



January 29, 2018

Senator Mia Costello  
State of Alaska  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Costello,

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, "Proclaiming 2019 to be the Alaska Year of Innovation," introduced by Senator Mia Costello, is an essential piece of legislation that promotes the idea of innovation and how it can enhance the economy. Innovation is evolving expeditiously and is constantly improving our quality of life. From technological advances, to generating new concepts and processes, innovation starts with the smallest of ideas.

Proclaiming a year of innovation inspires sectors of any economy to invent, create, and to do more with less. In an economic recession, sparking innovation is crucial to creating a sustainable environment. By creating new, contemporary solutions to problems in a community, growth and success can occur and flourish, resulting in long-term development. Collaboration between the public and private sectors of the economy creates an innovation community that is fundamental to the sustainability of any state.

I strongly urge the passage of this resolution, "Proclaiming 2019 to be the Alaska Year of Innovation," without hesitation as it will improve the lives of all Alaskans at every level of the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Robert B. Tucker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Robert' being more prominent.

Robert B. Tucker  
CEO  
Innovation Resource Consulting Group  
Santa Barbara, California  
United States of America



## Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

**2016 - 2017  
PNWER Executive  
Committee\***

January 30, 2018

Dan Ashton, MLA  
British Columbia  
President

Sen. Arnie Roblan  
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Rep. Mike Cuffe  
Montana  
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Colin Smith  
APEGBC  
Private Sector Co-Chair

Dan Kirschner  
Northwest Gas  
Association  
Private Sector Co-Chair

\*Partial listing

The Honorable Mia Costello  
Senator  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 504  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello,

On behalf of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), I offer PNWER's strong support for "Proclaiming 2019 to be the Alaska Year of Innovation" legislation introduced in the Alaska State Senate (Senate Concurrent Resolution 10).

This proclamation will designate 2019 as the Year of Innovation in Alaska. PNWER believes the competitive landscape of the global economy, coupled with worldwide environmental challenges, is creating unprecedented demand for scientific discovery and application. The 2019 Year of Innovation will be an opportunity to address many challenges our region faces. The PNWER Innovation, Workforce, Economic Development working groups and the University Presidents' Roundtable have all identified innovation as a critical driver for economic development.

The Pacific Northwest region must channel the strengths of its many separate resources into a collaborative, comprehensive effort that maximizes the economic benefits of regional innovation. The Year of Innovation will foster regional collaboration, highlight innovation and cultivate entrepreneurship in the state. PNWER is supportive of the legislation and encourages the Alaska Legislature to proclaim 2019 as the Year of Innovation in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Morrison  
Chief Executive Officer  
PNWER



Larry D. Hinzman  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
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## Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

P.O. Box 757270, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7270

4 February 2018

Senator Mia Costello  
State Capitol, Rm 504  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Costello:

Thank you for your efforts in sponsoring Concurrent Resolution 10 proclaiming 2019 to be the Alaska Year of Innovation. I am the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and I strongly encourage our legislature to support this resolution.

It has often been repeated that we cannot cut our way out of this down economy. We need innovation to build a stronger, more diversified, and sustainable economy. Innovation is how we can keep our best and brightest young minds in Alaska. Innovation must be a centerpiece of Alaska's future economy.

To get there, we must cultivate innovation. Many organizations around Alaska are already doing this, but proclaiming 2019 as the Year of Innovation brings additional attention and awareness of this essential path forward. As Vice Chancellor for Research, one of my duties is to oversee the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization (OIPC). OIPC takes university research, finds ways to attract private sector interest, and then works to license or sell the innovations. OIPC fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurialism across our state. We welcome you to visit anytime to view the projects and programs we are promoting to help diversify and strengthen Alaska's economy.

We encourage Alaskans to support and strive to implement this resolution. We too will look for ways to collaborate with the legislature to support innovation and entrepreneurialism in Alaska. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like us to provide any assistance in these efforts.

We hope all our legislators will acknowledge the importance of aggressively moving forward in promoting a prosperous economy. Concurrent Resolution 10 is one important step in that direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. D. Hinzman', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

Larry D. Hinzman  
Vice Chancellor for Research

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*America's Arctic University*

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