



HOONAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

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February 14, 2025

Honorable Representative Maxine Dibert
State Capitol Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Dibert,

On behalf of the Hoonah Indian Association and Native Village of Hoonah, we extend our deepest gratitude for introducing House Bill 12.

The Hoonah Indian Association is in full support of House Bill 12 and know full well the importance of SNAP in rural Alaskan communities which face the highest cost of living for fresh produce, dairy, eggs, and milk.

We currently work with the Alaska Food Bank to offer afterschool snack packs to kids who clearly would go hungry without assistance. This is heartbreaking to see, and the Hoonah Indian Association has been diligently working on food sovereignty and security initiatives since 2001 and will have a grand opening for our new 2,200 sqft greenhouse in Spring of 2025 and will offer a Farmers Market in Spring of 2025 which will accept SNAP payments for fresh produce grown locally in our space.

We know that kids cannot learn effectively, often demonstrate behavioral issues, and exhibit excessive tardiness and absenteeism. Access to healthy food and investing in food producing infrastructure is an investment in our youth and low-income households.

Thank you for drafting this proposal and your continued advocacy to ensure healthy food is readily accessible for those of the community who are less fortunate. House Bill 12 is transformational and will drastically improve access to food for our youth who need it most in these early stages of development.

Sincerely,

Nathan Moulton
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