



# Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

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Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 108  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gatto:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of House Bill 70, Alaska Grown Agricultural Products. This bill would truly improve the health and lives of school children in Alaska while at the same time providing positive benefits to the natural environment.

The craze for locally grown foods is increasing rapidly throughout the US, and for good reason. Through supplying local schools with Alaskan grown food, students will be eating vegetables and fruits at their prime. Fresh food from local farms is healthier because it doesn't spend days sitting on trucks, barges and planes losing nutrients. Eating locally in Alaska is especially important. Most of our imported food comes from thousands of miles away, resulting in wilted, nutrient deficient food and the burning of a tremendous amount of fossil fuels. Also, locally grown food is often subjected to fewer pesticides and preservatives, resulting in healthier, better tasting food.

If enacted, House Bill 70 would provide wonderful benefits for Alaskan communities and for the health of the environment. I am happy to express SEACC's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Ketchel  
Executive Director