

Vernessa Richards
PO Box 1083
Kotzebue, AK 99752

February 6, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

My name is Vernessa Richards I was raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. I'm currently a student in the Business Technology Program training for the Administrative Assistant Certificate with Alaska Technical Center. My training is a yearlong program. I firmly plan to use my Alaska Technical Center Administrative Certificate which I anticipate earning in May 2014 to get a job working in administration. I'm a young mother to a four year old boy, whom also just started preschool the same time as I started coming to class. I chose training here at the ATC simply because I want to be somewhere close to home with my son and would have the support of my family.

My time here with ATC has been a great learning experience. I had the chance to get on the job training with 3 different organizations here in Kotzebue. During my first semester I had the opportunity to job-shadow for Maniilaq Association in the Finance Department as a File Clerk 1 for a total of twelve hours. My next rotation was with the Kotzebue IRA as Administrative Assistant for a total of eighteen hours. Last, but not least was my visit to the Northwest Arctic Borough as a Receptionist for a total of twelve hours. The on the job training gave me a better understanding of being in the workforce. I'm forever grateful for Cindy Lincoln our OJT Coordinator for guiding me through that new experience. I enjoy taking my classes with my instructor Mrs. Warren. Being here with the ATC I was also able to make new contacts and lifelong friends from all over the Nana region.

I believe that the Alaska Technical Center is a great benefit to our region and to the State. I understand that the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) reauthorization is being considered this legislative session and I fully support the continued reauthorization and continued support of ATC.

Sincerely,



Vernessa Richards, Student

ATC Business Technology Program

February 6, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell;

I am writing in support of full funding for the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) House Bill 238 Senate Bill 139. I have lived and worked in the Northwest Arctic region of Alaska for the past 33 years. I am a retired teacher the father of 6 and currently run the Maniilaq Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program. Our region needs a motivated, educated workforce, the Alaska Technical Center is a major component to seeing that this is realized.

As a father I have experienced firsthand the changes that ATC has made possible for my son who experiences a disability. He was able to work towards and earned his GED last February. The attention that he received at the Tech center in Kotzebue by the staff helped build his self-concept and propelled him into a positive forward momentum. Since receiving his GED he has gone on to earn certification as a Core Driller Helper, has completed the 14 week Millwright certification program and is currently enrolled in the Construction trades class. He also expects to participate in a Driver's Education program soon. Coming from a small village it was important for him to be able to have a setting close enough to home and connected to our region so that he could participate in home life and also to engage in subsistence activities. He will soon be 20 years old and is feeling confident that the training and experiences that he has gained as a result of the programs that ATC offers will give him the advantage as he begins his job search this spring.

I have also had the opportunity to work closely with the Administration and the Staff of the ATC as the Program Supervisor for the Maniilaq Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The MTRV program offers support to tribal members who experience disabilities that present barriers to employment. I have found that the staff at the tech center has been very



907-475 2162 voice 1-888-743-9264 fax

Tom.cyrus@maniilaq.org

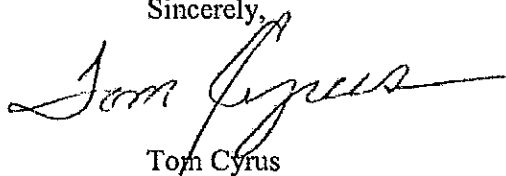
Tom Cyrus, Program Supervisor
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation
Maniilaq Association
P O Box 135 Kiana, AK 99749

accommodating and receptive to working with tribal members with disabilities to provide them a level playing field when it comes to vocational training and opportunity. The tech center has an atmosphere that lends itself to providing support to all of its students, meeting them where they are and helping them reach their educational goals and as a result achieving an employment outcome.

One of the major strengths of the Alaska Technical Center is its location. Kotzebue is the hub of our region and feels like home. With its easy access students do not feel left out of family and subsistence activities. It is also easy for family members to stay connected as they travel in to Kotzebue from the villages. The well trained staff is knowledgeable and has practical experiences in their respective fields from Mining, Construction, Office Occupations, and Health related fields. This knowledge and experience easily translates to the students that what they are learning in class has a direct correlation to what they will be doing at the workplace. The Administration also works closely with local employers and organizations so that the programs offered are what is needed for the local market.

The Alaska Technical Center is an important component in the NW Arctic region to provide lifelong learning to our people. As a state we need to continue to support it by providing funding to ensure workforce development. I certainly encourage you as Governor to support the efforts of the Tech Center and demonstrate that support by providing full funding for the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) House Bill 238 Senate Bill 139. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,



Tom Cyrus



907-475 2162 voice 1-888-743-9264 fax

Tom.cyrus@maniilaq.org

Tom Cyrus, Program Supervisor
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation
Maniilaq Association
P O Box 135 Kiana, AK 99749



NWALT

Northwest Arctic Leadership Team

February 6, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

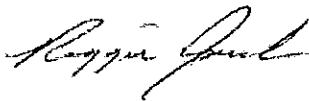
The Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) is a collaborative effort between NANA, Maniilaq, the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District designed to maximize resources and reduce the duplication of efforts to address issues affecting the people of Northwest Alaska, while honoring and perpetuating our Inupiat cultural heritage. The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) is an active participant in NWALT activities and provides services that have cross-cutting benefits within our region and the state.

The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) is an adult vocational/technical school for all Alaskans. The core programs offered by ATC include business technology, health occupations, construction trades technology and process technology. Additionally, in FY 15 a new culinary arts program will be offered. ATC also provides various short-courses that meet employer and business partner needs.

NWALT is in support of House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139 which includes language addressing the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) which provides grants to high demand career and technical education entities for industry-specific, on-the-job, and classroom training like ATC. Employers like NANA, Maniilaq, Red Dog and other private entities in the region benefit from TVEP funding to ATC because the Center provides high demand training to meet our unique workforce needs.

A priority of NWALT has been to ensure the renovation and expansion of ATC, which was realized in 2013. The expansion has allowed ATC to grow rapidly and ATC is already seeing quantifiable results. ATC has reported had 395 adult learners during the Fall 2013 term, which demonstrates the positive impact of TVEP funds.

Sincerely,



Mayor Reggie Joule
NWALT Co-Chair
Northwest Arctic Borough

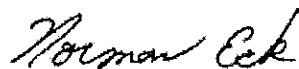


Marie N. Greene
NWALT Co-Chair
President/CEO
NANA Regional Corporation



NWALT

Northwest Arctic Leadership Team



Dr. Norm Eck
NWALT Member
Superintendent
Northwest Arctic Borough School District



Barbara Janitschek
NWALT Member
Acting President/CEO
Manillaq Association

CC: Senator Donny Olson, District T (Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative Benjamin Naegak, District T (Representative.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov)
Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Department of Labor (Dianne.blumer@alaska.gov)
Nancy Dahlstrom, Department of Labor (Nancy.dahlstrom@alaska.gov)

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Teck

February 7, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

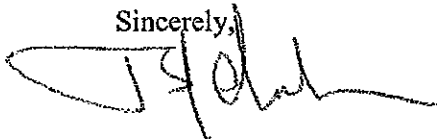
Dear Governor Parnell,

Teck Alaska, Incorporated (Teck) is pleased to provide this letter of support for funding for Alaska Technical Center (ATC). We encourage the approval of the Reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP), House Bill 278/Senate Bill 139. It is important to rural Alaska, and to Teck as a company, that ATC funding be approved; we have a need for trained workers in the career areas that are supported by programs at ATC.

As a major industry partner of ATC, we are proud to support the center. We have hired interns and graduates from the school, provided technical assistance in program development, hosted students and staff at the Red Dog mine, and made significant financial contributions to ATC. As a major rural Alaska employer, it is of great benefit to us to have a post-secondary training center in the region where we operate.

TVEP funding supports Alaska workers, and provides a core financial foundation to rural training centers that positions them to form effective partnerships with agencies and businesses. Please support the passage of HB 278/SB 139.

Sincerely,



Bob Chesham
Maintenance Superintendent

CC: Cheryl Edenshaw, Director, ATC (cedenshaw@nwarctic.org)
Senator Donny Olson, District T (Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative Benjamin Nageak, District T (Representative.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov)
Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Department of Labor (Dianne.blumer@alaska.gov)
Nancy Dahlstrom, Department of Labor (Nancy.dahlstrom@alaska.gov)



February 7, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RE: SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TECHNICAL VOCATION EDUCATION PROGRAM (TVEP)

Dear Governor Parnell:

As you know from your visits to our facility, the Alaska Technical Center (ATC) is an adult vocational school designed to meet the vocational and technical training needs of rural Alaskans. As Alaska's northernmost regional training center, ATC understands the Arctic and rural Alaska because we live here, train here and work here. Alaskans trained at ATC know how to succeed in Alaska jobs. All programs are designed to build the Alaskan workforce and meet the needs of Alaska's employers in high fields such as natural resources, health care, education and technology.

ATC is in support of House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139 which includes language addressing the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) which provides grants to high demand career and technical education entities for industry-specific, on-the-job, and classroom training like ATC. It is particularly important to rural training centers that the allocated percentages written into the current bill remain in place; further dilution of these funds will be detrimental for rural learners.

ATC has just completed a major renovation and addition, including new state-of-the-art equipment and curriculum supporting our programs. This expansion has allowed us to grow rapidly and we are already seeing quantifiable results. During the Fall 2013 term, ATC served a total of 395 adult learners.

Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funds provide a significant portion of the basic operational funds for ATC. ATC has four high-demand core program areas: business technology, construction trades technology, process technology, and health occupations. TVEP funds will allow for implementation of a new culinary arts program for FY 15. In addition, ATC provides Adult Basic Education, including a regional GED program. ATC also provides a variety of short-term training sessions during the year, in response to regional and statewide needs.

All ATC training programs are aligned with University of Alaska Fairbanks courses and certificate and degree programs. Students may dual enroll for ATC and UAF credit in most courses. All programs

ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER

"A Vocational/Technical School for Alaskans"

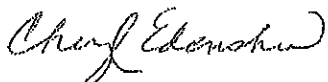
PO Box 51; Kotzebue, AK 99752 ♦ Phone: (907) 442-1500 ♦ Fax: (907) 442-2764 ♦ nwarctic.org/atc

Letter to Governor Sean Parnell
RE: Support of TVEP Reauthorization
February 7, 2014
Page 2 of 2

meet the requirements of recognized state and national certifications. TVEP helps to provide a foundation that allows ATC to maximize additional resources through our various partnerships. ATC partners with multiple organizations and corporations locally, regionally, and statewide, to maximize resources and address workforce development issues affecting northwest Alaska. ATC is an active participant in NWALT, the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team, a collaboration designed to maximize the effective use of resources in our region. In addition, ATC is a partner in the Star of the Northwest magnet school, a grade 11-14 program with education, health, culinary and process technology career pathways.

If you have any questions and/or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (907) 442-1501 or via email at cedenshaw@nwarctic.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER



Cheryl Edenshaw
Director

CC: Dr. Norman Eck, Superintendent, NWABSD (neck@nwarctic.org)
Senator Donny Olson, District T (Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative Benjamin Nageak, District T (Representative.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov)
Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Department of Labor (Dianne.blumer@alaska.gov)
Nancy Dahlstrom, Department of Labor (Nancy.dahlstrom@alaska.gov)



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District • Orutsaramuit Native Council • UAF -- Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

February 9, 2014

RE: HB 278-Education Funding

Hon. Sean Parnell

Governor Parnell:

Yuut Elitnaurviat-People's Learning Center Inc. (YE) thanks you for submitting HB 278 (SBI 93) and supports the passage of the bill, particularly as it relates to extending the sunset of the TVEP program. As you are aware, we are a recipient of TVEP funding (9%), which we feel a modest investment that in turn provides a substantial return for the State. YE is also aware of and supporting two other bills that are currently set to extend the sunset provision for TVEP- HB 150 and SB 93. We have written letters of support for those initiatives as well. We are not a secondary education institution, thus do not feel we can adequately address the other components of this legislation.

YE is a fully operational vocational school located in Bethel. Our organization was created to deliver workforce development programs to our region, the most populated in rural Alaska. The legislature took a leap of faith and named YE as a TVEP recipient when the program was created in 2004. YE was still early in its development, and this investment from the state made it possible to pilot programs while our campus was still under construction. When we became fully operational in 2009 we were ready to expand and we hit the ground running. Our service numbers jumped from an average of 150 per year during development to nearly 3,000 in 2012.

YE fully utilizes all of our TVEP funding by March or April of each fiscal year. We then spend earned revenue to get us through the end of each year. As it stands we have struck a nice balance with our business model. Our staffing is small, but adequate. Our programs are robust and responsive to our regional workforce development needs. When fuel costs increased dramatically last summer and heating fuel hit \$7 a gallon, we invested in wind turbines and solar panels. The net effect has been that our costs are the same as they were the year before the increase. We are happy with our current funding levels. They ensure we are frugal and encourage us to constantly strive to improve and explore new opportunities.

We have data and statistics that demonstrate the state's investment in our activities is a good value. As it presently stands TVEP constitutes approximately 24% of our annual operating budget. In return for this investment YE provided 3000 services to approximately 1700 individuals in calendar year 2013. YE has developed a very sophisticated customized student tracking database over the last 7 years. The database tracks students progress through programs and after they enter the workforce. YE services include direct training for dozens of industry driven classes, career guide services, GED instruction & testing (largest program in rural Alaska), Rural Alaska's only State Certified Driving School (permit classes, behind the wheel training, ADL & CDL testing), hosting the Dental Therapy Program (the only of its kind in the US), Rural Alaska's only full apprenticeship programs for Industrial Electric, Plumbing & Carpentry, coordinating the Stem Ready(formerly RANSEP) program (brings village based high school students to Bethel so that they can take advanced math and science classes).



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District • Orutsaramuit Native Council • UAF – Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

YE takes great care in collecting student data and keeping impeccable financial records. We take our commitment to our funders seriously and strive to ensure we are always good stewards of all public and private funds that support our endeavors. Our greatest pride however is our commitment to our students. We know them. We know their families. We want them to succeed. We link our services and programs to encourage students to keep moving onward and upward.

In 2012 George Kameroff completed our Certificate in Construction and Maintenance. He then enrolled in our Electrical Apprenticeship program with Chulista. Receiving the certificate allowed him to transfer 500 hours towards his apprenticeship program.

Debbie Rushing moved to Bethel and completed her GED at age 54. She subsequently competed out Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA) and had a job waiting as soon as she finished the program.

YE has recently partnered with the Association of Village Council Presidents to deliver a welding program. Nine students completed the program and are currently working building the boardwalks in their own community. Without the training, contractors would have been brought in from outside the region to do the work. After the guaranteed experience this summer, these new welders will have both classroom and work experience under their belts and can apply for high wage jobs at remote camp sites throughout the state.

Anthony Nevak was a 19 year old junior in danger of dropping out. YE recruited him into the RANSEP Program. He came to Bethel for two semesters of advanced math and science coursework. He completed the ANSEP Acceleration Academy and the ANSEP Summer Bridge Program. Anthony graduated and entered UAA without needing any remedial classes. He is now excelling in his sophomore year of college at UAA with the ANSEP program.

We know there have been many questions regarding the performance of TVEP recipients, and whether some are meeting the expectations of the State. As we look at the TVEP recipients we see a diversity of program models, none of which are delivering services in the same manner. To us, this doesn't mean that one is better than the other. Each is responding to the needs as they and their local governing boards have determined to be appropriate. Alaska is a very big state, and every region of the state has its own challenges and ways to address their own challenges.

At YE, for example, we provide many industry/employer driven classes that end up with 100% employment (after successful completion). We have 4 of those programs going on this very minute- Facility Maintenance Technician, Commercial Driving-Class A, Certified Nursing Assistant and the Dental Health Aide Training program. However, there are other, more basic, workforce development issues that have to be addressed before we can provide only direct to employment programs. Our Governance has directed us to ready the people of the YK region for jobs that exist in our region. To do that requires much work and training/services that do not immediately relate directly to someone entering the workplace. YE is excited to join the State in its mission of readying the under tapped employment resources of Rural Alaska for gainful employment in the many projects that are being developed throughout the State.



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District • Orutsaramuit Native Council • UAF – Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

As you are aware, our region, not unlike other regions of rural Alaska is in the process of transitioning from a more traditional (Yup'ik) way of life to a more "western" way of life. This is not an easy transition, and one that will not happen overnight. This transition requires work-readiness prior to direct employment training. We recognize this is a longer-term plan, however, without the essential foundations of work readiness; employment training will have only short-term impact. Because of that, YE puts forth much effort in areas that much of Alaska take for granted. GED services, Drivers Education, Career Guide services, etc. We feel that our efforts in these areas are successful, and we believe these issues should be taken into consideration when the State is trying to determine which programs are successful and which aren't. We look forward to working with the State to identify ways to account for the success and impact of these work readiness efforts.

We believe the State has a vested interest/responsibility to support workforce development in Rural Alaska. TVEP is a relatively modest investment that provides, with our other leveraged funds, YE the ability to provide much needed workforce development services to the YK Delta.

Sincerely,

Kurt Kuhne
Executive Director
Yuut Elitnaurviat-The People's Learning Center, Inc
PO Box 869
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907)543-0999



February 17, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re : Governor's Education Bill

Dear Governor Parnell,

We are pro education and training that takes place within Alaska. We feel it is important that HB278 and SB 139 continue funding through 2024 and that its critical Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) keep their current percentage allocations.

The technical skills are in short supply across the United State. AVTEC is offering programs to train Alaskans in areas where technical skills are needed the most at home in Alaska.

AVTEC and the University require funding to stay current with industry. Today TVEP is a major component assuring this continuous.

Sincerely

David Cushman
Air Liquide America LP
Manager Business Development

Advisor ACTEC Welding Program

"Any gas, any time, anywhere..... Air Liquide America"



AIR LIQUIDE AMERICA L. P.

- **Region Office** ● 6510 Arctic Spur Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518-1546
Phone (907) 562-2080 • Fax: (907) 561-8364
- **Store Location** ● 6415 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99518-1546
Phone (907) 562-2080 • Fax: (907) 564-9752

Farrell L. Andrew
6121 Prosperity Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504

February 17, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

RE: Governor's Education Bill

Dear Governor Parnell,

My name is Farrell Andrew and I am a recent graduate from AVTEC – Alaska's Institute of Technology. I obtained my Medical Administrative Assistant Certificate in December of 2013. I now currently work in the Hospital Education Department through Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). I am writing to you today in support of HB278 and SB 139. I'm looking specifically at the section on the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP); and to keep the current percentage allocations and to continue this program through 2024.

TVEP provides a significant amount of funding for the operations of AVTEC. The funding AVTEC receives from this fund is about \$1.8 million. It is used to pay for basic operational costs like light, heat, fuel, food, maintenance, instructional supplies, etc. Currently AVTEC receives 17% and we need that percentage to stay the same; without these funds AVTEC would cease to exist.

AVTEC provides adult vocational technical education and training to Alaskans and is a large part of how Alaska responds to its responsibility to train Alaskans from every community. Today 80% of Alaska's jobs require less than a bachelors degree and that's what AVTEC does is train Alaskans to fill those technical trade jobs. Without AVTEC I wouldn't be where I am today, and I don't think I would have found another school that suited my needs.

Sincerely,



Farrell L. Andrew

February 17, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re: Governor's Education Bill


Dear Governor Parnell,

This letter is written to you to voice my support for the funding found in HB278 and SB139 regarding the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP).

I would like to give you a brief history about myself and why I became a student at AVTEC. Currently I am enrolled in the Industrial Electricity program at the Seward, Alaska AVTEC campus. Prior to moving to Alaska in July, 2014 I had change of heart regarding my career. I was a police officer with 17 years of experience when I moved. I decided to change occupations and become an industrial electrician due to the growing demand for electrical technicians over the next several years. I began to evaluate programs in the Pacific Northwest with the intent of completing a program to eventually move to Alaska to gain employment, but I was not planning on moving until a later date with my wife. However after hearing of the great things about AVTEC's industrial electricity program I knew that I wanted to enroll in the program as soon as possible and thus I facilitated my move in July. I have had to sacrifice time away from my wife and our business which are located in Seattle, Washington. What this equates to is AVTEC was worth my time and money to move to Alaska ahead of schedule. This is a move that I have not regretted in the least. The updated training, hands on labs, state of the art equipment, and the knowledge of instructors is un-paralleled to what I would have paid for at other schools.

I would like to ask for your continued support regarding the TVEP. AVTEC is an incredible institute and you should be proud of the results that the staff, employees, and personnel are achieving through your continued funding.

Sincerely



Scott Montgomery
AVTEC IE Student class of 2014

Governor Parnell,

I am writing this concerning the continuation of the allocations made to AVTEC through the Technical and Vocational Program. I believe that this is vital to both our state as a whole and individual communities. Attending AVTEC has played a pivotal role in my own life.

I have been a licensed aircraft mechanic for some years now, working in the aerospace industry has taken me all over the globe. It has, in short, been a wild ride. Including everything from doing routine maintenance on business jets, to crewing blackhawks in Iraq. As I have gotten older, I have had an increasing desire to work closer to home. However I have found it difficult to find jobs that I have the qualifications for outside of metropolitan areas. Considering that I am from Cordova, this has presented some very difficult decisions.

So after some deliberation, I decided to enroll in AVTEC 's diesel and heavy equipment program. At the moment of this writing, I have eight days of classes left and will be returning to Cordova Feb 27th where I will be employed by Cordova outboard. There by making it possible for me to make a very comfortable living without having to be away from home anymore than I want to be. There is no question in my mind that my story is only one of a myriad. This is why I believe that it is so important to maintain the funding the funding that AVTEC receives through the TVEP legislation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Trucks". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the width of the name.

Scott Trucks

February 17, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001

Juneau, AK 99811-001

Dear Governor Parnell,

This letter is in support of HB278 and SB 139 specifically, the section on the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) and the language to keep the current percentage allocations and continue the program through 2024. The TVEP funding is vital to AVTEC operations.

As a student at AVTEC I feel a need to continue the current funding from the state. I came to AVTEC because I had an accident last summer and hurt my knee at work; I now have two bad knees and am currently in the rehabilitation process. My body only has a limited number of years left for hard labor, so I had to make the choice of what would be the best thing for me in the long run (a hard choice for an eighteen year old) but I came to the conclusion after doing work compatibility tests at my local job center I chose industrial electricity as my new calling. Currently five and a half months into my training here at AVTEC I keep growing more and more pleased with my decision. If it had not been for the state funding to make the tuition, and room and board cheaper for me AVTEC wouldn't have been an option for me because I had not been able to work all summer and the only money I had coming to me was my workers comp settlement check which paid off most of my costs. So instead of owing fifteen thousand dollars I only owe three thousand which is an amount of money I am comfortable owing. If there wasn't state funding I feel that the tuition at AVTEC could easily double for the program I am in, and if that were the case I wouldn't have been able to be a student here.

Sincerely,

Hunter Brewer

Student



P.O. Box 1045
302 Railway Avenue
Seward, Alaska 99664
Phone: 907.224.5257
Alaska toll free: 1.888.224.5257
Fax: 907.224.7081

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re: Governor's Education Bill

This letter is in support of the reauthorization of the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funding contained in HB278 and SB139. I understand that this funding pays for basic operational costs such as maintenance, light, heat, fuel, food, instructional supplies, etc. for the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC), and that without the funds, AVTEC would not be able to stay open. As AVTEC provides valuable education and training services that benefit our community and State, SeaView supports the continuation of these funds for the next 10 years at the necessary 17%.

AVTEC helps train Alaskans to meet the needs of industry in Alaska without having to hire for similar positions from outside the State. Our organization has hired a number of graduates from various programs, helping to meet our needs as an organization in serving the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Sheehan
Executive Director

Dear Governor Parnell,

This letter was written to support the TVEP funding which my school (AVTEC) needs to function. It is critical that you show support for this fund.

Alaskas Institute of Technology has changed my life and of many other students. It has given many students the skill set needed to have a productive and successful career in the State of Alaska. The funding that AVTEC receives pays for many needed training aids, maintenance costs, staff pay and facility maintenance. The specific class which I am taking, Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanics, has a job placement rate of 94%. This means that 94% of Diesel graduates have jobs as mechanics upon graduation. These graduates go on to be productive members of Alaskas workforce, pouring money back into the pockets of Alaska.

TVEP pays for a large part of AVTECs much needed funding. With refunding AVTEC can continue to paint a very bright picture for our beautiful state. So please, keep this great state and great school moving forward and choose to support the funding of TVEP.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kingwell

February 18, 2014

Sean Parnell
Alaska State Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Captain Andrew Wakefield
Southwest Alaska Pilots
P.O. Box 977
Homer, AK 99603

Re: Education Bill HB278 & SB139

Dear Governor Parnell,

I'm writing in support of the Technical and Vocational Education Program and the funding it provides to AVTEC in Seward.

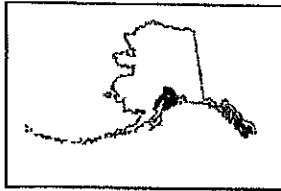
I am currently a Deputy Marine Pilot with the Southwest Alaska Pilots Association. I started my training for this career in 2010 after a 16 year career with BP transporting crude oil from Valdez to the west coast of the United States. Throughout the pilot training process I've had the pleasure to utilize AVTEC's facilities both in the classroom and in the ships simulator. To have such readily accessible and quality coursework within the state is an asset which I believe greatly benefits the state as a whole and would be missed if the current level of funding were to be reduced or eliminated.

Over the past few years I have witnessed a vast improvement in the quality of AVTEC's coursework, simulation models, simulator programming, course objectives, simulator operators and a definite improvement in the overall learning outcome. I believe the quality of AVTEC's maritime career development competes with or exceeds that of most training facilities I've attended globally. I can legitimately say that my piloting skills have been greatly improved with use of AVTEC's ship simulator.

I believe that the course work and "state of the art" simulation which AVTEC provides is vital for Alaska's future by providing safe, well trained young mariners today, and for many years to come.

Respectfully,
Captain Andrew S. Wakefield
Southwest Alaska Pilots

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



148 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8884 Fax (907) 262-6354

February 18, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re: Governor's Education Bill

Dear Governor Parnell,

This letter is in support of HB278 and SB139, which is for keeping the current Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) percentage allocations and continue the program.


AVTEC is in dire need of this funding for staffing, training programs, maintaining facilities and student support services.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District considers AVTEC a vital partner in providing workforce development training for many of our students, and is one of the premier Career and Technical Education programs in the state.

Thank you,



Dan Bohrsen,

 **Learning that works for Alaska**
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

February 18, 2014

Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99891

RE: Governor's Education Bill (Technical and Vocational Education Programs funding)

Dear Mr. Parnell,

I am writing this letter in support HB278 and SB139 which has portions that support continuing funding at its current levels and allocations for Technical and Vocational Education Programs (TVEP). This funding is extremely important to AVTEC's operations, and honestly their Maritime Program has changed my life.

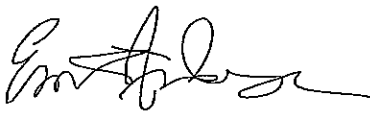
I was working hard from job to job to earn a living and support my family, With the training and scholarships I received, I was able to build a career at Crowley Maritime Services where I am currently training to be a Chief Engineer.

I grew up between Chignik Lake and Anchorage spending many summers on the water commercial fishing with my family. Now, I have a career back on the water using everything I learned during my childhood and through the great programs at AVTEC. I am not just jumping from job to job, but in a career that I can be proud of. This would not have been possible without the TVEP funding and the great instructors and staff at AVTEC.

I was able to complete the training and quickly get into a career using those skills, just like the 92% of AVTEC long term program graduates that move right into their career field. Programs like AVTEC help build Alaska's workforce from within and are both needed and greatly appreciated by everyone in our state.

Thank you for your time today. Please support continued funding through TVEP. It has made a huge difference in my life and could make a huge impact in the lives of my sons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emmett Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Emmett Anderson



18 February 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Governor's Education Bill

Dear Mr. Parnell,

This letter is in support of HB278 and SB139. Specifically the section on the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP). TVEP funding is crucial to the success of AVTEC's programs and success of the graduates.

As an AVTEC graduate of 2005 and a current employer of AVTEC graduates, I implore you to maintain funding for this critical piece of Alaska's educational system. AVTEC has an 87% completion rate and a 92% job placement rate of long term program graduates. These statistics rival any Ivy League school in the nation. The technical training provided is a necessity for Alaska's workforce and continues to feed the developing economy.

TVEP funding is needed to keep providing students and faculty with the tools they need to succeed. We should be proud to have AVTEC as a building block in Alaska's education system.

Sincerely,

Matt Ernst
Fleet & Asset Manager

Captain Jeff Pierce
17321 Yellowstone Drive
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
907-240-2149
Jeffpierce78@hotmail.com
February 18, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Governor State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Sean Parnell:

I am a long-time resident of our great state, and I'm writing to express my concern about TVEP funding for AVTEC, Seward Alaska. I understand that the discussion concerning percentage of funding through TVEP is being considered and without this funding AVTEC would not operate as it has in the past.

I have personal experience how the facility has provided economic and industrial development for Alaskan residents and state of Alaska. I'm a licensed Alaskan State ship pilot for 30 years and also operate a small maritime consulting company Safeguard Marine LLC which provides maritime risk mitigation. We performed an analysis recently based upon the preliminary design for City of Seward concerning the breakwater development attracting the Seattle fishing fleet to permanently moor in our state. Utilizing the maritime simulator we were able to determine that the design required some changes to accommodate the larger fishing vessels. This analysis wouldn't have been feasible without the maritime simulator at AVTEC and ultimately the breakwater design analysis may have helped created economic growth and saved the state money,

This example was just one of many where the facility has provided for the economic growth and creating jobs for Alaskans' who live in our great state. The maritime simulator contribution to the maritime community and state of Alaska can't be emphasized enough as it provides training and risk assessment capabilities, which ultimately assist in our profession of protecting the marine environment, property and the citizens of Alaska from maritime related accidents.

Sincerely,

Captain Jeff Pierce



ALASKA MARINE PILOTS LLC

P.O. Box 920226 - Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

Office (907)581-1240 - Fax (907)581-1372

www.alaskamarinepilots.com

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Governor's Education Bill

Dear Governor Parnell,

I am writing this letter in support of HB 278 and SB 139. Specifically, the section on the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) and the language to keep the current percentage allocations and continue the program through 2024. The TVEP funding is critical to AVTEC operations and an important benefit to the Alaskan maritime community.

My support for the importance of AVTEC comes first hand through many years of involvement and benefits that AVTEC's Maritime Training Center have for me both personally and professionally. As an Alaska state licensed marine pilot I have taken both continuing education courses and simulator training at the Center, something that years ago pilots' predominately took outside the state at facilities as far away as Florida as well as overseas. The programs and curriculum offered at AVTEC is of world-class caliber and extremely important to safe maritime operations.

As a current appointed pilot member of the Board of Marine Pilots I have also seen AVTEC's commitment grow in response to the needs of the maritime community for both licensed and unlicensed mariners.

Additionally I have also been an adjunct instructor at AVTEC teaching USCG required courses to both full time and part time students. Through this role I have been able to witness the dedication that AVTEC places on vocational technical training of Alaskans and the responsiveness it has to the maritime industry operating in this state.

I believe that AVTEC has been very successful in providing adult vocational technical education and training to Alaskans. Today, TVEP is a significant part of AVTEC's funding plan used to ensure training programs are offered, facilities are maintained, staff are paid and student services are available.

Sincerely,

David Arzt

Captain David Arzt
Vice-President, Alaska Marine Pilots



Captain Lawrence Vose
dba Lithia Navigaziun LLC
P. O. Box 33559
Juneau, Alaska 99803

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
P. O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re: HB278 and SB139; Governor's Education Bill

Dear Governor Parnell;

Please accept this letter of support for AVTEC and the valuable resource they are to the maritime community in Alaska. As a State of Alaska licensed Marine Pilot, AVTEC is the only in-state resource capable of satisfying certain State-mandated continuing education requirements. Without adequate funding support, State-licensed pilots may be forced to complete required training out of state.

Additionally, AVTEC maritime programs, via the Alaska Maritime Training Center (AMTC), provide the only in-state comprehensive curriculum in Alaska for Alaskans to begin their careers in Alaska's maritime industry (including careers with AMHS, the oil and towing industries, etc.). AMTC provides the upper-level training and education required for mariners to progress in their careers, one example being the only US Coast Guard approved ice navigation course in the United States.

Marine Pilots across the State depend on AVTEC not only for required training, but also for Pilot Association specific and/or individual Pilot initiated professional and safety training. As Pilots we depend on AVTEC as the only State-capable facility for full-mission port-development simulation (e.g. Juneau Harbor expansion, Gravina Access Project) to support economic development in the state.

Your continued support of the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funding and most importantly the maintenance of the current percentages are both valued and necessary. The ability of AVTEC to continue to operate and maintain their world-class full-mission bridge simulator is dependent on this reauthorization and integral to AVTEC's continued existence and success as a viable maritime training facility, not only for licensed marine pilots but also for all of Alaska's maritime industries. Support of local Alaskans is support of AVTEC and vice versa.

Sincerely,

Captain Lawrence Vose
Southeast Alaska Marine Pilot

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Subject: Governor's Education Bill

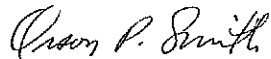
Dear Governor Parnell,

I have enjoyed outstanding satisfaction from my involvement with AVTEC's Alaska Maritime Training Center during the last 5 years and presently am Vice-President of the Center's Advisory Board. The AVTEC maritime programs are growing in enrollment and importance to the State of Alaska with Arctic offshore developments and with modernization of the fishing and shipping industries. The quality of the education at AVTEC is excellent by any measure, yet all the programs continue to pride themselves in accommodating "hawse pipe" advancement, from one US Coast Guard license to the next, with increasing responsibility and higher pay. Programs are aimed at rural residents and at returning veterans, with a view toward giving Alaskans first-shot at exciting, high-paying careers critical to the State's economy.

AVTEC and its Alaska Maritime Training Center are well-managed by competent veteran leaders with focused vision for Alaska workforce development. Other educational endeavors with State financial support should watch and learn by AVTEC's successes. State support remains necessary, however. The TVEP program is a proven method to provide funds to be used efficiently toward a good end, aligned with the mission of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Please continue TVEP funding (HB278 and SB139) and other support for AVTEC and keep its awesome momentum going.

Sincerely,



Orson P. Smith, PE, Ph.D., D. CE¹, D. PE¹
PO Box 126
Seward, AK 99664

¹ Diplomate of Coastal Engineering and of Port Engineering, Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port and Navigation Engineers.