

Robert Tobey

I support the proposal to test domestic sheep and goats of all ages for Movi (*M. ovipneumoniae*) before importation to Alaska. This disease has devastated wild sheep populations in the lower 48 and could have the same impact on Alaska's wildlife. There is no known cure and the only treatment is to prevent the introduction into the wild populations. The direct and measurable economic value of healthy wildlife populations to the state include subsistence use of meat, resident sport hunting, guided non resident hunting, and the many sources of income derived by tourism activities. The economic returns from the domestic sheep and goat raising industry will never match that of the wildlife value. Additionally, domestic use of sheep and goats will benefit from excluding this disease. Herd health improvements increases production when animals are disease free and are not fighting disease, even sub clinical cases. In the long run all benefit from this proposal being implemented. My comments are based on over forty years of experience as a veterinarian and wildlife biologist in Alaska.