



Alaska Food Policy Council

PO BOX 173

Homer, AK 99603

907-756-3930

director@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org

www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org

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Dear Senator Dunbar,

The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) is a nonprofit organization established in 2010 to create a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska by improving our food systems. Our partners include a broad cross-section of Alaskans and organizations that work to address all aspects of food systems, including production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management. We believe that improving the State's food security and independence will result in a healthy, self-reliant, and prosperous Alaskan future.

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Food Policy Council to express **our strong support and appreciation for Senate Bill 13** - Summer EBT in Alaska.

SB 13 presents an opportunity for Alaska to reduce childhood hunger and support our local economies. By mandating participation in the USDA Summer EBT program, Alaska can ensure that families receive the assistance they need while bringing millions of federal dollars into the state's economy. Passing SB 13 will require legislative and budgetary support to recruit, retain, and empower staff who can effectively implement this program and work across the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and the Department of Health. Improvements in administrative capacity and operations will be beneficial far beyond the implementation of Summer EBT.

You can find more information about the Summer EBT program, including benefits to addressing food insecurity, economic benefits, and reduction in pressures on food banks within our policy brief on SB 13, which we have included with this letter. It can also be found on our website: <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/advocate/policy-briefs/>

This bill is a necessary step toward building a stronger, more food-secure Alaska, ensuring that no child goes hungry during the summer months. We look forward to supporting its passage to strengthen our food systems and support kids across Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lord, Advocacy & Policy Director