

4 April 2014

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am writing on behalf of the submitted BAKLAP capital appropriation that is being considered for inclusion in the state's Capital Budget. I understand this is a challenging budget climate for state projects, but I encourage you and fellow legislators to fund this important program to completion.

Wood biomass energy is increasingly vital to Alaskan communities and economies, and we Alaskans need a sustainable foundation to raise the next generation's biomass fuel. The Alaska Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 mandates the management of our natural resources for sustained yield, and BAKLAP has a demonstrated capacity to bring young Alaskans, state agencies, and the University together to ensure we as a state meet this responsibility.

As a current UAF student in forestry, I also see the growing importance of our forest resource every day through my classes, research, and interactions with forestry professionals. I've learned of many areas that require more investigation, especially determining how best to grow wood biomass sustainably. BAKLAP's efforts to integrate past experiments together and provide valuable new scientific research are an important framework for ensuring we can meet current and future needs.

As the legislative session draws to an end, I urge you to consider continuing investment in Alaska's renewable energy future. I hope you and your colleagues in the Senate support this program.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Allaby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Allaby

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