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Hello, My name is Petra Illig, and I am a medical doctor in Anchorage. I have spent the last 15 years working on a project with Alaska farmers to develop a new agricultural industry based on cultivating a valuable northern medicinal plant called *Rhodiola rosea*. The root of this plant has been used for thousands of years by northern peoples to promote health and improve mental / physical vigor. There are now several acres in cultivation, and we purchase their harvests to manufacture a retail product, specifically an herbal tincture that is rapidly gaining popularity. We did over one million dollars in sales in 2023 and are looking to expand our manufacturing capability.

Instead of contracting with manufacturing companies Outside, we are dedicated to keeping all this activity in-state, despite some stumbling blocks. One such stumbling block is that we have to purchase and ship food-grade ethanol up from Indiana to our manufacturing facility in Anchor Point, as ethanol is a key ingredient in making tincture. We would love to purchase Alaska made ethanol, but are not able to purchase it because we do not have a liquor license. We cannot have a liquor license because we are not a bar or restaurant.

It seems that the alcohol regulations were designed for using it only as a beverage, and not as a chemical for manufacturing; therefore we are unable to purchase locally. I distinctly recall that Alaska distilleries were making hand sanitizers during Covid, so I am puzzled how that can be done, but that local manufactures cannot purchase it for non-beverage purposes.

I have tried to get information from people in the liquor control department and have not been able to get any help to see what can be done about this conundrum. I am therefore reaching out to the Governor's office for advice. I am prepared to make the case for changing regulations, if need be, to make it possible for Alaskan manufacturers to have access to Alaska made ethanol for non-beverage purposes.

I would be happy to meet with anyone to discuss, but in the meantime I invite you to visit our website to see what we are all about. We want to use 100% Alaskan materials in our products, and are working hard to bring this exceptional and unique product from Alaskan farms to store shelves, without needing to reach down south for ingredients that we can produce here.

I understand that Gov. Dunleavy is interested in supporting manufacturing activity in Alaska, and this is why I am requesting your assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope to hear back from you soon.

Kind regards,

Petra Illig MD

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