

NANA



Teck

March 26, 2018

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair, House Finance
Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair, House Finance
State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 233 Education Tax Credit

Dear Co-Chair Foster and Co-Chair Seaton;

NANA Regional Corporation and Teck Alaska support the reauthorization of the Alaska Education Tax Credit program included in House Bill 233. The Red Dog Mine, situated in the Northwest Arctic Borough was developed in partnership between NANA and Teck, in which NANA owns the mineral resources and Teck operates the mine. In addition to NANA owning mineral resources, multiple NANA subsidiaries provide support services to the Mine operations, providing even more jobs to NANA shareholders and other Alaskans. Delivering employment, training, and education opportunities to NANA Shareholders were critical priorities when the mine began and remain so today. NANA and Teck work together to strive for a 100 percent shareholder workforce at the Mine by providing college scholarships, on-the-job training and generous opportunities for training and development. Today, the Mine operates at 58 percent Shareholder hire.

The Alaska Education Tax Credit program has provided the ability for the Red Dog Mine to also contribute to increasing the number of shareholders who receive training at the Alaska Technical Center (ATC) and Star of the Northwest Magnet School in mineral development and other technical trades. Red Dog contributions have also supported student counseling programs and programs that develop general job readiness skills. Both NANA and Teck benefit from the programs offered by ATC because its curriculum helps develop a workforce of qualified shareholders who become trained Millwright Operators, drillers and welders. In addition to these specific careers, ATC also offers programs and skill development in process technology, culinary arts, nursing and education, all of which are widely transferable across industries. Additionally, Red Dog contributes to UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research and has provided funding to UAF's Mining Engineering facility in an effort to also develop the important and necessary engineering professions at Red Dog.

The Education Tax credit program also creates the opportunity for industries to work in partnership with local school districts and State institutions to develop programs and shape career opportunities for students. By creating such partnerships with the ATC, and the University of Alaska, companies like Teck

and NANA are able to promote workforce development and educational programs, both secondary and post-secondary, which lead to hiring of local Alaskans.

It is often said that Red Dog is a community that happens to have a major industry within it. Every community must produce and provide many diverse services that require a diverse workforce to support the people who live in that community. Targeted educational support utilizing the Alaska Education Tax Credit program helps to achieve a job ready and diverse workforce which in turn contributes to the livelihoods of people and communities throughout Alaska.

NANA and Teck support the reauthorization of the Education Tax Credit program and urges the House Finance Committee to ensure this important program continues.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Cravalho
Vice President, External & Government Affairs
NANA Regional Corporation



Greta Schuerch
Sr. Government Relations Coordinator
Teck Alaska, Red Dog Mine

cc: Senator Donald Olson
Representative John Lincoln