

Dear Chairman VanderWeele and the rest of the Board,

I was disheartened to hear that the Board has voted to sell Mount McKinley Meat and Sausage plant. I am confused as to where this is thought to be a good idea. At the last BAC meeting the clear consensus was to either A) lease the plant or B) keep things the way they are with state ownership. I feel that if the Board does continue down the path to sell MMMS then all the work of the Farm Bureau and Steering Committee has been for nothing. The list of 10 requirements that the Farm Bureau has put forth would essentially become invalid as private ownership would remove any control the State or the BAC has over the lease. When I asked Director Keyes at the Fairbanks Annual Farm Bureau meeting he stated the plant could only be sold and not leased, if this was the case then why has the idea of leasing the plant been floating around for as long as it has?

Before you take any more steps forward to sell MMMS I ask you to answer these few questions to the public.

- 1) One of the main points that have been brought up with the sale of MMMS is fair treatment for all producers. How do you assure producers of all sizes that animals will be slaughtered and cut in a timely manner, especially small producers having an opportunity to bring their animals in?
- 2) How will you guarantee that the plant will give a USDA stamp for resale for all producers and not just their own animals essentially cornering the market?
- 3) According to Mr. McFarlanes report last month "The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund can finance up to 95% of the purchase price, with installment payments up to 30 years. Like other asset sales with contract financing, this asset disposal is required to be "as is" with no representations or warranties of any kind." What is the maximum financing that the BAC would agree to cover as to best protect the ARLF in the case of bankruptcy?
- 4) If the plant is starting to fail under private ownership at what point will you step in to save the plant or will you let it fail?
- 5) Where did the idea come from to sell the plant vs lease come from and does the BAC even listen to public comments?

The public has a right to know your thoughts on this issue and your answers to these questions. I would like to reaffirm my stance that private ownership at this point would be a failure and that the fear that most small producers have of the state losing control of the plant and not having a place to get a USDA stamp would be through the roof. If the Board of Agriculture truly represents Alaskan Agriculture then please stop with the idea of selling the plant outright.

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