

November, 2017

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*"A unified voice for all elements
of the goat industry in public
policy, education, research, and
marketing of goat products."*

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Dear Board Members:

The American Goat Federation wrote a letter in 2016 opposing Proposal 90 regarding wild/versus/domestic sheep and the threat of contagious disease transmittal between the two. We were informed later that the Alaska Board of Game tabled Proposal 90 for 2 years to allow time for the groups to further assess the situation.

Now we are informed that yet another proposal, Proposal 64 (which is virtually identical to Proposal 90) is again on your agenda. We ask that your board take no action as you had already tabled the earlier similar proposal. There has not been enough time allowed since the earlier tabling for any viable assessment of the situation to be made. In addition, recent information from the lower states shows that the premises included in the proposal are not necessarily able to be substantiated at this time. In the interest of accurate information being used to either reject or approve such a proposal, the American Goat Federation asks that the board take no action and that Proposal 64 be tabled for 2 additional years.

In light of the fact that current, ongoing studies are showing 4% or less prevalence of the Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae (M. ovi) disease in domestic goats in the lower states and also an ongoing study of sheep and goats in Alaska that shows only 2% of the entire group being infected, there appears to be little justification for doing anything other than tabling action for enough time to assess the real risks.

In addition, passing Proposal 64 would have a severely negative impact on Alaskan sheep and goat producers. We understand that ADF&G, the DEC and State Vet's Office, the Division of Ag, and the Dept. of Law and are all suggesting that the board take no action on Proposal 64, and we join them in suggesting the same.

Regards,



Dr. Kenneth Andries
President of the Board