

December 5, 2005

Dear President Ron Long and Members of the Assembly:

We urge you to adopt Resolution 2005-102 for the following reasons.

- 1) The downsizing of Alaska's FSA program is not justified by National Standards for distance between offices.
- 2) Urbanizing the Service Centers will lead to unacceptable inefficiency.
- 3) The County Committees scheduled for removal provide citizen- oversight and local knowledge to the programs. Without them, misdirection and fraud may go unchecked.
- 4) The proposal for downsizing FSA was developed in secrecy, allowing no one from Southcentral to participate, then further suppressed with gag orders on County Committees and FSA staff.
- 5) When the FSA state office was forced to hold public hearings, unanimous opposition to the restructuring plan was voiced by Alaska's agricultural producers.

On behalf of Alaska's Farmers and Fishermen, I thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Rainwater

Secretary, Board of Directors

Fox River Cattlemans Association

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