

Thank you for allowing me to speak today against proposal 64.

The science and facts clearly show there is no evidence that domestic sheep and goats are a threat to our wild populations in Alaska. Once more, the department of Fish and Game does not have the authority to manage livestock. That authority lies in the office of the State Veterinarian.

At White Gold Farm on the Kenai Peninsula we do all we can to ensure our herd is healthy and safe. We annually test our herd, and provide the best husbandry that we can for our dairy goats. Part of that care is keeping them safe. We have always had fencing up to protect our girls, but after a bear attacked last summer killing some livestock, we electrified the fence and purchased a livestock guardian dog. We have to keep our animals fenced to protect them from all the predators around such as dogs, coyotes, wolves and bear. I personally don't know any goat owners in my area that don't have their livestock fenced for safety's sake.

Remember, Alaska is a "fence-in" state. It doesn't lease state land for livestock grazing purposes. Our animals are on our own personal property. So while I can agree that livestock should be fenced, I don't agree with the unnecessary burdening of farmers with "double fencing with a buffer zone". There is no justification of the reasoning for it. This alone would make it impossible for some owners to keep their herd due to lack of land to provide required fencing.

I ask that you vote NO on proposal 64. This will impact more than just us farmers. Local businesses such as feed stores, hay farmers and meat markets will feel the effects. Our share holders who depend on the milk from our goats for themselves or children with allergies will have to go without.

By passing this proposal you will be denying me the right as a tax paying citizen of the United States to choose to give my family a chance for a better quality of life by consuming foods we raise and grow on our property, using the compost from our goats, drinking raw, unpasteurized milk and eating meat raised from our animals that are not laced with round-up ready corn and other genetically modified crops.

My father who was a dairy farmer in Michigan his whole life died 9 weeks ago from multiple myeloma cancer which has been linked to the round-up he used on his crops. I'm sure you are aware that round-up and other chemicals are used every day in agriculture. This then passes into the animals it is fed to, who in turn pass those chemicals onto the human consumer through the meat and milk they produce. I don't want my children exposed to the harmful effects of these chemicals through the accepted food source of the general population.

Please vote No on proposal 64! Don't take our subsistence farming life away. Make the right choice. Go home and hug your family and sleep better knowing you have helped keep a fellow Americans right to grow and control their food they feed their family.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Barbra Wills

White Gold Farm