

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: A letter of testimony from UAF's RISE Board
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 3:03:10 PM

From: Taylor Stinchcomb [mailto:tstinch32@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: A letter of testimony from UAF's RISE Board

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,
As members of UAF's RISE (Review of Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Energy) Board, we are writing to you regarding the proposed cuts to the budget for the UA system. We are a student-led organization that advises UAF's Office of Sustainability. Our goal is to help UAF invest in projects and programs that have demonstrable social, environmental, and financial returns on investment. We also encourage the responsible use of existing resources so that we can reduce non-renewable energy consumption on campus.

Since our inception, RISE has used the student sustainability fee—combined with the Chancellor's matching funds—to fund over ninety projects. We have saved over \$520,000, and we have helped to make UAF a nationwide leader in sustainability.

Below, we have listed some of our projects and the savings they generate for the university.

- The Computer Shutdown Program reduces electricity costs on campus by \$77,000 annually.
- The implementation of LED lighting across campus has saved \$43,000 annually.
- The MACS Bus U-pass provides more than 135,000 rides to students annually.
- The Green Bikes Program has provided bicycles to more than 1,000 students to date.
- The six solar panel installations—SRC, Sustainable Village, CTC Process Technology, Engineering Building, Fire Station, Power Plant—currently save \$15,000 annually.

Significantly, our accomplishments extend beyond UAF, impacting the entire Fairbanks community. Our recycling program was so successful that it inspired the North Star Borough to renew its recycling program. And our involvement with Green Bikes and FMATS has improved cycling conditions for riders across the community.

Importantly, our work is not complete. [Guided by our Sustainability Plan](#)—now a part of

UAF's Master Plan—we have many future projects in mind, including several that address water and electricity consumption on campus. The former are especially important as UAF transitions to using water from College Utilities. If the proposed budget cuts are enacted, we will not be able to complete very many of these projects. As a result, the university will lose money, rather than save money.

We know that these are difficult times for Alaska, and we are aware you have a difficult task before you. Nevertheless, we urge you to consider revenue generating options instead of deep cuts to the UA system so that we can continue our efforts to promote sustainability on the UAF campus and in the Fairbanks community. Sometimes, it is necessary to invest money in order to save money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The UAF RISE Board:

Wyatt Hurlbutt, RISE Board Chair

Taylor R. Stinchcomb, Student Representative

Stephan Tangen, Student Representative

Lori Beraha, Student Representative

Elizabeth Hanson, Student Representative

Zoe Marshall, Student Representative

Jordan Wright, Student Representative

Mackenzie Stamey, Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF)
Representative

Jennifer Schell, Faculty Representative

Jason McNeely, Alternate Faculty Representative

Ian Olson, Staff Council Appointee

Ben LaRue, Chancellor's Industry Appointee, Siemens Alaska

Michele Mouton, Director, UAF Office of Sustainability