

Deanna O'Connor

These proposed changes will only make it harder for Alaskans to feed ourselves. If the shortages of 2020 and 2022 have taught us anything, it's that Alaska's food security is of paramount importance. No one is going to feed us; we have to produce more of our food for ourselves. Herd share operators such as myself are providing a vital food source for our neighbors. Everything you do that makes it harder for us, and others like us, to provide nutrition for other Alaskans is another nail in the coffin of Alaskan agriculture. What is your end goal with these changes? Do you really want to cripple our ability to provide food? People in our communities know that if the stores continue to be out of milk, eggs, meat etc that the local producers will fill in the gap for them. Don't take that safety net away. Farmers and producers have our communities' best interests at heart. Governor Dunleavy has already made it easier for us to provide food for our communities by allowing herd share operators to offer value-added dairy products. Why are you trying to make it even harder than it was before? Let Alaskans take care of Alaskans. Do not accept these changes.