

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed changes to 18 AAC 36.125 and 18 AAC 36.135 that would require testing of *M. ovi* for importing sheep and goats.

With *M. ovi* being a pathogen that is already found in Alaska's wildlife, testing animals before they come into the state will have no impact on whether this pathogen gets into wildlife. This regulation will increase the cost of doing business for Alaska's farmers, and increase the cost of sheep and goat products (meat, dairy, fiber, etc.).

We should be finding ways to support Alaska's farmers and ranchers and encourage growth instead of imposing costly and burdensome regulations.

I urge you to reconsider implementing regulations that would impose any required testing for *M. ovi*, this pathogen is endemic in North America and needs more research conducted to better understand it. The focus should be on more cost-effective and efficient strategies that maintain separation between livestock and wildlife.

Respectfully,

*Bob Green*

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