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March 18, 2019

Senator Shelley Hughes and Representative DeLena Johnson
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Re: Letter of Support – Havemeister Dairy

Dear Senator Hughes and Representative Johnson,

A recent proposal has been made to cut the Alaska State Dairy Sanitarian. As state inspections are required for dairies to operate commercially, and dairies cannot by law request or pay for those inspections themselves, this would force Palmer's Havemeister Dairy to close its doors.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) recognizes not only the historical significance of Havemeister, founded in 1935 by a Matanuska Colony Project family, but also the economic importance of supporting one of our longest lasting local businesses. Havemeister has been continuously family owned and operated since its founding and is the last remaining Grade-A dairy in the state.

The GPCC's mission is "to provide leadership that fosters growth and prosperity by ensuring the Greater Palmer area is the best place to operate and grow a business, as well as the most desirable place to live, work, play and visit."

Palmer's identity is heavily invested in our role as the agricultural capital of Alaska and in being friendly to small businesses. Havemeister is both an agricultural staple and a longstanding local business, whose products can be seen on the shelves of grocery stores all over Southcentral Alaska. By unanimous vote, the GPCC formally recognizes and endorses Havemeister Dairy for its historic and economic value to our community.

Respectfully,

Justin Saunders, President
Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce