



February 27, 2024

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Vivlamore Companies
1.30.2024

RE: Support for re-authorizing the Technical Vocational Education Program

Dear members of the 33rd Alaska Legislature,

Please reauthorize the Technical Vocational Education Program, which is preparing thousands of people to fill much-needed jobs in Alaska. We are the largest organization representing business interests in Alaska's Interior, and workforce development is one of our top priorities. The need for a skilled workforce in our state is growing. In the Interior alone, 500 new jobs are predicted to be created in 2024. Many of these jobs require special skills, and we see a need for continued investment in developing our workforce to meet industry needs.

TVEP is one of those programs that helps people by providing them with skills that are in demand. It helps businesses and communities by enhancing the quality of the workforce. This is a win-win, which is why we support reauthorizing the TVEP program.

The Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center is one of the beneficiaries of TVEP funding and is a major gateway to becoming a mechanic, welder, carpenter, plumber or electrician. Jobs in transportation are going to be especially plentiful in our region during the coming year, and we note that multiple TVEP grantees are investing in driver education. There is also growing need in our region for healthcare workers. Thanks to TVEP, significant investment is being made to train people as healthcare providers.

In closing, we strongly support efforts to develop, attract and retain workers to meet economic and social needs of Interior Alaska. Our state is currently full of opportunity, and we must continue forging pathways so that our residents may upskill and qualify for good-paying jobs.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Johnson
President & CEO


Kelly Ward
Board Chair