



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

March 13, 2019

**Department of Labor and
Workforce Development**

Office of the Commissioner

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House Education Committee
Co-Chairs
Rep. Andi Story
Rep. Harriett Drummond
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Story and Drummond,

As Commissioner-designee of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, I look forward to discussing with your committee our goals to strengthen career and technical education in our state, and to connect young Alaskans with job opportunities.

House Bill 67 would add statutory language to the Department's duties to coordinate and monitor state career and technical education programs in cooperation with the Department of Education and Early Development and the University of Alaska.

Identifying this coordination in statute will help to promote career and technical education and leverage existing workforce planning efforts. An example of this coordination is the collaboration between AVTEC and the University of Alaska in pursuing the Domestic Center for Maritime Excellence designation.

Working closely with employers in training and job placement, the Department is naturally equipped to coordinate efforts with our educational partners. The Department administers training funds through STEP, TVEP and numerous federal grant programs.

The Department's Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is the lead state planning entity for workforce development. The Board prioritizes training funds to align with employment needs in our regional economies, and coordinates with the Department of Education and the University of Alaska on implementation of the 2010 Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan – A Call to Action - as well as the 2018 addendum to the plan.

I look forward to discussing the merits of House Bill 67, and request a hearing at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Ledbetter".

Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter
Commissioner-designee