

From: [John Sturgeon](#)
To: [Miller, Shannon D \(DEC\)](#)
Subject: Proposed reg changes for testing domestic sheep and goats
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:23:51 AM

Ms.. Miller

I am in support of DEC's regulation changes concerning the testing of domestic sheep and goats for MOVI that enter the State of Alaska. I can't put an exact number on the value of our wild sheep and goats but when combining sport hunting and wildlife viewing it has to be in the tens of millions of dollars. However, the proposed regs do fall short of accomplishing their intent by excluding domestic sheep and goats under the age of 2 months. To the best of my knowledge young domestic sheep and goats can carry MOVI as readily as adults. This would seem to defeat the main purpose of the regs because we could still be importing MOVI into Alaska. The 2 month exemption needs to be dropped.

Testing needs to be done by an accredited diagnostic lab and should be paid for by the importer. That is just the cost of doing business or of importing a pet into Alaska. The cost of a test is minor compared to the devastating impact should a deadly strain of MOVI be introduced into Alaska's wild sheep and goats.

DEC should also add MOVI to the list of reportable diseases. Once again if a deadly strain of MOVI can be eliminated when it's small it will obviously prevent a larger outbreak in the wild.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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