



Northwest Arctic Leadership Team

The Honorable Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
March 10, 2014

Dear Governor Parnell:

Maniilaq, NANA, the Northwest Arctic Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough School District collaborate as the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) to address regional issues and priorities. NWALT supports House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139 because of the direct benefits to Northwest Alaska as well as all other regions of the state, both urban and rural. HB278 and SB139 include important elements that will help Northwest Alaska advance its goals in education and workforce development, including the reauthorization and funding for the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP); amendments to the State Education Tax Credit program; and full funding for the board and room stipend for residential schools.

The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) continues to enhance the overall workforce development efforts of the region and benefits employers like Maniilaq, the School District, NANA and the Red Dog Mine through core programs that include tracks in business technology, health occupations, construction trades technology and process technology, as well as a new culinary arts program being added in FY2015. ATC also offers a variety of short-courses that meet employer and business partner needs. For years, TVEP has provided considerable and continuous support to the funding of the ATC. NWALT supports the administration's efforts to improve the quality and accountability of the TVEP program.

NWALT also appreciates your continued support for the development of the Star of the Northwest Magnet School in Kotzebue, which will provide residential secondary and post-secondary education opportunities for to up to 200 students in grades 11-14. An academic and vocational educational curriculum will be developed through the collaborative efforts of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Chukchi College and ATC, ensuring that graduates are equipped with entry level qualifications to take on jobs in resource development, education, healthcare and other professions within Northwest Alaska. The proposed amendment offered to the State Education Credit program to include residential construction and operation costs will significantly enhance opportunities for public/private partnerships as the new Magnet School becomes a reality.

NWALT also appreciates the inclusion of full funding for the board and room stipend for residential students in HB278 and SB139. This will ensure that required housing costs for residential students are covered, thus protecting instructional dollars from being diverted to such costs.

NWALT appreciates your continued support for secondary, post-secondary and adult education that will prepare Alaskans for future jobs in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Mayor Reggie Joule
NWALT Co-Chair
Northwest Arctic Borough

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



Northwest Arctic Leadership Team

Norman Eck

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

Barbara Janitschek

Barbara Janitschek
NWALT Member
Acting President/CEO
Maniilaq Association

CC: Representative Ben Nageak
Senator Donny Olson