

Mining and Petroleum Training Service
162 College Rd • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 262-0231

April 27, 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,

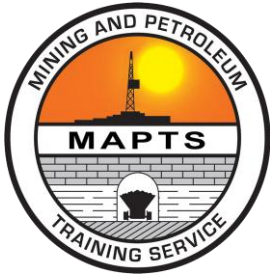
On behalf of MAPTS (Mining and Petroleum Training Service), we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267. This legislation represents a practical and timely investment in Alaska's workforce training system, one that directly benefits the industries and workers who are the backbone of Alaska's economy.

As a workforce training provider serving Alaska's mining and petroleum industries, MAPTS has relied on State Training and Employment Program (STEP) grant funding to provide industry-specific training, develop skilled workers for high-demand careers, and connect Alaskans with better-paying jobs that support our vital natural resource industries. STEP dollars go directly into training Alaskans for real jobs that employers need filled now. Alaskans benefit immensely from STEP funds—not only through personal advancement into better-paying positions, but through the broader strengthening of Alaska's economy.

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 strengthens 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

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high-demand jobs—including positions in mining operations, oil and gas extraction, and related skilled trades that are currently filled by nonresident workers. Keeping these jobs and the economic benefits they generate within Alaska is a priority MAPTS shares with the Legislature.

This legislation is a high-return investment in Alaska's workforce and economy. MAPTS proudly supports SB 217, and we respectfully urge your support. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how STEP funding has impacted our training programs and the Alaskans we serve.

Sincerely,

Shirley McCaa

Program Manager

MAPTS (Mining and Petroleum Training Service)

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