M. E. Lee Coray-Ludden

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Re: M.ovi. Testing

Shannon Miller
Department of Environmental Conservation

The Wild Sheep Foundation has been trying to create a problem that does not exist in Alaska. They are using fear mongering to create a crisis. Wildlife authorities have documented that M.ovi. already exists naturally in our wildlife population, and they are fine.

Sheep and goat populations provide meat, milk, fiber, and income to families in Alaska and are part of our agriculture industry here. They are admirably adapted to Alaska and support related businesses by their existence here. To keep these herds healthy and viable, we must be able to keep the gene pools healthy and diverse.

Look at what our authorities in Alaska have said. They know our state. They know what we need. Our wildlife is important on many levels in Alaska. I would not support any action that would endanger them.

This additional testing is un-necessary, expensive, and detrimental to our state agriculture. This would also have an impact on food security in Alaska.

We need the Wild Sheep Foundation to go back to the Rocky Mountain States to address their problems there, instead of trying to create ones that do not exist here. Their agriculture is different than ours and so are their challenges.

Sincerely,

M.E. Lee Coray-Ludden/Shepherd's Moon Keep

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