

From: Elizabeth Figus
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Cc: [Juli Lucky](#); [Pete Ecklund](#); [Patricia Walker](#); [Peter Fellman](#); [Katrina Matheny](#); [Konrad Jackson](#); [Jonathan King](#); [Denise Liccioli](#); [Weston Eiler \(weiler@alaska.edu\)](#); [Teresa Thompson](#); [Brad Moran](#); [stephanie.madsen@alaska.edu](#)
Subject: Please do NOT reduce the AK Education Tax Credit
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 8:25:07 AM

Dear Senator MacKinnon and Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Figus. I am a recent graduate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Fisheries PhD program, and current staff member at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in Anchorage.

While enrolled at UAF, I was fortunate enough to receive a Graduate Student Fellowship from the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC: <https://www.pccrc.org/>). The PCCRC Fellowship made it possible for me to complete my PhD in a timely fashion without increasing my student debt. Without the PCCRC Fellowship, I likely would have had to delay my degree completion by years, or may not have been able to finish at all, due to financial constraints.

Thanks to the PCCRC Graduate Student Fellowship, I had the support necessary to complete the UAF Fisheries PhD program and jump straight into the Alaskan job market. I am happy to say that I am now employed in a full-time, salaried position in Anchorage. I reside in Senator Von Imhof's district, and I plan to work in this great state for the rest of my life.

I am an example of the benefits the State of Alaska receives from the Education Tax Credit system. Please do not take away this opportunity for future students through a reduction of the Education Tax Credit.

Any action to reduce the percentage of a portion of the Alaska Education Tax Credit from 100% to 50% would have devastating effects on the philanthropic support CFOS receives for the PCCRC and would hugely affect UA as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Figus
Senate District L
House District 24