



**Plumbers & Pipefitters U.A. Local Union 262  
Journeyman and Apprenticeship Training  
Committee**

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April 28, 2026

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair  
Senator Donald Olson, Co-Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 532  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267 - Employer Contributions for Workforce Training Programs**

Dear Senator Hoffman, Senator Olson, Senator Stedman, and Members of the Senator Finance Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267. This legislation represents a practical and timely investment in Alaska's workforce training system.

As a workforce training provider, Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 262 JATC has relied on State Training and Employment Program (STEP) grant funding to assist in providing training for our apprenticeship program, training Alaskans in high-demand fields and connecting job seekers to employment, along with creating a path to solid middle-class life and a dignified career with healthcare and pension. The impact of this program on our participants and the broader community has been substantial. STEP dollars go directly into training Alaskans for real jobs that employers need filled now.

Demand for workforce training across the state continues to exceed available funding. The Alaska Workforce Investment Board has seen nearly double the amount of STEP requests compared to available grant funds. At the same time, training costs have increased, making existing resources stretch further each year. The current funding structure simply does not meet statewide demand.

SB 217 and HB 267 strengthen the long-term sustainability of workforce training by increasing available STEP funding when the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is solvent. This approach supports businesses, reduces future unemployment claims, and helps more Alaskans gain the skills needed to fill high-demand jobs, including positions currently filled by nonresident workers.

This legislation is a high-return investment in Alaska's workforce and economy. We respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Keith Koruna  
Training Coordinator  
Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 262 JATC