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February 7, 2014

**Teck** 

Governor Sean Parnell Alaska State Capitol Building Third Floor PO Box 110001 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

Teck Alaska, Incorporated (Teck) is pleased to provide this letter of support for funding for Alaska Technical Center (ATC). We encourage the approval of the Reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP), House Bill 278/Senate Bill 139. It is important to rural Alaska, and to Teck as a company, that ATC funding be approved; we have a need for trained workers in the career areas that are supported by programs at ATC.

As a major industry partner of ATC, we are proud to support the center. We have hired interns and graduates from the school, provided technical assistance in program development, hosted students and staff at the Red Dog mine, and made significant financial contributions to ATC. As a major rural Alaska employer, it is of great benefit to us to have a post-secondary training center in the region where we operate.

TVEP funding supports Alaska workers, and provides a core financial foundation to rural training centers that positions them to form effective partnerships with agencies and businesses. Please support the passage of HB 278/SB 139.

Sincerely,

Bob Chesham

Maintenance Superintendent

CC:

Cheryl Edenshaw, Director, ATC (cedenshaw@nwarctic.org)

Senator Donny Olson, District T (Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)

Representative Benjamin Nageak, District T (Representative Benjamin Nageak@akleg.gov)

Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Department of Labor (<u>Dianne.blumer@alaska.gov</u>)

Nancy Dahlstrom, Department of Labor (Nancy.dahlstrom@alaska.gov)