



March 28, 2012

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I wish to provide to comment on the State Operating Budget being considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

My name is John Duffy, and I have been involved with community planning, project development and financing from many years, primarily during the time I served as Director of Planning and Borough Manager for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. I am presently participating in the Resilience and Adaptation Program at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Today, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the University's request for funding in amount of \$300,000 for the Resilience and Adaptation Program as requested by University of Alaska Board of Regents. The funding is included in House version of the state operating budget, House Bill No. 284.

The Resilience and Adaptation curriculum provides superior practical, academic, and interdisciplinary training to Alaskans. This unique effort equips Alaskans from throughout the state, those who are familiar with our various communities and their development needs, with the necessary tools to assist in the state's development so that benefits to Alaskans are maximized. Rather than importing scientists and consultants from outside who are unfamiliar with Alaska's special setting and needs, must be trained by us Alaskans, are then paid and then leave, I

believe it is far better to develop our own expertise as being done through the Resilience and Adaptation coursework. Alaskans are then better able to take charge of their own destiny as well as build the professional and scientific foundation to advise other arctic nations and communities.

My own area of interest is enhancing innovation by local governments. When local governments seek and implement innovative practices the results are more efficient and effective services and most importantly real savings to local taxpayers. The University's Resilience and Adaptation Program is providing me with the cutting edge academic and practical guidance that is allowing me to develop best practices that may be used by Alaska's many local governments to meet the challenge of doing more with less. Other students within the Resilience and Adaptation program are pursuing different specialties but all share the common denominator of identifying ways of providing direct benefits to Alaska.

In closing, I appreciate the hard work this committee is doing and recognize the difficult decisions that you have to make. As you make these tough choices, please keep in mind that the funding provided to the University's Resilience and Adaptation program is an investment in Alaskans who share your goals of keeping Alaska a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



John Duffy

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