



February 24, 2020

Email: Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Stutes,

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) supports your effort to reauthorize the state's Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) and to amend the program to ensure that dedicated funding goes to workforce training for the seafood industry commensurate with the annual contribution by the seafood workforce to the unemployment insurance fund. Thank you for your interest in this program and improving local training for the Alaska seafood industry.

PSPA is comprised of eight seafood processing companies that purchase fish from harvesters and provide markets from Ketchikan to Unalaska. These companies operate 25 facilities in 15 coastal communities across Alaska and three floating processors to serve remote locations. Annually, the seafood processing sector employs about 26,000 workers in Alaska, from processing line workers to highly skilled positions such as engineers and technicians. Our companies are regularly in need of skilled workers to run and repair complex machinery, to manage the logistics of processing plants, and to respond to changing markets and growing regulatory requirements.

PSPA has been an ongoing supporter of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan, and continues to invest in its implementation through the efforts of Maritime Works and the Alaska Department of Labor. The goals of the plan include developing a responsive workforce that enables the maritime sector to remain a substantial contributor to the state, and increasing the number of Alaskans working in skilled maritime occupations. The seafood processing sector, along with the harvest sector, comprises Alaska's largest direct private employer with nearly 59,000 direct jobs, and is a significant economic driver in the state. Support for the seafood processing sector must include local training opportunities that are attuned to the needs of the seafood industry and career exposure for the next generation in seafood processing.

The state's TVEP fund sees a substantial contribution each year from seafood workers via their required unemployment insurance contributions - approximately \$600,000 annually. Yet TVEP funds spent on in-state training for the seafood processing workforce remains about 10% of the annual contribution (\$60k). This level of funding is insufficient to ensure a sufficient and trained workforce, which ultimately impacts the long-term viability of the processing sector, the economy of fishery-dependent coastal communities, and the state overall. As such, we support any efforts to ensure that seafood worker contributions be dedicated to seafood workforce training. Thank you for your work to amend the Representative Louise Stutes

www.pspafish.net

ANCHORAGE

721 W. 1st Avenue
Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
907 223 1648

JUNEAU

222 Seward Street
Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801
907 586 6366

SEATTLE

1900 W. Emerson Place
Suite 205
Seattle, WA 98119
206 281 1667

WASHINGTON DC

20 F Street NW
Floor 7
Washington, DC 20001
202 431 7220

reauthorization of TVEP this session to accommodate this need and to dedicate the funding contributed by our workforce to support training for our workforce.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information or assist in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Barrows", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Barrows
President, PSPA
chrisb@pspafish.net



4 Nickerson St, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98109

P (206) 726-9900
F (206) 726-1571

www.northpacificseafoods.com

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Louise Stutes
305 Center Avenue Ste. 1
Kodiak AK, 99615

Via email only: Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Stutes,

North Pacific Seafoods, Inc. (NPSI) strongly supports your efforts to amend the reauthorization of the Alaska's Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) to ensure that dedicated funding goes to workforce training for the seafood industry.

NSPI operates several seafood processing plants across the state, employing approximately 1,500 people at the peak season. Our industry faces a chronic shortage of skilled workers to run and repair complex machinery, to manage the logistics of multiple workers and fishermen and to respond to changing markets and growing regulatory requirements.

We understand that the state's TVEP fund sees a substantial contribution each year from seafood workers via their unemployment insurance contributions - approximately \$600,000 per year. Yet, training for our workforce is very minimal in state and the TVEP investment in our industry is about 10% of the annual contribution.

The Alaska Research Consortium (ARC) has recently been assessing workforce needs of the seafood industry. They have proposed a practical and directed statewide training program coordinated from the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center. We support this approach.

We want to clearly express that we have a strong need for skilled workers and that we believe that developing dedicated training for our workforce will support our business and allow us to hire more skilled Alaskans. This ultimately impacts the long-term economy of Alaska's coastal communities and the state overall.

It is only fair and right to ensure that seafood worker contributions be dedicated to seafood workforce training. We support and appreciate your work to amend the reauthorization of TVEP this session to accommodate our need and to dedicate the \$600,000 contributed by our workforce to support training for our employees.

Sincerely,

NORTH PACIFIC SEAFOODS, INC.

Dave Hambleton
President and COO

<i>Alaska Pacific Seafoods</i>	<i>Pederson Point</i>	<i>Sitka Sound Seafoods</i>	<i>Togiak Fisheries</i>	<i>Red Salmon</i>	<i>Inlet Fish Producers</i>
627 Shelikof St	PO Box 99	329 Katlian St	PO Box 30	PO Box 10	PO Box 114
Kodiak, AK 99615	Naknek, AK 99633	Sitka, AK 99835	Togiak, AK 99678	Naknek, AK 99633	Kenai, AK 99611
P (907) 486-3234	P (907) 246-4461	P (907) 747-6662	P (907) 493-5331	P (907) 246-6809	P (907) 283-9275
F (907) 486-5164	F (907) 246-6657	F (907) 747-6268	F (907) 493-5133	F (907) 246-6810	F (907) 283-4097



February 26, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adam Wool
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Wool,

Iḷisaġvik College supports the passage of HB 235, which provides for the reauthorization of the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP). As the academic, career and technical training center for the North Slope, Iḷisaġvik also supports equitable distribution of TVEP funds.

Iḷisaġvik College is an Arctic regional training center and higher education institution that provides quality post-secondary academic, vocational, and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens Iñupiat culture, language, values, and traditions. Industrial Safety courses are being taught in every village on the North Slope and we continue to offer classes in Construction Trades Technology, which includes plumbing, electrical, carpentry, welding, and CDL/Heavy Equipment Operations. Recently we have redesigned our CDL programs increasing our CDL completion rate by 300% and many of our classes offer National Center for Construction Education and Research credit (a national certification), in addition to college credit. Iḷisaġvik received official Tribal College designation in 2005 and is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the same body of which provides accreditation to other higher education institutions in Alaska. Iḷisaġvik is an **independent, public**, non-profit corporation and currently the only Tribal College in Alaska.

The North Slope is the only Borough/census area without a designated UA campus or otherwise State dollars for higher education and is the only academic and workforce institution on the North Slope region. Iḷisaġvik welcomes all who wishes to attend, and as such, is the local college and training center for all who now reside in the region, and beyond via distance education. Per the 2019 TVEP Annual Report Performance Measures, Iḷisaġvik is the:

- Third in the total number of adult participants, of 10 TVEP recipients
- Highest percent employed 1-12 months after exit (81.1%)
- Highest percent employed 1 year after exit (70.6%)
- Highest median wage 7-12 months after exit (\$26,277)
- Highest median wage 1-12 months after exit (\$52,554)

For these top performance measures, Iḷisaġvik receives 5% of the total funding pie. Through current distribution avenues, funding to many regions in Alaska is nearly duplicative with the existence of both a regional training center and the presence of a UA campus. Funding from TVEP is a meaningful avenue support for critical training and workforce preparation and we support discussions about equitable allocations for the North Slope, such as positioning Iḷisaġvik closer to 9%, in line with a regional training center of the College's scope and scale. We look forward to continued conversations and are happy to provide additional information regarding Iḷisaġvik College.

Quyanaq,

Dr. Pearl Brower
President, Iḷisaġvik College

University of Alaska System
Academics, Students & Research
202 Butrovich Building
P.O. Box 755000
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5000



Phone: (907) 450-8019
Fax: (907) 450-8002
www.alaska.edu/research/

February 28, 2020

Representative Adam Wool
Capitol Building, Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Wool:

Thank you for introducing House Bill 235 to reauthorize the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP). The University of Alaska (UA) strongly supports the legislation and the continuation of TVEP's current statutory framework. Doing so will enhance workforce development in Alaska and advance UA's mission as the most comprehensive provider of career and technical education in the state.

The Legislature established TVEP in 2000 drawing from a portion of the Unemployment Insurance receipts collected by the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The program, managed by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, delivers grants to ten statewide and regional training providers for career and technical education. Without reauthorization this important program will sunset at the end of the current fiscal year.

UA manages our TVEP funding through a robust, competitive internal RFP process. This targets funding for high-demand and regional job training statewide. We are Alaska's largest provider of workforce training with a statewide reach that stretches from Ketchikan to Kotzebue, across 16 campuses, as well as targeted rural sites and online training options. Our internal process for using TVEP funds strategically responds to industry-specific workforce needs. TVEP is used as a short-term funding source to initiate or enhance training programs and to upgrade equipment and technology to maintain industry standards. We require proposals demonstrate the ability to garner matching funds and a plan for maintaining the program beyond TVEP funding. UA uses TVEP funding to put Alaskans to work, and our costs per student is one of the most efficient amongst funding recipients.

The University has achieved great accomplishments in workforce development through TVEP and partnerships with stakeholders and industry. These include tripling the number of nurses produced in Alaska, doubling the number of UA engineering graduates, providing dual credit for thousands of high school students, and training Alaskans for jobs in industries such as oil & gas, mining and maritime. UA has also expanded opportunities for students to attain occupational endorsements, certificates, and is connecting apprenticeships and competency-based training to degree programs.

A good example of UA's success meeting industry workforce needs is in the areas of maritime, seafood and fisheries. In 2019, the Alaska Research Consortium surveyed seafood industry employers to identify training needed to develop their workforce. Their survey identified a wide range of skill sets and competencies including Refrigeration, Occupation Safety & Health,

CPR/First Aid, Quality Control, Hazardous Waste and Control Management, Basic Firefighting, Commercial Driver's Licensing and others. UA delivers in all of these subject areas across multiple locations and formats statewide. TVEP has specifically allowed UA to tailor innovative programs for the seafood industry based at the Kodiak Seafood Marine Science Center to train the next generation workforce and allow Alaskans to advance their careers in this important industry. We also collaborate with the Alaska Vocational and Technical Center (AVTEC), a TVEP recipient, to offer additional training in support of seafood processing.

As the Legislature considers reauthorizing TVEP, we strongly encourage you to retain the current framework for the program that is set in statute. The University supports a clean reauthorization of the existing program, recipients and distribution amounts. This will provide stability and allow recipients to continue strategic partnerships to meet Alaska's workforce needs.

The University of Alaska provides 92% of all postsecondary education in Alaska, and we are the most comprehensive provider of workforce training. For twenty years, TVEP has substantially enhanced our workforce development programs in all regions of Alaska. We strongly encourage legislators to extend this program and the important work it allows for in the area of career and technical education.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let our Government Relations staff know if we can answer any question or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Layer, PhD
Vice President for Academics, Students & Research
University of Alaska

cc

Miles Baker, Assoc. VP Government Relations
Teri Cothren, Assoc. VP Workforce Programs

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The United Academics (UNAC) would like to thank Representatives Josephson and Wool for putting forward House bills that would create a seat for a faculty regent on the University of Alaska Board of Regents. UNAC is the largest union at the University of Alaska, representing over 1,100 full-time faculty at UAF, UAA, UAS and Extended Campuses. The Representative Assembly of UNAC, which is composed of 29 elected union members from across the University of Alaska system, has voted unanimously to endorse HB195, introduced by Representative Josephson.

Introducing a faculty regent onto the Board of Regents would follow national trends and indicate a commitment to shared governance at the University of Alaska as mandated by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Faculty have an in-depth understanding of academic programs, teaching and research, and a faculty regent will provide valuable information to the Board of Regents as they steer the university through a decreasing budget. This modification will ensure that decisions are made with a more comprehensive understanding of their impact on students, staff, faculty, and the local community.

A particular aspect of HB195 that we support is the two-year term for the faculty regent. Longer terms would likely interfere with teaching and research assignments of the faculty regent. We also support the requirement for a majority vote for passage of policy as dictated by HB195. Requiring 7 votes out of 12 to pass policy would ensure that major decisions were made with a general consensus. Finally, we would like to suggest that the faculty regent be chosen in rotation from UAF, UAA, UAS and Extended Campuses to ensure balanced representation from the campuses. Ideally, the list of nominated faculty members to be sent to the Governor would be chosen by the Faculty Alliance, which represents faculty from across the University of Alaska system.

Again, we would like to thank the representatives for introducing this bill and the Alaska Legislature for realizing the importance of shared governance as the University of Alaska works to meet the needs of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Members of the UNAC Representative Assembly

Abel Bult-Ito (President, UAF)

Mara Bacsujlaky (Vice President, UAF)

Charla Brown (Vice President, UAS)

Richard McDonald (Vice President,
Extended Campuses)

Sharon Chamard (Vice President, UAA)

Max Kullberg (UAA)

Kate Quick (UAF)

Terry Nelson (UAA)

Anthony Rickard (UAF)

Jody Drew (Kuskokwim Campus, UAF)

Erik Carlson (UAA)

Robert Coker (UAF)

Peter Bieniek (UAF)

Peter Praetorius (Mat-Su campus, UAA)

Gordon Williams (UAF)

Lisa Hoferkamp (UAS)



February 28, 2020

Representative Adam Wool
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Wool:

I am writing in support of the reauthorization of Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) House Bill 235, Thank you for sponsoring the bill

The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) was established in 1981 and has continuously provided workforce development training since that time. TVEP funding is critical to the Alaska Technical Center as well as to other training centers statewide. The funding gives ATC and others the means to maintain training services that align with regional and economic workforce needs. Sustainable and consistent TVEP funds benefit Alaska's postsecondary training centers. We are much more effective in training Alaska's workers in Alaska. Providing quality and relevant training services requires funding resources to build and maintain existing programs.

ATC is an adult vocational/technical school for Alaskans providing training leading to employment in the following areas: Health Care Occupations, Construction Trades, Process Technology and Culinary Arts. ATC also provides various short-term training that meets employer and business partners needs leading to employment. Some of our industry/business partners include the Maniilaq Heath Center, NANA, Teck Alaska with the Red Dog Mine, Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, Drake's Construction, City of Kotzebue, Tuuq Drilling, and others that directly benefit from TVEP funding to ATC.

ATC operates a 40-bed dormitory for adult learners. It is utilized to house both short-term and long-term students participating in training programs. Our students predominately reside in the Northwest Arctic Borough. A 2010 McDowell Report commissioned by the University of

Alaska, Fairbanks and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District document the workforce needs and preferences of the borough's major employers. It also addresses the need to determine the implications of regional employers for effective career pathways approach to local education and training.

I unequivocally support reauthorization of TVEP and appreciate your support.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Edenshaw, Director
Alaska Technical Center

CC: Senator Donny Olson (Sen.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative John Lincoln (Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov)