By
Mary P. Groth
Submitted On
10/25/2017 8:38:29 AM
Affiliation

Farming is a tradition in our community. Government overreach of this magnitude is criminal. To assume that Dall Sheep can be contaminated by domesticated goats and sheep on local farms is outrageous. They do not even remotley share the same habitat and I cannot fathom how they would come into contact.



Submitted By
Dana Guidi
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:59:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-226-2070

Email
gigglesguidi@yahoo.com

Address
64193 Diamond Ridge Rd.
Homer, Alaska 99603

I am opposed to prop 64 please take no action



Submitted By
Sarah H.
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:05:30 PM
Affiliation

My family raises goats in the Matanuska Susitna Borough. We oppose Prop. 64. I would like to echo the statement of Tina Starr Judd, a fellow goat owner and respected member of the agricultural community: "The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska." Please do not allow this to pass. Many Alaskans depend on this type of agriculture and this is an important issue to us.



Submitted By
Dianne Haddox
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:20:02 PM
Affiliation

I am writing in opposition to Prop 64 and the removal of domestic sheep and goats from the clean list in Alaska. The powers promoting this proposition are, among other things, limiting or even completely eliminating an entire category of livestock farming and thus increasing food insecurity in a state that has got to do everything possible to encourage and develop local food sources for the long term food security of Alaskans. Once again Alaska's unique situation is not being taken into consideration. There is no evidence to support the need to remove domestic goats and sheep from the clean list in Alaska. The testing has not been done to show they are a threat and domestic sheep and goats are required to be appropriately penned in on private property in this state thus all but eliminating the potential problems found in states allowing these animals on open range. This Proposal restricts people's freedom to raise livestock, feed their families and generate income using private property in a misguided effort to prevent a problem that hasn't been shown to exist in Alaska and before mapping of the wild populations is even complete. Domestic sheep and goats should remain on the clean list and Prop 64 should be permanently shelved.



Submitted By
Jean Hale
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:47:11 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077450357

Email
rjhale@gci.net

Address
10355 E Cody dr
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Currently listed as prop 64, putting ownership of domestic livestock (sheep and goats) at risk by removing them from the *clean* list. This is a ridiculous proposition. Farm animals have been part of our history in the state since the trading company days. They were part of the colonization of this state, with goats even being used as pack and sled animals as well as for milk and food. They are a very important part of our food security, which quite frankly, is pretty scary up here- a much worse situation that a manufactured fear of *disease* being pushed by people that don't live here and are far removed from farm reality. Needless to say, I opposed this.



Submitted By
Carissa Haley
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:08:01 PM
Affiliation

I am severely opposed to the proposition to add domestic goats/sheep to an unclean list. I see no reason for it to be implemented as it would be nothing more than a budren on the community, rather than a protection to Alaskas wildlife.



Submitted By
Betty Hall
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:11:08 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-229-6589

Email
betty_hall@icloud.com

Address
1853 Concord Hill Drive
Anchorage , Alaska 99515

I oppose Prop 64 and support the rights of Alaskans to raise goats and sheep.



Submitted By
Cayla Hall
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:08:58 PM
Affiliation

Phone
3307633376

Email
Cayhall91@gmail.com

Address
19334 N Glenn Hwy
Sutton, Alaska 99674

If goats and sheep are removed from the "clean list" I will seriously lose all hope in the management of our wildlife/livestock. This would impact so many Alaskans ways of life and until there is proven research that they are detrimental to our dall sheep and mountain goat population I feel it is completely uncalled for. If it is necessary to go on a witch hunt please don't punish the common Alaskan and take aim at commercial fisheries because I for one am sick of not being able to catch enough fish to get my family through the winter.



Submitted By
Kate Halsey
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:07 PM
Affiliation

Regarding Prop 64- I am asking that you NOT remove goats and sheep from Alaska's clean list! They are not able to commingle with the wild doll sheep and should pose minimal if any threat to their population. I have many friends who have goats and love them and love raising them. Please, please do not remove them from the clean list! Thank you



Submitted By
Megan Hamlin
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:45:00 PM
Affiliation

Take no action on proposition 64.

I can't say anything that hasn't been said 1,000 times already about this. It all fell on deaf BOG ears last year.



October 20, 2017

To whom it may concern regarding Proposition 64,

I am Katrina Hammond, small meat goat producer in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. I have been involved in agriculture since I was five or six years old and got my first goat to help fill our families freezer and have a source of fresh natural milk. I was in 4-H programs growing up in the valley and participated in the annual livestock auction at the State Fair, on the teen council as president and still continue to support 4-H families and to produce quality meat goats. Goats are a huge part of my life, and raising them is a self sufficient lifestyle that us as Alaskans cherish greatly. Like many Alaskans, we hunt, fish and raise our own produce and livestock, it's a way of life, and respect for all resources is a topic that hits close to home.

I strongly oppose proposition 64, this proposition would make it very difficult for a small time producer like myself to keep goats. I have my herd tested annually for diseases through Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL), with negative results every year for; Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis, Caseous Lymphadenitis and Johnes. Raising goats here in Alaska is already a tough challenge, due to feed prices, shipping costs for new bloodlines and caring for the health of our herds. Domestic goats and sheep in Alaska do not comingle with the wild sheep populations, unlike the Lower 48 where there are issues with transmitting disease in Bighorn sheep flocks due to free ranging domestic flocks. Studies showed that less than 2% of goats tested in the volunteer program here were "positive" for the M. Ovi virus, and that was just a small number of volunteers. There is no evidence of Dall Sheep being directly affected, we must remember we are not the Lower 48.

I trust the Board of Game will read the comments from the local farmers and see that this is very important to us, we don't want our livestock labeled "unclean", that would affect every aspect of raising goats, including USDA processing, I couldn't market my animals, I cannot put perimeter fencing around my property, and will not pay the state for a permit to keep my goats that I've had for years without infecting flocks of wild sheep.

" We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it."
- William Faulkner

Respectfully,

Katrina Hammond



Submitted By
Lisa Hampton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:25:25 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073547228

Email
Elda.aranel@gmail.com

Address
POB 877690
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

I oppose Prop. 64, take NO action!



Submitted By
Hershey Haney
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:29:20 PM
Affiliation
TAKE NO ACTION PROP 64



Submitted By
Kunuyaqauluk Hank
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:47 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-891-1716

Email
Kunuyaqauluk@icloud.com

Address
5500 w Limberlost ave
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Take no action on prop 64!



Submitted By
Chelsey Hanson
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:26:09 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072297807

Email
Chanson1218@yahoo.com

Address
3220 west riverdell
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Hello, I'm writing this in regards to the proposition of taking domestic goats and sheep off the clean list. I oppose the idea that domestic sheep and goats are a risk to wild dall sheep in Alaska. I have two goats that are kept as family pets and kept behind a 6 foot fence at all times. Due to the data I've digested I feel strongly that it is completely unnessesry to take domestic sheep and goats off the clea n list. My herd is dearly loved, healthy and well cared for. Thank you for your consideration, time and understanding.



Submitted By
Colin Harrington
Submitted On
10/24/2017 6:29:52 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7069877351

Email
colinharrington@hotmail.com

Address
6186 N Sunset
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

We rely on having goats to raise for food and to milk for dairy products. It offsets the high cost of living in Alaska. If you changed the laws and rules regarding these animals on the "clean list" it would severely impact my family and cause issues with trying to feed the family. Meats and dairy products that we get from raising goats is a viable and sustainable option. Please don't pass such absurd regulation.



Submitted By
Carrie Harris
Submitted On
10/26/2017 12:19:26 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 299 7916
Email
Everydayingenuity@yahoo.com
Address
35642 Sun Eagle Dr
Anchor Point , Alaska 99556

Domestic Goats and Sheep provide meat, cheeses, milk to many families in the State. Taking goats and sheep off the clean list is taking food out of Alaskans mouths to benefit big game hunters for a problem that does not exist. Do not take Sheep and Goats off the clean list.

Submitted By
Carrie Harris
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:15:28 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 299 7916
Email
Everydayingenuity@yahoo.com
Address
35642 Sun eagle Dr
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

Dear Board of Game members: Please Don't take food from our families mouths. Do not take goats and sheep off the clean list When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted: Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics) There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America. There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks. Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this. Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game. Respectfully, Carrie Harris



Submitted By
David Harris
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:19:43 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 299 4485

Email
Dharris766@gmail.com

Address
35642 Sun Eagle Dr
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

Dear Board of Game members: When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted: Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics) There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thornhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America. There have been no confirmed cases of thornhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thornhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks. Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this. Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game. Respectfully, David Harris



Submitted By
Lacey Harris
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:12:31 AM
Affiliation

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907-841-6924

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arcticharris@hotmail.com

Address
4981 W. Beverly Lake Rd
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Take no action. Let Alaskans continue to have their small farm animals. So many used for various reasons that benefit many different people of Alaska. This is a give.....take no action!



Submitted By
Rebecca Harvey
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:01:17 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 982 9539

Email
b.hrvy@yahoo.com

Address
PO box 3612
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please do not take action on the proposal to remove goats and sheep from the "clean" list for Alaska. It is proven that these animals are not a threat to wild sheep/ goats as they are not herded in open spaces. Owners have them on personal property, fenced in. These animals are important to many families. Especially goat milk. We are not like the lower 48. Don't let this happen here just because it's an issue there.



Submitted By
Hillary Hatfield
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:13:42 AM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop 64.



Submitted By
Lan Hecimovich
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:01:44 PM
Affiliation
Farmer

Phone
9074418072
Email
lan@mtaonline.net
Address
PO Box 488
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Board:

I am in opposition to proposition 64 because there is a limited amount of research therefore more research needs to be conducted. Also for the following reasons:

1. I attended the meeting held in Palmer with the person who did all of the research on *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi). The study according to her can only verify that M. ovi is a pathogen. The study can not predict what could happen if a thin horned sheep came into contact with M. ovi in the wild. There are several reasons for this 1) The study was done under controlled conditions in which the wild sheep were penned up with domestic sheep. This creates unnatural stress on the wild sheep which are not used to captivity. Then we introduce a pathogen to them with a weakened immune system due to stress making them more susceptible to the disease. 2) It is unknown as to how long the pathogen can exist outside of the host body in the wild. According to the researcher it could be up to 48 hours under the right conditions, but nobody really knows. In that time a thin horned sheep would have to come up and smell it in order for it to become infected.
2. There is currently grant funded research to determine the extent of M. ovi in the domestic flocks. To date only 2% have tested positive for M. ovi.
3. Unlike the lower 48 where sheep can graze on government land our sheep are fenced. This makes it highly unlikely that they would ever have any contact with domestic sheep in Alaska. Even if a domesticated sheep were to get loose the chances of it coming into a thin horned sheep are just about ZERO as the thin horned sheep live in the mountains and are mostly remote. Even if domestic sheep were to be found in their range they would have to be infected, the current study shows that only 2% of domestic sheep infected with M. ovi. The virus would have to survive outside the host up to long enough for a thin horned sheep to become infected, not a very likely scenario.
4. We are currently required by law to fence our sheep.
5. If we place sheep on the unclean list then there is no way to legally raise sheep in Alaska.
6. I personally like most Alaskans do not like big money and that's what the wild sheep association is is big money coming into our state telling us what we need to be doing.
7. As the researcher stated in the meeting more research needs to be done to see what impacts if any could there be in the wild.
8. I am asking the board to not do anything drastic at this time but to allow for there to be enough research to be completed so that an educated research based solution can be reached. It would be wise to make a snap decision or a political decision without all of the facts that could have a huge impact on the food supply in Alaska. We live in a remote corner of the world up here where if there were a disruption in the shipping where would we get our food. Certainly not from the mountain sheep or the mountains themselves.
9. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



Submitted By
Lee Hecimovich
Submitted On
10/24/2017 3:03:53 PM
Affiliation
4-H, FFA, farmer

Phone
907-745-8009
Email
lan@mtaonline.net
Address
PO Box 488
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please do not give this ridiculous Prop 64 former 90, any merit. No positive tests have been found and even Biologists and Vets think it is unfounded. I am a sheep farmer, 4-H agent, FFA supporter, Alaska agriculture supporter as well as a hunter with a BS in Wildlife Mgmt so I understand all aspects. It would be impossible for farmers, 4-H youth, etc to afford the fencing and other compliance requirements and would deal Alaska livestock as well as other agriculture aspects a killing blow, for no good reason other than so that a few trophy hunters are happy. State resources are tight enough that compliance would also be difficult at best. Please consider the whole picture, not just where the money is!



Submitted By
Tiani R Heider
Submitted On
10/11/2017 3:49:39 PM
Affiliation
Su Valley Farm

Phone
9073570542
Email
suvalley@gmail.com
Address
7479 W. Born Lazy Way
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Dear Board of Game-

I am commenting today on Proposition 64, as presented for your consideration.

I am adamantly opposed to the removal of domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list", and the proposition in its entirety for the following reasons:

- 1) The State of Alaska has not identified or mapped the "typical range" of wild sheep and/or goats.
- 2) Alaska is not a free range state, as domestic livestock are fenced in due to predator threats.
- 3) Voluntary preliminary testing is currently underway of a small percentage of domestic Alaskan flocks. The results of these tests as of the date of this submission, show a 2% positive rate for m.Ovi, well below other risk groups.
- 4) Domestic sheep and goats represent food security for many Alaska homesteaders and hobbyists, and the explosive growth of the local food movement includes a number of smaller farms and ranches who are investing in Alaska's rising livestock production numbers.
- 5) The Office of the State Veterinarian has been instrumental in maintaining the health and well being of domestic animals within Alaska's borders. They already shoulder the responsibility of assisting in protecting Alaskan wildlife, through their many programs.
- 6) Removing domestic flocks from the clean list will also punish 4-H participants, their supporters who purchase the meat cuts at the Alaska State Fair, and the sponsors of those auctions.
- 7) Alaskans chose sheep and goats for personal consumption. These choices can be based on allergen, ethnic, or religious factors. These consumers rely upon Alaskan livestock producers to fill these needs.

Adopting Prop64 will have wide ranging effects state wide. Not only will it cause 100s of residents to destroy their investment without reimbursement, it will shutter quite a number of cottage businesses for fiber and fiber arts, the myriad of products created with sheep and goats milk, charcuterie endeavors, specialty cuts for our local restaurants and markets, and many other uses and entrepreneurial efforts. The approval of Prop64 would have real world, long lasting consequences on Alaska's already struggling agriculture sector. Most importantly, it will serve only to make Alaska's food security even more precarious going forward.

I encourage all the Board Members to think through the consequences carefully. The risk of domestic flocks passing along m.Ovi to wild sheep is miniscule at best, and such overreach into so many Alaska residents homes, homesteads, and pocketbooks, should be reconsidered.

Respectfully-

T Heider

Wasilla



Submitted By
Sharon Hein
Submitted On
10/8/2017 9:01:16 AM
Affiliation

Prop 64 - I am opposed.

This prop would destroy a burgeoning economic growth field in Alaska while gaining no discernible benefit to the ecology of our state. There is no credible science to support this prop, but plenty of special interest funds. How many times do we have to fight this battle?



Submitted By
Meg Helmer
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:01:37 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-547-2213

Email
mhelmer@agsd.us

Address
PO Box 13
Eagle, Alaska 99738

The goats I own provide a needed supply of milk for my family. Our community does not have a steady supply of milk at the store, and of course there is no organic option at all. This milk has kept me from being sick for more than 2 years, and I work in a school environment where there is sickness all the time. I give another community member goat milk because she cannot drink any other kind. I would also like to say that anyone owning dairy goats does not let them wander in the mountains where wild sheep are. That would not happen. Even if the dairy goat gets loose, it stays near its home. People who are milking goats also make sure they are in the best of health and disease free, or the milk they drink won't have the qualities they desire. Thank You



Submitted By
Susan Helmericks
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:36:24 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-841-7711

Email
Helmericks@ak.net

Address
411 S Jerome Dr
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Please vote no on prop 64. We need to have goats in alaska.



Submitted By
BethAnne Henry
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:48:55 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game Members,

I am writing you in regards to proposition 64, and ask that you NOT vote in favor of it's proposals.

My family and I have been raising goats for ten years and sheep for three and a half. When I was twelve years old I learned to spin fiber from our local crafting group. After spinning for a year I decided I wanted to raise my own sheep and learn to process the raw fiber from the animal.

With previous knowledge from owning and caring for our goat herd, (and more researching in the specific care of sheep) I became the owner of my first two Shetland sheep at the age of thirteen. I learned to shear them myself, have taken blood draws from them for disease testing and have learned to process their fiber going from raising the animal, to shearing, skirting, washing, teasing, carding, and spinning. I am responsible to feed and care for them daily.

I am sixteen now and my love for them, their well being, and the beauty and respect for the resources they provide for me will never diminish. They have taught me many lessons about responsibility, seeing a task till the end, work ethic, life and death and about God. They have provided me with a small income as I sell yarn and process fiber for other people. I love them dearly.

My journey with dairy goats has been much the same. My family bought our first four goats when I was six and steadily my interest in them has grown. I began asking my mom if I could start doing some of the barn chores, and the rest is history. I enjoy talking about goats with my mom and helping make decisions regarding our breeding program, selling, buying and monthly maintenance. I love milking them every morning, watching and snuggling their bouncy kids and the sweet, but stinky, buck goats.

Working with them on an average of two hours a day has solidified my decision to become a veterinarian technician after graduation. I believe it's a job I will love because I love the animals it revolves around. That's my story in a very small nut shell, though there is so much more that could be said.

I know that this is getting long and that you have a lot on your schedules, but I believe that is't very important you understand where I am coming from; my heart and knowledge behind the issues at hand. I always strive as a responsible animal owner, to do what's in the best interest of my animals. We do yearly disease testing on all of our ruminates to ensure that we are selling and producing a healthy, sound animal. We always do our best to find responsible, informed owners for the animals we sell. Monthly hoof trimming is required on most of our herd as is daily and monthly vitamin supplements to meet their high mineral requirements. There are always ways that we can do better and I am consistently looking for ways that we can be more efficient, organized, and timely to meet the constant needs of those under our care.

I tell you all this so you can hopefully glimpse the time and effort I put into making sure I go above and beyond the requirements that they need. I do this because it's my responsibility and I enjoy the resources they give in return. I love the animals and it's my life. I would't have it any other way.

Please consider very carefully the proposals of this proposition and how they will effect my life and the lives of many other farms in Alaska. I assume you already know the statistics of the recent testing and of past research and hope you make your decision based on the facts. Please, please, don't take this decision lightly. Know this as you vote, your decision effects our lives.

Thank you for your time,

BethAnne Henry



Submitted By
Sarah Henry
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:26:18 PM
Affiliation

To the Alaska Board of Game,

I know you have all heard the data, research and statistics on this issue for over the past year and possibly longer, so I'm not going to bring all that before you again. Instead I want to tell you my personal story, because after all this is a personal issue.

After a year of research, gleaning information from other goat owners, building a barn and setting up fencing, I purchased my first goats 10 years ago and had them flown out to the village where we lived so our family could have a fresh milk supply. Living in a village and shopping at the local AC store helps one realize the fragile state of our food supply in remote areas and Alaska in general. The prices are high and if the plane doesn't make it in on time then the shelves are empty. Owning goats (and chickens) were a way to ensure our family had fresh milk, eggs and meat. Along with planting a garden, fishing, hunting and berry picking, the animals we raised just made sense and fit along nicely with a self-sustaining lifestyle in a state where a sustainable food supply is a must.

I have food allergies and health conditions where raising my own food also makes sense. I can know where my food comes from, how it was raised and what it was fed. The raising of goats, chickens and now sheep are not just a hobby, they meet a physical health need.

My children have been raised with the knowledge of caring for our animals, where their food comes from, being responsible stewards, learning a good work ethic, compassion and the trials and joys of life and death. Because of this lifestyle my daughter is now working for a local veterinarian in the summers and is planning to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine after she graduates from high school. She has learned animal husbandry from the ground up and even shears the sheep, processes the wool, spins it into beautiful yarn and knits it into a useful product. It is such a special thing to see one's children doing something they love, are good at and are passionate about. Raising our goats and sheep has done that for us.

Because of the sheep and goats we raise and the lifestyle we live, we have met so many neat and wonderful people in the Alaska ag community. It has opened up doors and opportunities -especially for my daughter- that I never even imagined when we brought our first goats home 10 years ago.

We no longer live in a village, but have purchased our dream property for our farm. We have built barns, put up fencing, purchased a tractor and hay equipment in order to feed our livestock. We have spent hours and hours in sweat equity, shed many tears, landscaped and planned. It is a work in progress and a labor of love that has taken years to get to this point and we are far from finished, but it is our dream, our goal and our passion.

Please consider the impact the decision of Proposition 64 will have on families like ours - and there are many of them all over this great state of Alaska. Raising goats and sheep is not just a hobby, it's a source of food for those with health concerns, food security, a good and honest way to raise one's children with important life lessons, a sense of community with other farmers and opens doors of opportunity for future generations. This is our way of life, please don't make a decision that will take that away from us.

I ask that you oppose Proposition 64 and take NO ACTION.

Thank you,

Sarah Henry



Submitted By
Danielle Henson
Submitted On
9/2/2017 12:15:08 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-521-9659
Email
spyrogeek@aol.com
Address
7226 N King Cove Dr
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Ummm sorry but this is really stupid; we should be able to own them because it helps us become self sufficient; what would we do with the ones we already own? Like hell we would get rid of them; please do not let this bill pass



Submitted By
Patty Hert
Submitted On
10/17/2017 9:34:33 PM
Affiliation

Phone
1-907-776-3789

Email
Pahert@att.net

Address
Po Box 8354
Nikiski, Alaska 99635

I would like to ask you to strike down Proposal 64 regarding the delisting of domestic sheep and goats in Alaska and requiring a permit to own them within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat.

How can you say who is within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat when wild sheep habitat has not been mapped? If someone lives on the opposite side of a body of water too big for a wild sheep to cross but is still within 15 air miles, they should not be treated as if they are a "threat" to wild sheep.

Alaskans have to feed themselves and their neighbors with healthy meat and milk year round. The best way to do that is to raise that food ourselves. Please don't make it difficult for us to provide our own food. Once a toehold is gained into regulating and restricting farming in Alaska, who is to say that pigs and chickens aren't next?

Domestic sheep and goats in Alaska are much less likely to infect a wild sheep than anywhere else in America.
<http://packgoats.com/packgoats-bighorn-sheep/>. Put an end to Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Jerome Hertel
Submitted On
10/25/2017 11:45:47 AM
Affiliation
Alaska State Fair

~~Dear Board of Game,

Please consider delaying any action on Proposition 64 until more input and solutions can be researched by all the stakeholders involved in this issue. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. This proposal would place an undue burden on sheep and goat owners and limit the ability of producers to produce milk, meat, and fiber in Alaska. I feel the topic deserves more discussion and input from all the stakeholders and a more reasonable solution can be obtained to protect the wild goat and sheep population in Alaska.

The proposal is flawed in its original format with underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Sheep and goat owners cannot afford to comply and the State cannot afford to administer and enforce compliance. Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Sincerely,
Jerome Hertel
Alaska State Fair



Submitted By
Jennifer Hilterbrand
Submitted On
10/22/2017 10:38:28 PM
Affiliation

I am writing to defend my rights to possess goats in Alaska without permits or other invasive requirements. They are an inexpensive source of meat and milk for my family- who though we make little money manage to stay just out of your welfare system but the use of subsistence and our small farm. We are nowhere near any wild goats and maintain proper fences to prevent escape or mingling with other wildlife. It is an amazing educational opportunity for my growing homeschool family. We have saved and invested hard earned money and time in acquiring and maintaining our small herd that cannot be calculated or replaced. I believe it is our legal right to keep what we've built for the support, feeding and education of our families without impediment.



Submitted By
Karen Hoeft
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:00:36 AM
Affiliation

Please vote no on 64. There is no need for this prop other than to make the hunters happy. There is no evidence to support the need for this Prop.

Thank you

Karen Hoeft



Submitted By
Marli Holden
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:35:36 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-631-1933
Email
akmholden@msn.com

Address
5001 E Brumage Dr.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654-8619

To Whom it May Concern:

For fifteen (15) years, in the Mat-Su Valley, we owned and operated a kitten rescue, and became a 501c3 in 2014. We retired in February of 2017 after rescuing nearly 800 kittens, with or without their mothers. For the last 6 years, we accepted donations of goat's milk for the kittens, and saw a great deal of increase in their health.

The owners of the goats are legal, committed to cleanliness, give outstanding care to their animals, and go far and above the guidelines regarding care of the goats' milk. Removing these animals from the "clean list," as proposed in Proposition 64 will have a devastating affect on more than just these owners. Studies have shown that the disease M.ovi is so slight within our state that no wild animals have been infected. The "trickle down" resulting from the passage of this bill will affect many more people and businesses in our communities, and cost more than you can see right now.

Please remove consideration of this bill from your agenda, allowing Alaska to continue to do the outstanding job of protecting our wild life as we have always done. Thank You.



To the board members of Alaska Board of Game,

I ask that you do not enact Proposal 64. There are a number of problems with the premises and requirements of Proposal 64, and enactment of this extreme and unnecessary set of costly requirements (both to individuals domestic sheep and goat owners, and to the State of Alaska) would place extreme hardship on all Alaskan sheep and goat owners. There are no commercial goat or sheep operations in Alaska, and Alaska's owners of domestic goat and sheep generally own only a few sheep or goats on small fenced acreage, on a small personal budget, located far from wild sheep habitat. Satisfying Proposal 64's requirements for double fencing, testing, and permitting is completely unreasonable, financially burdensome, and unnecessary. All owners would be hit hard by the inability to import new genetics, as animals not on the "Clean List" may not be imported. Consequences for non-compliance with any of the new rules would include fines and eradication of livestock. For many owners their sheep and goats are not just producers of wool, milk or meat, but are their life's passion and beloved family pets or children's 4-H projects. It's not just about the owners' animals, it's about the freedom as taxpaying landowners to use their land to grow their own food.

I have researched this topic extensively and I have yet to find any factual evidence that domestic sheep and or goats have had any impact on any wild sheep populations. I know there are "ideas" that there may be some impact but it has not been able to be proven. What has been proven, is stress on the animals caused by hunting, aircraft, weather changes and natural predators.

This proposal will place an undue financial burden on all Alaska small scale and hobby farmers for no factually based good reason. Also undue financial stress on the already overloaded Alaska Department of Fish and Game. How will this be enforced? By who? Who will pay for the administration and the oversight of this proposal?

Please do not pursue Prop 64!!

Thank you for your time

Will Holden
16241 Parksville Drive
Chugiak Alaska 99567
(907)854-8577



Submitted By
Sabrieta Holland
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:05:53 PM
Affiliation
Citizen/hunter/farmer/veterinarian

Phone
907-232-7477

Email
alaskacowdoc@hotmail.com

Address
2299 S Falk Lane
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Oppose Proposition 64. Take no action.



Submitted By
dona holliman
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:46:16 PM
Affiliation

opposed to prop 64 and 90 this proposal is not necessary only creates more regulations that

are harmful to individuals who depend on these animals(goats) for food. I have lived here

for 50 yrs and have never seen a goat other than in a penned area, I am all for protecting our wild sheep but this purposal serves no purpose



Submitted By
Malina Holm
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:31:35 PM
Affiliation

My family has always proudly lived a subsistence lifestyle here in Kodiak. Currently we have two goats who provide us with wonderful milk and food along with enriching activities for the entire family to participate with. I know many other families who benefit from owning goats. Everyone I know keeps their livestock well contained. We don't even have any wild goats or sheep that are native to Kodiak. Please do not make this especially healthy family activity illegal for us. Please, take no action on prop 64!



Submitted By
Darlene Holmberg
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:14:27 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9076760425
Email
aniaksdh@yahoo.com
Address
169 Boundary Avenue
Aniak, Alaska 99557

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats; we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska-specific information, there is more evidence that such measures are unwarranted:

Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)

There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America. There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi.

Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.

Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi. Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Please consider who planted the seed; the evidence refutes that claim, or any assumptions that are based on fear.

Respectfully,

Darlene Holmberg



Submitted By
Gretchen Holt
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:29:42 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(907) 227-5684

Email
Gretchen6770@yahoo.com

Address
7362 W Parks Hwy., #574
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Please take NO Action on Prop 64. There is no scientific proof that domestic goats and sheep are causing medical issues for the wild sheep. This state needs to encourage businesses that reduce our reliance on the lower 48. To remove goats and sheep from the 'clean list' will ruin small Alaskan owned businesses and increase our dependence on imported products. SUPPORT Alaskan owned businesses.



Submitted By
Linda Hoxworth
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:25:03 AM
Affiliation

I am opposing Prop 64. Domestic goats are mostly far removed from wild sheep and wild goats. People who own these animals usually consider them pets and taking them away or forbidding them would be unfair. Besides, what would become of them?



Submitted By
Esther Huddleston
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:15:38 PM
Affiliation

NO on Prop 64

There's no scientific evidence on domesticated goats spreading diseases to wild goats and dall sheep in Alaska. The wild goats and dall sheep are one of the most difficult hunts in Alaska. You have to take a plane to be dropped off on the mountains and hike for days just to reach the wild goats and dall sheep. The Matanuska Susitna Borough is a farming community. Domesticated goats and sheep are vital to the Mat-Su Borough. I have lived in Alaska for 40 years and domesticated goats and sheep have not created a problem ever; in regards, to the wild goat and dall sheep species in Alaska. Please be considerate of Alaskan residents and to the farming community. Don't let outside groups who make a living off on fundraising for political reasons to change the fate of Alaskans who live here. Please vote NO on Prop 64!



Submitted By
Priscilla Hudson
Submitted On
10/23/2017 7:12:34 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In light of the fact that the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Priscilla Hudson- Wasilla AK



Submitted By
Kimberly Hughes
Submitted On
10/26/2017 6:10:04 PM
Affiliation

I wanted to voice my disappointment in reading about the proposal of prop 64. I dreamed of eventually raising goats and sheep again after moving to Alaska and now come to find out that dream may be taken away from me. Goats are an excellent producer of meat, milk and fiber (some breeds). Sheep are also good producers of meat, fiber, and in some breeds milk. Some families have no choice but to raise goats for their own raw milk due to the laws here, and now their only option could be taken away from them. I thought this state was about freedom, but it seems they are taking the people's freedom to raise their own livestock away. What will they take away next? Swine, cattle, poultry, waterfowl?



Submitted By
Kristlyn Hunnicutt
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:10:22 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop 64!



Submitted By
Leanna Hunter
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:52:58 AM
Affiliation
Private citizen

Phone
907 301-5344
Email
leannarein@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 874472
Wasilla , Alaska 99687

I am opposed to banning goats and sheep being kept by private citizens. These farmers provide a valuable resource and a natural alternative for meat and milk. They also boost and support local economy vs. big box stores. This proposal smacks of yet another unnecessary attempt at government over reach.



Submitted By
William Hunter
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:55:56 AM
Affiliation
None

Phone
907 529-5344
Email
billhunter10@hotmail.com
Address
PO Box 874472
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

I am opposed to banning goats and sheep being kept by private citizens. These farmers provide a valuable resource and a natural alternative for meat and milk. They also boost and support local economy vs. big box stores. This proposal smacks of yet another unnecessary attempt at government over reach.



Submitted By
Kenneth Ivie
Submitted On
10/24/2017 5:06:12 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072017665

Email
Kkivie@gmail.com

Address
PO box 3131
Valdez, Alaska 99686

There is no sound scientific reason to remove domestic goats and sheep from the clean list.



Submitted By
Brianna Jense
Submitted On
9/21/2017 12:36:47 AM
Affiliation

Phone
435-224-3133

Email
hamburger1405@gmail.com

Address
3250 N Eve's Drive
Palmer, Alaska 99645

To the Board of Game, I am writing to let you know **I oppose proposition 64!** This proposition, if passed, is a huge regulatory overreach by the government and takes away the freedoms of many Alaskan farmers. The damage it would do to the goat and sheep farmers of this state would be devastating. Our farming communities in Alaska need help, not crippling regulations that would strip us from our rights to own livestock. Proposition 64 would make owning goats and sheep illegal by taking them off the clean list, cause expensive fencing, testing, and permitting. A well funded special interest group is trying to take away the right and the ability of countless Alaskans to feed their families good clean locally produced milk and meat for a few outside interests. Please vote no. I know I will be watching very closely and will vote accordingly on Election Day. Thank you for your consideration. Brianna Jensen



Submitted By
Melissa Jensen
Submitted On
9/2/2017 12:29:39 AM
Affiliation

Phone
435-224-3133

Email
moosewoodartstudio@gmail.com

Address
3250 N Eve's Drive
Palmer, Alaska 99645

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the upcoming meeting to discuss Prop 64. I am opposed to the proposal given by the local Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation to the Board of Game to remove domestic sheep and goats from the clean list in the State of Alaska.

We are not the lower 48! Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would come in contact. Alaska has natural barriers to prevent wild Dalls & domestics from forming friendships. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.o.vi. There have been no baseline studies on Dall sheep as carriers of M.o.vi until recently. All the current information, and forced captive studies, have been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.o.vi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment and determine a risk versus regulation protocol the current Proposal 64 should not be acted on. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Mike Jensen
Submitted On
9/21/2017 12:01:27 AM
Affiliation

Phone
435-830-6932

Email
mnmjensen71@gmail.com

Address
3250 N Eves Drive
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear board of game, I am writing in response to the upcoming meeting to discuss **proposition 64**. **I STRONGLY OPPOSE** the implementation of this proposition and feel it takes away the rights of many Alaskan families. I own goats and this would greatly impact my family by adding undue burdens of permitting, testing, expensive fencing, and freedom. My children participate in the 4H program and enjoy the honest work of caring and showing their animals. All you have to do is go to the state fair and see how much goats and sheep are a mainstay in Alaska. We take very good care of our goats and do all we can to keep them healthy and in good condition. My family also keeps goats to help save in the cost of milk. Up here in Alaska we are so isolated. If something were to happen where our chain of supplies were interrupted, we need local farmers, like myself, to be able to feed my family and others who may be in need. Please don't impose more costs on us by making owning goats and sheep illegal! Please don't impose restrictions on goat and sheep owners to the point it is too costly to even have them as livestock. It already costs so much to live here in this great state. A state where we have many freedoms other states are losing with unnecessary regulations. Please say NO to proposition 64! Many Alaskan families are counting on you to stop this damaging proposition becoming law.



Submitted By
Eda A Jewett
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:40:28 AM
Affiliation
General Member, Fairbanks Chapter--Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.

Phone
907-683-2495
Email
kgjewett@mtaonline.net
Address
P.O. Box 318
Healy, Alaska 99743

~~

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)
- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,

Eda A. Jewett, General Member
Fairbanks Chapter—Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.



Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)
- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl G. Jewett".

Karl G. Jewett, General Member

Fairbanks Chapter—Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.



Submitted By
Debbie Johnson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:53:28 AM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
4254330511

Email
dcjohnsons@comcast.net

Address
28208 303rd Ave SE
Ravensdale, Washington 98051

This is in regards to PROP 64. Please do not take away the rights for people to own and raise goats. People who are allergic to cow milk will raise goats for this. They also make great pets and bring joy to families who raise them. They are kept fenced in like any farm animal and do not spread disease.

If the rights are taken away from people raising goats and sheep this will put a lot of people out of business who grow hay. They are not dirty animals. They are pets and supply needs for people.

People that raise sheep and goats don't even live near WILD goats and sheep. Please do not take this away from people to raise their own farm animals. Goats and sheep are a necessity.



Submitted By
Jennifer Johnson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:09:34 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-315-7384

Email
Jenniferjohnson6909@gmail.com

Address
1245 N Old Glenn Hwy
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Oppose proposition 64 take no action!



Submitted By
Katya Johnson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:55:44 PM
Affiliation

I was born and raised in Alaska in a hunting and fishing family, and am raising my children in the same Alaska lifestyle. I understand the importance of protecting our wildlife and habitat resources. Another huge aspect of our lifestyle is breeding and raising goats at a hobby level. We put a lot of time, effort, and money into our goats, but feel that it is worth it. Goat milk is the primary source of dairy for my children and family and we butcher several goats a year for our personal use. Our meat goat sales provide food for the Kodiak community with the majority of our goats going to local Filipino families, who are extremely grateful to be able to share the traditions of butchering and cooking goat with their families.

As a producer, I have been researching Proposal 64 and trying to decide if the added regulation is justified. I have read through WSF and joint agency literature describing Big Horn sheep die off in the lower 48 and the involvement of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*. I have talked with multiple agencies - ADF&G, Farm Bureau, OSV, WADDL, and USDA-ARS, and I agree that *Movi* transmission to Dall sheep populations is a legitimate concern in Alaska and needs to be addressed. However, I strongly feel that proposal 64 is a premature and excessive maneuver. I feel that there needs to be more research on *Movi*, and a professional science-based risk assessment specific to Alaska's unique livestock and wildlife populations before such burdens are placed on Alaska's agencies and producers.

Although *Movi* has been studied heavily recently, there are still many unknowns. One of the most important issues that I feel needs to be addressed is the detection limitations on current *Movi* testing accuracy. Talking with Dr Evermann at WADDL and Dr Highland at USDA, it sound like the current testing is doing a good job at detecting *Movi* in individual goats/sheep with high enough *Movi* levels to be chronic shedders. However it sounds like there are individuals (maybe more common in goats) with low levels of the bacterium present and these low levels may not be detected with high confidence. If we are not able to detect these low levels, would removing shedders be enough to eliminate *Movi* from a herd? Can there be a *Movi*-free status? In addition to detection limitations, there are big questions to be answered on *Movi* prevalence in wild and domestic ungulates (possible carriers), the parameters of transmission between individuals, species, infection levels, and possible virulence and host differences on distinct *Movi* genotypes.

I am glad to see the current Alaska *Movi* prevalence study being undertaken by OSV (in conjunction with multiple other agencies) to determine the prevalence and distribution of *Movi* in domestic sheep and goats in Alaska. This seems like the first logical step to tackling the *Movi* threat to Alaska's wildlife. In addition, by using multiple labs and sample techniques, and taking multiple samples from individual animals, the data they are collecting can be used to improve, develop, and hopefully validate current testing methods for domestic sheep and goats.

As a producer, the idea of required *Movi* testing also brings up questions of affordability. What type of schedule would be required for *Movi* testing to remain permitted? Currently, I follow WADDL's "Small Ruminant Biosecurity Screen" recommendations and send in individual blood samples for my entire herd annually. This screen tests for Small Ruminant Lentivirus (CAE), Johne's Disease, and caseous lymphadenitis. This currently costs me \$612.50 (not including supplies or fed-ex shipping) for a herd of 25 goats. I am able to take these samples myself. If annual PCR screening for *Movi* was required this would increase my annual cost to \$1925 (not including supplies or shipping). This also doesn't take into account paying the approved technician or vet to take samples. The ELISA *Movi* testing is less expensive, and could potentially be used to confirm *Movi* herd negative status, but has not been validated for domestic goats at this time.

Along with more research on *Movi*, I would like to see a formal risk assessment done for Alaska. Throughout the literature posted on WSF's webpage, there are references to the importance of risk assessments in determining management strategies. Here are a couple examples:

"There is no "one size fits all" risk assessment of respiratory disease transmission between wild sheep and domestic sheep or goats. However, a comprehensive risk assessment (qualitative and quantitative) is a critically important component for managing the potential for disease transmission." (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5385708.pdf)

"Acknowledge the importance of science-based assessments of disease risk between wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats, and

promote strategies to reduce the disease transmission and mitigate disease outbreaks.”
(http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/cache/DOC45_2015-03-09WS-DS_DiseaseTransmission_TWS-AAWV_JointStatement_APPROVED.pdf?20160718021034)



PC627
2 of 2

Because of Alaska's unique situation, I feel that there is very little if any co-mingling between domestics and Dall sheep and the double fencing and testing requirements of Proposal 64 are excessive. Alaska currently has very low numbers of domestic sheep and goats (~1,400 according to 2014 USDA survey data) compared to prior Alaska domestic populations and current populations in the lower 48. According to the AK Farm Bureau, we have no grazing allotment/leases for sheep and goats on public lands. According to Fish and Game, because so much of Alaska is still pristine, our Dall sheep populations have adequate habitat which mostly consists of alpine and mountainous terrain. Luckily, we are not dealing with habitat loss or habitat restoration and don't currently have the spatial overlap of wild and domestic populations like the lower 48 is dealing with. In addition, because of these lower chances of interaction, I feel we need more analysis of actual risk of disease transmission before any policy decisions are made declaring "risk".

In summary, as an Alaskan who values both our wildlife resources and agricultural interests, I strongly oppose this proposal. There is not enough research to support this proposal, I don't feel it will do anything to protect Dall sheep, and I feel it will create a divide between ADF&G and Wild Sheep Groups and local producers. We need a research based, customized solution to Alaska's unique livestock and wildlife situation. I am glad to see the Alaska prevalence study being prioritized and I feel optimistic that with adequate time, there will be solutions which will be acceptable to agencies and producers alike.



Submitted By
Miranda Johnson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:27:23 PM
Affiliation

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17065 E Smith Rd Ext
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I am adamantly apposed to prop 64, the adoption of this regulation would have such an adverse effect on the hard won farming and agricultural economy that has been developing in Alaska in the past decade. In addition to limiting the educational, positive community impact and beneficial growth of the youth in our 4H community. As some who has been born and raised in Alaska I have always been so proud and boastful of the freedom our wonderful state allows us, but this proposal would be limiting the use of my personal property.



Submitted By
Beth Jones
Submitted On
10/24/2017 6:56:23 PM
Affiliation

I get my lamb and goats milk from a local farmer. This would impact the well being of my household. Please do not restrict goats or sheep from our local farmers.



Submitted By
Terry
Submitted On
10/16/2017 4:37:00 PM
Affiliation

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As owner of a small goat farm on the lower Kenai Peninsula, I am totally opposed to Prop. 64. I do not think enough study has been done to determine if this is even a threat here in Alaska. If passed it will completely cripple the small farms in the state. Our goats never leave our farm and I have never in 47 years seen a wild sheep on our farm. Yet we do fall with in the proposed 15 mile distance to Wild sheep habitat.. they would have to swim Kachemak Bay and climb a 400 foot bluff to make contact with my goats. Oh yes also they would have to thread their way through a few hundred acres of beetle killed spruce and break into our electric fenced pasture. To make a blanket law that covers the state of Alaska is ridiculous. Please vote no on this matter.



Submitted By
Connie jorgenseno
Submitted On
10/18/2017 12:37:55 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on proposal 64. It would be detrimental to the many farmers in Alaska who provide food for many. It would disable many from providing quality food for their families. Proposal 64, if adopted would decrease food security in the state of Alaska.



Submitted By
Jeff Judd
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:58:42 PM
Affiliation
Alaska resident

Phone
907-376-6590
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Address
2051 S. Carr Street
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Board of Game,

Please accept my comments below in opposition to Proposal 64. I ask that you take NO ACTION on the proposal submitted by the Wild Sheep Foundation.

The Proposal, if adopted, would remove domestic goats and sheep from the "Clean List" of animals that Alaska residents may legally own in the State of Alaska. As stated by ADF&G officials, including as currently stated on the ADF&G website, and reiterated by other Agency representatives, once an animal is removed from the "clean list" **a permit cannot be issued for their ownership**, and therefore they would become illegal to own in the State of Alaska. The fact that Proposal 64 includes certain other provisions for owning goats, e.g., testing and double fencing requirements is irrelevant and not applicable given that the animal once removed from the Clean List can simply not be owned in the State.

Even if the Department of Law was to opine on post Clean List removal ownership ability subject to the issuance of a permit, State Officials have stated that the ADF&G does not have legal jurisdiction to regulate domestic (non-feral) animals, thus does not have the legal jurisdiction to issue conditional permits for owning domestic animals. Further, there is no scientific evidence to conclude that Proposal 64 is actually warranted. The Wild Sheep Foundation continue to premise their concern on studies of lower 48 Big Horn Sheep, and outside of Alaska conditions that do not exist in the State of Alaska.

There is not one single case in Alaska or Canada where a (thin horned) Dall Sheep has died as a result of exposure to Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M.ovi). To emphasize the lopsided position of the Wild Sheep Foundation, a group primarily interested in sheep hunting opportunities, hunters in Alaska kill between 500 – 1,000 Dall Sheep EACH YEAR! In 2016, 788 Dall Sheep were listed as harvested on the ADF&G website. Dall Sheep killed by M.ovi: 0. Dall Sheep killed by hunters over the last ten years: ~8,000!

I and my wife are hunters, in addition to being farmers and owners of domestic goats. We are not opposed to hunting, in fact we support hunting rights. What we do oppose is a special interest hunting group attempting to infringe on our farming lifestyle and ability to own domestic goats without a proven, substantial, scientifically based risk analysis and conclusion for conditions which exist in Alaska.

Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. It does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would come in contact – the single largest concern contributor outside of Alaska. M.ovi needs a host and it can not live in the environment, hence only being able to convey through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. This condition does not freely exist in Alaska. In addition, Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators.

Adding to the disparity and disconnect regarding the true level of concern and risk of exposure in the State of Alaska, the ADF&G itself has not done its part to take appropriate actions to measure and mitigate any risk. At several of the initial Working Group meetings attended by ADF&G staff, the staff reported that they were going to conduct thorough study and mapping of critical Dall Sheep habitat, around which perhaps appropriate mitigation measure could be identified. Yet, in a recent public meeting we were told that the critical wildlife habitat mapping effort was not initiated and not being pursued due to internal conflict within the ADF&G.

Additionally, we were told by ADF&G that should a wild sheep or goat range out of its natural habitat area that it was their protocol to destroy that wild animal due as a prudent risk measure. Yet, they did exactly the opposite of this when a Wild Goat ranged into Palmer and visited McDonald's this past summer. The darted the animal and returned it to the Knik River Valley. The State of Alaska, and the ADF&G, can not have it both ways. You can not say there "might be a risk", to which they have failed to actually prove scientifically through a formal risk assessment, say that they will dispatch the wild animal if it ranges into urban environments, and then not do it!

At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The domestic community is doing its part to participate in this testing protocol for purposes of risk assessment. To date out of 334 goats and sheep only 6, 4 sheep and 2 goats (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's an extremely low rate and risk outcome in contrast with the Wild Sheep Foundation's extreme "sky is falling" position.



Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, Proposal 64 should be denied. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict Alaska Residents personal rights to own domestic small ruminants on my own personal property without true due cause of proven risk to the Dall sheep population by domestic goats and sheep in Alaska. PC632

Domestic goat and sheep owners depend on their animals for meat, milk, or fiber, and many are treasured family pets. Domestic ownership, free of unnecessary and onerous, and costly regulatory oversight is a significant economic contributor to the State. The Board of Game's decision on Proposal 64 is of critical importance to an industry and to State residents who rely on, and enjoy their ownership of domestic goats and sheep. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy and agriculture in Alaska.

In closing, thank you for your thoughtful and balanced consideration of Proposal 64. I hope that you will conclude like I have that Proposal 64 is not balanced, is not appropriate, and is has not yet been proven to be justified. I ask you to please take NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

Sincerely,

Jeff Judd



Submitted By
Tina Starr Judd
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:24:32 PM
Affiliation

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907 376-6590
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2051 S Carr St.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

~~Dear Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Board of Game,

Please accept the comments below in opposition to Proposal 64 and I ask that you **TAKE NO ACTION** on the proposal submitted by the Wild Sheep Foundation.

If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the "Clean List" of domestic animals that you are legally able to own in the state of Alaska, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, 4-H programs, and small family farms to own goats or sheep. The proposal also requires that owners of domestic goats and sheep obtain a permit from the State to own such livestock, and if within 15 air miles of Dall Sheep habitat to further require "Department approved facility (double fence, etc.)", and be "certified disease free when testing becomes available". **Per the ADF&G website once animals are taken off the "clean list" a permit cannot be issued for their ownership.** Therefore domestic goats and sheep would be illegal to own after they are removed from the clean list and the rest of proposal 64 requirements are just nonsense and not applicable.

The foundation for Prop 64 by the WSF is to prevent the possible transfer of a bacterium, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi), to the wild Dall sheep population. M.ovi has been associated with pneumonia outbreaks in Big Horn sheep in the lower 48, but in the state of Alaska there have been no Dall sheep deaths due to M.ovi cause by domestics. For that matter, NO deaths in Alaska or Canada. All the current information and studies have been on Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. No studies have been completed on Thin Horn sheep susceptibility to the bacterium in the State of Alaska. To date – **NOT ONE** Dall sheep has died from this bacterium being spread to wild Dalls from domestics that have been in Alaska in great numbers since the 1960's. But in fact, every year Dall sheep hunters harvest anywhere from 500 to 1000 Dall sheep. Last year 788 Dall sheep were listed as harvested on the ADFG website. Jeff and I are hunters so we are not opposed to hunting, but what we are opposed to is a special interest hunting group who wants to preserve Dall sheep so they can kill Dall sheep trying to infringe on our lifestyle without true due cause of risk to the Dall sheep population as exhibited by history in our State. Let me state those numbers again; Dall sheep deaths caused by domestics and M.ovi – 0, Dall sheep deaths cause by hunters in 2016 – 788.

As the Board of Game already knows, Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle which seems to be the largest threat to the spread of any disease, virus or bacteria. M.ovi bacteria needs a host, it cannot survive in the environment, and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, humans, subdivisions and predators. Alaska is also a "fence in state" and all animals are to be "fenced in" on an owners property.

To add to the controversy of the current situation, remember the wild goat that went through the drive through at McDonalds in Palmer last summer? If the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is truly concerned about the spread of disease from domestics to wild through contact why was this animal not shot and donated to charity? Instead Biologists from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game darted and tranquilized the goat and returned it to its habitat in the Knik River area. This goat was out of its normal habitat range, who knows what it encountered before it ended up at McDonalds in the city of Palmer. The early sheep/goat working group meetings I sat in on concerning Prop 90/64 where the control of contact between domestics and wild were discussed, the Wild Sheep Foundation and AK Dept. of Fish & Game both proposed any animals out of their normal historical habitat that may have come into contact with domestics be dispatched before they return to the wild population. This was obviously a wild Mountain Goat and not a Dall Sheep which Prop 64 seems to be most concerned with, and I'm unaware of any concern about disease transmission in the wild goat population, but goats are members of the family Bovidae closely related to the sheep as both are in the goat-antelope subfamily Caprinae. So, why was this wild goat returned to habitat range with other wilds if the AK Dept. of Fish and Game is solid in their belief that contact between domestic livestock and the wild sheep population could bring disease transmission and death to Alaska Dall Sheep? Sad, but the fact is, the wild goat was out of its normal habitat range in the city of Palmer and his first Big Mac should have been his last.

At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL). To date out of 334 goats and sheep only 6, 4 sheep and 2 goats (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a screaming low risk factor in opposition to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting to anyone who will listen. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, the current Proposal 64 should be denied. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict my personal rights to own domestic small ruminants on my own personal property without true due cause of proven risk to the Dall sheep population by domestic goats and sheep in Alaska.



Please also take into consideration many domestic goat and sheep owners depend on their animals for meat, milk, or fiber, and some treasured family pets. Each family has a story that is unique to why they own domestic goats and sheep. It's the human side of this story that is the most devastating if goats and sheep are removed from the clean list. So much is at stake! The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool for warmth and fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy and sustainability in Alaska's agriculture. Domestic goats and sheep are a valuable sustainable and renewable resource in our great state.

One final point that I feel is very important to this debate of risk versus regulation. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game NEEDS to map critical habitat where the greatest possibility of contact between domestics and Dall sheep may exist. In the future it may prove those areas need special regulation to protect Dall sheep. To take domestic sheep and goats off the clean list in Alaska and disallow their ownership across the whole state is crazy and not called for based on risk.

In closing, thank you for reading my comments in opposition to Proposal 64 and I ask you as the Board of Game with the fate of so many people and animals in your hands to please **TAKE NO ACTION on Proposal 64.**

Thank you,
Sincerely - Tina Starr Judd



Submitted By
Vanessa jusczak
Submitted On
10/26/2017 2:38:00 PM
Affiliation

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Healy , Alaska 99743

I oppose any and all regulation regarding the keeping of sheep and goats in Alaska, by hobbyists .



Submitted By
Elizabeth Kandror
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:43:23 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop-64.



Submitted By
ellen kane
Submitted On
10/17/2017 1:06:37 AM
Affiliation

please table prop 64 . more research needs to be done. I am personally opposed to it.



Submitted By
Julie Kavanaugh
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:42:55 PM
Affiliation
self

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1533 sawmill circle
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Proposal 64

Opposed

I am opposed to proposal #64. The cost to department to inspect and approve a facility would be cumbersome. The cost to livestock owners would also be beyond reasonable. And the proposer does not provide any scientific or existing examples of local issues. This proposal is concerning and president setting. Individuals that own goats or sheep rely on them for milk in cases of allergies to other dairy. They provide meat and wool. These animals provide opportunity for 4H projects, teaching life skills. The additional cost of building a approved facility would be a burden and possible barrier to participation.

Julie Kavanaugh



Submitted By
Gretchen Eloise Keim
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:16:55 AM
Affiliation

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Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I'm asking you to take no action on Prop 64. There isn't any evidence that this bacterium is in Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat populations in levels that are problematic or threatening. While no one would want to see that happen, removing domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list" would do more harm than good to Alaska's already weak agricultural industries. Small farmers are what keep agricultural going in Alaska and help Alaska to sustain itself and not rely solely on outside goods to sustain life in The Last Frontier.



Submitted By
Peggelee Kendro
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:03:01 PM
Affiliation

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907 782-8194

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allisawak@hotmail.com

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3500 S. Bodenburg Lp
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I oppose Proposition 64.



Submitted By
Julie Kenley
Submitted On
10/25/2017 4:33:29 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am an active member of the 4-H program in the State of Alaska. I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would be a huge burden on farmers and our state 4-H programs, not to mention costly to the state to regulate. These requirements would make it nearly impossible for our 4-H youth to have sheep and goat projects in the state. Our animals are generally located miles from wild sheep populations and are not allowed to free range. It would be nearly impossible for them to come in contact with the wild sheep population.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

Alaskan families benefit in so many ways from the ownership of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions.

I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Thank you



Submitted By
Yasmin Khan
Submitted On
10/28/2017 4:46:13 PM
Affiliation
I oppose prop. 64.



Submitted By
Kristine King
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:51:27 PM
Affiliation

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I have a hobby farm, Fowl Goats and Rabbits. I don't see how my 3 little goats would harm anyone. I don't think it is fair that you would take them away from me. My goats are in their fenced in area, we live out in the "country" away from town. I just don't understand the reasoning behind this and how my goats could be a harm to anyone.



Submitted By
Karen Kirkpatrick
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:53:38 PM
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PO Box 298915
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Prop 64 makes no sense in Alaska. The "Chicken Little" attitude of the Wild Sheep Foundation has no basis in sound science and will harm agriculture in Alaska.



Submitted By
Kathleen Kitson
Submitted On
10/25/2017 10:05:37 AM
Affiliation

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Sterling , Alaska 99672

Prop 64 is absolutely ridiculous. There is no proof that dall sheep contract any type of diseases from domestic sheep and goats. Dall sheep do not come into contact with domestic sheep and goats. Even the ones that live close to a habitat would rarely if ever have any contact. My children raise goats as 4-H projects and we drink the milk as we have allergies in our home to cows milk. We also raise them to butcher and eat. This proposal would quite literally be taking food out of my children's mouths if it is passed.



Submitted By
Emilie Knapple
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:29:16 AM
Affiliation

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HC89 Box 270
Willow, Alaska 99688

Please take not action on Prop 64. Farming in Alaska is so important. I oppose Prop 64, and you should too.



Submitted By
Marcia Knowlton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:16:10 PM
Affiliation

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KENAI, Alaska 99611

Dear Board of Game,

Our family has a small farm down on the Kenai Peninsula and we oppose Prop. 64 and ask that you to drop this proposition all together. Prop. 64 is clearly a governmental overreach. It does not even pertain to our state. There are so many unaddressed issues within this Proposition that leave Alaska Farms at risk of losing our animals, farms and livelihoods.

Our family has dairy goats that we use for milk that makes yogurt, ice cream, eggnog, cheese and soap as well as teaches our children to be hard working, responsible contributors to our family farm and community. They also are our pets we use them for fire control, fertilizer as well as hauling. We chose these animals because they provide an alternative to us as we have 3 family members that cannot tolerate cows milk. We experimented for a period and after drinking goats milk for a few weeks the health issues subsided which is why we have our farm. Goats milk is very healing to the body and can help things like digestive & gastro issues, as well as many more and when used in soap it can help eczema & psoriasis. Taking away our goats would be devastating to our family and community because they are not only working farm animals but they are our pets as well, I say community because of the trickle down effect. Our farms buy hay and grain grown locally as well as support our local feed stores. I am taking into into account all our fencing, tools, barn supplies, building supplies, etc. More people will be affected not just the animal farmers. What about 4-H? Our State Fair? This decision will negatively impact Alaska more than we realize taking away our ability to be self sufficient.

It is particularly concerning that the BoG is making a decision based on studies that have only been done in the lower 48 not in Alaska. Alaska has natural borders that separate us from the Lower 48. There have not been any documented cases of M.o.vi. in the state of Alaska or Canada...NOT ONE, in addition, we do not have open grazing on public lands here in our state so comingling of domestic and wild sheep is not a concern. M.o.vi. needs a host, it does not live in the environment but needs close contact of Dall Sheep and domestics. If this was truly a concern I can think of so many more options that are better thought out than irratiation of two domestic species that give back so much to our state. In states where this is TRULY a concern they have NOT removed domestic goats and sheep from the clean lists so why are we even moving in that direction? It seems like we could be putting our energy and resources to better use.

In closing, our family of 7 is asking you to please take no action on Prop. 64.

Best Regards,

Jim, Marcia, Samuel, Madeline, Jacob, Katherine and Joey Knowlton



Submitted By
Karen KOPF
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:43:23 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

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While I am not a resident of Alaska, I travel there frequently and consider it a second home. I value greatly the wilderness and abundance of wildlife, and wouldn't want to put them at risk in any way. That said, I do not believe that domestic goats present such a plausible risk to the wild animals to remove them from the clean list. Many studies have been done on MOVI, and it is at best a rare condition that goats can be tested and culled for. In all of the research there has been no documented cases of transmission between domestic goats and wild animals.

We acquired several goats from a ranch on the Washington/Canada border that had regular contact with the Big Horn Sheep. Fish and Game tested the goats annually, and they were always negative. They were allowed to continue to live in their fenced pasture, despite the proximity of the sheep.

Please take no action on this Proposition.

There are studies that have been conducted if you are interested in further reading. The 2016 GOAT MOVI STUDY CONDUCTED BY DR. MAGGIE HIGHLAND, a Veterinary Medical Officer and Researcher with the USDA-ARS-Animal Disease Research Unit, in collaboration with USDA-APHIS personnel is the most current best science available regarding the possibility of disease transmission from goats to Bighorn Sheep.

Before such a drastic measure is taken, please explore intermediary steps, to ensure that Alaskans retain their right to have domestic goats in your efforts to protect wildlife.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Kopf



Submitted By
Kanika Koruna
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:45:26 PM
Affiliation

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Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposal 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete testing using protocols which are as yet undeveloped and unproven, all to "solve" a problem that doesn't exist. I have a small subsistence farm and have tested my goats and sheep for common communicable ruminant diseases. We started raising these animals due to my children's allergies to other types of meat.

I have outlined my arguments against this proposal in the following categories:

1. Constitutional, 2. Moral, 3. Fairness

1. Constitutional:

This proposal violates my civil rights as outlined in the Alaska State Constitution.

"1. Inherent Rights

This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law, and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State."

This proposal treats my ownership of property (animals) that are kept on my private land as lesser than the rights of hunters to take public game on public property. I don't understand why the rights of hunters to take game on public land can be elevated above my personal rights of my own property by the Alaska State Constitution.

" 18. Eminent Domain

Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation."

The proposal is effectively a taking of private property (through burdensome, unnecessary regulation) without just compensation. Will the Board pay for the requirements of compliance under the proposal? To whom would I submit the bill to effectively prove myself innocent?

"22. Right of Privacy

The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed."

There should be no State obligation to register private animals located on private land that never leave private land. There is no legal finding of fact that has established a valid reason to infringe nor to interfere with my right to privacy.

The proposal sponsors allude to Section 6, paragraph 4 *"Sustained Yield. Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses."*

Resources which we all must share should be properly managed by the government like air, waterways, and the like. It is quite a stretch to say that regulation of private property (animals) on private land that never leaves private land that does not effect any public property in any way somehow is fulfillment of this clause. I could use similar reasoning and make an argument saying the board of game should regulate cars to garages and mandate double locked garage doors because cars kill many moose and per sustained yield principles cars negatively affect the resource. Actually a regulation like that makes way more sense than the proposal 64 regulation of animals since my animals never leave the garage so to speak.



2. Food Security Threatened:

My children have cow milk allergies but could drink goat milk. Some also have allergies to beef, chicken, turkey, but not goat nor sheep. I am not independently wealthy so our farm has provided a stable and affordable means of providing quality allergen free food to my family. This Proposal would undermine the food security of my children and the requirements will cause severe economic burden to my family personally.

3. Fairness:

Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations. My goats are confined to pens and barns and not allowed to free range and as mentioned earlier, are disease free. There has not been a single case documented of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to wild sheep in Alaska. Even in the Lower 48, it has not been conclusively proven that domestic sheep and goats were the cause of die-offs due to disease in the wild sheep population. In fact, wild sheep have been proven to be carriers of *M. Ovipneumoniae*, with effects being exhibited under naturally occurring stress events such as weather, predation, lambing, parasite load, age, and poor nutrition. Without proof, or even a credible threat, why would rights be restricted? Does science even matter anymore or just hype and fear-mongering of special interest groups?

Requiring permits, expensive double fencing, and unspecified and unproven testing is simply a drastic overreach for a purported crisis that has not occurred, nor been proven to likely occur in the future. My animals do not pose any risk to the wild Alaska sheep populations. Why then must I be treated as guilty until I prove myself innocent and live under punitive regulations?

I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on my and other small farm operations. Proposal 64 is unreasonable in that it puts such a hardship on Alaska's sheep and goat herders with rules that are overreaching. We all should be able to raise food and fiber on our private land for our families without government restrictions because of a non-existent and undocumented threat to Alaska's wild sheep. I respectfully request the Board to not pass Proposal 64.

Thank you,

Kanika Koruna



Submitted By
Dan Krause
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:36:35 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(907)222-1987
Email
pastordaninalaska@gmail.com
Address
5173 W Christina Ct
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on

the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)
- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,
Dan Krause



Submitted By
Kelli Krause
Submitted On
10/24/2017 3:49:01 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078911063

Email
kellikrause07@gmail.com

Address
2521 e mountain village Dr
Ste b pmb 827
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I am writing to express my concern for sheep and goats being removed from the clean list. It would have a huge impact on the farm and 4H community. We raise dairy and meat animals and are concerned about the food insecurity in AK. With 98% of our food being shipped here we are vulnerable to a major food shortage, unless small farmers and backyard producers retain the ability to raise animals. With this proposal we will not be able to afford to meet the ridiculous rules proposed for owning our animals. The risk to dall sheep in our state is minimal at best based on recent tests and the fact that we do not have shared lease land for grazing. A group of hunters should not hold the power to effect our ability to raise animals here in AK. Their science is not proving the risk specifically in AK and they are trying to scare people into agreement with them without actual facts and test results in our state. This would be devastating to us, all backyard farms and kids in 4H. It would have an impact on our economy as well and prevent families from securing locally raised food for their families.



Submitted By
Elizabeth Kugler
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:57:36 PM
Affiliation

Removing sheep/goats from the "clean list" in Alaska is ludicrous. The risks are very low our dall sheep would wander into someone's enclosed property and comingle with their domesticated counterparts much less contract an infectious bacteria from them. Alaska is a "fenced in" state, for all livestock. Do not punish those responsible for responsibly keeping themselves self sufficient for the fear of a minute chance something "may" happen. I would be singing a different tune if we had an epidemic, but it simply is not the case. Thank you.



Submitted By
Jonah Lange
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:30:43 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game, I am writing to you to OPPOSE Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. My family relies on our goats for meat, milk and fiber. Without this substance, our 1 income household will suffer greatly not only in the means of food and fiber, but also in the view of our pets. We have spent countless hours with our goats, making sure they've had the best life possible. So much blood, sweat and tears has been shed for each and every goat we own to make sure they're properly cared for. Our goats are such a huge part of our lives, ourselves and our livelihood. This is only the small picture for the families who depend on their goats for substance. The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat or herd shares for milk or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do to the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would come together. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.Ovi. None! The State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.Ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for M.Ovi. The bacteria can only be spread with close contact with Dall sheep and domestics. Rivers, highways, mountains, lakes, predators and subdivisions all help to keep the possibility of spreading down. I ask that the Board of Game take NO ACTION on Proposal 64, for Alaskas families and economy.



Submitted By
Stacy Lanser
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:51 PM
Affiliation

Please take NO ACTION on prop 64.



Submitted By
Lisa Larmi
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:18:17 AM
Affiliation

Please take no action on Prop 64. Sheep and goats are an important part of Alaskan agriculture, and are kept separate from wild stock.



Submitted By
Barbara Larson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:01:46 AM
Affiliation

Once again, the sky is not falling. Do your homework people. Alaska is not the same as the lower 48. You would be interfering with the rights of many Alaskans to lead a self sustaining, homestead type lifestyle, because of an obscure risk. Prop 64 is unnecessary.



Submitted By
Amanda
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:43:19 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073018343

Email
alaskafunnyfarm4@gmail.com

Address
1150 S Colony Way Ste #3 PMB 209
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Board of Game

I am writing you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION.

I have had goats for about 15 years and sheep the last 4 years. They play a big part of our life. We use them for milk. Milk for us, for puppies. for kids that are allergic to cow milk. The list can go on. We use the goats for soap also. They're our pets, a part of our family. We use the sheep for their wool. We use them for 4-H and FFA. Why are we even wasting time and energy and most of all taxpayer money? There are more things that are a priority than this that effect a great deal of us?

I am at a loss of why you would remotely put them on the unclean list. That is two more animals that the kids would not be able to use and show at the fair. The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska.

Alaska being very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. I orginally grew up in Wyoming and know about this greatly.

There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. None! The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game needs to map the critical habitat areas of the most concern for contact with domestics.

M.ovi needs a host, it does not live in the environment and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators.

I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64

Thank You!

Amanda Leonard



Submitted By
Robin Letourneau
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:37:08 PM
Affiliation

We need to be able to sustain ourselves. The government wants to control all of our food and make us completely dependent on them. This is both wrong and illogical. What is the point of living in a state with so much open land if we can't have farm animals to support ourselves? With all of the GMO products making people sick, we need to be able to raise our own food and dairy animals. I have never seen wild sheep be able to come anywhere near our domesticated livestock because the wild animals like to live on steep mountain slopes while we live in towns with independant yards with fences. And this point is only further proven by the fact that eveytime I go sheep hunting I have to climb a steep rocky mountain slope in order to access the sheep and mountain goats because they are not in the "easy to reach places". I do not see the wild and domesticated species co-mingling anytime soon.



Submitted By
Marchell Lillard
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:20:03 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907.715.8316
Email
mplillard@yahoo.com
Address
5131 W. Lupine Lane
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

I am writing to you today to urge you to oppose & take NO ACTION on Prop.64!

Alaska NEEDS sustainable agriculture. Sheep & goats are a very large part of that in this state mainly because of the high cost of animal feed for larger animals. We do not have large grazing herds on federal land up here. We mostly have small farms with our animals contained on our own property. This prop. makes no sense at all for this state. I understand in the Lower 48 there are many problems concerning M.ov1 but please consider that we have not had one case of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada, NOT ONE!

Our State Veterinarian is working with the sheep & goat owners on a risk assessment of M.ov1. As of this letter, 334 goats & sheep have been tested & only 6 have tested positive. Thats 2%. Thats extremely low. That percentage also should show the Wild Sheep Foundation that not only are they being ridiculous in what they are asking in this Prop 64 but that the sheep & goat owners in this state care just as much about our natural habitat as they supposedly do. We are doing our part, now the state needs to do their part and get critical areas MAPPED OUT!

Together we can work on this and make sure it doesn't ever become a problem in our state. There needs to be some common sense used in dealing with this and taking sheep & goats off the clean list is NOT the answer. Again, we need to come together and make decisions based on science & fact in Alaska to remedy this issue.

Thank you for your time and PLEASE OPPOSE & TAKE NO ACTION ON PROP. 64

Marchell Lillard



Submitted By

Chantel lillard

Submitted On

10/26/2017 10:20:34 PM

Affiliation

Dear board of game for the state of alaska, I urge you to dismiss prop 64. Domestic goats are an incredibly valuable resource for many Alaskans and the introduction of prop 64 threatens the livelihood and survival of so many families, including mine. Please, take no action with this proposal! Alaska is so unique and so different from the lower 48, and one huge difference is that so many people in our communities are able to live a more sustainable lifestyle, and for so many people goats are an integral part of daily life. To put prop 64 into action would completely destroy the small farm that my family has and relies on.



Submitted By
Cheri Lindholm
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:18:34 PM
Affiliation

Phone
0078410169

Email
Akcc.clindholm@gmail.com

Address
565 w crestwood ave
Wasilla , Alaska 99654

My family and our goats will be affected by this legislation. We had a small goat herd. My children are autistic with food sensitivities and need the goat milk. The goats also are recommended by their doctor as therapy animals. Interactive with the goats help with stemming and other behavior challenges for my children. Research does not show any cases in alaska where family goat herds have caused any harm to wild sheep. Please do not put this new legislation in place it will hurt my family and many others with small goat herds.



Submitted By
Kerry Logan
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:03:30 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
5093933037

Email
cloudsinmotion@gmail.com

Address
3091 Stemilt Creek Rd
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

There has to be another way. Please do not take goats and sheep from the clean list of livestock allowed in the state. With mandated fencing, there is little risk that domestic and wild stock will mix. AND it doesn't seem that due diligence was done to assess the real risk of infection of *M.ovi* spreading into Alaska or even Canada. Don't make this another case of doing something for the sake of doing something, especially when it means that rural Alaskans would be the most affected.



Submitted By
Billie Longfellow
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:32:33 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077752494

Email
bittysue@live.com

Address
15816 N. Glenn Hwy
Sutton, Alaska 99674

This is in regards to prop 64. Considering this proposition without valid study is folly. Sheep and goats in Alaska do not co-mingle or share habitat with wild sheep and goats. The number of domestic sheep and goats infected with anything that could be transferred to their wild cousins is around 2%. The only thing prop 64 will do is harm Alaskans. Please table this until a proper study can be conducted to determine if there is an actual risk. Thank you.



Submitted By
Charity Lovelace
Submitted On
10/26/2017 5:50:40 PM
Affiliation

I am opposed to regulation that would require permitting of domestic animals as well as the other regulations under consideration (fencing, etc) I believe it would place an undue burden on small operations domestic animal farming.



Submitted By
Janet Lueke-_Otto
Submitted On
10/26/2017 3:25:18 PM
Affiliation

Dear Alaska Board of Game As a Farmer in Alaska I ask that you do not pass Prop 64(90). There is recent scientific proof that M Ovi is not found in just domestic herds of sheep and goats. That domestic herds have a low inccidents of the disease based on the research of Dr.Highland. Taking all domestic sheep and goats off the clean list would destroy the food security of Alaska. Small ruminants multiply not just replicate. They eat less food and are more sustaineable for Alaska's animal feed resources. As Alaskans we need to strengthen our state with a balance of protecting our natnatural resources and keeping our state's food security and agriculture industry stable and feeding Alaskans. Thank you for your attention on this matter. Sincerely Janet Otto Farmer.



Submitted By
Relena Lyddon
Submitted On
10/4/2017 2:35:28 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

Greetings Fish and Game Committee Members:

I am writing today to ask you to oppose Prop 64 (formally Prop 90). As an owner of domestic dairy goats for personal consumption, it is important to allow Alaska residents the right to own these animals for sustainability. There are no cases of M.o.vi. in Alaska wild goat and dall sheep deaths in Alaska. This Proposal would cause great economic decrease in agricultural trade and commerce. Our goats are used for dairy products, this proposal would make it illegal to have domestic goats in Alaska, this is ridiculous! Please oppose Proposal 64 (formally Proposal 90) banning domestic sheep and goats in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Relena M Lyddon



Submitted By
Meredith Mapes
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:50:40 PM
Affiliation

Having raised both goats and sheep through 4H, and being involved with some friends who make and sell goats milk soap from their goats for a living, I think the new livestock regulations removing goats and sheep from the clean list are absolutely ridiculous. If you're so worried about them spreading disease to the wildlife population, make a regulation that says everybody has to test their animals, and if they'd come up positive quarantine them in a way to keep them well away from the wild populations. Do not destroy agriculture in Alaska, one of the few subsistence areas left in the country.



Submitted By
Stephanie Marchesseault
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:16:04 AM
Affiliation

Take No Action on Prop 64! This is overreaching and unapplicable in our great state. It will not be saving the wild sheep or goats, only hurting our domestics ones and in turn, negatively effecting our Alaskan Grown agriculture!



Submitted By
Lisa Marcinek
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:47:35 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-232-8851
Email
marcinekfamily@gci.net
Address
2521 E Mtn Village Dr B346
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I am writing in regards to Prop 64.

There has been no evidence that local domestic sheep and goats have any impact on wild populations, yet we know this proposition will have huge impacts on domestic sheep and goat farmers, veterinarians, feed producers and importers, and those that require fresh goat milk for health reasons. The State of Alaska is currently in a recession, this proposition would further destroy the economy by limiting agriculture in a time that we should be building industries up. Many people depend on their herds for income and food, the state does not have a viable substitution to help these people recover.

There have been no cases of Dall sheep dying from M.ovi. The current infection rate for the local domestic population is under 2%. The scientific information so far has not shown a risk great enough to warrant the action of Prop 64.

I urge you to protect Alaskan farmers and vote NO on Prop 64.



Submitted By
Dani Markham
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:52:07 AM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern,

Regarding prop 64.

Proposition 64 if passed would be a huge detriment to Agriculture in Alaska.

Having grown up on an Alaskan dairy & participated in many areas of agriculture as a 4H member

and now a 4H leader, it has long been a huge concern in Alaska that the ability for Alaskans to feed themselves is in a massive downward spiral. We are in jeopardy of a major food crisis. In the past bad weather, catastrophes, and disasters in the lower 48 have delayed trucks and barges from reaching the Alaska communities, leaving the shelves of the local grocery stores bare and supplies scarce.

Sheep and goats have long provided a way for Alaskans to become producers on even the smallest scale, allowing each of us with the capabilities to help fill Alaskas self sufficiency when it comes to food sustainability.

The issues that prop 64 are concerning have not even become an issue and the grant-funded study has given us the sience to prove that M. Ovi is certainly not a threat to Alaskas wildlife.

Please consider the ramifications of outlawing sheep and goats in Alaska.

Once removed from the clean list it will be illegal for anyone to own sheep and/or goats in our state, setting off a huge chain reaction for Alaskas agriculture industry.

We all want what is best for Alaska. Restricting the agriculture industry does not benefit Alaska or Alaskans

Respectfully submitted,

Dani Markham



Submitted By
Kristine McBride
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:00:24 AM
Affiliation

TAKE NO ACTION. As a state in the winter time we don't have as many natural or home grown food. Which leaves everything to the groceries stores. Goat and sheep provide a lot for a household. And most of them are more than just livestock, some of just pets.



Submitted By
Chandra McCain-Finch
Submitted On
10/8/2017 9:01:29 AM
Affiliation
Farm owner, 4H leader

Phone
907-715-9174

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Frostymeadowfarm@gmail.com

Address
6681 w fuller lake circle
7362 W Parks Hwy #153
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Our farm is very small, yet very important to the community. Our animals do not get loose and are very well cared for. I have raised goats and sheep in 3 states over the last 40 years and have always been a responsible owner. Our son is the current reigning champion goat showman at the Alaska State Fair, and he is also learni my safe management and breeding/care practices. We eat goat and sheep, as well as our other farm animals. We are responsible with testing and vaccinations for all of our animals. We teach youth in the state, and their parents, as we have one of the largest 4H clubs known. Removing the rights to own these animals will hurt families that use them to browse and to eat them. Stronger standards in regards to fencing and keeping the animals healthy is necessary, but removing people's rights to own them is not the answer.



Submitted By
Paula McCarrol,
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:35:59 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9088920661

Email
Poggy72@aol.com

Address
P.o. box 521222
Big lake , Alaska 99652

I oppose 64



Submitted By
Amanda McConnell
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:01:37 PM
Affiliation

Prop 64 is based on situations in the lower 48, not alaska. We do not have the co-mingling problem with domesticated sheep and wild dall sheep like they have in the lower 48. There is no reason current and future animal owners shouldn't be allowed to continue raising their goats and sheep when there is no proven negative affect on the local wildlife.



Submitted By
Victoria L McConnell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:22:15 AM
Affiliation

Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. Alaska has many natural barriers to help prevent wild Dall sheep & domestics from coming into contact. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.o.vi. There have been no completed studies on the susceptibility of the local population of thin horn sheep (Dall sheep) to this bacterium. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.o.vi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep tested only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a screaming low risk factor in opposition to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting. If domestic goats and sheep are removed from the clean list owners are left in purgatory. Per the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game website, animals not on the "clean list" cannot be permitted. That makes them illegal to own.

The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska.



Submitted By
Sally McGuire
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:12:54 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-766-3202
Email
chilkootmcguire@gmail.com
Address
P.O. Box 918
Haines, Alaska 99827

I am writing about Prop. 64 which would remove domestic sheep and goats from the "clean" list. This issue keeps coming up and still there is no evidence supporting your taking this step. Please do not try to take away our sheep and goats or any other of our domestic animals for that matter.

There are a lot of people in Alaska who keep sheep and goats, including myself. We consider our animals to be essential parts of our lives and essential parts of the food we produce for our families and/or for sale. They are also an essential part of local economies since we not only sell food but also buy locally most of the feed that our animals require.

Milk that is produced by these animals is truly essential to those people, especially children, who have intolerance for other milks. Also, many Alaskan families live where producing their own food makes the difference between food and no food. It is unacceptable that anyone might consider limiting this food source.

There are very few places in Alaska where domestic sheep or goats would have any interaction with wild sheep or goats. The only real exception to this that I can think of would be where someone might take pack goats up into the mountains. If you truly believe (after doing the research that is required and not yet done, as I understand) that such pack goats might transfer disease to wild populations, then the obvious solution is to ban the pack goats or require that they be immunized (if an immunization exists). That would have the other benefit that then wild animals would not be giving disease to our domestic animals. Or of course you could shoot all the wild sheep and goats, which would be no more extreme than shooting all our tame ones.

Thank you, Sally McGuire



Submitted By
Kevin mckinney
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:49:00 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073602117

Email
Kmoффroad@gmail.com

Address
1103 Southampton dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

I Oppose prop 64!



Submitted By
Pamela Means
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:38:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073552463

Email
Meansp@mtaonline.net

Address
P.O. Box 1127
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I oppose prop 64. Wildlife and domestic animals do not mingle in Alaska.



October 26, 2017

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and costly testing. These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thin horn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in many ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats. Besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber, they are treasured as family pets and 4-H project animals. Domestic goats and sheep are an essential part of the educational component of our Exhibits program at the Alaska State Fair. It is a challenge for us to have ample livestock as it is, the loss of sheep and goats would be devastating. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations.

The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and the State Vet's office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64. Thank you for your consideration.

Pamella Meekin

Exhibits Manager, Alaska State Fair

907-746-7159

pamella@alaskastatefair.org



Submitted By
Bob Mennis
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:08:34 PM
Affiliation
Private Citizen

Phone
907-575-7762

Email
bob_mennis@yahoo.com

Address
4933 SouthHamilton Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99503

Please except my statement As a testimony to the need to say no To the elimination if rights of Alaskans to own and raise goats For foodd and milk . Many people and children need Goats milk do to being unable to consume Cows milk These families must be able to own and Raise goat I have friend and family members Not able to drink cows milk I believe they will fight And others including me will fight For their rights to raise and milk Goats Thank You Bob



Submitted By
Robert Mennis
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:03:53 PM
Affiliation

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907-602-5830
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icefisher138@hotmail.com
Address
6591 w ocean ave
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

I send this comment to show my opposition of Proposition 64 I oppose prop 64 for many reasons, but first and foremost because it threatens the health of my children. Like many people, my children have been diagnosed with many food allergies. Goats and sheep have been a saving grace to allow us to accommodate their needs. All three of my children are allergic to all of the following: cow's milk, wheat, oats, soy, beef, commercially available chicken, pork, and eggs. Each child has other specific allergies including: corn, apples, oranges, yeast etc. In addition to this, products produced in a facility that processes these items cause reactions, as well as products from animals that have eaten corn, soy, wheat etc. This severely limits what we can feed our children; in fact it eliminates nearly all processed foods that are available for purchase. We raise, hunt, and fish for all the meat and animal products in our home. Because hunting can be expensive and unreliable, we raise goats for meat and milk. They make up a large part of our children's diet. Removal of goats and sheep from the clean list, and following the provided regulations in prop 64 would be the end of sheep and goats in Alaska. Therefore the end of the small backyard farm as well. The following is copied from prop 64, followed by a portion taken from the ADFG web page regarding the clean list: "Any person in possession of domestic sheep (ovis) or goats (capra) must obtain a permit from the department within one year of implementation of this section." "#2 Online permitting has become mainstream and is simple." "All mammal, bird, and reptile species that have been specifically approved for entry or possession in Alaska appear on the "Clean List" (Alaska regulation 5 AAC 92.029). If a particular mammal, bird, or reptile species does not appear on this list, it may not be possessed as a pet or livestock in Alaska, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game cannot issue a permit allowing its importation or possession." I take this to mean that permits will never become available, let alone be an easy online process as stated. "Animals located within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat must be contained within a Department approved facility (double fence, etc.) and certified disease free when testing becomes available." - Where is a map providing us with the boundaries considered "dall sheep habitat"? Double fencing is something that is unobtainable for many small farmers, (myself included) it would force anyone with smaller lots to abandon something they do for self sustainability, or to move to where? Out of state would be the only place, seeing as the department cannot issue permits for animals not on the clean list. "What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Domestic sheep and goats have been proven to carry diseases that are devastating to wild sheep populations. This proposal will be a good start to prevent the spread of disease into wild sheep populations. Hobby farming is growing rapidly in Alaska including areas that would be considered Dall sheep habitat. Entire populations of bighorn sheep are presently being eradicated due to these unintentional disease transmissions." - Most if not all of these studies show that wild populations naturally carry the same pathogens claimed to be transmitted. Pneumonia is what is killing the bighorn sheep, Pneumonia actually is not a transmissible disease, stress causes pneumonia in sheep and goats, stress from lack of nutrition, competition for food, harassment by predators, unethical hunters, maybe even dogs. Not domestic sheep and goats. To finalize my statement: Prop 64 has no business being implemented in its current state. It is poorly written and mainly contains misguided information that is at best untruthful. As someone who hunts and raises animals I believe that domestic goats and sheep are a much needed resource for our state. At the very least they are a way to reduce our dependency on food being shipped to Alaska, and at best they are a lifesaving source of nourishment for those who need it most. Thanks for your time, Robert Mennis



Submitted By
Marilynn Methven
Submitted On
10/8/2017 2:54:53 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9075213557

Email
marilynmethven@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 879669
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production. I think this is not in the best interest of all Alaskans. I believe it will do more harm than good.



Submitted By
Jessica Meybin
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:22:17 AM
Affiliation
Concerned Citizen

As a supporter and consumer of local produce, I believe the ban of domestic goats and sheep would be detrimental to the availability of local meat, and also damaging to our Alaskan smaller-but-quality livestock farming industry. Please do not pass this legislation that would prevent Alaskans from raising and eating these local meats for reasons that are not valid for this state - such as the contagion of the disease (AK livestock must be fenced in) and the spread/geographical distribution that would hinder or prevent the spread of any disease.

Thank You for your Consideration,

Jessie



Submitted By
Steve Mickey
Submitted On
10/17/2017 6:04:38 PM
Affiliation

Phone
828-689-4812

Email
mtnwizard@juno.com

Address
111 Hoot and Holler Lane
Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

~~To those present and in reference specifically to goats and their interaction with sheep of any kind. I have worked with, raised, bred, and operated a farm with goats in some way or another, specifically dairy goats, for almost fifty years and in specific reference to sheep would like to state that the ruminating system and body operations of goats and sheep are very much different. Dairy goats demand a high amount of both copper and selenium in their diet and sheep cannot tolerate that level. Their body systems are quite different. Although they are deemed both ruminating animals they are not "more" related to each other than any other such as a horse or cow, but rather "less" related in any commonality of body function and shared illnesses or diseases. To be blunt- if goats are a threat to the native sheep population (which they are not) then the same rules need apply to all ruminating animals, and indeed, all domestic animals of any type to the common dog and cat. I think your own "findings" from the previous meeting of 2016, and may I quote "the lack of any information that would demonstrate that wild sheep populations are at risk of contracting pathogens from domestic species." The freedoms of our country do not allow for spurious and injurious decisions that are odious and cumbersome to others for the un-based opinions of a few. Thank you.



Submitted By
Christina Miller
Submitted On
10/23/2017 9:13:21 AM
Affiliation

October 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to proposition 64 (formerly prop 90).

My husband and I moved to Alaska 18 years ago as young adults looking to make our own tracks. We were both born and raised in rural Wyoming where self-sustainability is a way of life. We chose Alaska as our new home because we believed it was full of opportunity and it afforded us the ability to be self-sufficient and surround ourselves with like-minded people. That is the great thing about Alaska, we love the outdoors, we love our neighbors and we love liberty. It draws a certain mindset here.

About 10 years ago we advanced our self-sustainability from just hunting and fishing to also raising our own white meat and eggs, and eventually we added the dairy goat. I have a great deal of pride in our lifestyle and that we have instilled this in our next generation. We have 3 boys that love to hunt and fish and do so with a purpose. The same purpose they farm and garden with, to put wholesome food on our table year-round. Proposition 64 threatens our livelihood, our freedom and our constitutional rights to our property!

I ask that you oppose Proposition 64 and protect the rights of every Alaskan

Thank You

The Miller Family



Submitted By
Nicole Miller
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:25:07 PM
Affiliation

Board of Game,

I am writing to you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. My family is looking to add goats to our small farm in hopes of providing milk and cheese to our otherwise lactose children.

That being said, the larger picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comeingle. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. None!

At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 4 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a screaming low risk factor in opposition to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting. M.ovi needs a host, it does not live in the environment and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators.

I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

The Miller Family



Submitted By
Janet Mischler
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:20:30 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
9076943005
Email
janetinak@gci.net

Address
P.O. Box 670223
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Please take no action on Prop 64. Thank you.



Submitted By
Robin L. Mitchell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:30:08 PM
Affiliation

Phone
6315989383

Email
darkdakota@aol.com

Address
12110 Business Blvd STE 6 PMB 183-
eagle river, Alaska 99577

Outlawing goats and sheep in Alaska is ridiculous. They have been here for decades with no disease transfer to Dall sheep. Allow homesteaders to remain independent and raise their own meat, wool, milk etc by raising goats and sheep.



Submitted By
Heather Mize
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:45:21 PM
Affiliation

I oppose 64. The risk of disease passing from privately owned animals and wild Dahl Sheep does not exist to the extent to necessitate this.
Make no change Alaska is not the same as the rest of the United States.



Submitted By

Erica moeller

Submitted On

10/26/2017 2:35:26 PM

Affiliation

Phone

908-251-7083

Email

Erica.m.moeller@gmail.com

Address

3921 Murphy Dome Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I'm writing to voice my opposition to prop 64 (formerly prop 90). In light of the lack of concrete evidence that domestic sheep and goats cause harm to wild populations, the government should not restrict or infringe upon or right to subsistence. Many Alaskans rely on local, domestic populations of sheep and goats for soap, fibers, milk and meat. To restrict our access to these resources is not only criminal, but also dangerous, considering our lack of proximity to any major food/resource distribution center.



Submitted By
Michelle montecelli
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:38:32 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop 64 - take no action



Submitted By
Lynda J Moon
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:33:33 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop 64. It is completely unnecessary, and would cause a hardship for many hobby farmers. The studies and numbers do not back up the need for such a legislation.



Submitted By
Mike Moore
Submitted On
10/8/2017 9:10:34 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 795 6660

Email
Mlmoore8489@gmail.com

Address
14067 Doc Mckinley Ave
Palmer , Alaska 99646

The proposed regulation of domestic sheep and goats only serves to hinder Alaskan agricultural. The live stock producers will be hurt and so will our fellow Alaskans. We test our livestock regularly. This proposal must be not allowed to be law.



Submitted By
Wendee Mooter
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:54:52 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game members: When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted: Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics) There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America. There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks. Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this. Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game. Respectfully, Wendee L Mooter



Submitted By
Matthew Morgan
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:49:21 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9852109950

Email
Mjmorgano84@gmail.com

Address
P.O. Box 260
TALKEETNA, Alaska 99676

I have only one issue today ,Prop 64, an over zealous piece of legislation that the control freak transplants from the lower 48 are trying to ram down the Alaskan residents throats. Most people, including myself and my wife, moved up here for the promises of less government. But as of late, it has been the opposite. This piece of legislation in no way has any benefits for farmers or even common folk, that raise these animals for sustenance (meat as well as the beneficial milk). So I ask that you vote nay and keep Alaska free through your vote!



Submitted By
Angela Motta
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:00:23 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 764 0439

Email
icyangel69@yahoo.com

Address
2811 Pribilof Street
Anchorage , Alaska 99517

Stand down on 64



Submitted By
Kerri Mullis
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:31:04 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 378 0103

Email
Kam63@rocketmail.com

Address
2441 Lawlor road
Fairbanks , Alaska 99709

I believe that there are so many people you will be impacting by changing the regulations on goats/sheep. Do you really feel it will stop there? Chickens, cows, the capability for families to feed, supply milk, provide clothing (yes-many people spin hair). I believe that if there are rules we will comply, but it does not feel like you are providing options -please consider other options. I feel for anything-the remoteness of Alaska -and food protection. One bad storm-and our grocery stores empty in a day. Help us help ourselves.



Submitted By
Lynn Murphy
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:47:34 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-240-6938

Email
akavi8tn@aol.com

Address
7085 Whitehall Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

I am seriously against Prop 64 and the desire of the Wild Sheep Foundation to remove domestic goats and sheep from the clean list if you live within 50 air miles of wild sheep/goat population.

Unfortunately that means that almost 100% of people in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage would not be allowed to have these animals.

In a state where we rely on our own resources, the ability to keep sheep and goats for milk and meat is a big factor and to limit this because of a low-risk disease is ridiculous.

Please vote down this horrible Proposition.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Victoria Murrow
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:53:54 PM
Affiliation

Threatening the livelihood of a good number of Alaskans out of fear without considering alternative enforcement measures is a naïve and fearful move that's sure to leave nothing but bankrupt herd owners. We need to discuss plan A: measures we can take to ensure the safety of dahl sheep while preserving an Alaskan work force.



Submitted By
Danielle Musgrove
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:34:26 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9072401552

Email
lmthemom@mtaonline.net

Address
1101 e McAdoo way
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I stand by my fellow Alaskans who say that until further testing is done on Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M.ovi) and banning domestic goats and sheep in Alaska, we urge you to take NO ACTION on Proposition 64.



Submitted By

Patricia Muth

Submitted On

10/26/2017 10:30:36 PM

Affiliation

Phone

907-745-2311

Email

grammymuth@icloud.com

Address

P.O. box 201

Sutton, Alaska 99674

Please take no action on prop 64



Submitted By
Michelle Myers
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:05:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9072500732

Email
tekmychelle@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 871069
Wasilla, Alaska 99567

Board of Game Prop 64: Removal of Sheep and Goats from the Clean List.

- A) The Zones proposed are NOT BASED IN REALITY.
- B) Clean Herds should be allowed in the zones.
- C) Stop instigating war between factions. I realize what you are doing.



Submitted By
Tabitha Nardini
Submitted On
10/26/2017 3:31:34 PM
Affiliation

Please vote no to prop. 64



Submitted By
Tabitha nelson
Submitted On
10/1/2017 10:15:08 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-518-0299

Email
Alaskanwilderness@hotmail.com

Address
Po box 1807
Petersburg , Alaska 99833

I'm contacting about prop 64 (formerly prop 90) regarding removing domestic sheep and goat from a clean list. I'm a hunter and livestock owner. I think it is equally important to protect both. We hunt for all our meat and grow the rest ourselves. Alaska's food security may sometime depend on the few small farmers there are throughout the state. Sheep and goat are ideal for this. The problem of protecting wild populations is not as simple as making it illegal to own domestic. I'm not anywhere near a wild sheep population as are many other livestock owners. As much as I hate to see the few farms that are get hurt it seems like a more logical plan would be target areas rather than statewide. I ask that you consider Alaskas fragile farming history and our growing interest in providing food for small communities. Owning domestic sheep and goats on private property is a fundamental right since the beginning of domestication. Constitutionally it doesn't seem like it is the board of games responsibility to regulate domestic animals on private property since there are no public grazing land in Alaska. Even though I don't want it to be harder to bring goats into the state, possibly higher screening on future imports, more regulations on sheep hunting, and the wild sheep foundation funding fencing in target areas are more fair than destroying domestic ownership. Please don't remove sheep and goat from the clean list.



Submitted By
Lori Restad
Submitted On
10/24/2017 10:31:23 PM
Affiliation
Northland Pioneer Grange

Phone
907.746.4900
Email
Lori.Restad@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 2304
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Board of Game:

At its regular meeting on October 19, 2017, the Northland Pioneer Grange in Palmer, Alaska voted to submit comments in opposition to Proposition 64. The Northland Pioneer Grange has been active since 1934 to support agriculture in Alaska and improve rural life in our state. Proposition 64 would place a huge burden on owners of livestock, although the risk of disease transmission to wild sheep is negligible. Enforcing these new regulations would not be a wise use of public resources.

Northland Pioneer Grange urges the Board of Game not to adopt Proposition 64.



Submitted By
Erin C O'Connell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:53:08 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078543388

Email
airinairout@hotmail.com

Address
4475 South Trellis Ave.
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I am writing in opposition to Prop 64. There is no evidence that domestic goats are a threat to Alaska's wild goats. There are many Alaskans in the MatSu Valley (and beyond) who are invested in their goats as livestock and/or pets. Banning domestic goats would be an unfair lifestyle change for people in my community.



Submitted By
James O'Connor
Submitted On
10/20/2017 3:19:42 PM
Affiliation

I would like to ask you to strike down Proposal 64 regarding the delisting of domestic sheep and goats in Alaska and requiring a permit to own them within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat.

Let me start off by stating the obvious: If an animal is *not* on the clean list, you cannot obtain a permit for one. The proposal's language about the possibility of obtaining a permit is straight-up dishonesty on WSF's part.

How can you say who is within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat when wild sheep habitat has not been mapped? Besides that, if someone lives on the opposite side of a body of water too big for a wild sheep to cross but is still within 15 air miles, they should not be treated as if they are a "threat" to wild sheep. Use common sense.

If contact between wild sheep and domestics was really such an issue, why was the infamous Palmer McDonalds mountain goat (Sept. 23, 2016) merely tranquilized and returned to habitat? Why was it not immediately euthanized to prevent the risk of disease spreading to the wild population, because who knows if it stopped off at someone's farm on its way to downtown Palmer? Clearly ADF&G doesn't think there is a risk. <https://www.matsugov.us/news/mountain-goat-takes-a-rest-downtown-palme>

When Proposal 90 (the original number of Proposal 64) was first brought before the Board, it was tabled for two years to give both sides of the issue time to sit down together and work things out. WSF's spokesperson Kevin Kehoe repeatedly refused to hold public meetings. This is evidence that WSF does not intend to play nice with Alaskan farmers and is only interested in getting his way. Farmers would have been happy to attend public meetings had any taken place, but the only meetings he would agree to were closed-door meetings with only two, maybe three, farmers to speak for our side. Since WSF wants to change the lifestyles and food security of thousands of Alaskans, he should have been willing to plead his case in a public forum. Instead, his tactics reek of manipulation and attempts to spread confusion. Were he above board on this, there would be nothing to hide, and he would have kept the promises he obviously hasn't.

In these economically uncertain times in the State of Alaska, food security should be actively supported; it should not be swatted down by hunting tourism bullies who are here today and gone tomorrow while full-time Alaskans have to feed themselves and their neighbors with healthy meat and milk year 'round. The best way to do that is to raise that food ourselves. The more difficult you make it for us to provide our own food, the more likely you are to put Alaskans in crisis if there is a disruption in the food supply from Outside. If our lifestyles and food security are compromised, people would have even less reason to make Alaska our home and there would be even fewer citizens to tax, leaving Alaska in even worse economic condition than it is in right now.

Once a toehold is gained into regulating and restricting farming in Alaska, who is to say that the next step might be to delist or oppressively regulate owning pigs? Or chickens? Do not open this door.

In a show of good faith, many domestic sheep and goat farmers had their animals tested for m. Ovi in 2017 as a part of Dr. Maggie Highland's study on the disease in domestics. The results were that only 2% of all animals tested positive - much lower than the results of Dr. Highland's 2016 study on pack goats in the Lower 48. Since our results were markedly better than the pack goat study, and since we do not open graze (for many obvious reasons), the logical conclusion is that domestic sheep and goats in Alaska are much less likely to infect a wild sheep than anywhere else in America.
<http://packgoats.com/packgoats-bighorn-sheep/>

There you have it. If common sense doesn't tell you that Proposal 64 should be thrown in the trash bin, then the science certainly should.

Defeat, overthrow, and put an end to Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Jim O'Connor
Submitted On
10/16/2017 10:17:14 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-776-1160
Email
joconnor@alaska.net
Address
50701 Dossow St
Kenai, Alaska 99611

I write in opposition to Proposition 64.

The Board of Game can only control the Clean List. It can't do any of the other things requested in the proposition. The conditions in the proposition are onerous impositions on people keeping domestic farm animals on their own private (fence in) property, which would require the effective surrender of 4th Amendment guarantees. The boundary of wild sheep and goat habitat is as yet unmapped. Wild sheep wandering through town are returned by state agencies to natural habitat without testing -- odd procedure for such supposedly dire circumstances.

The presence of M.Ovi to date is simply not proven to be present in a significant portion of the domestic population, Wild Sheep Foundation's hyperventilating claims of ubiquity notwithstanding. I can understand why they were anxious to get commitments to a "final solution" before any results came back from the testing.

I don't believe that ADF&G is anxious to instigate the potential conflicts with property owners, on their own property, to enforce the terms of this Proposition.

In the lower 48 similar pretexts are used for harassing livestock owners for various reasons which are entirely unrelated to public welfare.



Submitted By
Joseph O'Neil
Submitted On
10/24/2017 8:16:50 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9072226354

Email
joneil907@yahoo.com

Address
8601 E 11th Ct
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

I am writing to express my opposition to Prop 64. The organization behind this Prop is transparently self-interested and has failed to provide sufficient or compelling evidence that domesticated goats in Alaska pose any threat to the Dall Sheep population. Ruling in their favor would severely harm Alaska residents who rely on their goat herds for subsistence and call into question the credibility of your body. Please do the right thing and disapprove (not delay again) this measure.



Submitted By
Deanna OConnor
Submitted On
10/17/2017 1:33:38 PM
Affiliation

I would like to ask you to strike down Proposal 64 regarding the delisting of domestic sheep and goats in Alaska and requiring a permit to own them within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat.

Let me start off by stating the obvious: If an animal is *not* on the clean list, you cannot obtain a permit for one. The Wild Sheep Foundation clearly knows this and has added the empty suggestion of a permit as a distraction. We're not that stupid, WSF.

How can you say who is within 15 miles of wild sheep habitat when wild sheep habitat has not been mapped? Besides that, if someone lives on the opposite side of a body of water too big for a wild sheep to cross but is still within 15 air miles, they should not be treated as if they are a "threat" to wild sheep. Use common sense.

If contact between wild sheep and domestics was really such an issue, why was the infamous Palmer McDonalds mountain goat (Sept. 23, 2016) merely tranquilized and returned to habitat? Why was it not immediately euthanized to prevent the risk of disease spreading to the wild population, because who knows if it stopped off at someone's farm on its way to downtown Palmer? Clearly ADF&G doesn't think there is a risk. <https://www.matsugov.us/news/mountain-goat-takes-a-rest-downtown-palme>

When Proposal 90 (the original number of Proposal 64) was first brought before the Board, it was tabled for two years to give both sides of the issue time to sit down together and work things out. WSF's spokesperson Kevin Kehoe repeatedly refused to hold public meetings. This is evidence that WSF does not intend to play nice with Alaskan farmers and is only interested in getting his way. Farmers would have been happy to attend public meetings had any taken place, but the only meetings he would agree to were closed-door meetings with only two, maybe three, farmers to speak for our side. Since WSF wants to change the lifestyles and food security of thousands of Alaskans, he should have been willing to plead his case in a public forum. He was not. He counted on Alaskan farmers being uninformed, unorganized, and too spread out to be bothered. He was wrong. Do not give in to his tactics of bullying and intimidation.

In these economically uncertain times in the State of Alaska, food security should be actively supported; it should not be swatted down by hunting tourism bullies who are here today and gone tomorrow while full-time Alaskans have to feed themselves and their neighbors with healthy meat and milk year 'round. The best way to do that is to raise that food ourselves. The more difficult you make it for us to provide our own food, the more likely you are to put Alaskans in crisis if there is a disruption in the food supply from Outside. If our lifestyles and food security are compromised, people would have even less reason to make Alaska our home and there would be even fewer citizens to tax, leaving Alaska in even worse economic condition than it is in right now.

Once a toehold is gained into regulating and restricting farming in Alaska, who is to say that the next step might be to delist or oppressively regulate owning pigs? Or chickens? Do not open this door.

In a show of good faith, many domestic sheep and goat farmers had their animals tested for m. Ovi in 2017 as a part of Dr. Maggie Highland's study on the disease in domestics. The results were that only 2% of all animals tested positive - much lower than the results of Dr. Highland's 2016 study on pack goats in the Lower 48. Since our results were markedly better than the pack goat study, and since we do not open graze (for many obvious reasons), the logical conclusion is that domestic sheep and goats in Alaska are much less likely to infect a wild sheep than anywhere else in America.
<http://packgoats.com/packgoats-bighorn-sheep/>

There you have it. If common sense doesn't tell you that Proposal 64 should be thrown in the trash bin, then the science certainly should.

Defeat, overthrow, and put an end to Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Sheri Oler
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:30:24 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073571454

Email
Bldr2005@gmail.com

Address
681 E Susitna Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I am opposing Prop 64.....domestic goats and sheep should be called to stay in the 'clean list'. Alaska is not like the Lower 48, we are singular in our agriculture wants and needs.



Submitted By
Michelle Olsen
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:05:13 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073544184
Email
TowerRanchAlaska@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 3190
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Board of Game

I am writing you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION.

I was part of the working group that met with the Wild Sheep Foundation to try and come to a solution before this proposition went on the docket. Alaska sheep and goat producers brought option after option to the table but the WSF were uncompromising and not willing to hear any solutions that didn't involve mandatory testing, registration, and other onerous restrictions and penalties to livestock farmers.

I began raising sheep because I'm allergic to beef and pork. I have built my flock into one of the biggest and best fiber flocks in the entire state of Alaska. My sheep and goats provide food for my freezer and fleece that delights fiber artists all across this great state. I'm a 3rd generation Alaskan, born and raised here as is my husband. Our families hunt and fish all over Alaska, so I do not take threats to our wild populations lightly. In this case however, there is no actual threat.

Unlike the lower 48 where commercial herds number in the 1000s, Alaska flocks are generally 5 – 10 total animals. I have a flock of 31 sheep and goats right now meaning I'm one of the biggest in the state. This means each farmer sees every single one of their animals every single day, so our animals are healthier than large grazing flocks who only get looked over once or twice a year. Alaska does not have open grazing like they do in other states. If a sheep were to wander out of the safety of the pasture, a bear or other predator would make a quick meal out of it well before it had the opportunity to wander into wild sheep territory.

At this time there have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.o.vi. None! Our farm and many others have joined with the office of the State Veterinarian, working on a risk assessment based on M.o.vi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a ridiculously low risk factor when compared to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting.

If it is to be assumed that there is a risk, the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game needs to map the critical habitat areas of the most concern for contact with domestics. M.o.vi needs a host, it does not live in the environment and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators.

Proposition 64 will remove domestic goats and sheep from the "clean list" which means you need to be issued a permit from the State in order to keep domestics. However, the State has said that they will NOT issue permits for animals not on the clean list. If no permits will be issued it will be illegal to own sheep or goats anywhere in the state. I would have to destroy the animals I have nurtured for years. That is a pretty harsh penalty for an assumed risk with no scientific evidence.

Removing domestic sheep and goats from Alaska will devastate our food chain. We have many customers who cannot eat "commercial" meats from the grocery store due to allergies to what is fed in the feed lots. Local producers strive to support our local hay and grain farmers who grow clean feeds that our customers can eat safely without worry for massive allergy break-outs. It's not just the pain that the farming families will feel by taking goats and sheep off the clean list, it's the slow destruction of the agricultural community within Alaska. Alaska Ag and Alaska Grown are burgeoning industries and it would be a horrific blow to Alaskans if that part of their food chain were to suddenly just disappear.

Alaska has strict health requirements for importation, so strict that it's almost cost prohibitive to bring in new animals. This means that if a sheep or goat does get brought in, its super expensive (one of mine was \$2000 – for just the one) and if you are spending that kind of money you are getting all kinds of tests to guarantee it's absolutely clean and healthy.

Because my animals are so valuable I need to keep them safe; I have worked to build strong fencing, and have worked to raise and train livestock guardian dogs to keep any foreign animals away. My fencing keeps the sheep and goats inside my pasture and keeps moose, neighbor dogs, and even bears out. My livestock dogs live with my sheep and they don't let anything come within sneezing distance of their sheep. Moose don't hop over, birds don't land, and bears think it's not worth the hassle. There is zero chance of a wild sheep getting in to co-mingle with my domestics, which again, leads to zero risk of infection.

The restrictions that WSF proposed in our working groups were overzealous to say the least, and would kill the sheep and goat industries here in Alaska. The testing and registration they were talking about would be cost prohibitive to most farmers who have to work day jobs to



help pay for their ability to farm. The double fencing requirement would eliminate any and all small farms as there would be no grazable space left once fenced. The 15 air-mile parameter would encompass the Alaska State Fairgrounds in Palmer, removing the option for sheep and goats to be shown there ever again. All of these "solutions" would be a heavy financial burden paid by the farmers and 4-H participants.

I hope you will do what's right for our great state and protect the Alaska food chain, not just the special interests of one group. Especially when that group has proven that they don't care about facts, don't want to work on solutions, they just want to force their restrictions on innocent people.

With all due respect, I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

Sincerely,
Michelle Olsen
Tower Ranch Alaska



Submitted By
Lidiia Olszowy
Submitted On
10/8/2017 2:26:45 PM
Affiliation

I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production.



Submitted By
Becky Oviatt
Submitted On
9/13/2017 5:49:53 PM
Affiliation
Self

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bexterov8@yahoo.com
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Palmer , Alaska 99645

PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

I am opposed to this proposal. First, DOMESTIC goats and sheep are NOT live GAME.

Second, it has been proven that the wild sheep have NOT been infected by domestic sheep and goats. The bacterium being contested when carried by wild sheep, will cause no harm to healthy animals. It becomes opportunistic in animals who are stressed (ewes and newborns) who are experiencing a lack of nutrition, or habitat changes or sustained predation.

Just as pneumonia is harder on humans whose health is compromised by similar conditions.

Those of us who raise sheep and goats do so for meat, milk and fiber. This is a lifestyle for us, and income as well.

While you are trying to protect your income, you are taking away or compromising ours. how is that right or fair?

The livestock you are trying to regulate, while they may live within 15 air miles of sheep habitat, would need to cross highways, rivers, and land that is not easily traversed, such as swampland. We don't graze our animals near sheep habitat, if fact most feed them local hay, on dry lots.

I find your proposal obstructive and ill informed.



Submitted By
Hillary Palmer
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:45:24 PM
Affiliation

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Address
325 N Chugach St
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Jared
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:36:46 AM
Affiliation
Citizen

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9075702048

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Jaredpalmer@rocketmail.com

Address
2481 Iyona lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Please don't make it illegal to own goats. I have family that needs goats to thrive and survive. The family's life would be so difficult and miserable without the goats due to the kids allergies.



Submitted By
Heather Parker
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:29:53 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9079828178
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cnatparker@yahoo.com
Address
PO Box 3676
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.



Submitted By
Kristie Parsons
Submitted On
10/9/2017 10:15:15 AM
Affiliation
Arctic Curly Farm

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Address
PO Box 13198
Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683

I am a sheep owner and a farmer in Alaska.

Reasons not to support Prop 64

- 1) Bear, wolves, coyote, and predators will kill and eat sheep and goats long before they can find a fellow dull sheep in the mountains. We deal with predators killing in our good fenced pens in a semi-populated area, there is no way the domestic sheep or goat would survive in the wild without their sheppard to protect them from the Alaskan predators!!!! The coyote in my area are bigger than a large dog and are in packs of 12 doing serious damage to domestic livestock. Coyote over-population control is more deserving of your time than Prop 64.
- 2) Alaska is a closed ecosystem and there has never been a sheep disease get into the Dull sheep herds in over 200 years of importing sheep.
- 3) Alaska already requires sheep/goat importation health certificates and appropriate testing, why add to the list which the State struggles to enforce?
- 4) The federal government ALREADY highly regulates sheep and goat inter-state and inter-country movements to prevent disease spread. I have been unable to buy a sheep and haul it to Alaska through Canada due to the federal regulations. Nor could I buy one in Canada and import to Alaska. I have had to pay top dollar to fly sheep to Alaska due to existing regulations. Do we need more restrictive regulations in place than this? NO
- 5) Sheep & Goat owners are limited, there are a small number of these types of animals in the state altogether! The life span of a sheep or goat in Alaska is very short, 6-10 years, is this really where the limited resources of ADFG should be spent? Not in my opinion
- 6) The majority of sheep and goats are NOT kept in dull sheep mountainous places, but in easy to access locations (not mountainous and on road system) due to the amount of care these animals require and the market to sell them. I live 75 miles north of Wasilla and people complain it is so far to drive to my farm to buy a sheep. Proximity to the market is important when keeping this sort of livestock which are sold between 2-8 months old.

Please stick to the facts and not the hype of a special interest group. I do not support prop 64, please vote this items down.



Submitted By
C Partridge
Submitted On
9/1/2017 7:52:32 PM
Affiliation

Please defer, or better yet vote no, on proposition 64. The vast majority of domestic sheep and goats in Alaska live in built up areas where there is no chance of the domestic animals coming into contact with wild sheep or goats.

Alaska as a state however, is remote and needs more food resources in state. Goats and sheep are much easier for the small suburban homesteader to manage than cattle. Goats and sheep are excellent choices in helping Alaskans have a more secure food base.

Until we know for sure that there is a proven verified risk, there is no reason to remove such an excellent food resource. Keep domestic goats and sheep fully legal, and easy to own.



Submitted By
Johnny Payne
Submitted On
10/16/2017 11:50:42 PM
Affiliation

Let it be known that I am absolutely opposed to the Proposition 64 which would remove domestic goats and sheep from the clean list of animals. This would do irreparable harm to farmers here in Alaska. In addition, no reason has been proven to have this as a regulation.



Submitted By
Mary Pearson
Submitted On
10/26/2017 1:57:38 PM
Affiliation
Voting public

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907-683-2702

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Po box 191
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

I would like the board to please consider ruling to NOT make the keeping of domestic sheep and goats illegal in the state of Alaska. Small livestock fills a small but vital spot in our Alaskan food chain. The vast majority of our food supply is shipped long distances making the supply tenuous. Please do not make the keeping of the domestic goat and sheep illegal in the state of Alaska. Thank you for your time. Mary Pearson



Submitted By
Kirsten Pedersen
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:02:03 PM
Affiliation

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8086 East Timb Circle
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Here we go again... Who in earth comes up with these ludicrous ideas? Is there some PITA person down in the lower 48 looking at the vast lay of the land for miles and tons of concrete and thinking that "Gosh, it would be terrible if our wildlife comingled with our domestic farm animals? They might get sick if they cavort with each other??!!"

Back in 2008, an aged black bear came into our area and started to harass local domestic farm animals. For reference, game management Unit 14A. If you recall, the summer season of 2008 was also the year of multiple rains, cold weather and terrible salmon runs. The older bear that was eventually shot was determined to be starving and lacking some teeth, which fish and game attributed to his aggressive behavior towards domestic animals. Given that he had been unable to eat his regular quota of fish, he obviously went looking for 'easier' meals. The goats and the chickens that were slaughtered, left a bloodbath all of our neighbors backyard and chicken coop. The one goat that managed to get away was discovered hiding in someone's backyard about a mile away, cowering from fear for for three days.

What is the point of that story? Let's talk about Proposition 64. There happens to be two natural regulators at play; one would be the terrain system and the other would be the bruins that would be more than happy to indulge on either domestic or wild goats and sheep, if either wandered into their territory. The idea of promoting Proposition 64 to protect the wildlife population from M.o.vi has to have been something thought up by some very uneducated individual, who is not privy to the terrain or other natural boundaries that Alaska naturally sets on a geographical basis. Let's flip this debate the opposite way around. There is absolutely no way that any domesticated goats and sheep who might find themselves out of their fenced area are going to go trekking for miles, forging cold rushing rivers and then hike themselves thousands of feet up into the rocky terrain, hoping all along the way that a bear doesn't eat them, to go mingle with the wild population. Again whoever has thought up this ridiculous notion is obviously not privy to understanding the aspects of animal husbandry. (In fact I would seriously question their highly lacking education on the subject altogether.) Sheep in particular will not wander far from their shepard or owner. Goats might wander over to the neighbors flowers if they can see them but they too are certainly not about to depart the comfort and safety of their home of protection along with food and grain and other comforts.

Move over the silly proposition and get back to something that's really affecting the Alaskans. Something a little more it's affecting our natural fisheries and salmon what are you doing about the pike problem eating up all the salmon and the trout? If you want to address a real issue, focus on that problem.



Submitted By
Gerald Pelto
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:04:45 PM
Affiliation

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9073154300

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I oppose Proposition 64. What's next? Chickens? Enough of this ridiculousness.



Submitted By
Mike Pendergrast
Submitted On
10/26/2017 6:52:10 PM
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Wasilla, Alaska 99687

This comment is in response to Prop 64.

As a goat owner and breeder, We have spent the many hours researching this topic.

The way the proposal is written is confusing at best. The removal of sheep and goats from the clean list makes ownership illegal,. There is no permitting allowed that provides for any animal not on the "clean list" to be in Alaska. The bulk of the proposal's reference to seperation distances, testing, fencing and permits is nothing more than filler to confuse and cloud the facts.

All our goats are contained in fenced pasture, miles away from any possible wild populations. This is more than a hobby for us. Choosing to have goats is a 24/7 365 commitment. Our investment is sizable . Upkeep on shelters and fencing is an ongoing expence, We buy over a thousand bales of local hay annually, in addition to upwards of five hundred bags of feed from local suppliers. Annual testing and vet visits are also part of our investment. We spend time educating and consulting with new goat owners on the needs of the goats.

We are against the passage of this proposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you

Mike Pendergrast

Raven Run Alpines

I have taken part in the M ovi testing program organized the State Vet at a cost of four hundred dollars. My results were negative for the over 50 goats tested.

I attended the presentation by Dr. Highland on Aug 30 regarding her M ovi study. She stated that no studies are underway regarding thin horn sheep and the representative from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game confirmed that no studies or for that matter No evidence of M ovi infections have been reported in Alaska



Submitted By
Heather Percy
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:56:13 AM
Affiliation

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Unit B
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I am opposing prop 64 because Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Too few domestic animals have been found with M.ovi for this to be a crisis. Please consider the good that local, domesticated goats and sheep provide. Especially since Alaska is not a free range state and these animals are confined thus providing barriers additional to the natural barriers between them and wild sheep. Thank you.



Submitted By
Daniel G Perkins
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:58:41 PM
Affiliation
Alaskan Citizen

I am writing to oppose Prop 64. As a lifelong Alaskan who is raising my children (& hopefully my grandchildren) here, I oppose any proposition that limits the rights of Alaskans to freely raise animals currently and historically common to our homesteading heritage. Such animals as goats, sheep, rabbits, cows, chickens and others are a heritage and should remain a common right for Alaskans to keep, raise, sell, buy, and trade for the mutual good. Propositions that stop or even hinder those processes should be voted against by the people who represent us. There are many financial, health and community dependencies on these animals whether used as personal use or larger livestock applications. Alaskans need the right to raise such livestock for themselves and for their neighbors. I implore you to vote no on Prop 64 because it goes the wrong direction in maintaining these rights for Alaskans.



Submitted By

Amber Pigeon

Submitted On

10/27/2017 10:39:11 AM

Affiliation

The pioneering spirit is something all Alaskans share with their farming neighbors. The shared values of hardwork, integrity, respect, and determination are what make our state and it's people great. Through farming we teach our children how to be self-sufficient in some of the most brutal and unforgiving climates on Earth. Agriculture has played such an important role in Alaska's history. Please, consider future generations and the pioneering spirit Alaska was built on before making your vote. My family depends (as do MANY others) on the food we produce.



Submitted By
Richelle Plummer
Submitted On
10/8/2017 10:27:51 AM
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Mat Su Farm Co-Op

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Palmer, Alaska 99645

As an advocate for ALL forms of local food, any proposition restricting the effort to produce food locally is not in the best interest for the State of Alaska. Growing our food industry is VITAL for the sustainability of our Great State. In the last year alone, the market has grown by leaps and bounds. You can now find more locally grown food in our grocery stores than ever before.

With the growth in domestic livestock production, we lessen the pressure on wildlife as a food source and build our economy from the ground up.

Lets not overreact to a change in a wildlife population we have no control over. It would be ignorant to restrict local industry without a concrete, local evidence of a threat to our wild population of sheep and goats.



Submitted By
Kimberley Potter
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:39:28 PM
Affiliation

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North Pole, Alaska 99705

Farmers have enough costs and regulations to protect our local wildlife. We don't need more! The cost of living up here is high enough to drive a lot of people away. Please stop adding laws and restrictions just because you want your name on something to prove you did something. How about you start pulling old laws and restrictions out and give us back some of our freedoms! That would be a GREAT way to show you're doing something! A lot of restrictions on us are from a time when we weren't already being tested before and after we bring livestock in. It's causing a lot of less reputable farmers to allow inbreeding in the lines because it's plainly too expensive and difficult for us to get new lines up here and make some sort of profit to live on. Adding more restrictions because some phantom disease is affecting a few sheep in a mountain range 3000 miles away that has not even been proven to have anything to do with livestock and has nothing to do with Alaska is not a way to cover the costs of running this state.. start cleaning house and cover your costs by cutting the costs. Stop stealing PFD's from people who live on them. I hear there's a 2 million dollar refurb going on over at the PFD building. Go tell them they need to share!



Submitted By
Karen Reeves
Submitted On
10/26/2017 1:46:00 PM
Affiliation

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360-296-0370

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lightstheatre@yahoo.com

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Denali park, Alaska 99755

I wanted to let you know my feelings about making domestic goats and sheep illegal in AK. Alaskans have often pursued an independent and self sustaining lifestyle. They should be allied to continue such pursuits without state interference. I agree with Zoning to protect those that don't choose such a life style, but it would seem there is enough room in our state for domesticated livestock and those that choose to raise and nourish them. Thank you.



Submitted By
Elizabeth Reeves-Ramos
Submitted On
10/26/2017 1:08:26 PM
Affiliation

~~10/26/2017
To whom it may concern

I am writing against Prop 64 and I would like to add my comments as follows. Per studies that have been completed the risk of Dall sheep and domestic goats and sheep coming into contact is very small. Unlike the lower 48 Alaska does not have grazing leases for sheep or goats. Alaska is a fenced in State, which to my understanding means all animals must be kept behind a fence. This practically eliminates the threat of contact between wild and domestic. Based on what I have read, it appears that there has been no die off of wild Dall Sheep in Alaska even though there have been large numbers of domestic goats and sheep in the State since the 1060's. Alaska Dept of Fish and Game needs to map Dall sheep habitat so that those areas of possible risk between Dall sheep and domestic can be identified. I have lived in Interior Alaska most of my life and the last time I saw a Dall sheep close to residential areas was in the 90's, it seems unfair to limit farmers, peoples ability to self-sustain themselves based on assumptions that there is a risk of wild and domestic to come in contact. Finally, I have read that there was a study done that tested 334 domestic animals for m ovi and the results came back with a 2% positive rate, which is less than the pack goats studies that have been done.

On a more personal note, I know a lot of people who have domestic goats and sheep, they depend on these animals for food, milk, fiber, companionship and if they were to be made illegal it could cause financial ruin or emotional trauma. I have watched young children become interested in animals, farming, gardening, because of their ability to interact with these animals. I know that the companionship and self-sufficiency I have felt being around domestic goats and sheep is unlike anything that I have ever experienced. They have brought joy to my life and the lives of all those that come into contact with them.

Again, I strongly oppose prop 64 and hope that you take my, and the many other comments that I know you have received to heart. Alaska is the last frontier, we live here because we value our independence and being able to rely on ourselves and our land/farm to provide for our families. Please do not take away this freedom by making it illegal to have these small ruminants in our lives.

Sincerely;
Elizabeth Reeves-Ramos
Fairbanks, Alaska



Submitted By
melissa reimers
Submitted On
10/26/2017 1:42:23 PM
Affiliation

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(512)576-4009

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aksawylady5@gmail.com

Address
3141 w spence ln
wasilla, Alaska 99623

i am NOT in favor of taking goats and sheep off the clean list per prop 64. i am a local very small lamb producer and this would irrevocably kill the small ruminant ag industry in Alaska. there is no need for this, there has been NO study done to show any link from Alaska stock to wild populations. Please do not cave to the pressure and big money of the wild sheep federation. thank you for listening.



Submitted By
Rayne Reynolds
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:47:47 PM
Affiliation
Frozen Oak Farms

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rayne63@yahoo.com
Address
POB 4270
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Alaska Board of Game: I am a third generation livestock rancher and have my made my home here in Palmer, Alaska for the past 12 years. Our family raises Alaska Grown beef, pork, and lamb here in Palmer. Not only do we contribute to Alaska's food security issues by raising animals, but we contribute greatly to the local economy, where we source hay and barley from Delta, we use a local veterinarian for our herd health, we pay booth fees at local farmer's markets, we buy livestock supplies and feed from Alaska Feed and Mill in Anchorage, we have our meat processed at Mt. McKinley Meats in Palmer, and we give back to our local and statewide FFA programs and 4-H programs all because we raise livestock that include our registered purebred Hampshire and Suffolk sheep. Just as hunters and guides depend on wild sheep populations for income and protein sources, so does my family depend on our sheep for income and protein. According to the Alaska state website on hunting licenses issued and numbers of sheep taken by Alaskans and Non-Residents, close to 700 - seven hundred!- sheep were taken in licensed hunts. Not one Dahl sheep in Alaska has died as a result of my sheep being on my farm, not one, ZERO! Why would you as a board of game put restrictions on our personal property rights to own, breed, and rear sheep when our sheep are not a threat to wild populations? Just as hunters have rights, so do ranchers. How does a special interest hunting group get to attack our way of life? Is our way of life any lesser than what they enjoy? Your biggest issue to wild sheep populations is not domesticated herds of sheep and goats, but hunters themselves. I urge you to vote down taking sheep and goats off the clean list. I also request that you consider food security, local economies and a way of life that is just as important to my a family as hunting is to those families who enjoy living the lifestyle that they choose to do so. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Rayne Reynolds



Submitted By
Terri Reynolds-Rogers
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:22:28 AM
Affiliation
livestock owner

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907 602-2799

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akhorseman@hotmail.com

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1150 S Colony Way Ste 3 PMB 123
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I urge you to take no action in support of Proposition 64. The risk is very small, the exposure to wild sheep non-existent and the economic fallout will be disasterous for the livestock industry in Alaska. Small dairy animals, hair and wool sheep are an essential part of the domestic heritage of this state. Where we lack the facilities to care for cattle, we can keep dairy goats as individual pet owners. They have value in clearing land to minimize wild fire losses. Finally, they are an excellent tool for training our future livestock ranchers, small enough even for small children to raise and handle in 4H clubs and at the State Fair.

Please, do not outlaw our domestic dairy livestock. I urge you to TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64.



Submitted By
Brianna Ridge
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:46:31 PM
Affiliation

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agricultural infrastructure. Please do not pass this regulation without further research.



Submitted By
Kelli Riley
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:16 PM
Affiliation

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Please take NO ACTION on prop 64



Submitted By
Tyler Robinson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:34:45 AM
Affiliation

Please vote no on Proposal 64 to remove domestic sheep and goats in Alaska from the clean list. The proposal is ill-advised for several reasons.

The proposal seems like a direct "cut and paste" brought forward from the Wild Sheep Foundation. It is neither documented as being needed in Alaska nor does it respond to Alaska's differences. The proposal mimics a regulation from the lower 48, and in the process ignores the uniqueness and individuality of the state of Alaska. Fenced in domesticated sheep and goats are quite different than open ranges. The bacterium has never been documented in Alaska. The proposal simply feels like a national single focus special interest group attempting to show its members it is accomplishing something.

The proposal completely ignores the impacts that such an action would have on farmers, hobbyists, and in some cases their shareholders who enjoy the Alaskan value of self-sufficiency and locally harvested animal products. While the taking of wild sheep is motivated by the same value, the Wild Sheep Foundation is more concerned about sport hunting. This action, if approved, would affect your Alaska neighbors and friends, and yet is not necessary by any demonstrated evidence.

My family has enjoyed fresh goat milk and cheese from a reputable and responsible Alaska farmer for eight years. The pride and care that they show in their husbandry is a value that the board of game should appreciate, and minimally, not interfere with. This proposal is an ill-advised approach to a problem that doesn't exist and has consequences for values we as Alaskans should uphold.

Tyler Robinson
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Anchorage, AK 99508



Submitted By
Adam Rogers
Submitted On
10/25/2017 12:14:26 AM
Affiliation

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This comment is in response to Proposal 64 -- 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

I am AGAINST this proposal and let me explain why.

I will first start with the Foundation's issue they are wanting redressed. They state in their filing, "Domestic sheep and goats have been proven to carry diseases that are devastating to wild sheep population." They present absolutely no evidence to show what diseases have been found in the domestic sheep and goats in Alaska carry, nor have they shown risk of spread. As far as I am aware, no such study has ever been conducted. Secondly, the Federation says that, "hobby farming is growing rapidly" in "areas that would be considered Dall sheep habitat." Again, they state this without any support to what Dall sheep habitat is being encroached upon, nor what types of livestock are on the lands found in this habitat. Lastly, they mention about entire populations of bighorn sheep being wiped out by disease transmission, and still do not present what populations are being wiped out (I am guessing they are all in the lower 48 since I do not know of any Bighorn in Alaska) nor if those diseases originated from domestic livestock or from the wild population itself.

Next, let me talk about their "Justifications." I rather enjoyed their first justification as having a "constitutional mandate." Yet again (this is a common plight throughout the proposal), they gave no reference to what mandate they are referencing. I searched the Supreme Law of our land, the U.S. Constitution, and found nothing about protecting sustainable yield, so I looked to the Law second to it, the Alaska Constitution. The best that I can figure is: AK Const., art. VIII, § 4. Sustained Yield which reads: "Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses." While I agree it does mean we the people must try to maintain a healthy wildlife population, I believe the Federation neglects the "subject to preferences among beneficial uses" clause. I do not have a precedent to cite, but I believe this to mean preferences must be given to those who have the greatest use of the land. In this case, unless they are proven to be harming the wildlife, the farmers must be given preference. I base this on AK Const., art. VIII, § 1 and AK Const., art. VIII, § 2. In both these references, the power and authority of the Natural Resources is for "the maximum benefit of its people." For the government to create a law restricting her people on a simply theory that their presence MIGHT cause harm is a flagrant defiance of the Alaska Constitution. This also defies the source of government, stated in AK Const., art. I, § 2. This proposal is not for the good of the people, but for the good of the sheep.

The Federation's second justification shows just how completely disconnected they actually are from Alaskans. "Online permitting has become mainstream and simple." Can there be a more naive statement? Half of Alaskans intentionally get away from technology, the last thing they want is internet, so they can be sure to stay compliant with new and confounding laws.

Finally, I would like to speak on their very proposal. *"Any person in possession of domestic sheep (ovis) or goats (capra) must obtain a permit from the department within one year of implementation of this section. Animals located within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat must be contained within a Department approved facility (double fence, etc.) and certified disease free when testing becomes available. Animals located more than 15 miles from Dall sheep habitat will be issued a permit without stipulation online."* The law they are wanting amended does not mention anything about required fencing, only what game need to have permits or not. I am also not sure where this idea of "15 air miles" comes from or how that can be defined. I am an FAA commercial certified pilot and "air miles" confuse the hell out of me, since I still measure distance on the ground. Also, what disease are we supposed to look for and why do we have to wait for testing to become available?

Then, there is the final problem with this proposal. This law, 5 AAC 92.029, deals with game, as defined by AS 16.05.940(19). The only way farm animals qualify under this definition is if they are feral, and cannot be captured within 48 hours. 5 AAC 92.029 already has the remedy the Foundation is seeking. If they have proof that the farm animals are causing harm to the indigenous life, then the law will expunge the offending animals from the exempt list.

Overall, this proposal reads like a Jr. High Social Studies project, and of that, it's a C grade quality at best. I am asking the committee to please have a good laugh at this proposal and promptly disregard it entirely. Unless it is found to be a sponsored Jr. High project, then it would be noble for the committee to reach out with a letter of appreciation for the child's interest in law and the legal system.



Submitted By
Maribeth Rogers
Submitted On
10/17/2017 9:48:42 PM
Affiliation

Proposition 64: Strongly Against

This proposal is ludicrous. The suggested regulations the Wild Sheep Foundation wishes to burden Alaska sheep and goat owners with are absurd. This proposition was based off data obtained from a study in the lower 48, focusing on bighorn sheep which has little to no relation to Alaska farming practices or dall sheep populations and concerns a disease that is rarely found in domestic goats and sheep. Alaska farmers already face a great number of challenges from the expense of obtaining new stock to making a living in a harsh environment, without facing additional burdens of unspecified new tests, unrevealed permit costs and penalties and unrealistic demands of double fences of unspecified height and material if their land falls within the range of a semi-migratory animal who notably avoids human contact. We live in troubled and uncertain times and it behooves Alaska to encourage more in state food production of sustainable and environmentally friendly livestock instead of imposing expensive, intrusive and violating regulations on owners of legal domestic animals. Alaska farmers choose to stay in Alaska because they love the state, including the wildlife and most are more than willing to take reasonable precautions to protect both the wildlife from domestic animal diseases and vice versa. The caveat is they must be reasonable expectations for obvious problems, affordable for already strained budgets and must not violate private property rights. The WSF fails to take any of these necessities into account with their ridiculous demands. Unlike Alaska farmers and homesteaders, these demands come from an outside interest group with no invested equity in the state or its people, only the concern of appeasing sporting financiers under the guise of conservation. It is troubling that this proposition was even made, let alone filed again for a second year in a row. The WSF claimed last year to have a desire to work with farmers to protect our wild sheep populations; however they have returned and presented the exact same position Alaska farmers expressed great uneasiness over last year, without any attempt to address the agricultural community's concerns or to work in coalition with them. That is a rather unsettling glimpse into the intentions of the WSF and their Alaska chapter. I hope our Wildlife department has the good judgement to disregard this asinine agenda to suppress the Alaskan agricultural industry.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
9/1/2017 8:39:40 PM
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To Whom It May Concern: We are proud goat owners in Alaska. We have them as pets as well as breed them and milk them. Needless to say we love them as those that love their dogs and cats. Yearly, we have them tested for CAE, CL, & Johnnes. We are very concerned for this prop 64 that is trying to be passed. First off we are not in the lower 48 and these diseases that the WSF is concerned about has not been in Alaska or Canada. Most all of sheep & goat owners aren't even close to the Dall Sheep habitats. If this were to passhow will our local families/children learn in 4H about the wonderful creatures in their own backyards. The barn at the fair is full of excited people young and old as they pet and play with the lambs, sheep, & goats. Please don't allow this to pass. Put yourself in our shoes. What if someone told you that you would have to get rid of your pets that you care for. They aren't just livestock to most of us goat owners they bring us and our children much joy as eell as responsibility for God's creatures. Thank you for taking the time to read this comment. Sincerely, Martin & Tamra Rosendahl



Submitted By
Morgan Ross
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:36:36 AM
Affiliation

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NO ON PROP 64



Submitted By
Teena M Ross
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:16:49 AM
Affiliation

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The state game board should not have a say in privately owned livestock.



Submitted By
Caroline and Tim Roy
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:10:29 PM
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Dear Board of Game,

I, my husband and my daughters are opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep owners, families involved in goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require us to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own goats who have been family members for decades. In addition, it already costs money to maintain our fencing for our goat's protection. The added expense of double fencing including annual maintenance would already place a burden on our small family hobby farm. Finally, the costs of testing including supplies, proper packaging, shipping, and analysis costs would add even more costs to the small farm owner or 4-H family. The testing costs would skyrocket if 4-H families or small farm owners have to rely on livestock veterinarians if they cannot do this testing themselves.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic. As it is, we cannot sell goat and/or sheep milk or meat as there is no money for State programs to inspect small farms.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. My goats are located many, many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, mountains, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. With this in mind, the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the "Clean List" will do nothing to benefit the wild populations.

In a preliminary grant-funded study in 2017, 334 domestic sheep and goats in Alaska were tested for *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi). Of that number less than 2% (a total of six animals including four sheep and two goats) tested positive. Enacting sweeping regulations such as Prop 64 is not the way to mitigate such a negligible risk.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. My children participated in both 4-H and Future Farmers of America programs with their sheep and goats. Goats like Fluff-a-muffin, Pebbles, and Honey McFatty and sheep like Ebony, Ivory and Moo-Cow have been at the Fair, competed, and are regulars along with their babies in the petting zoo. In addition, they have been used in fiber, milking and cheese making demonstrations at the fair, during AG in the Classroom projects, and during Ag Day at the Cooperative Extension Service in Palmer. My kids benefited from all their hard work when they were awarded various scholarships from FFA, Ag in the Classroom, 4-H livestock committee, and 4-H Voluntary Leaders Association's scholarship all because they were able to raise, show, market, and produce products from our sheep and goats. All this was accomplished at our expense. I can't imagine placing even more of a burden on such hard working families.

Therefore, I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.

Respectfully,

Caroline and Tim Roy



Submitted By
Jill Rushing
Submitted On
10/27/2017 4:59:18 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop 64 - please take no action!!



Submitted By
Raymond Russell
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:09:22 AM
Affiliation

As a resident of Alaska and small farm owner and hunter. There is no reason to limit Alaskan's ownership of sheep or goats ect. Alaskas livestock are fenced and do not comingle with wild sheep or goats. Additionally please bind these outside groups from bringing this up again. There agenda has no place in Alaska.



Submitted By
Sara Russell
Submitted On
10/25/2017 2:05:21 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

Alaska already has laws requiring domestic animals to be tied or fenced in, there is no large free grazing herds in the state, there is no scientific data showing significant risk of wild sheep populations from domestic animals. Trying to force regulations on what animals people can raise for food on their own private property in a state that has problems with food security will only end badly on both sides. Allowing out of state entity's to force their agenda on a state as diverse as Alaska is not a wise decision.



Submitted By
Daphni Ryan
Submitted On
9/5/2017 11:10:58 AM
Affiliation

I agree with maintaining a disease free herd, although I don't like the idea of anything being mandatory. I don't like the idea of having to have an "approved" enclosure and I REALLY don't like the idea of having to get a permit just to own goats and sheep. The worst thing about this is that it says right in the prop that this is only the beginning of regulations! We don't need more regulations! And where is the evidence that there are any domestic diseases that are affecting any wild populations. I'm not saying there aren't any, but I really don't think this is as much of a threat as they think it is/will be. Think about what this prop would do to thousands of small farmers/homesteaders around the state that depend on their animals for their survival. Think of all the 4H kids that are working so hard. They learn so much by taking responsibility for livestock and they can't get that kind of education anywhere else. If passed, this prop would stifle so many. This great land is built on people being able to support themselves and their families and being able to learn and grow in this way is a part of being Alaskan! Alaska is a homesteading state and sheep and goats play a very vital role in that lifestyle. This prop shouldn't be tabled again, it needs to be eradicated!



Submitted By
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Submitted On
9/11/2017 10:40:35 AM
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If this proposal passes, all those who have goats or sheep now who could not afford to keep them any longer, would have to either sell or dispose of them. With so many people selling animals and hardly any to buy, most would have to be put down and buried. Most of the diseases that goats and sheep have that can be passed to the wild population of sheep can still be passed on through the ground and the animal's feces.

Domestic goats and sheep within 15 air miles of a Dall sheep herd includes nearly EVERY farm. This would take away everyone's right to own these animals. I understand the concern for wildlife, but if made a law, this would take away much of our freedom in teaching the generations to farm. Farming isn't about permits, the number of miles away from a sheep herd and many many papers and regulations, it's about raising kids to know how to really work. The effects of domestic goats and sheep on the wild population of Dall sheep is not significant enough to take away the knowledge we gain from our freedom to farm on our own lands.

Furthermore, in the event of a fiscal crises, who would pay for people to travel and enforce these laws? It would be unwise to spend tight money on travel (Goat and sheep owners are spread all through Alaska!) and other finances attached to this proposition in such a perilous time.

Not only do goats and sheep have diseases that can be spread to wildlife, but so do cows and llamas. Would this law then come to eventually put regulations on them as well? Many people would lose farms that they have had for years. Alaska is a place where we can raise our herds without worry and where we can be free to do what we feel is best for our families. Please keep it that way.



Submitted By
Shawn Ryan
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:08:18 AM
Affiliation

Prop 64 is WRONG and needs to be thrown away! Alaska is a farming and homesteading state and taking away a person's freedom to FREELY own sheep and goats should not happen! There are much bigger issues that need to be addressed here in Alaska! And in this fiscal crisis how would something like prop 64 be enforced? The people in Alaska live far and wide, often only accessible by plane and/or atv. A new special unit would have to be employed and transportation costs would quickly skyrocket for an official to actually come visit a small farm in order to enforce this egregious law. We have more important places to spend our resources and money!

This prop would take away the basic freedoms of the small scale farmer. Local people who are just trying to do what they love. Requiring a permit and other "hoops" to jump through would make it financially difficult and possibly even impossible to do something that makes them happy. And think about all the 4H kids. They learn so much in raising these animals. It teaches them life skills, responsibility, accountability, the need for and ability to work hard, and selflessness (have you ever gone outside 2-3 times a day to feed and water and care for animals when it's -20 and the wind is blowing, everyday for an entire Alaskan winter? That will teach anyone a lot!) Do we really want to punish our children who are doing something good with their lives? The answer is NO! Raising these animals is so important for so many! Why would you take away something that is helping the next generation to be better, more able and capable adults? These kids aren't hanging out on the streets or causing chaos. They're not involved in drugs or anything illegal and taking this opportunity away could have serious consequences for so many!

In short, Prop 64 would do a whole lot more damage than good. These examples are just a few of the negative consequences of this idea. Our state of Alaska is proud to be a state of freedoms, not overreaching laws. People move here to live out their life dreams, not be stifled by government. Please drop any and all ideas that regulate Alaskans ability to do good and be self sufficient, which is what this Prop would do if it were made law. I say a resounding NO to Prop 64!!!



Submitted By
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Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:52:59 AM
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Interested citizen

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Take no action on Prop. 64. Alaska farm goats and sheep do not mix with wild varieties. All livestock are fenced. Please take no action on prop, 64.



Submitted By
Cayla Salyers
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:45:14 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop 64. Removing goats from the Clean List will tear goats away from people who depend on them to build their livelihood



Submitted By
Amber Schlesinger
Submitted On
10/26/2017 3:50:42 PM
Affiliation

I am writing to express my opposition to proposition 64. I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks, and I want to share my positive experience and interactions with goats. Livestock animals have played An important role in my life and in the lives of the young people that i support. Having access to educational experiences with live animals was an important part of my childhood. I learned about sustainable food options, economic development and animal husbandry. I enjoy the opportunity to share thins knowledge children at this time. Please take this information into consideration and oppose prop 64.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
10/26/2017 5:04:11 PM
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I disagree with plans to disallow domestic goats and sheep in Alaska. Our state is filled with small rural farms. Many of these farms have goats and sheep. Many are small businesses that were formed around soaps, cheeses, milk, meat from goats and sheep. I understand there is concern with domestic diseases impacting dall sheep populations. I think there are better ways to ensure we protect wild populations than outlawing domestic populations. We need to find a balance. We need to protect our citizens rights. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Sandra Shacklett
Submitted On
10/16/2017 10:13:33 PM
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The banning of sheep and goats from Alaska based on information solely reliant on studies done in the Lower 48 is ludicrous. These animals are used for meat, wool, and pets. As 4-H projects, they teach children about responsibility, respect and where food comes from. As pets they provide mental health support, companionship and give their owners a sense of purpose. And as most of you know, Alaska has a limited food supply at any given time. Goats and sheep, as livestock provide a meat source and milk supply. For some adults and babies with some allergy or dairy intolerance, goats milk provides a healthy alternative. Why any Alaskan would base such a wide ranging and negative impact to the sheep and goat populations in Alaska based on NO ALASKAN based information would do a great disservice to the entire Alaskan community. What's next? Banning cats and dogs? I've been told they may carry a myriad of diseases.



Submitted By
Leisl Shagen
Submitted On
10/21/2017 1:56:33 PM
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Board of Game,

I'm writing in response to Prop 64 (formally Prop 90). Once again I urge you to not pass Prop 64! This will have a devastating effect on the Alaska farming/ livestock community. There is no research proving that the m ovi virus is even present here in Alaska. We are not a free grazing state & the chances of any domestic goat or sheep coming into contact with the wild population is none. We have already banned pack goats which would have been the only way in which there might have been contact. The way Prop 64 is written it would make it almost impossible for anyone to own goats or sheep. Also, delisting would make it illegal to even own them, so how would that work???? This Prop needs to go away all together!

My animals are confined on my property and never leave. They have their own enclosure & I have electric fencing on the perimeter of my property. I have a better chance of winning the lottery than my goats have coming in contact with the wild population. While my goats are just pets, they ARE a part of my family. Many people depend on them for food, milk or fiber. Prop 64 would take away many Alaskans ability to provide food for their families.

I BEG you to vote "NO" on Prop 64!

Sincerely,

Leisl Shagen



Submitted By
Nina Shaw
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:55:46 PM
Affiliation

Take no action on prop 64!



Submitted By
April Shepherd
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:24:54 AM
Affiliation

Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art. The people of Alaska depend on being able to sustain the lifestyle that was enjoyed by our original founders. There are no free roaming herds near the wildlife being used to take away the rights of a free society.



Submitted By
Elizabeth Siegel
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:40:36 PM
Affiliation

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Board of Game's Proposal 64, previously known as Proposal 90. At this time, the State has shown no evidence that domestic sheep and goats are a substantial risk to wild sheep, or that they should be removed from the "clean list." Furthermore, the State has no immediate and compelling interest in implementing additional regulations for sheep and goat owners whose livelihoods are at stake. Studies show that the vast majority of domestic sheep and goats will never have contact with wild sheep, given in large measure to the mountainous habitat of the latter. Moreover, less than 2% of domestic sheep and goats tested positive for the M ovi virus that is at issue. Domestic sheep and goats have been in Alaska in large numbers for more than 50 years, with no provable impact on the Dall sheep population. Finally, as near as I can tell from the information on the ADF&G website, one of the primary presentations relied upon by the Dall sheep working group was done by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, based on studies done in the Lower 48. I believe it's always suspect when we use Outside data and apply it to Alaskan reality. With the implementation of Proposal 64, what the State actually puts at risk is the livelihoods of many Alaska farmers. It's no secret that the economy of Alaska is growing ever more tenuous, with declining oil revenues and talk of income taxes – dipping into savings just to pay the bills. We have a great need to diversify our economy, and it seems to me that the government has its most compelling interest in encouraging and supporting small businesses, not in regulating them into bankruptcy. My friends own a farm within the radius (15 air miles from Dall sheep habitat) for which the proposed regulations would require fencing and permitting and other cost-prohibitive actions. In addition to raising pigs and chickens, they have ducks, turkeys, and goats – and are looking into obtaining other animals in the near future as they pursue their dream of having a working farm. They make goat cheese and goat milk soap as part of their farming enterprise. They're just getting their farm off the ground, and after 2 years of hard work raising animals and building a demand for their products, are finally looking at being able to turn a profit. Adding more costs to their enterprise – if not prohibiting them from owning goats at all – would devastate their business. Again, there is no compelling interest for the State to regulate those who keep domestic sheep and goats. This is a solution looking for a problem, and the very definition of government over-reach.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:39:53 PM
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4-H, FFA, Farmer

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I am EXTREMELY opposed to Prop 64.

(and thus impossible) to raise sheep or goats in Alaska. Goats and sheep are vital to the agriculture industry, without them our already practically nonexistent food-security would be crippled. We are constantly at the edge of starvation and disaster in Alaska. The agricultural industry and local foods movements are FINALLY seeing growth and interest, and support, from the local community in the last few years. Feeding the residents of this state is a difficult enough task, to do so without small ruminants (domestic sheep and goats) would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. Contrary to what proponents of this Proposition have said, it is NOT possible to warrant permits to animals that are not on the "clean-list," making the possession of a domestic sheep or goat an illegal activity. THUS, we would be forced to rely on cattle, swine, and poultry for the production of any animal-based products. But for many Alaskan agriculturalists and backyard hobby farmers, cattle are simply too large and too expensive to raise and house in most cases. Swine can be destructive and difficult to manage, and rely almost exclusively on grain-based diets and supplements. Poultry can be, and are, raised by many Alaskans, but poultry cannot be milked, and do not provide the same versatility of products that livestock offer (leather, lard, etc.) Goats and sheep offer the ideal combination of traits for many people. First, their smaller size and generally more tractable nature makes them excellent choices for anyone wanting to just start out with the raising of livestock. Second, they are very adaptable in feeding and management styles, and can be found well cared for on any sized or style of farm. Third, they require less feed and less infrastructure than either swine or cattle, making them a more economical animal to raise. Fourth, due in large part to the aforementioned benefits, goats and sheep are often the first livestock project a 4-H member tries their hand at.

If Prop 64 were to pass, the 4-H program statewide would take a severe hit. Imagine, if you will, the Alaska State Fair and Tanana Valley Fair. Imagine the livestock barns and show arenas-completely empty and void. The smiling youth telling wide-eyed fairgoers about their precious project animals would simply cease to exist. We cry, as a nation, about the youth- millenials and teens and kids that are irresponsible, that do not care, that do not understand the world... but we turn around and attempt to take away opportunities like 4-H and FFA projects. Opportunities that help kids develop work ethics, public speaking skills, people skills, soft skills, responsibility, financial skills, long-term and short-term planning, goal setting, accountability, and so much more. The skills learned from raising animals in 4-H and FFA are traits that cannot be learned elsewhere, and to learn them at young age is a blessing that pays dividends throughout their lives.

I know firsthand the value of 4-H, I've raised goats for many years as a 4-H and FFA project in middle and high school. My experiences in 4-H changed, and saved, my life. Before I joined 4-H, I could not make a phone call, could not answer the front door, I did not leave the house, I barely spoke, did not care about my appearance, or about how others perceived me, and had no clear goals or vision for my future whatsoever. I was severely depressed, had extreme anxiety, and was self-harming. I joined 4-H in middle school, essentially against my will. Somehow, despite everything else in my life, I had a soft spot for animals. And when Dad agreed that I could get "a goat or two," I took it upon myself to read every single book I could find about them. I memorized pages and diagrams; everything from nutrient contents of pastures, to assisting with the birth of kids (baby goats), ideal ventilation in barns, lactation curves of the 7 most popular dairy goat breeds, mineral requirements of goats by age, stage of production, and season, the carcass yields of different breeds and ages of goats, breed standards, milking parlour plans, etc. etc. etc. If goats were even mentioned, I read it and memorized it. Eventually, Dad and Mom agreed that I had studied enough, and we set out to build a barn and purchase our first goats. We settled upon 3 Nigerian Dwarves (a breed of dairy goat that stays smaller than most dogs). I absolutely fell in love with those goats. My 3 sisters and I would take the goats on walks and jogs around the neighborhood as if they were just dogs. (Those goats walked on a leash better than most dogs, I might add.) Of course, my life didn't turn around completely. I was still drowning in depression, and usually completely out of touch with other people. But I would still wake up and walk my goats several times a week. We were only supposed to have 3 goats, and they were to be just pets, per Dad's orders. But my 14th birthday found us adding 2 more goats to the herd. And a few months later someone gifted us a pair of pygmy goats. We took all 7 goats to the Alaska State Fair, where we learned how to show goats by the seat of our pants. That year, at 14, I met about 20 other 4-H members. However, I did not consider a single one of them a friend at the time: I was just there to show goats, and be as unnoticed as possible. Over the course of the next year, I bought a few more goats, and we had the first goat kids born on our farm that spring. I was still extremely depressed, and I wouldn't look someone in the eyes, ever. However, I had taken to talking to people, as long as it was about goats and nothing else. By the following fair year (at 15) I had 9 or so goats that we brought to show as a family (at this point 5 of us 6 kids were in 4-H; the youngest was still too young). I found, by the end of the shows, that I actually had a lot in common with the other 4-H'ers. They liked their goats and sheep a lot, they were smart, they were nice, and they didn't seem to care that I was hiding myself and extremely quiet. I wanted to get to know them, and wanted to have friends for the first time in a long while. I joined FFA, the Livestock Judging Team, and the 4-H Teen Club: rapidly getting as involved in 4-H as I could. I started braiding my hair, dressing nicer, and talked to people about subjects other than goats, every once in awhile. My high school years rapidly exploded. I won the Job Interview competition at the Alaska State FFA Convention, going on to compete in the national competition at the National FFA Convention that fall (at the age of 16). Our livestock judging team took top honors 2 years running; competing in events such as prepared and extemp speaking, a judging event, a quiz bowl event, and a written test (complete with breed identification, a team problem, a math problem, and written livestock scenarios) I'd



also begun my first official job; working at the vet clinic, in order to pay for feed and equipment I needed for the growing goat flock. At the end of my Junior year, I was elected as a state officer of the Alaska FFA Association- a position that meant my teammates and I would be writing workshops and speeches which we would then deliver to schools and FFA chapters across the state. We flew to Oregon and Washington DC for training, and then back to the National FFA Convention to represent Alaska as delegates. I graduated high school with a 3.96, received the UA Honors Scholarship, as well as the Alaska Performance Scholarship. I was re-elected to state FFA office, and spent the year balancing travel across the state and country with a full course load through UAF, a part-time job, and a flock of goats that were kidding and needing milked quite regularly.

Fast forward another 18 months, and I've completely turned my life around from middle school. I've gone several months without self-harming or being overwhelmed with anxiety. Depression is much more manageable. And, I'm halfway through my third college semester; earning good grades, and working 2 part-time jobs. I'm in a stable relationship with a guy I met because of 4-H (back when I was 14) (he raised lambs in 4-H, and served as an FFA state officer as well; he's currently in Marine Basic Training in San Diego). And I'm still raising goats today! If I hadn't gotten involved with 4-H and raising goats 6 years ago, I cannot confidently say that I would be who I am today, let alone that I would still be here.

All of that background is to say this: Prop 64 is not just a threat to the legality of domestic sheep and goats, it brings a much larger impact to the entire state. Prop 64 not only challenges the livelihood of farmers and livestock producers state-wide, it threatens our very way of life. It kills opportunities for youth to learn important life skills. It threatens the food security of the entire state. It creates fear and conflict for anyone involved in agriculture or livestock in any way. And who knows how many other people could have stories like mine? Beyond just the lacking facts, questionable examples, and overall overreach "shoot first ask questions later" attitude of this proposition, there are actual people whose entire lives will be changed for the worse because of this proposition. I urge you to VOTE NO ON PROP 64.

I'm more than happy to chat about my experiences with 4H and FFA, explain my opinion further, and share what I've learned from raising goats. If you have any questions at all, feel free to get ahold of me.



Submitted By
Debra Smith
Submitted On
10/22/2017 10:22:38 AM
Affiliation

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Address
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Anch, Alaska 99507

Please do not make it impossible for those of us who choose to keep goats and sheep.



Submitted By
Michelle Smith
Submitted On
10/8/2017 1:47:52 PM
Affiliation

As an advocate for ALL forms of local food, any proposition restricting the effort to produce food locally is not in the best interest for the State of Alaska. Growing our food industry is VITAL for the sustainability of our Great State. In the last year alone, the market has grown by leaps and bounds. You can now find more locally grown food in our grocery stores than ever before.

With the growth in domestic livestock production, we lessen the pressure on wildlife as a food source and build our economy from the ground up.

Lets not overreact to a change in a wildlife population we have no control over. It would be ignorant to restrict local industry without a concrete, local evidence of a threat to our wild population of sheep and goats.



Submitted By
Somer Snider
Submitted On
10/8/2017 12:48:28 PM
Affiliation

I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production



Submitted By
Darren Snyder
Submitted On
10/26/2017 5:07:12 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Propostiion 64 and recommend having the State Vet assess the actual risk before implementing the action steps indicated in Prop 64.



Submitted By
Jerry Soplanda
Submitted On
10/26/2017 4:54:12 PM
Affiliation
Former Farmer / AK resident

I am commenting on Proposition 64, banning domestic sheep and goats in AK. I ask that you do not ban resident's ability to keep domesticated sheep or goats. There is no tangible evidence that there is any harm being done to the animals or to humans. All this, while other lives are being enhanced by the experience of raising animals and feeding their families and friends.

1. I can understand keeping wild species from becoming herd animals for preservation of lifestyles, environment, and future generation's enjoyment; but I cannot understand why you are concerned with keeping common herd (domesticated) animals from the residents of AK. As far as I can tell, they cause no harm to wild populations, do not interbreed with undomesticated similar species, nor do they cause disease to spread amongst humans or animals.
2. As a child and young adult, I was raised and worked on a farm with herd animals and I can tell you that offering a child that kind of start has more benefits than you may realize. An appreciation for other beings, instilling a sense of stewardship, and in the end - acknowledging the cycle of life.
3. If someone is offended by the presence of a small group of goats/sheep/or other herd animal, perhaps those folks should check their sensitivities and eat their bacon cheese burgers with a better understanding of how the real world works.
4. I have not read anything in the papers / online, or seen anything on TV (although I rarely watch) where there has been an outbreak of pestilence or any other similar matter.
5. If you want to apply some common sense to the management of animals in AK - please start by addressing the illogic of allowing folks to hunt female moose...

Thank you for your time and considerations

Jerry Soplanda



Submitted By
Awbrey Sottosanti
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:32:11 AM
Affiliation

Please allow the goats to remain



Submitted By
Prissy stephens
Submitted On
10/8/2017 1:03:46 PM
Affiliation

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907-376-4496

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Prissystephens841@hotmail.com

Address
2100 north spruce drive
Wasilla , Alaska 99654

"I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production"

No on prop 64



Submitted By
Kristin Steward
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:26:53 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Prop 64!

It is irrational, unnecessary, and will negatively affect my family and hundreds of families throughout the Mat-Su Valley who used goats and sheep to provide for our families. The wild goat and sheep population is not affected by domestic sheep and goats.

I oppose Prop 64!



Submitted By

LS

Submitted On

10/26/2017 11:53:40 PM

Affiliation

Please take no action on Prop 64. This prop would negatively impact many in Alaska.



Submitted By
Andrea Stott
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:37:12 PM
Affiliation

Please take no action on Prop 64. I know many responsible sheep/goat owners in the Matsu Valley, believe there is no concern for the wildlife population in connection with these basically domestic animals. Please don't lump is in with issues of the lower 48 states. Your consideration is appreciated.



Submitted By
Glori Strickler
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:33:00 PM
Affiliation
None

Take no action prop 64



Submitted By
Michelle Sturgeon
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:36:54 PM
Affiliation

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189 E Nelson ave PMB201
WASILLA, Alaska 99654

Please vote NO! on Prop 64 as an agricultural supporter and a fellow goat owner the effect of this proposition is unquantifiable. Without a case or scientific proof that this virus or bacteria has ever been present in Alaska, this seems like an overreach that does not need to happen.



Submitted By
Mike sunderland
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:13:07 AM
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Resident

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Palmer, Alaska 99645

Voting against proposition 64, live on a farm and enjoy owning goats, sheep, and pics



Submitted By
Mary Diane Suter
Submitted On
10/26/2017 4:12:03 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9076883106

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suterm@gci.net

Address
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Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Please vote no on prop 64.



Submitted By
Mandy sutton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:36:00 AM
Affiliation

The action of prop 64 to Alaska is not only The sky is falling move but harmful to the many folks that rely on goats for their many benefits ie milk for the kids that can't have cows milk this prop is absurd in Alaska



Submitted By
Michelle Swan
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:08:02 PM
Affiliation

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m_shelly123@hotmail.com

Address
1070 N. Helen Ln
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I oppose proposition 64, this is unnecessary. People survive off of their animals!



Submitted By
Kim Swisher
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:47:08 PM
Affiliation

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907-322-6589

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I oppose proposition 64



Submitted By
Carol Symonds
Submitted On
10/27/2017 5:55:52 PM
Affiliation

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9073545560

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ewetopia@gci.net

Address
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Palmer, Alaska 99645

I oppose Prop 64. Sheep and goats are extremely unlikely to mingle with wild sheep. Sheep in Alaska are always fenced or they would quickly become a meal for predators. Please do not take farms livelihood away by not allowing them to keep sheep.



Submitted By
Todd Talladay
Submitted On
10/26/2017 2:03:02 PM
Affiliation

If Fish & Game is trying to protect wild Sheep and goats this is not the way to go about it. We live in Alaska because we enjoy the freedom from the over-governed areas in the lower 48. Trying to outlaw livestock that hundreds of people use as their livelihood goes against everything we stand for in Alaska. Fish & Game needs to work with the people of the state not against them and their livelihood. Disease comes in many ways to include the wind and birds that migrate every year. If this kind of law was allowed to pass next thing they would outlaw cows, horse, dogs and cats. I am VERY disappointed in our Fish & Game representatives that they would even consider such legislation. They need to be replaced by personnel who are in tune with Alaska and what the people want.



Submitted By
Dianna Taplin
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:23:18 AM
Affiliation

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Box 1567
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

I oppose vehemently Prop 64. There is very little contact between wild and domestic sheep and goat, thus miniscule chance of infection. The bigger objection is taking domestic and traditional livestock off the clean list. Farming for food, children learning to care for livestock, develop respect and work ethic, preservation of a lifestyle, and any other reason people have traditionally kept animals should not be restricted for such a commercially driven special interest group. In addition, the government seems to be on one hand telling us to buy local, support local food production, but that would be impossible if the government then restricted a large segment of livestock. This is a country of the people, by the people and for the people, as one of the people, implore the board to reject Prop 64. As a secondary consequence, businesses will lose when goat and sheep farmers no longer need feed or supplies. I support people who farm, businesses, people who enrich their lives with ruminant animals. I strongly reject Prop 64.



Submitted By
Brittany Templeton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:35:05 AM
Affiliation

There is no evidence supporting that the proposed regulation will assist with disease prevention in dall sheep habitat. If preventative measures are to be taken against the spread of disease, evidence should be available that supports that this issue is actually a problem in Alaska and that the regulation will address the problem. Until such time that there is scientific evidence that supports the permitting system, this regulation is unnecessary.



Submitted By
Terri Terreault
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:39:22 AM
Affiliation

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189 E Nelson Ave #246
Anchorage , Alaska 99654

Take no action on Proposition 64.



Submitted By
Jessica Throckmorton
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:24:20 PM
Affiliation

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9075752412

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Wasilla , Alaska 99654

As an owner of goats that subsist off of the benefits of milking and raising caprine. We would be devastated greatly if this would be forced to end. These are our domestic pets used for dual purpose. I highly opposed proposition 90 as it would be grievous to our family. THANKS



Submitted By
Ingrid Tierese
Submitted On
10/26/2017 11:18:30 PM
Affiliation

I'm asking you TAKE NO ACTION on Prop 64.



Submitted By
Ian Tompkins
Submitted On
10/17/2017 4:25:47 PM
Affiliation

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Wasilla, Alaska 99623

I would ask that the Board carefully consider the ramifications of Proposal 64. Removing domesticated sheep and goats from the state's clean list would personally impact a significant portion of my livelihood. At the very least I would ask that the board withhold judgment until the alleged threat that domestic sheep and goats pose to wild Dall Sheep has been thoroughly studied.



Submitted By
Chauntel Troyer
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:17:04 PM
Affiliation

I strongly feel that our state needs to be as self reliant as possible. With no know cases of disease transferring to wild animal populations, there seems to be very little risk to our native animals. Let Alaskans keep their livestock and livelihood.



Submitted By
Donna Truett
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:19:11 PM
Affiliation

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Wasilla, Alaska 99687

I oppose prop 64.



Submitted By
DesArae Turco
Submitted On
10/27/2017 12:54:56 PM
Affiliation

TAKE NO ACTION on Prop. 64. Goats and sheep are a huge part of Alaska's agriculture.



Submitted By
Charisha Uhrmacher
Submitted On
10/17/2017 6:00:26 PM
Affiliation
Private goat owner

The local Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation has proposed once again to the Alaska Board of Game to remove domestic sheep and goats from the clean list – along with other ridiculous proposed regulations to the ownership of domestic sheep and goats in the State of Alaska. The only thing the BOG has the authority to do is remove domestics from the clean list. Regulation of domestic sheep & goats would fall under the office of the State Veterinarian, ADEC. If the BOG should pass Prop 64 domestic goats and sheep would be illegal to own in the State of Alaska. No permits are issued for animals not on the clean list. No importation of new bloodlines or export of family pets are allowed on delisted animals. No more 4H sheep & goats at the Fair. Animals not on the clean list cannot be processed at the USDA meat plant. If a particular mammal, bird, or reptile species does not appear on the "clean list", it may not be imported into Alaska or possessed as a pet or livestock in Alaska, and the Department of Fish and Game cannot issue a permit allowing its importation or possession. Domestic sheep and goats would basically be illegal to own in the State of Alaska.

The foundation for Prop 64 by the WSF is to prevent the possible transfer of a bacterium, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi), to the wild Dall sheep population. M.ovi has been associated with pneumonia outbreaks in Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. There have been no Dall sheep deaths due to M.ovi in the state of Alaska cause by domestics. All of the current information and studies have been on Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. No studies have been completed on Thin Horn sheep, (Dall sheep) susceptibility to the bacterium in the State of Alaska.

To date – NOT ONE Dall sheep has died from this bacterium being spread to wild Dalls from domestics that have been in Alaska in great numbers since the 1960's. But in fact, every year Dall sheep hunters harvest anywhere from 500 to 1000 Dall sheep. Last year 788 Dall sheep were listed as harvested on the ADFG website. Jeff and I are hunters, we are not opposed to hunting, but what we are opposed to is a special interest hunting group who wants to kill trophy animals trying to infringe on our lifestyle without true due cause of risk to the Dall sheep population as exhibited by history in our State.

Alaska is very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in state, meaning all animals are to be fenced on your property at all times. Alaska has many natural barriers (rivers, mountains, predators and highways) to help prevent wild Dall sheep & domestics from coming into contact. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. All the current information, and forced captive studies, has been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not done mapping of Dall sheep habitat to define areas of true concern. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment (to date only 6 domestics out of 334 have tested positive for M.ovi bacteria) and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, the current Proposal 64 should be shelved. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict my personal rights, without due cause, to own domestic small ruminants on my own personal property. If you love seeing domestic goats and sheep at the Fair, if you enjoy a dairy herd share for raw milk, if you purchase local lamb or goat meat, if you spin fiber for art or warmth- please take the time to respectfully state your opinion and recommend that the Board of Game takes no action on Prop 64.

Please protect our right to enjoy our pets that provides love, enjoyment and nurturment to my family



Submitted By
Rachyl Van Horn
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:22:59 AM
Affiliation

No on Prop 64.



Submitted By
Amber VanBuskirk
Submitted On
10/27/2017 10:38:30 AM
Affiliation

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Address
PO Box 520131
Big Lake, Alaska 99652-0131

My name is Amber. I am a mother of four children, a wife, a teacher for the public school system, a small-scale family farmer and a life-long Alaskan. I am also adamantly against Proposition 64.

I was born and raised in Alaska with the idea that Alaska is the "Last Frontier". I have always taken that to mean that we Alaskans had the ability to do what we needed to do for ourselves and our families, within the law. I never thought that the law would try to take those abilities away.

The members in my family, myself included, have a series of severe food allergies. We have spent the past 5 years building up the ability to provide for ourselves foods that will not cause issues for us. This includes goats' milk.

Not only do we rely on our goats for milk as part of our diet, but we also cherish our small herd of four. The thought that our Great State of Alaska is trying to take them away from us not only frightens me, but it upsets me on a level beyond comprehension, especially with no clear foresight on what this proposition would actually mean for us. Alaska does not allow permits for animals not on the "clean" list. Does that mean that you will force us to slaughter our cherished pets/family members? Shame on you if that is what this will lead to!



Submitted By
Jason Vink
Submitted On
10/3/2017 9:20:59 PM
Affiliation

I oppose prop 64. My family would not survive with out sheep and goats for meat. The chance of any sheep making good it through the wolves coyotes lynx and bears to get even remotely close to a fall sheep is slim to none. If this proposition is allowed to pass it would put my family in financial and physical harm.



Submitted By
Julie Volkheimer
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:23:19 PM
Affiliation

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Take no action on Prop 64. This is wrong and will hurt a lot of small hobby farms who are providing a much needed niche in the Matsu Valley.

Thank you



Submitted By
Amber Vukich
Submitted On
10/9/2017 6:33:48 AM
Affiliation

This is concerning Prop 64 which would prohibit the farming of sheep and goats. In the proposal it is stated that it's BOG's constitutional responsibility to protect the wild sheep populations. My question to you is have you looked at the constitutional rights of property owners?

07 NOV PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS DEFINED

Posted at 15:27h in [Latest Articles](#), [Property Rights](#) by [Tom DeWeese](#)

As the battle to stop Sustainable Development grows, it is important that activists have clear definitions of their points as they deal with elected officials and planners who are making policy in their community. Below is a start in defining private property rights.

In a "Fifth Amendment" treatise by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Richard B. Sanders (12/10/97), he writes: Our state, and most other states, define property in an extremely broad sense." That definition is as follows:

"Property in a thing consists not merely in its ownership an possession, but in the unrestricte right of use, enjoyment, an isposal. Anything which estroys any of the elements of property, to that extent, estroys the property itself. The substantial value of property lies in its use. If the right of use be enie , the value of the property is annihilate an ownership is ren ere a barren right."

As a Founding Father, John Adams said:

"The moment the i ea is a mitte into society that property is not as sacre as the lawof Go , an that there is not a force of lawan public justice to protect it, anarchy an tyranny commence."

President Calvin Coolidge said:

"Ultimately, property rights an personal rights are the same thing."

Rancher and Property Rights Activist Wayne Hage said:

"If you on't have the right to own an control property then you are property."

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS MEAN:

1. The owner's exclusive authority to determine how private property is used;
2. The owner's peaceful possession, control, and enjoyment of his/her legally purchased, deeded private property;
3. The owner's ability to make contracts to sell, rent, or give away all or part of the legally purchased/deeded private property;
4. That local, city, county, state, and federal governments are prohibited from exercising eminent domain for the sole purpose of acquiring legally purchased/deeded private property so as to resell to a private interest or generate revenues;
5. That no local, city, county, state, or federal government has the authority to impose directives, ordinances, fees, or fines regarding aesthetic landscaping, color selections, tree and plant preservation, or open spaces on legally purchased/deeded private property;
6. That no local, city, county, state or federal government shall implement a land use plan that requires any part of legally purchased/ deeded private property be set aside for public use or for a Natural Resource Protection Area directing that no construction or disturbance may occur;
7. That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall implement a law or ordinance restricting the number of dwellings that may be placed on legally purchased/ deeded private property;
8. That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall alter or impose zoning restrictions or regulations that will devalue or limit the ability to sell legally purchased/deeded private property;
9. That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall limit profitable or productive agriculture activities by mandating and controlling what crops and livestock are grown on legally purchased/deeded private property;
10. That no local, city, county, state, or federal government representatives or their assigned agents may enter private property without the

written permission of the property owner or is in possession of a lawful warrant from a legitimate court of law. This includes invasion of property rights and privacy by government use of unmanned drone flights.



The exercise of police power over wildlife may not, of course, be done in such a manner as to infringe upon the Federal rights of U.S. citizens.

Section 1 of the fourteenth amendment: **Section 1.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Section 1 states:

*"All persons born or naturalize in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. **No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.**"*

Whereas the right to food protects the right of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, which is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, article 25.

Whereas all domesticated animals (domitae naturae) are recognized as personal property with ownership rights and liabilities retained by the one(s) with a rightful claim to ownership, even when the animals have strayed from the owner's property. William Blackstone (1765-1769)

Therefore, any law or ordinance made or enforced by any State or Local Government which abridges the ability of any citizen of the United States to provide for themselves an adequate standard of living, or attempts to deprive any citizen of the United States of security in their food source, or of personal property where no Constitutional Law has been broken should be deemed Unconstitutional.

Thank you for your time,

Amber Vukich



Submitted By
Jessi W
Submitted On
10/8/2017 4:37:00 PM
Affiliation

I oppose the proposition to restrict domestic livestock production.



27 October 2017

Dear Board of Game members:

When prop 90 (now prop 64) came out the agriculture community argued the drastic measures were unnecessary due to the low risk of contact, based on the facts that we have low numbers of domestic sheep and goats, we're a fence in state and Alaska has no grazing leases for sheep or goats on public lands. Now that we are getting results back from the voluntary testing program, and getting more Alaska specific information, there is more evidence that such extreme measures are unwarranted:

- Alaska's domestic sheep and goat populations have gone from 27,000 sheep in the late 1960's to roughly 1400 sheep and goats in 2015 (National Ag Statistics)
- There have been no cases of population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks in thinhorn sheep, goats or Musk ox in North America.
- There have been no confirmed cases of thinhorn populations in the wild testing positive for Movi
- Very little is known about the impact of Movi on thinhorn or Eurasian sheep - neither of which have experienced population-limiting respiratory disease outbreaks.
- Preliminary results from the current study in Alaska: 334 animals tested on 22 farms, only 2% (6) of those animals have tested positive for Movi

Given these Alaska based facts, rushing into costly and burdensome regulation is needless. Just the double fencing requirement would put several producers out of business either due to cost of the fencing or the "buffer" zone eating up all their land. The threat of removal from the "clean list" is unfounded; there is not enough evidence to support a drastic move such as this.

Alaska producers have demonstrated that they are taking this issue seriously and will continue to work towards maintaining healthy wild and domestic sheep and goats. The Board of Game should fail prop 64, allow time for the current study to finish, do a fact-based risk assessment then a plan can be put into place based on Alaska based facts and science. Since the Office of the State Veterinarian has authority over livestock, the discussion of management should be taking place with that office, not Department of Fish and Game.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vel Wager", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vel Wager
P.O. Box 1312
Delta Junction, AK 99737
907-895-4348
4-H Leader of the D.J. Stumpjumpers



Submitted By
Charity Walker
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:18:45 PM
Affiliation

I am commenting regarding proposition 64, the purpose of which is to remove domestic sheep and goats from Alaska's clean list. This is a poorly thought out and detrimental proposition. I OPPOSE proposition 64. There is no factual, verified, or scientific evidence that Alaska's domestic sheep and goats pose a threat Alaskan wild dall sheep populations. The main reason is the extremely small risk of contact between wild and domestic populations. Very few domestics live in verified dall sheep habitat. I do support regulations and monitoring for those who may actually live on the side of a mountain, but these cases are extremely rare. In addition, full testing of domestics has yet to be conducted to determine the extent of *M. ovipneumoniae* in Alaska. Preliminary testing has shown only 2% to be positive or inconclusive. This proposition will negatively impact many farmers, producers, and consumers in the Alaskan agricultural community. Please do the right thing and nix proposition 64. Thank you.



Submitted By
Luke Walker
Submitted On
10/27/2017 7:00:12 PM
Affiliation

I oppose proposition 64



Submitted By
Joseph Andrew Want
Submitted On
10/26/2017 5:38:01 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077502813

Email
Joe_a_want@yahoo.com

Address
4506 Melan Drive South
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Considering the fact that there are no documented cases of Dall sheep contracting a disease or parasite from domestic sheep and goats, I fail to see the logic for proposing the banning of these livestock species in this State. Considering that there is a greater possibility of wolves and coyotes coming in contact with dogs than Dall sheep with domestic sheep and goats, the proposal is ridiculous and lacks merit. Why not ban reindeer? They can pass disease, parasites and genetic material to caribou. A lot of people depend on goats for milk and other dairy products. A good number of people also like to spin wool from their sheep. While it is true that neither of these species are indigenous to Alaska, neither are non-Alaskan Natives, dogs, cats and horses.



Submitted By
Jacalyn Watson
Submitted On
10/23/2017 10:37:43 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-440-5848

Email
jacalyn@mtaonline.net

Address
18949 Elnora Lane
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

I am opposed to Proposition 64. Our goat's milk has been a staple in our family for years. We use it fresh as the only source of milk for children and adults who have allergies to cow's milk and we make kefir which is well-known as a superior probiotic unmatched by any other food product. We and many other families rely on the nutrition this milk provides. First our children and now our grandchildren benefit from the milk as well as the lessons learned by visiting the farm and the goats at the State fair. Losing this health-giving resource would be a tragedy. The rationale for the burdensome regulations of Proposition 64 is extremely weak and one-sided and would effectively end the ability of farmers to continue to provide access to goats and their milk. Alaskan goats are not and have never been a threat to the sheep. Please do not allow a few well-funded people to strip away this wholesome and health-giving product and lifestyle. Jacalyn Watson



Submitted By
Kathleen Wattum
Submitted On
10/9/2017 12:06:43 PM
Affiliation
Owner - Coyote Trail Fiber Mill

Phone
907-699-3262
Email
katewattum@yahoo.com
Address
po box 84561
fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposal 64 - Permit for possessing live game.

First as a owner of a small sheep herd (12 - 20 depending on the season)I need specifics: costs, implementation, what this means to me in my community.

I'm not finding the fencing specifics anywhere. I'm seeing things like fencing to prevent nose to nose contact all the way to 10' fencing with post 50' apart that would prevent a polar bear access.

There needs to be room for realistic compromise on the issues. Registering all sheep would require owner cooperation. And who would do something to bring focus to their farm for regulators. Who would regulate it? Spot testing and research on numbers of animals and size herds needs to continue. Face to face farm visits to work on how to build the appropriate structural needs would be great. Financial support to make adjustments without threatening the existance of a small industry is important.

I do agree that compromise in the testing, realistic and affordable fenced areas and no free ranging of domestics is important. I think an avenue to direct resources and education to small farmers is needed as well.

Doesn't the Cooperative Extension Service have agricultural agents already in communities? Might the state us them to developed connections with local farmers? Put money and energy there. Focus and identify the areas of biggest concern. Find a way to educate not to threaten.



Submitted By
Darlene Webster
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:06:47 PM
Affiliation

Let the people keep their animals! I do not support 64. People will go hungry and broke. If weed can be sold all over, let the animals stay!



Submitted By
Julie Wendt
Submitted On
10/19/2017 6:58:19 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9972523980

Email
karlukacres@yahoo.com

Address
50765 Karluk Ave
Kenai, Alaska 99611

I am writing to the Board of Game regarding Bill 64. I am writing to ask the BOG to ignore Prop 64. This proposition is from a special interest group trying to ram their agenda into AK. We have had no problems with our wild sheep and goats dying due to diseases from domestic goats. This is a non-issue in AK. Many in our great state, live a subsistence lifestyle or raise their own food. I raise goats for income, milk and meat to feed my family healthy food. This bill proposes to make it so I cannot feed my family as I wish, to address an issue that is non-existent. Alaskans need to be able to support themselves by being able to raise their own meat and milk when many are in isolated areas and food security and high prices are a concern. Please protect our rights. Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
Christine Wilcox
Submitted On
10/27/2017 9:04:49 AM
Affiliation
Spruce Tip Farm and Nursery

Phone
908-632-1496
Email
Cwilcox@acsalaska.net
Address
10001 Hampton Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Members of the Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 64. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 64 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete costly testing.

These requirements would place a severe economic burden on existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, and does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and based on flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to thinhorn sheep in the wild, including both Dall sheep and Stone sheep. In light of the fact that the population of domestic sheep in Alaska has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the 60's & 70's to the current low of approximately 1000, the risk is obviously decreasing rather than increasing, and removing sheep and goats from the Clean List will do nothing to benefit wild populations.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 64 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.

Please follow the advice of the ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and "Take No Action" on Proposal 64.



Submitted By

Julie Wilkerson

Submitted On

10/26/2017 3:54:11 PM

Affiliation

My husband and I have lived in Alaska since 1976. We got a remote parcel in 1982. Since then we converted our land to a homestead, raised our children and had sled dogs, goat, sheep, cows, chickens, ducks and geese. I cannot think of any reason why any farm animal would not be allowed in Alaska, especially goats. They are intelligent, produce delicious milk and meat. We are against any law the proh



Submitted By
Donna Wilmot
Submitted On
10/26/2017 8:19:05 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072521402

Email
Daughn.sterling@gmail.com

Address
Pobox1011
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

To the game board. I am requesting you take no action on prop64. I personally do not have any goats, but I believe that this loss of the goats in my neighborhood would be devastating..there is an elderly couple that consider there goats like some consider there children. My own grandchildren love to play with them..The other goats in the neighborhood belong to a family with children and I know it would also devastate that family also.. Please consider the sadness this would create ..pleas take no action on this. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Donna Wilmot



Submitted By
Chandra Wilson-Sutton
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:17:14 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9075210579

Email
C.wilsonsutton@gmail.com

Address
7099 Wasilla Fishhook rd
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

I oppose Prop 64. My child is a member of 4-H and we are trying to set up a subsistence driven home. You are stifling her education and our survival. What you are trying to ban will only create further issues in the recession of the State of Alaska.



Submitted By
Sherri Winfree
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:12:34 AM
Affiliation
Alaska Resident

Phone
907-748-8291
Email
sandr2694@gmail.com
Address
2694 W Stable Cir
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today to address my opposition to Proposition 64.

I am a longtime resident of Alaska, a wife, mother and caretaker of many animals, of which many are domestic goats. Our animals bring our family immense pleasure, not only are they family pets, but they are a staple of nutrition, education and a steady contribution source to our finances. They are an ongoing joy and quality source of life lessons.

I take the responsibility of the care of our animals very seriously. In our beautiful state we are required to provide a contained area for our animals to be kept. We do that and as good stewards provide nutrition and health care to keep them safe from harm and illness.

The private ownership of animals impacts our lives in many ways. From our personal experiences on our own farm, to our friends, families and associates that have bound together to make the Alaska farming communities, to the local companies that process our meat, to our involvement in the 4H Programs that support child involvement and enjoyment in the Alaska State Fair. Proposition 64, if considered, would make a huge impact on not just our lives but on the community and state as well.

This Proposition, in my opinion, will only benefit a special interest group which looks to stifle the everyday lives of so very many Alaskans in the claim of protecting our wildlife, specifically our Dall Sheep population. As we are a hunting family as well, we consider the welfare and conservation of our wildlife to be of the highest importance. However, as you well know, there have been no known cases where the Dall Sheep in Alaska has been negatively affected, or infected, by the keeping of domestic animals in many decades. Also, the numbers of Dall Sheep harvested continue to grow yearly showing there is no decline in population of animals.

In closing, I adamantly oppose Proposition 64 and hope that you will take in consideration of the many like myself that have written to you in opposition of this unfair and unjust Proposition.

Sherri Winfree



Submitted By
Jordan Wolf
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:34:54 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game

I am writing you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION!!

Goats are a big part of my family. They provide fresh milk for my children. Clean meat that is raised how I want it and properly, humanely loved and cared for every day until it's purpose. Taking goats and sheep off the clean list will cause my family that depends on the milk for their child. The large picture is Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or herd shares for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do to my family and others, but that trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska.

Alaska IS very unlike the lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property.

There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi. NONE!

At this present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. It's a screaming low risk factor in opposition to the "sky is falling" stance the Wild Sheep Foundation has been painting.

If domestic goats and sheep are removed from the clean list owners are left in purgatory. Per the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game website, animals not on the "clean list" cannot be permitted. That makes them illegal to own. The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game needs to map the critical habitat areas of the most concern for contact with domestics.

Most importantly M.ovi needs a host, it does not live in the environment and can ONLY be spread through close contact of Dall sheep and domestics. Alaska has many natural barriers to block that "close" contact; rivers, mountains, lakes, highways, subdivisions and predators. Our property has fencing that keeps our herd on MY property. There has never been nor will there EVER be a Dall Sheep in my backyard. They simply are not in my area, let alone get past my fencing. My Livestock Dog also makes sure any animals that aren't ours simply don't come near our property. She does her job extremely well.

I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

Thank You,

Jordan Wolf



Submitted By
Kailyn Wolf
Submitted On
10/16/2017 5:51:46 PM
Affiliation

This is my comment for Proposal 64- Remove domestic sheep & goats from Clean List in State of Alaska.

This proposal if adopted will harm my families lifestyle and heart. Anyone who knows me knows that my goats are a huge part of my life, soul and heart. They bring me happiness, fulfillment and nourishment daily, not only to myself but to my entire family as well. My children have learned more about life, responsibility and love more than I ever could've imagined. The local Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation has proposed once again to remove domestic sheep and goats from the clean list – along with other ridiculous proposed regulations to the ownership of domestic sheep and goats in the State of Alaska. If the BOG should pass Prop 64 domestic goats and sheep would be illegal to own in the State of Alaska. No permits are issued for animals not on the clean list. No importation of new bloodlines or export of family pets are allowed on delisted animals. No more 4-H sheep & goats at the Fair. This one particularly hits us hard at home as one of my daughters is in 4-H. Animals not on the clean list cannot be processed at the USDA meat plant. If a particular mammal, bird, or reptile species does not appear on the "clean list", it may not be imported into Alaska or possessed as a pet or livestock in Alaska, this will prohibit me from bringing in new bloodlines to my herd. The foundation for Prop 64 by the WSF is to prevent the possible transfer of a bacterium, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi), to the wild Dall sheep population. M.ovi has been associated with pneumonia outbreaks in Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. There have been NO Dall sheep deaths due to M.ovi in the state of Alaska caused by domestics. All of the current information and studies have been on Big Horn sheep in the lower 48. No studies have been completed on Thin Horn sheep, (Dall sheep) susceptibility to the bacterium in the State of Alaska. To date – NOT ONE Dall sheep has died from this bacterium being spread to wild Dalls from domestics that have been in Alaska in great numbers since the 1960's. But in fact, every year Dall sheep hunters harvest anywhere from 500 to 1000 Dall sheep. Last year 788 Dall sheep were listed as harvested on the ADFG website.

Alaska is unlike anywhere else in the Lower 48. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would commingle. Alaska is a fenced in state, meaning all animals are to be fenced on your property at all times. Alaska has many natural barriers (rivers, mountains, predators and highways) to help prevent wild Dall sheep & domestics from coming into contact. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.ovi!!! All the current information, and forced captive studies, has been done with Big Horn Sheep in the lower 48. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not done mapping of Dall sheep habitat to define areas of true concern. At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.ovi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist. Until the office of the State Veterinarian, Dr Gerlach, is able to complete the risk assessment (to date only 6 domestics out of 334 have tested positive for M.ovi bacteria) and determine a risk versus regulation protocol, the current Proposal 64 should be shelved. The Wild Sheep Foundation is trying to restrict MY personal rights without due cause to own domestic small ruminants on MY PERSONAL PROPERTY. Anyone who loves seeing domestic goats and sheep at the Fair, enjoys a dairy herd share for raw milk, purchases local lamb or goat meat, spins fiber for art or warmth will no longer be able to do so. My kids will not only lose their fresh, homegrown milk and meat but also lose their best friends. Goats that have taught them how to love. Goats that have taught them how new life is brought into this world, watched them be born and grow into future milkers or become food to feed our family. Any one of us can be having the worst day and go into our barn, walk up to any of our goats and be instantly greeted with love and affection. No matter what we're going through our goats are there and comfort us. The bond my children have developed is unlike anything else. Could you look your own children in the eyes and take away something that matters most to them in the world? To tell them that they will no longer have one of their life teachers and as my daughter calls them- Family. Tell them that they will be illegal and destroyed all because a group of hunters are concerned about their trophy animals that have NEVER been affected here in Alaska? I can't even begin to fathom telling them and literally breaking their hearts and how to find comfort from this. It is our property, our rights and how we choose to live. No one should have a say in that.



Submitted By
Emily Wood
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:50:59 PM
Affiliation

Please do not persue proposition 64, it would be devistating to agriculture in Alaska.



Submitted By
Jennifer Wood
Submitted On
10/26/2017 7:33:56 AM
Affiliation
Private land owner - MatSu valley

Phone
(907) 232-2559
Email
jenwood71@hotmail.com
Address
4601 S. Canter Cir.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Our family strongly opposes Prop 64! As long time MatSu bourough residents and experienced outdoorsmen/ hunters, this proposition seems to us like a blatant over-reach and over-reaction of a government entity. Our small, family hobby farm would be very negatively affected by this proposal and seems that it would have long term, damaging effects on the entire farming community of Alaska.

Please use caution and prudence as you proceed in this decision as it affects a great number of farming families - And please remember.....NO FARMS, NO FOOD. Thank you.



Submitted By
Paula Wright-Savok
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:08:14 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. We have a small hobby farm that helps support your small family. I am disabled and raising our own goats and sheep for food, milk and fiber plus as beloved members as our families helps us to subsist and support ourselves. Alaska is already so far removed from a lot of resources and it is of the outmost importance that we have sustainable agriculture here and sheep and goats help Alaskans to do just that. By removing them from the clean list you are not just hurting individual Alaskan families and farms you are hurting Alaska's economy as a whole. Our domesticated, fenced in sheep and goats pose ZERO real world lethal threat to Dall sheep, but removing domesticated sheep and goats from the clean list does pose a REAL threat to Me, my family, Alaskan families, Alaskan farms and Alaska as a whole. Please take NO ACTION on Proposal 64.

Thank you,

Paula Wright-Savok



Submitted By
Wendy M Yannayon
Submitted On
10/27/2017 3:39:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
8015897653

Email
Ammochick13@yahoo.com

Address
2050 N Broadway DR
Palmer, Alaska 99645

These people need their goats.



Submitted By
Alyson
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:51:55 PM
Affiliation

I strongly oppose proposition 64 based on the lack of evidence that domestic goats and/or sheep are of any danger to the wild dall sheep population in Alaska. Until further proof has been documented, I see no reason in this proposition passing. This is an attack on many Alaskans who use these animals as food and/or income.



Submitted By

Angela

Submitted On

10/27/2017 12:43:01 PM

Affiliation

I do not agree with Prop: 64. All the people I know that own goats maintain clean herds. This is not a necessary change and in the end will cost the State of Alaska more money by increasing the paperwork that has be to processed to get the licenses, people to be over that work and needing people to enforce the licenses.



Submitted By
Christy
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:38:26 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077075378

Email
Davidnchristy1@gmail.com

Address
PO box 226
Sutton , Alaska 99674

Dear Board of Game I am writing you to oppose Proposal 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. I own two clean tested beautiful Alpine goats. They give me about 2 gallons of milk a day. They are essential for the health of my family of 12 children. We are responsible goat owner's. We buy local hay which helps support agriculture in Alaska. Alaska needs sustainable agriculture. Goats and sheep are a large part of agriculture around the state. From animals being processed for meat, or for milk, or wool fiber art, to all the hay and grain that is purchased from local farmers or feed stores. It's not just the harm taking goats and sheep off the clean list will do to the families that own them, it's the trickle down of the harm that will be done to our economy in agriculture in Alaska. Alaska does not have open grazing of commercial herds where wild sheep and domestic sheep/goats would comingle. Alaska is a fenced in State, meaning all animals must be fenced on your property. There have been NO cases of Dall sheep dying in Alaska or Canada due to M.o.vi. None! At the present time the office of the State Veterinarian is working on a risk assessment based on M.o.vi testing of local domestic sheep and goats in conjunction with Dr. Maggie Highland - USDA Animal Disease Research Scientist, and the Washington Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. To date, out of 334 goats and sheep only 6 (2%) have tested positive for the bacterium. I ask the Board of Game to take NO ACTION on Proposal 64. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christy



Submitted By
Danielle
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:28:59 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9074862870

Email
zigmommy@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 5553
Chiniak, Alaska 99615

I strongly oppose the proposed Prop 64 regulations removing domestic sheep and goats from the clean list. As an Alaskan and a goat-keeper, I'm shocked the state has allowed this measure to proceed as far as it has! Keeping goats provides my family with fresh milk and meat year-round, and allows me the opportunity to maintain an active, thriving, and lucrative small business as a goat milk soapmaker. As a member of the Made in Alaska and Made in Kodiak programs, I'm extremely concerned about the effect these wholly unnecessary proposed regulations will have on the future of my business, as well as my family's own food security. Take no action on Prop 64!



Submitted By
Denise
Submitted On
10/27/2017 11:03:34 AM
Affiliation

I find it maddening that an outside organization is once again unduly influencing game management issues in a state they simply don't understand. The Wild Sheep group is clearly making an issue (and money) for themselves for their own gains and has no concern for the economy and needs of real Alaskans. Please do not allow this absolute travesty of Prop 64 to go through.



Submitted By
Jesse
Submitted On
10/27/2017 8:29:36 PM
Affiliation

I just bought my house a couple months ago to raise animals too feed my family since the stores are poisen. Goat milk is what kept my sister alive. Ypur prop 64 is ludicrous.



Submitted By
Kim
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:05:41 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077077155

Email
Whitetigerbudz@gmail.com

Address
11744 west Easy St.
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

I am submitting this comment because I am concerned that a ban on domestic goats and sheep is premature and will harm Alaska's already fragile agriculture industry. Before such drastic measures are taken, we should determine the prevalence of this disease by testing a statistically significant portion of the populations, and also by analyzing the probability of disease transference from domestic to wild populations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you hit pause on this regulation.



Submitted By
Krista
Submitted On
10/26/2017 9:44:02 AM
Affiliation

I do not personally own goats, but I know many people who Do! They use the goats for their milk and even just as pets! I think it is our rights as Americans to own and kind of livestock as long as we keep them maintained and care for them appropriately. This should be thrown out completely!



Submitted By
Laurel
Submitted On
10/26/2017 2:04:36 PM
Affiliation

RE: Prop 64:

I oppose this proposition in its entirety. Making it illegal to own domestic goats would be devastating to those I know who own these animals. And others would face financial ruin and emotional trauma over losing them. There are studies done here in Alaska showing that the risk of domestic goats and sheep coming into contact with wild Dall sheep is in fact low. And the percentage of domestics tested in this State came in at 2% testing positive for the M. ovi virus they are concerned about. Domestic goats and sheep have been in the state of Alaska in large numbers since the 1960s and there have been no die offs from Dall sheep in that time. The risk is not great enough to remove the ability for small farmers to have these animals in their lives.

The health benefits of having access to raw milk sources cannot be ignored or overwritten, either. Reduced allergies, improved skin health, and the healing from probiotics in homemade kefir and yogurts are just a few of the great things raw dairy provides, and its all free of any added sugars or manufactured ingredients.

Please, let's keep Alaska the last frontier where we live free.



Submitted By
Pam
Submitted On
10/27/2017 1:56:47 PM
Affiliation

I am for the proposition to make it unlawful to keep goats & sheep on someone's property. When I went through the Veterinary Assistant course at the Matsu College, Dr. Susan Dent took our class out to a home that had goats & sheep in Wasilla. She had us go there to trim the goat/sheep hooves because the family had too many goats & sheep & didn't care for them well. It was really really sad. I don't remember how many goats this family had--too many for them to care for properly. It looked out of hand. Many of the goats had very long hooves. Goats and sheep are a farm animal & the average "mini farm" owner is not equipped & financially stable enough to care for them. There are just 2 livestock vets in the valley (Dr. Dent, & Dr. Holland). My Aunt has goats that she uses for milk. One was giving birth recently & ran in to complications. She called a vet, but they were busy, so she asked her son (a trained EMT), if he would be prepared to do C Section! Thank goodness, they were able to flip the kid in the goat's uterus & it all ended well. But in my opinion, the hobby farming has gone out of hand & animal welfare is at stake. Another thought: who decides how humanely these animals are slaughtered? Who knows how they are killed & what sort of suffering they endure at the end. The local slaughter house has regulations, people's hobby farms do not. What about the milk? Hobby farm owners rarely test their milk for harmful bacteria. Also, many hobby farm owners do not dispose of the feces properly & the drainage system on their property is inadequate. I hope that you take these thoughts in consideration today as you vote. Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
Samantha
Submitted On
10/26/2017 10:38:44 PM
Affiliation

Please vote no on Prop 64. In Alaska, there are already laws regarding fencing and livestock that help prevent issues. We are also a proud group of people who are self sufficient. Goats and sheep are incredibly hardy, and easy to maintain in comparison with other larger livestock such as cows. Removing goats and sheep removes a lot of people's self sufficiency as well. This is a bad law that hurts the people of Alaska and does NOT help our wildlife.



Submitted By
Sif
Submitted On
10/27/2017 2:33:51 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,I'm writing you to oppose Prop 64 and ask that you take NO ACTION. Prop 64 would force us to become outlaws. Considering the stats and numbers that I'm sure you've already seen from others comments(like the Farm Bureau) ,that especially in AK there is NO THREAT to wild sheep from domestic sheep and goats for M.Ovi. This is nothing more than catering to special interest groups. Prop 64,if enacted,will harm this entire state. Alaska already ships in 98% of its food. What's next? Cows? Horses? Chickens? This will hurt a lot of small farmers here in AK and a vast network associated with it ,including me and my family of 9. Our AK economy is already suffering,this will do nothing more than add more pain. Again,I urge you to take NO ACTION on Prop 64. Thank you



Submitted By

Tara

Submitted On

10/27/2017 12:44:40 PM

Affiliation

I own a small flock of sheep on Lazy mountain. I have dreams of bringing fresh genetics up from outside Alaska to better my sheep. My sheep are never in contact with wildlife, they do not free graze outside their fencing, and I have never seen a wild sheep or goat anywhere on Lazy. What I have seen, is my niece and nephew learning valuable lessons about life and animal husbandry, responsibility and compassion. Farm life is becoming a thing of the past some places. Let's not let that happen here. Let's not make it so difficult and expensive for the farmer that we all have to give up our goals of sustainability and grass roots life.



Submitted By
Wendy
Submitted On
10/27/2017 6:24:27 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9072273776

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Address
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Please take no action on Prop 64. There is no documented need for a removal of domesticate goats and sheep from the Clean List.



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I do not support prop64. It will hurt Alaskan farmers and people who depend on the meat.