



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 4, 2014

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Alaska Miners Association support of Reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Plan

Dear Legislators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Plan (TVEP).

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

Attached is a resolution in support of reauthorizing TVEP created and approved by AMA's Human Resources and Workforce Development Committee. This committee has been focused on policies and practices of employment and development of the workforce for mining exploration and operations. I endorse this resolution wholeheartedly.

Thank you for your service to our State and for your support to create Alaskan jobs.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director

Cover Letter for a Resolution of Support for Reauthorizing TVEP

To: Alaska State Legislature

From: The Alaska Miners Association HR & Workforce Development Committee

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is an industry consortium that supports all mining entities in the state. The Human Resources Committee is focused on the policies and practices of employment and the development of the workforce for mining exploration and operations. The AMA HR committee has been an advocate of career and technical education and is focused on preparing our Alaskan students for successful and economic careers. The AMA is supporting the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Plan (TVEP) per the attached resolution.

The TVEP has been a critical funding mechanism for those programs bridging from secondary to post-secondary education, in a pathway to good jobs for Alaskans in many areas of the state as well as providing upgrade in skills instruction to Alaskan residents. The University of Alaska and the regional training centers have been major players in utilizing the funds to train Alaskans with job and employability skills to fit both the local and state-wide economies. The Regional Training Centers and the University with its statewide campuses are prime locations for mining employment preparation with the industry's spread across Alaska's geography.

TVEP allows for both training programs and capacity building for the providers to help maintain an educational infrastructure that is accessible in many regionally as well as in the population hubs. The program not only needs to be reauthorized but should be funded to allow expansion of that reach to areas where access is still a problem. The UA and the regional training centers are currently stretched and need to be able to deliver training across distances through both technology and direct instruction. The TVEP is a major resource for those institutions, all of which have delivered well for their regions.

The Alaska Miners Association would like to reiterate our continuing advocacy of the TVEP as an integral part of the state's education plan. We strongly support the UA and the regional training centers in their efforts to provide training as a critical piece of workforce development. We hope to work to provide insights to the Legislature from the Business / Industry sectors as well as to continue the dialogue of employers, educators, parents and communities.

Chairs: Josie Hickel & Meg Day

Alaska Miners Association HR Committee



Alaska Miners Association

Resolution 2013-1

A Resolution in Support of Reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program Fund

WHEREAS, current and future workforce needs require continued education and training to stay competitive; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature established the Technical Vocational Education Fund to provide grants to technical and vocational education entities to provide industry specific training, on-the-job training and classroom job linked training; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska and the regional training centers have been recipients of Technical Vocational Education Program funding and utilize the funds to deliver hundreds of education and training programs to more than 4000 students throughout the state of Alaska resulting in graduates for Alaska's jobs; and

WHEREAS, the TVEP investments are aligned with priority industries established by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board; and

WHEREAS, the UA workforce development priorities include recognition of economic and community development, career pathways and high demand jobs as endorsed by University of Alaska Statewide Academic Council; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska partners with employers and industry and other providers to offer education and training programs that meet industry and occupational needs throughout the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Vocational Education Program funding is due to sunset in June 2014;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Miners Association urges the Legislature and the Governor to support the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Miners Association encourages the Legislature and the Governor to support current Technical Vocational Education Fund allocations to the University of Alaska and the regional training centers in the state.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Alaska Miners Association HR Committee this 18th day of December, 2013.


Josie Hickel
AMA HR/WFD Committee
Co-Chair


Meg Day
AMA HR/WFD Committee
Co-chair