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Dear Board of Game,

I am opposed to Proposition 90. If passed, the Proposal would remove domestic goats and sheep from the so-called "Clean List" of domestic animals, effectively devastating the ability of individual goat and sheep enthusiasts, goat and sheep 4-H programs, and small farm owners to own goats or sheep. If passed, Proposal 90 would require domestic sheep and goat owners to obtain permits from the Department of Fish and Game to own sheep or goats, comply with very expensive double fencing, and complete testing using protocols which are as yet undeveloped and unproven.

The requirements will cause severe economic burden to existing owners of sheep and goats, the businesses that provide feed and care products for them, and will also have significant cost impacts to the State of Alaska. The State is currently faced with an almost \$4 BILLION budget shortfall, forcing lawmakers to choose between cutting essential services, instituting a state income and sales tax, and reducing or eliminating the Permanent Fund Dividend program. The State simply does not have the program staff or financial resources to implement or manage a new regulatory compliance program, especially one that is unnecessary and fraught with flawed logic.

Unlike the "lower 48", Alaska's domestic sheep and goat population does not free range on public lands where contact with wild sheep could potentially occur. Domestic sheep and goats are generally located many miles from wild sheep populations, with virtually no likelihood of contact due to the existing natural barriers such as rivers, highways, towns and subdivisions.

To date there has not been a single proven case of disease transmission from domestic sheep or goats to wild sheep in Alaska. Even in the Lower 48, it has not been conclusively proven that domestic sheep and goats were the cause of die-offs due to disease in the wild sheep population. In fact, wild sheep have been proven to be carriers of *M. Ovipneumoniae*, with effects being exhibited under naturally occurring stress events such as weather, predation, lambing, parasite load, age, and poor nutrition. Requiring permits, expensive double fencing, and unspecified and unproven testing is simply a drastic overreach for a purported crisis that has not occurred, nor been proven to likely occur in the future.

Alaskan families benefit in numerous ways from the ownership and husbandry of domestic sheep and goats – besides the benefits of milk and milk-related products, meat, and fiber; they are also treasured as family pets, 4-H project animals, and companions. I ask you to not pass Proposal 90 due to the severe impact it will have on individual domestic goat and sheep enthusiasts and small farm operations. The Proposal has not been well vetted, has not been through adequate public process, and is fundamentally flawed in its underlying assumptions and proposed requirements. Individuals cannot afford to comply, nor can the State afford to administer this new compliance program.