



March 11, 2013

Testimony for SCR-1

To the Senate Resources Committee;

It is with great pleasure that I thank Senator Click Bishop for sponsoring SCR-1 and for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the resolution. As a Cooperative Extension Agent with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, my role in Alaska is firmly based in achieving our mission which includes "providing factual and practical information while bringing Alaskans' issues and challenges to the University"

Of the many issues and challenges facing Alaskans, I am continually reminded of our relationship with food and its central role in the stability and success of every Alaskan community. Within Extension, we are working on a daily basis to support Alaskans within our Strategic Plan Goals, some of which are; 1) to promote safe and healthy foods for Alaskans that will assist in increasing Alaska's food security and decrease imported foods, 2) to enhance agricultural opportunities in Alaska, 3) promote healthy food choices among Alaskans and 4) to increase Alaskans' access to entrepreneurial opportunities.

I provide this testimony for SCR-1 with the full support of my CES Director Dr. Fred Schlutt, who is a longtime supporter of developing a food systems approach to our work in Alaska. Dr. Schlutt recognizes the work of the Alaska Food Policy Council is very similar to CES work and compliments it well. Extension is now able to more fully fulfill our mission by both participating in the Alaskan Food Policy Council and by contributing to the Councils effective support of the governor's food resource development working group.

By supporting the establishment and operation of a state food resource development working group, the Alaskan Legislature is backing up the Governors stated goals for supporting Alaskan grown food for Alaskans and providing an excellent opportunity for coordination, efficiency and more effective use and development of our Alaskan foods.

Sincerely,

Darren Snyder

UAF Cooperative Extension Agent