



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Deena M. Paramo

Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success

March 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

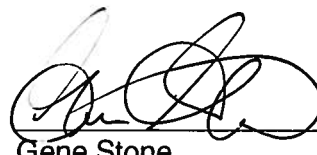
The Mat-Su Borough School District supports the passage of HB107.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District has a rich history in education. As the second largest school district in the State, Mat-Su has historically recruited and retained high-quality instructors dating back to the colony days. The Mat-Su Borough currently hosts a land-grant college conducting education, research, and activities around agriculture and geology. Our collective educational heritage and scale warrants a continuation of MSBSD's advisement of the education of Alaskans.

Alaska is a demographically and geographically diverse state that is best served by representatives that reflect diversity. Without the passage of HB 107, regional representation is not systematically regulated and diverse representation is not guaranteed. The population of the Mat-Su Borough is a major participant in the statewide educational system. The people of this region deserve representation on the Board of Regents.

The population and the economic base of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough comprise a large presence in the sustainability of the State of Alaska. Education and how it is conducted at all levels is a foundational factor in the economy and productivity of the State. As the fastest growing part of Alaska, consistent and guaranteed representation from Mat-Su must be a component of the statewide post-secondary system. The University of Alaska's Board of Regents inclusion of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's voice will complement our statewide system and benefit all Alaskans.

Sincerely,


Dr. Deena M. Paramo
Superintendent
Gene Stone
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

March 17, 2015

Representative Lynn Gattis
Chair, Education Finance Subcommittee
AK State Legislature
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Rep. Gattis:

Please accept this letter of support for HB107. In the last 20 plus years, my husband received his Master's Degree from the University Alaska Anchorage (UA), and I have taken classes at UA, served as a guest lecturer and am in my second term on the Mat-Su College Advisory Board.

UA was commissioned to serve the "North and its diverse peoples." The achievement of the University's mission begins with the Board of Regents, which is responsible for UA policy and management through the President. In its "Shaping Alaska's Future" initiative, UA promises that "the diversity of UA faculty, staff and administrators reflects the diversity of Alaska's peoples." This applies to diversity in region as well as culture.

For the last 40 years, Mat-Su's population growth has outpaced other regions of the state. Since 2000, Mat-Su's population has grown from 50,000 to almost 100,000 people and is home to the second largest school district in Alaska. Mat-Su College, an extended college of UAA, has also significantly grown and altered its course offerings to respond to the needs of the business and education sectors of our community. It has created "productive partnerships"—another goal of UA's Shaping Alaska's Future initiative—along the way.

Mat-Su College has evolved from a community college that offered a range of special interest classes for community members to one that serves a younger, degree-seeking student body. It currently enrolls over 2000 students per semester and is a major conduit of students to the UA system. In fact, 12.6% of UA's first-time, degree-seeking Alaska freshman were from the Mat-Su. Mat-Su College has grown its endowment over the years to over half a million dollars and has had competent leadership that worked hard to advance UA's mission in Mat-Su and ensure the College enhanced and grew the UA system.

Nevertheless, since its inception, excluding Student Regents, ***not one*** Regent has originated from the Mat-Su Borough. This lack of representation is unacceptable and clearly does not meet UA's goal of diversity in its leadership. Despite Mat-Su's importance to the UA system, its population growth and future potential, it has been left out of the University's leadership, strategic discussions and governance decisions. This must be rectified in a way that will strengthen UA's leadership structure and help build a stronger higher education system for AK. HB107 does just that. Thank you for your work in sponsoring and advancing this bill Rep. Gattis. I support HB107 and will advocate for its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Ripley". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'E' and 'R'.

Elizabeth Ripley

Sponsor: Assemblymember Doty
Adopted: 03/03/15

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 15-024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 107 REGARDING THE COMPOSITION AND
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Territorial Legislature established the Board
of Trustees over 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, there have been 154 Regents in the past century;
and

WHEREAS, only 4 of those Regents have been from the
Matanuska-Susitna Borough and only 2 from the Kenai Peninsula
Borough area; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Regents have been from
Anchorage with 37 and Fairbanks with 56; and

WHEREAS, in the last 40 years the Borough has significantly
outpaced the other regions within the State in regards to the
percentage of population growth; and

WHEREAS, school district expansion correlates to the
population growth within the State, with the Borough having the
second largest school district, followed by Fairbanks and Kenai;
and

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2013 an average of 12.6 percent of the University's degree-seeking freshman were from the Borough; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 107 will designate a seat on the Board of Regents for a resident of the Borough; and


WHEREAS, it is prudent to ensure that the fastest growing area of the State have a voice on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports House Bill 107 and requests that the Alaska State Legislature adopt the changes to the qualifications and residency requirements for the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 3 day of March, 2015.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty, and Halter