



DOYON
Limited®

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January 26, 2010

Dear Senate Education Committee Members:

On behalf of Doyon, Limited—a regional Alaska Native corporation with 17,500 shareholders and more than 3,000 employees in its family of companies—I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 236, an Act relating to tax credits for cash contributions by taxpayers that are accepted for certain educational purposes or for a facility.

Under current law Alaska state income tax payers who make cash contributions to an Alaskan higher education institution (including vocational/technical programs) receive a tax credit of 50 percent of the contribution up to \$100,000 and 100 percent of the contribution between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The maximum tax credit in any one year is \$150,000.

While the current tax credit is helpful, the cap on the current tax credit does not encourage corporate donations to higher education institutions in Alaska. Senate Bill 236 would remove the cap, setting the stage for increased private funding for higher education in Alaska.

Our company operates more than a dozen businesses across the state. We are especially active in oil field services, government contracting, and natural resource development. We take pride in contributing to Alaska's economic development and diversification. We are committed to providing employment opportunities for Alaskans as we build our businesses in the future.

Our ability to continue to grow now and in the years to come requires a well trained workforce. While not all of our employees require a college degree, some certainly do, and the others require at least some training beyond high school. We want to hire Alaskans from Alaska's vocational schools, colleges and universities. In addition, we are interested in exploring opportunities for the commercialization of scientific research, a major source for economic development and diversification in other states.

Senate Bill 236 will level the playing field with other state investment tax credits and encourage business to partner with our state's educational institutions. With this critical partnership, we can achieve key workforce and economic development and diversification goals for Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Norman L. Phillips, Jr.
President and CEO

LEADER in All We Do

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