



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Mayor

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Edna".

Edna DeVries  
Mayor  
[Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us](mailto:Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Michael".

Michael Brown  
Borough Manager  
[Mike.Brown@matsugov.us](mailto:Mike.Brown@matsugov.us)