



*Sitka ♦ Craig ♦ Valdez ♦ Naknek ♦ Metlakatla*

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February 12, 2018

The Honorable Chris Tuck  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 233

Dear Representative Tuck:

Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC (Silver Bay, or SBS) is writing to support Alaska House Bill 233, "An Act relating to the insurance tax education credit, the income tax education credit, the oil or gas producer education credit, the property tax education credit, the mining business education credit, the fisheries business education credit, and the fisheries resource landing tax education credit."

SBS is a vertically integrated, primarily fishermen-owned processor of frozen salmon, herring, and other seafoods products for both domestic and export markets. Silver Bay began in 2007 as a single salmon processing facility in Sitka, Alaska, and has since grown into one of the largest seafoods companies in Alaska. Silver Bay has state of the art, high volume processing and freezing facilities throughout Alaska, currently operating in Sitka, Craig, Valdez, Naknek and Metlakatla. SBS is dependent upon a large and diverse workforce, the likes of which can and do receive their training through the University of Alaska Southeast's (UAS) School of Career Education, which includes the following programs of relevance to Silver Bay's operations: Construction Technology, Diesel Technology, Welding, and Fisheries Technology.

With regards to the lattermost program, industry funding made possible through education credits have resulted in increased training opportunities for Alaskan youth. For example, in fall of 2017 36 Alaskan high school students took UAS courses, thanks to financial assistance from the At-Sea Processors Association (APA) and Goldbelt Inc. APA previously assisted with a pilot UAS program in spring 2017, allowing 13 high school students to complete four credits of college coursework. Goldbelt Inc. has worked to engage Juneau-based Alaska Native students in the sciences, beginning with a summer 2017 oceanography learning experience and culminating with 22 students taking an iPad-based Introduction to Oceanography class for University of Alaska General Education credit. Altogether, in 2017 APA and Goldbelt Inc. helped over 50 high school students take on university-level coursework all over the state, from Kodiak, Juneau, and Sitka to Unalaska, Galena, and Petersburg.

I personally benefitted from similar financial assistance several years ago as a student in UAS's Fisheries Technology Program. With financial assistance made possible by donations from Icicle Seafoods, I completed an Undergraduate Certificate in Fisheries Technology before going on to complete graduate-level programs at Oregon State University.

Extension of the education tax credit program through House Bill 233 will continue to promote private investment in Alaskan higher education, which is essential to ensuring that Alaskans learn the skills needed to sustain and grow Alaska's commercial fishing industry. Our thanks to you for sponsoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

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