

April 11, 2026

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 208 and HB 296, and to respectfully urge your support as Co-Chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

As someone deeply invested in the well-being of rural communities, I see firsthand the challenges we face in accessing affordable, fresh food. Expanding agricultural leasing opportunities across Alaska is a meaningful and practical step toward addressing food insecurity, particularly in regions like ours with limited access and high transportation costs.

Our region could directly benefit from agricultural expansion efforts. Increasing production capacity would create opportunities to supply communities across the Cook Inlet and beyond—something that is critically needed. It is a top ambition to make Alaskan grown food more accessible to rural Alaskans.

Affordable agricultural leases are essential to keeping operational costs down for farmers across the state. When producers are supported in this way, those savings can be passed along to consumers—making healthy food more attainable for families who already face disproportionately high grocery costs.

Additionally, preserving Alaska's prime agricultural soils for production is vital to strengthening long-term food security. These lands are a limited and valuable resource, and ensuring they remain in agricultural use benefits not only producers, but all Alaskans who rely on a stable and resilient food system.

There are also clear benefits for our schools. Procuring produce from Alaska-based producers increases shelf life, reduces spoilage, and decreases waste—an important consideration for school districts like ours that are already managing tight budgets and logistical challenges.

Simply put, I am fighting to get food to our communities. These bills represent a tangible way to support that effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to Alaska.

Quyana/Chin'an,

Evelynn Trefon
Owner of E&A Produce Market
School Advocate
Community Member and Mom
Newhalen, Alaska