

Margo Klass  
Box 83657  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708  
907-451-9119

March 31, 2014

Dear Senator Kelly,

I'm writing in support of continuing the work of BAKLAP (Boreal Alaska – Learning, Adaptation, Production) with completion funding via a capital budget appropriation.

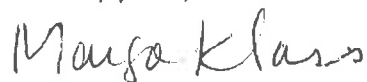
From my perspective as part of the K-20 STEAM Education team, the results of BAKLAP 1 are significant, tangible, and successful:

- We have worked with over 850 K-12 students and 40 K-12 teachers so that STEAM education as it relates to resource management, research, and living in Interior Alaska has an active, hands-on role in the school curriculum.
- We have developed customized lesson plans, blended learning platforms, entrepreneurial activities, professional development courses, and numerous tree growth experiments.
- BAKLAP's 'service learning' model, which places university undergraduate and graduate students in K-12 classrooms, has doubled the number of students BAKLAP can reach.

My personal connection to the work of BAKLAP involves arts education. I have collaborated with BAKLAP's teacher development programs, the STEAM Institute, and Boreal House Art & Science Center in creating ways in which the goals of BAKLAP are made visible through the arts. The "A" in STEAM not only gives students, teachers, and community members a way to embody the science and learning in tangible form, it also provides a vehicle to allow others to see and learn from the experience. In 2015 we will mount a major community based exhibition in Pioneer Park's Bear Gallery, successor to the highly successful but smaller exhibit, "Celebrating OneTree" in 2010. We have every expectation that this event will literally exhibit the huge step forward in public awareness and knowledge of issues surrounding long-term sustainable stewardship and will offer another means of assessment of learning outcomes with the STEAM approach to education.

This is a time of significant financial constraints, to be sure, so appropriations have to be made wisely. I believe the completion funding of BAKLAP 2 would be an appropriation that is highly cost effective, with results that will contribute significantly to natural resource management and education.

Sincerely yours,



Margo Klass  
BAKLAP, STEAM K-20 Education Team