

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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September 26, 2006

David Wight
12130 Lilac Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Dear Mr. Wight:

Alaska's dairy industry, including farmers, Matanuska Maid, Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage, and other support industries are in jeopardy and are in need of immediate assistance from concerned Alaskans. In an effort to identify strategies for success for this industry I have created the Dairy Industry Ad Hoc Committee and would appreciate your commitment to participate formulating a report for the next Governor of Alaska.

The purpose of this Committee will be to evaluate, as objectively as possible, the volatile and difficult situation facing Alaska's dairy industry and provide a factual, informative, representative transition report for the next Governor. The Committee provides an opportunity to bring analytical business professionals, like yourself, together to evaluate the future direction of the dairy industry.

The 11 Committee members I have appointed are:

Mac Carter, Board of Agriculture & Conservation
Wes Eckert, Darigold (retired)
Ernie Hall, Alaska Furniture Manufactures
Paul Huppert, Palmer Produce
Lyda Green, Alaska State Senate
Don Lintelman, Northern Lights Dairy
Mark Neuman, Alaska House of Representatives
Gail Phillips, Business
Joe Van Treeck, Creamery Corporation, dba Matanuska Maid
Ken Sherwood, Alaska Mill & Feed
David Wight, Business (retired)

Committee members will be supported by staff from my office, the Division of Agriculture, the University of Alaska, and the USDA Farm Services Agency and Rural Development Alaska offices. As a Committee member, you will be empowered to draft a transition report recommending options and strategies for

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

David Wight
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Page 2 of 2

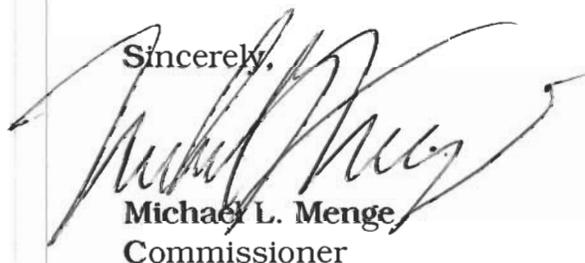
the next Governor's transition team. The Committee's report will be forwarded as part of the transition documents from this administration to the new administration which may choose to pursue the recommendations within your report or not.

Due to the short time before transition to the new administration, the Committee will need to act quickly. Committee meetings will be held in 4 one-day sessions in October with the report being completed by mid-November. The meetings will be in Anchorage in the Robert B. Atwood Building, Suite 240.

Enclosed please find a scope of work for the Committee. Your participation is very important. I would like as many Committee members to participate in this entire process as possible, but also recognize the obligations each of you maintain. The date of the first meeting is October 10th from 8 am – 5 pm. Please call Rachael Petro, my Special Assistant in Anchorage, to confirm your participation and make necessary travel arrangements. Rachael can be reached directly at 269-8434 or via email at Rachael_petro@dnr.state.ak.us.

Thank you again, in advance, for your willingness to serve on this Committee which has the ability to recommend sound options to the next Governor of Alaska for preservation, growth and sustainability of an Alaska dairy industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Menge", is written over the typed name and title.

Michael L. Menge
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Rhonda Boyles, Chair, Board of Agriculture and Conservation
Nico Bus, Acting Director, Support Services Administration
Larry DeVilbiss, Director, Division of Agriculture
Ed Fogels, Acting Deputy Commissioner, DNR
Greg Galik, Marketing
Dr. Carol Lewis, Dean, UAF School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences
Chad Padgett, USDA FSA Alaska
Rachael Petro, Special Assistant, DNR
Milan Shipka, UAF
Dean Stewart, USDA Rural Development Alaska