



YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION, U. S. A.
1270 CHASTAIN ROAD • KENNESAW, GA 30144

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chairman, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
120 4th Street
Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 217 Employer Contribution to Workforce Development & STEP Funding

Dear Chairman Bjorkman,

Alaska's greatest resource is its people, yet the "skills gap" continues to limit industrial and technical growth across the state. Senate Bill 217 marks a meaningful shift in how Alaska funds workforce development programs. It offers a practical approach that supports both employers and employees.

Today's economy demands consistent, high-quality training. Senate Bill 217 strengthens the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) by providing the stability and flexibility to meet current workforce needs. This approach ensures Alaskans are the first in line for high-paying, high-demand jobs.

Some of the key provisions of this bill:

- Substantial funding growth: Workforce training funding will increase from \$22 million in 2027 to \$52 million by 2032, giving industries the certainty necessary to plan for the future.
- Targeted industry grants: This bill directs resources to technical schools and industry-led programs, helping address the shortage of skilled labor in sectors such as marine services.
- Economic retention: A stronger STEP program reduces reliance on out-of-state and seasonal workers, keeping more payroll dollars in Alaska to support local communities.

Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A. remains committed to expanding our workforce development efforts in Alaska. That commitment depends on a strong, forward-looking state strategy. Alaskan businesses need a system that prioritizes proactive training, and Senate Bill 217 delivers that system.

I respectfully request you support Senate Bill 217. Thank you for your leadership on this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Potts", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Director, External Affairs
Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A.