



For Immediate Release

26-007

Mountain Dog Named Alaska's 2025 Manufacturer of the Year

Thursday, July 30, 2026 (Anchorage, AK) — Gov. Mike Dunleavy and Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Commissioner Julie Sande presented Mountain Dog with the State of Alaska's 2025 Manufacturer of the Year award during a ceremony on July 29 at the company's Palmer manufacturing facility.

The event brought together Mountain Dog's employees, family members and business partners, along with representatives from DCCED, Alaska Manufacturing Association, Alaska Chamber, Alaska's federal delegation and local elected officials.

Founded by Army veteran Kevin Thompson and Hannah Thompson, Mountain Dog manufactures premium freeze-dried dog and cat treats in Palmer using 100% wild-caught Alaska salmon. Its product line includes single-ingredient salmon treats, mini training treats and salmon toppers made without fillers or artificial additives.

The family launched Mountain Dog after a serious illness ended Kevin Thompson's aviation career. Rather than leave Alaska manufacturing to others, the Thompsons built a purpose-driven company around Alaska's seafood resources, freeze-drying technology and opportunities to create value-added products within the state.

"Economic development is not only about attracting major projects or outside investment. It is also about helping Alaskans turn good ideas into viable businesses, create jobs and build products that can compete in markets both inside and outside our state," said Commissioner Sande. "Mountain Dog stood out in every category through its resilience, growth, innovation, community leadership and commitment to working with other Alaska businesses."

Since launching in 2022, Mountain Dog has expanded its production capacity and product line, with products now sold in more than 140 retail locations in Alaska and elsewhere in the United States. The company has also developed specialty products, including the MK-9 Deployable Pack, a rugged system that provides dog owners, trainers and working-dog handlers with quick access to salmon treats during training, travel and outdoor activities.

"Small businesses are the backbone of America," said Governor Dunleavy. "Mountain Dog is an example of what is happening in Alaska—businesses are growing and being created, capitalizing on what Alaska has to offer. There is a big market looking for a product like this, and to have it come from Alaska makes us all very proud."

Mountain Dog supports veteran organizations, young entrepreneurs, pet adoption efforts and families fostering animals. The company also works with Alaska seafood processors, retailers, tourism businesses, pet stores and other manufacturers to strengthen the visibility of Alaska-made products and support the state's broader business community.

The annual Manufacturer of the Year award recognizes a Made in Alaska permit holder that demonstrates excellence in overcoming obstacles, business growth, innovation, community leadership and collaboration with other Alaska businesses. Previous recipients include Alaska Gear Company, Kaladi Brothers and The Great Alaska Bowl Company, reflecting the range of products and industries represented by Alaska manufacturers from across the state.

The Made in Alaska program continues to grow as businesses use its official logo to distinguish authentic Alaska-made products in a competitive marketplace. As of July 2026, the program included 866 participating businesses and 1,142 permitted products. Between January 2025 and July 2026, active business participation increased by more than 10%, while the number of permitted products grew by nearly 16%.

###

About DCCED:

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development promotes a healthy economy, supports strong communities and protects consumers in Alaska. Through its divisions, agencies and programs, the department supports economic growth, investment, opportunity and consumer protection statewide.

About the Made in Alaska Program:

The Made in Alaska program identifies and promotes products manufactured or substantially transformed within the state. Permit holders may display the official Made in Alaska logo, helping consumers identify authentic Alaska-made goods and support businesses that create products, employment and economic activity within the state.

Media Contact:

Alexandra Vrabec | Public Information Officer

**Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
(907) 465-2580**