

To: Rep. David Hattenberg
Sen. Lyman Hoffman

Re: BAKLAP funding

March 7, 2014

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Hattenberg:

I am a self-employed log house builder and carpenter who has worked in the Interior for forty-three years.

I recently volunteered to show middle school students how to make knitting needles from birch logs, under the aegis of BAKLAP and Dr. Janice Rowe.

This activity provides students with a fine-motor skill activity; teaches them the concept of value-added entrepreneurship; and puts them in a (sometimes) fresh contact with their local forest.

Students combine science, technology, engineering, mathematics and artistic judgment to produce a marketable product - a valuable economic lesson.

I ask you to support BAKLAP in the budget as the program is a richly engaging approach to learning. As one teacher said, "The kids are so engaged - no one's watching the clock!"

Thank you,

Birch Pauley
6063 Reconstruction Rd.
Fairbanks, 99709

c.c. : Senator Kelly
Senator Fairclough
Senator Meyer
Senator Dunleavy
Senator Bishop
Senator Olson