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March 17, 2021

Dear Representative Wool;

On half of the University of Alaska Alumni Association Advocacy Committee, we would like to express our support for the passage of HB 100, An Act relating to allocations of funding for the Alaska Workforce Investment Board.

This bill continues for another three years the Technical Vocation Education Program (TVEP) which has greatly benefited the people of Alaska since its inception in 2000. The University system has used these funds in the past to support the programs Alaskans need to keep working.

The University of Alaska system is a major recipient of past TVEP funds because of their crucial role in training Alaska's workforce and history of efficient use of the funding. Additionally, the university supports Alaskans with the development of workforce plans for key industries like maritime and healthcare. It does this through cooperation across all three universities and community campuses around the state.

TVEP funds have been used to greatly expand the number of nurses and other medical workers trained in Alaska; grow the number of engineers graduating from the UA system; assist hundreds of secondary students to receive dual credit in Tech Prep programs; train hundreds of students to work in construction, oil, gas, and mining jobs; and expand the opportunities for students to obtain occupational endorsements, and certifications.

HB 100 will continue the remarkably successful use of the Unemployment Insurance Trust for TVEP, supporting workforce development across the state to keep Alaskans on the job and off unemployment. As alumni, we are proud to support this program and appreciate your work to make it possible.

Thank you for shepherding this vital piece of legislation through the process to ensure the University can continue to provide the support and programs to keep Alaskans working in high-wage/high-demand jobs through TVEP.

University of Alaska Alumni Association Legislative Advocacy Committee

