

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

President

Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



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February 14, 2018

The Honorable Chris Tuck
Alaska State Capitol Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 233, Education Tax Credit Extension

Dear Representative Tuck,

The University of Alaska strongly endorses continuation of the Alaska Education Tax Credit, which sunsets at the end of 2018. The Alaska Education Tax Credit has benefitted the university in a myriad of ways including attracting Alaskans to the university through funded scholarships and supporting critical industries through world class research programs. Equally as important, it directly influences the decision of many Alaska businesses to support the university and has generated more than \$12.2 million in private contributions over the past several years. The tax credit program directly impacts many of our programs, including:

- Workforce Development
- Centers and Institutes
- Scholarships
- Facilities
- Endowments
- Fellowships/Internships
- Chairs/Professorships

This program is a critical component as the university manages its way through these challenging times and works to meet the needs of the state and develop the workforce of tomorrow. By endorsing and extending the program, you support the creation of more productive relationships between the university and partners in the private sector.

The tax credit program has allowed the university to effectively collaborate with many industries critical to the state's economy including mining, seafood, tourism and banking. For example, the

participation of Alaska's mining companies bolsters our research and scholarships, and helps create jobs for Alaska's growing mining industry.

Likewise, the seafood industry has contributed support to student fellowships and to fund sustainable oceans and fisheries research. These programs are critical to attracting more college-going young adults from our high schools and to increase our enrollment – achievements we can all agree are extremely important.

I ask for your timely consideration of HB 233 and ask you to support the extension of this very impactful program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James R. Johnsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Johnsen