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October 30, 2020

Commissioner Jason Brune
Department of Environmental Conservation
PO Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Commissioner Brune:

The Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. was established in 1945, currently includes about 1,200 members, and remains actively involved in fish and wildlife conservation issues affecting our state. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to comment on your proposed regulation to improve and preserve the health and safety of domestic and wild animals in Alaska. It goes without saying that Alaska's wild goat and sheep populations are a cherished and important asset to our state, socially, economically, and imperatively.

TSI considers DEC's proposed regulation an excellent start but suggests that more should be done to better guarantee that additional strains of Movi don't enter the state. The stakes are simply too high to allow any avenue for transmission, regardless of how remote the likelihood.

We suggest that ALL domestic sheep and goats, regardless of age, be tested for the pathogen prior to import. Additionally, we strongly encourage you to ensure tests for Movi are administered by an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostician (AAVLD) certified diagnostic laboratory. Use of AAVLD accredited laboratories will help ensure the accuracy, reliability, and repeatability of tests with data accepted by the mainstream scientific community, and best ensure that Movi doesn't enter our state or our wild populations of sheep and goats. We also support the inclusion of Movi in the Reportable Disease List.

In summary, TSI appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed DEC regulation regarding importation of domestic sheep and goats. Additionally, TSI wholeheartedly supports and agrees with the sentiments shared on this subject by the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AWSF) and the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA).

Please let me know if you have questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Doug Larsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Larsen", written over the printed name.

President, Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.