

From: Cory Graham
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Brad Moran](#); [Teresa Thompson](#)
Subject: HB 233
Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018 8:06:56 PM

Dear Senator MacKinnon and the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in regards to HB 233 and why I believe that it is important not to reduce the Alaska Education Tax Credit.

I enrolled as a graduate student in Fisheries in 2014 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My graduate project was initially funded by the State of Alaska Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of the emergency funding provided to address the statewide collapse of Chinook salmon stocks. However, due to the economic downturn, all funds for my tuition and stipend were eliminated from the State of Alaska budget during my second year in graduate school. This loss of funding created considerable uncertainty in my life and without new funding I would not have been able to complete my degree. Due to my previous excellence as a student and the importance of my graduate research, I was awarded a graduate fellowship by the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC). The funding provided to me by the PCCRC was not only valuable to myself because it allowed me to finish my graduate degree (which in turn led to me getting a permanent Fisheries Biologist position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), but it was also valuable to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game because my research helped pinpoint life stages that are critical for the survival of Chinook salmon.

While this is just one story of why the funding related to the Alaska Education Tax Credit is so important, I am sure that there are countless other stories that demonstrate the value of this tax credit to students, the University of Alaska, and the State of Alaska. Because of the importance of Alaska Education Tax Credit and the charitable donations it encourages, I would like to ask that HB 233 be passed as it came from the House.

I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to read about how the Alaska Education Tax Credit benefited me personally and professionally.

Thanks,
Cory