

PO Box 1330 \* 675 Second Street Cordova, Alaska 99574 (907) 424-3265 \* FAX (907) 424-3271

February 11, 2013

Senator Bill Wielechowski State Capitol Room 419 Juneau AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill No. 6 by Senators Wielechowski and Ellis, "An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast; and providing for an effective date."

## Dear Senator Wielechowski:

Cordova School District encourages you to support Senate Bill 6. This bill will provide additional funding for our lunch program. Cordova Schools currently participates in the Nutritional Alaska Foods for Schools and the Fish to Schools program to help provide diverse and nutritional meals to our students. We are always being asked how to increase funding for schools, and this bill is a great way to provide relief from increasing costs and inflation, coupled with no increases in the base student allocation. Providing state funding will not only bolster our ability to continue to provide breakfast and lunch for our economically disadvantaged youth, but also free a portion of local funding to help sustain our rigorous instructional programs.

Currently, in Cordova, we spend \$75,000 in general funds to supplement the federal funds and grants we receive to provide students with healthy and nutritional meals. Senate Bill 6 will provide approximately \$12,000 in relief to help fund meals. Although this may seem a small amount, it would free up the local funds that we currently use for meals for use in maintaining and sustaining our instructional programs. As a declining enrollment district, we increasingly struggle with our goal of sustaining our excellent programs, and Senate Bill 6 would provide relief toward that goal.

We appreciate your support for Senate Bill 6. If you have any questions, please contact our Superintendent of Schools, Theresa Keel at 907-424-3265 or email at <a href="mailto:tkeel@cordovasd.org">tkeel@cordovasd.org</a>. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cordova School District Board of Trustees

Peter Hoepmer, President

Shawn Gilman, Member

Kate Morse, Vice President

111.0

Ion Nichols, Member

Dan Reum, Clerk