



THE THIRTY-FOURTH
ALASKA
STATE LEGISLATURE

Rep. DeLena Johnson

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House District 25

Butte - Greater Palmer – Lazy Mountain – Springer Loop – Walby

Sponsor Statement

Committee Substitute for House Bill 202: Giant Cabbage As The Official State Vegetable

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“An Act designating the Giant Cabbage as the official state vegetable; and providing for an effective date.”

Though Alaska is rightfully characterized as an oil state, we are also an agricultural state. Farming in the last frontier began as early as the 1870’s, and expanded into the Tanana Valley as early as the 1920’s. With the establishment of the Matanuska Colony, 203 farming families made the long journey to Palmer in 1935 and further established agriculture in Alaska.

Annually, our state now produces over \$91 million in agricultural products from more than 1,170 farms. The majority of these farms are family owned and grow a wide range of crops, including giant green cabbages. These cabbages are centerpiece agricultural attractions at the Alaska State Fair and garner worldwide media attention. In fact, the current Guinness World Record for the largest green cabbage ever cultivated belongs to a 138.25-pound giant grown in Palmer in 2012.

Alaska has an official state bird, dog, fish, mammal, flower, and even tree, but we have no official state vegetable representative of our long history of success in agriculture. Of all the produce cultivated in Alaska, there is none more iconic or globally recognized than our giant green cabbage, scientifically known as, “*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*, O-S Cross.”

Sixteen other states showcase their agriculture with official vegetables ranging from Washington’s Walla Walla Sweet Onion to the Gilfeather Turnip of Vermont. It is high time our Alaska Giant Green Cabbage joins the pantheon of our state’s official living insignia.

Please join me in recognizing and supporting Alaska’s agricultural sector by elevating our Giant Green Cabbage to its rightful place as Alaska’s official state vegetable.

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

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