



550 S. Alaska St., Ste 101, PO Box 45, Palmer, AK 99645
Tel: (907) 745-2880 Fax: (907) 746-4164
www.palmerchamber.org info@palmerchamber.org

March 16, 2015

Re: House Bill 107, Composition of the UA Board of Regents

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce supports reorganization of the composition of the University of Alaska's Board of Regents to more accurately represent the ever-changing demographics of the State of Alaska.

The Mat-Su Valley is the fastest growing region in the state and one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Yet, excluding Student Regents, only one of the 143 past or present regents has been from the Mat-Su Valley. Lack of Mat-Su representation on the Board of Regents hinders the potential development of Mat-Su College, which plays a key role in workforce development for businesses across the borough.

High School graduates from Mat-Su make up over 12% of first time degree seeking freshman in the University system and are having to leave the Mat Su because the bulk of the classes and opportunities are in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

In order to more fairly represent all areas served by our outstanding university system, The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges you to consider reorganization of the composition of the Board of Regents as called for in HB107.

Respectfully,

Ralph Renzi
Executive Director

DanaLyn Dalrymple
President