

Julie Sande
Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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**Made In Alaska Announces
2022 Manufacturer of the Year Award Winner: AlaSkins**



Pictured left to right: Tanya Lautaret with Lisa Murkowski's office; Elaina Spraker with the office of Mayor Dan Sullivan; Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Peter Micciche; AlaSkins founder and owner, Sara Erickson; Representative Justin Ruffridge; Jill Schaefer, with Gov. Mike Dunleavy's office; and former Kenai Peninsula Borough mayor, Mike Navarre.

Friday, July 14, 2023 (Anchorage, AK) – The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is excited to announce AlaSkins as the 2022 Made in Alaska Manufacturer of the Year. Since 2016, AlaSkins has been manufacturing high-quality pet treats using wild Alaskan fish skins that would otherwise go to waste. AlaSkins has demonstrated a

commitment to innovation in their efficient use of fish byproducts and their development of a variety of treats for dogs and cats. AlaSkins products include dried fish skin treats, canned fish, and CBD “calming” pet snacks. There are separate product lines for both dogs and cats.

AlaSkins has overcome significant challenges as a small business in its seven years of operation. During the COVID pandemic years, AlaSkins persevered and managed to grow from an in-home operation to a full-scale production facility with a storefront. AlaSkins products are now sold in 72 stores throughout the state and can be ordered online to ship anywhere in the U.S.

AlaSkins has been a proud sponsor of a variety of organizations, including Kenai Peninsula Animals Lovers Rescue (KPAL) and Kenai Animal Shelter, as well as local 4H clubs and events, high school sports teams, the Kenai River Brown Bears hockey games, the Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog Race, individual Iditarod mushers, community senior centers, and the Kenai Watershed Forum. They are heavily involved in the local community and were recognized as the Soldotna Business of the Year for 2022.

From **AlaSkins founder and owner Sara Erickson**: “I am thrilled to be recognized by the State of Alaska and given the award of Manufacturer of the Year. Exploring new ways to eliminate waste, specifically by turning what was once considered commercial fish waste into a valuable resource, and generating new revenue and economic growth for the State of Alaska is my continued vision and mission of AlaSkins. I’m convinced Alaskan fish skins provides the healthiest and tastiest pet treat option on the market, and once your dogs have tried our treats, they will soon be regularly Askin’ for AlaSkins!”

“I want to congratulate Sara Erickson and her AlaSkins team for all their achievements and earning this highly deserved award,” stated **DCCED Commissioner, Julie Sande**. “Using a resource in its entirety, in this case, recycling byproducts from commercial fishing, to create opportunities and quality products is what Alaskan businesses do best. AlaSkins exemplifies the ingenuity and sustainability that our state is known for worldwide. Responsible management of our natural resources is the Alaska standard, and Sara’s business does an excellent job of reflecting those values.”

Implemented in 1986, the Made in Alaska program was created to identify and promote products that are made, manufactured, or handcrafted in the state of Alaska, or that undergo a significant value-added process in-state. Alaska’s businesses manufacture high-quality, unique, and sought-after products for markets in Alaska, as well as domestically and internationally. The recognizable mother bear and cub symbol assure consumers that a product was produced in Alaska by local manufacturers and artisans.

The Made in Alaska program is used to identify and promote the purchase of products manufactured or crafted in Alaska, ranging from small gift items to large industrial products. The program is administered by the Division of Community and Regional Affairs. More information about the Made in Alaska program is available at madeinalaska.org.

Housed within the Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Division of Community and Regional Affairs supports Alaska's communities in building sustainable economies and a means of self-governance. For additional information about the division, please visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/DCRA. To learn more about DCCED and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov. For a list of current Made in Alaska permit holders, please visit www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/akmadeproducts/search.

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