



## Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

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To: The Honorable Representative Adam Wool

**RE: HB100 – Extend Workforce Investment Board Allocations**

Dear Representative Wool,

The Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) supports the reauthorization of TVEP. The Regional Training Center (RTC) network, supported by TVEP funding, provides autonomy and flexibility to meet the unique needs of each region's priority industries. The RTC's provide workforce development training otherwise needing to occur out of region, and at a much greater expense to the State.

Healthcare training is the top priority in the Nome Census Area. Norton Sound Health Corporation, our largest regional employer, partners with NACTEC to deliver dual credit high school courses: *Introduction to Health Field* and *Emergency Trauma Technician* training. TVEP funding supports industry certification in our Healthcare strand, through advanced technical training, which transitions our students immediately into employment as Certified Nurse Aides, Village Health Aides, and in the near future Personal Care Attendants.

In addition to Healthcare needs, Nome is poised with several large projects addressing U.S. national interests. In December Congress authorized a \$379M appropriation for the construction of an Arctic deep draft port in Nome. In January the U.S. government's Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Committee designated Graphite Creek as a high-priority infrastructure project. Located 40 miles from Nome, this is the highest grade and largest known large flake graphite deposit in the U.S., with electric vehicle applications and lithium-ion batteries of all types. A vitally important workforce development training program supporting both of these projects is Driver Education training. NACTEC is the only provider of adult and high school Driver Education training in the Nome Census Area, and also a DMV-approved third-party road test examiner in Nome.

As our State budget has restricted, shedding workers and training dollars alike, it becomes critically important to make earlier outreach to develop a technically skilled workforce. NACTEC supports TVEP reauthorization efforts and its expansive reach across our large state to train workforces locally, to best meet local needs.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Walrath, Ph.D.  
Director, Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

Cc: Representative Neal Foster  
Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter