



ALASKA FARM BUREAU, INC.

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Representative Johnston
State Capitol, room 430
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: support for HB 197 COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARIES

Dear Representative Johnston:

Food security in Alaska is a topic of discussion receiving increased interest. Importing roughly 95% of the food we eat, Alaska is vulnerable to any interruptions in the supply chain.

Increasing agriculture production in the state is a key part of building food security, as is increasing how much a person can provide for themselves and their families. Along with growth in agriculture businesses, we're seeing a growth in personal and community gardens that help families provide for themselves.

Through growers saving the earliest and best seeds, there are efforts to keep production of plants that are more acclimated to Alaska's climate. Allowing exchange of these non-patented seeds for non-commercial use will help Alaskans be more food secure.

The Alaska Farm Bureau thanks you for your efforts with HB 197 to ease restrictions for seed exchanges and allow Community Seed Libraries in the state.

Respectfully,


Amy Seitz, Executive Director
Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.