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February 17, 2024

Honorable Representative Frank Tomaszewski
State Capital Building, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Frank Tomaszewski:

The University of Alaska (UA) has reviewed House Bill 120 (“Version A”) and supports your efforts to allow both full-time and part-time nonresident postsecondary students to purchase hunting, fishing and trapping licenses at resident cost.

President Pitney, over the last 12 months, has conferred with the Governor and his team about what can be done to help boost the working age population in Alaska. There is a good-faith belief that the UA can be a center-piece to that conversation. As you’ve heard in the UA House Finance Subcommittee, enrollment through the UA system is up, despite national trends showing declines in other universities throughout the lower 48.

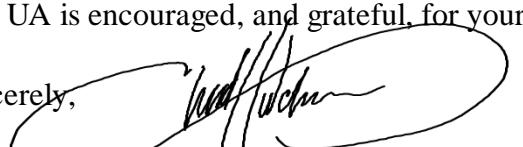
We want to bolster those numbers even more...and HB120, should it pass, may be helpful.

The “student experience” is very important to the UA. HB120 is a “step in the right direction” and helps students enjoy the “Alaska experience” that we are all privileged to have. Many of our students are just starting out in life. To the extent the state can keep costs low, all the better.

The more opportunities students have to partake in some of the outdoor activities that Alaska offers, the higher likelihood that many of those students will stay, work, and enhance our economy. That’s a “win/win.”

The UA is encouraged, and grateful, for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,


Chad Hutchison – University of Alaska State Director

cc

Pat Pitney, UA President

Michelle Rizk, VP University Relations