



Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center
Training Alaskans to fill Alaskan Jobs

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Representative Mark Neuman
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB150

Dear Representative Neuman:

The Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center would like to express gratitude to you for filing HB 150, which would provide for the extension of the unemployment contributions for the Alaska technical and vocational education programs. The extension will allow us to continue to provide jobs training for our rural residents in our rural setting.

Since the inception of the unemployment contribution, SAVEC has made substantial gains in Vocational and Education programs. This funding mechanism has led to many jobs in the Bristol Bay region. The result of providing training for jobs is the best example of workforce development for our region, where unemployment approaches some of the highest percentages in Alaska.

Among the most recent classes, we have had a historically successful STEP grant program training mostly rural residents for CH2M Hill oil industry jobs. That program has one of the best returns of investment, and one of the highest wage gains of all STEP programs that are funded in Alaska.

SAVEC has also recently become a recipient of a BBNA written grant, with many Bristol Bay and federal partners that will result in the Bristol Bay fisheries job cluster development through a USDA and EDA Rural Jobs Accelerator Challenge grant. It is the first of its kind for training of rural Alaska residents for fisheries related jobs in the future.

Also, for the first time, SAVEC has partnered successfully with two of the Bristol Bay School Districts to provide CTE certified training for high school juniors and seniors in the Lake and Peninsula School District and Bristol Bay Borough School District. The program teaches basic business, construction, small engine repair, OSHA, Safety and First Aid, and other classes that will enable youth to get a head start, gaining both high

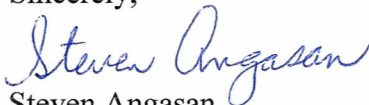
school credits, and college credits through a perpetual partnership with the University of Alaska, Bristol Bay Campus.

SAVEC has also become a recipient of a recent Denali grant for certification of Rural Alaska Maintenance Program Training in partnership with Alaska Works Partnership and five other Bristol Bay area regional partners.

SAVEC is making strides in providing technical and vocational training. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to enhance the job skills and the ability to get a job through the extension of the unemployment contributions for Alaska technical and vocational education programs.

Without the HB 150 contribution extension, and subsequent extension at historical levels, SAVEC will not be able to operate under the ever increasing costs of fuel and electricity that we encounter.

Sincerely,



Steven Angasan
Executive Director

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