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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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April 22, 2025

Representative Delana Johnson

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 202 – Giant Cabbage as the Official State Vegetable

Dear Representative Johnson,

On behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, we write in strong support of House Bill 202, which designates the Giant Cabbage as Alaska's official state vegetable.

Agriculture has long been part of Alaska's identity, especially here in the Mat-Su Valley—home to the historic Matanuska Colony and today's world-record-setting giant cabbages. These iconic vegetables are not only a symbol of our agricultural heritage but also a point of pride at the Alaska State Fair and in media coverage around the world.

With over 1,170 farms and more than \$91 million in annual agricultural production, it's fitting that Alaska recognizes one of its most celebrated crops. The Giant Cabbage reflects the innovation, resilience, and success of Alaska's farming families.

Although Alaska proudly claims official symbols such as the willow ptarmigan, Chinook salmon, forget-me-not, and Sitka spruce, we have yet to designate a state vegetable. The Giant Cabbage, *Brassica oleracea var. capitata*, is a natural and worthy representative of our agricultural heritage and ingenuity. Sixteen other states honor their farming legacies through official vegetable designations—it's time for Alaska to do the same.

We encourage the Legislature to pass HB 202 and give the Giant Cabbage its rightful place among our state symbols.

Sincerely,

Edna DeVries

Mayor

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