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Palmer, AK 99645

DISTRIBUTED BY: REPRESENTATIVE DELENA JOHNSON

April 10, 2025

Representative DeLena Johnson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Letter of Support for Designating the Giant Cabbage as Alaska's Official State Vegetable

Dear Representative Johnson,

On behalf of Alaska Farmland Trust, I write to express our enthusiastic support for your initiative to designate the Giant Cabbage as Alaska's official state vegetable. We are honored that this effort is rooted in Palmer—home to the world-record-setting 138.25-pound cabbage, and also to our organization and the heart of Alaska's agricultural community.

Alaska Farmland Trust was founded with a singular mission: to preserve Alaska's agricultural land for future generations. For nearly two decades, we have worked to ensure that farms remain farms forever—supporting our state's food security, rural economies, and the stewardship of our unique working landscapes. As the only statewide organization solely focused on protecting farmland, we recognize the symbolic power that agricultural icons—like the Giant Cabbage—hold in raising awareness about the importance of farming in Alaska.

While Alaska boasts a wide variety of exceptional produce, the Giant Cabbage stands alone in its renown. It is not only a feat of agricultural achievement, but a source of community pride, particularly during the Alaska State Fair where it draws thousands of visitors and international attention. Elevating the Giant Cabbage to the level of official state vegetable is both a celebration of our farming heritage and a step forward in recognizing the critical role of agriculture in Alaska's past, present, and future.

We believe this designation will help bring well-deserved recognition to the more than 1,100 farms in our state, encourage agricultural education and pride among our youth, and strengthen public support for farmland preservation. As we continue our work to protect working lands from development and ensure long-term food resilience, efforts like this help connect our mission to the hearts—and dinner tables—of Alaskans across the state.

Thank you for including Alaska Farmland Trust in this endeavor. We look forward to supporting this initiative as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrena Combs".

Sabrena Combs
Board Member
Alaska Farmland Trust