

From: Kaitlyn Manishin
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
Subject: tthompson2@alaska.edu, sbmoran@alaska.edu, Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov, Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov, Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov, Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov, Senator.Natasha.vonImhof@akleg.gov, Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov
Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018 11:03:25 AM

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

My name is Kaitlyn Manishin, I am a Master's student in fisheries at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am writing to support the extension the Alaska Education Tax Credit (ETC) as passed by the House (HB 233).

I urge the Senate Finance Committee to reconsider the changes proposed in the substitute bill introduced this week. While a reduction in the annual credit cap may impact some contributions at the high end, removing the extra 50% inducement in the \$100,000 to \$300,000 tier could significantly diminish the incentive for private investment in Alaska's future.

The State of Alaska has greatly benefited from the Education Tax Credit through private sector funding for understanding and developing the state's fisheries resources. For example, the Pollock Conservation Cooperative has provided very generous funding for over a decade to understand and develop not only pollock fisheries, but others as well. I have been funded by the Pollock Conservation Cooperative since June of 2016 to study potential causes of decline in western Alaskan Chinook salmon, one of the state's most important fish species which have undergone drastic reductions in abundance, with severe cultural and economic ramifications. Through **Pollock Conservation Cooperative** support, I have been able to focus on my research while in graduate school without having to take time to support myself through other means. This support has allowed me to maintain a 4.0 GPA, while advancing my research and presenting at numerous professional conferences. If it were not for this financial support I would be partaking in other activities to fund my graduate education and would not have been as successful and productive as a graduate student. Without support from the Pollock Conservation Cooperative through the Education Tax Credit, this valuable research, that ultimately leads to the next generation of fisheries scientists in the State of Alaska, would not have been possible.

In summary, the Education Tax Credit is performing as intended, encouraging private sector investment in education and generating tremendous long-term economic benefit for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Manishin

Masters' Candidate
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks