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April 29, 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 Senate Finance Committee,

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267. These important pieces of legislation represent timely and strategic investments in Alaska's workforce training system, directly benefiting organizations like ours that are committed to preparing Alaskans for meaningful, long-term careers.

As an Alaska-based employer and workforce development partner, BBNC relies on the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) to support high-impact training and upskilling opportunities for our shareholders, descendants, and regional residents. STEP funding enables us to increase access to industry-recognized training, support occupational endorsements, enhance pre-employment preparation, and equip job seekers with the skills required to enter high-demand fields across Alaska and within the BBNC family of companies. These investments have a measurable impact, not only for individual trainees but also for our regional economy and labor force.

Demand for workforce training continues to grow. As noted by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, STEP requests have nearly doubled compared to available funds, all while training costs continue to rise. This imbalance limits our ability to expand training capacity at a time when employers across the state, including BBNC, face increasing workforce shortages in critical occupations.

SB 217 and HB 267 strengthen the long-term sustainability of STEP by increasing available funding when the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is solvent. This smart, balanced approach supports employers, reduces future unemployment claims, and expands Alaska's workforce pipeline, helping more Alaskans gain the skills needed to fill high-demand jobs that are too often filled by nonresident workers.

Expanding STEP is a high-return investment that aligns with BBNC's mission to enrich the lives of our shareholders through employment, training, and economic opportunities. We respectfully urge your support for SB 217 and HB 267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Casey Sifsof".

Casey Sifsof

Vice President, Shareholder Development