



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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October 8, 2020

To: Shannon Miller
Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Proposed regulation changes to to 18 AAC 36 dealing with importation of domestic sheep and goats and disease reporting

Dear Commissioner Brune and Shannon Miller,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) is a non-profit wildlife conservation organization that promotes sustainable wildlife management policies.

RHAK was a member and participated in the Alaska Sheep and Goat Disease Working Group and we listened to the domestic sheep and goat farmer's input and understand and respect their concerns. These new regulations, as written, were pretty much agreed on by all, though the group did not come to a consensus on more stringent regulations concerning imports and domestic stocks already in Alaska

RHAK **supports** these regulation changes to 18 AAC 36. Our position is that we want to keep our wild caprinae populations – Dall sheep, mountain goat, and muskox – free of any diseases that may be transmitted from domestic to wild stocks. *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) is one such carrier among domestic stock known to be transmitted to wild sheep and goat populations in the lower 48.

We also take the position that these new regulations are a minor cost to domestic sheep and goat farmers and that every farmer should want to ensure any imports are disease free because that is what is best for their animals and their farms. We already mandatorily test for other diseases. The addition of mandatory testing for Movi per these new regulations should be a win-win for producers and our wild caprinae populations.

Sincerely,
Mark Richards
Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska

