

From: Andy Seitz
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
Cc: tathompson2@alaska.edu; sbmoran@alaska.edu; [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Subject: Education Tax Credit
Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018 10:45:29 AM

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

My name is Andy Seitz and I am a professor of fisheries at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am writing to support the extension the Alaska Education Tax Credit (ETC) as passed by the House (HB 233).

I urge the Senate Finance Committee to reconsider the changes proposed in the substitute bill introduced this week. While a reduction in the annual credit cap may impact some contributions at the high end, removing the extra 50% inducement in the \$100,000 to \$300,000 tier could significantly diminish the incentive for private investment in Alaska's future.

The State of Alaska has greatly benefited from the Education Tax Credit through private sector funding for understanding and developing the state's fisheries resources. For example, the Pollock Conservation Cooperative has provided very generous funding for over a decade to understand and develop not only pollock fisheries, but others as well. Several of my graduate and undergraduate students have been direct recipients of Pollock Conservation Cooperative funding for studying some of the state's most important fish species which have undergone drastic reductions in abundance, with severe cultural and economic ramifications. Through Pollock Conservation Cooperative support, these students have finally been able to understand potential causes of declines of Chinook salmon and to improve management of halibut. Without support from the Pollock Conservation Cooperative through the Education Tax Credit, this valuable research, that ultimately leads to the next generation of fisheries scientists in the State of Alaska, would not have been possible.

In summary, the Education Tax Credit is performing as intended, encouraging private sector investment in education and generating tremendous long-term economic benefit for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Andy Seitz
Associate Professor of Fisheries
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks