

March 29, 2014

Senator Pete Kelly, District B  
State Capitol Room 516  
Juneau AK, 99801

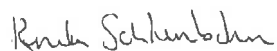
Dear Senator Kelly,

I am a teacher of over twenty years in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I am writing on behalf of BAKLAP/One Tree (Boreal Alaska: Learning, Adaptation, Production). Fortunately, I have had three years of experiences with the OneTree program and I feel that funding this only helps me do my job better.

As an educator, I believe in teaching our children about their place. Alaskans are proud of where we live and if I can teach my second and third graders about the boreal forest in a meaningful way, then I do this. OneTree has added depth to my teaching in these ways. My first year, we calculated when a birch tree went to sleep for the winter by performing a scientific study called "bud burst". It was fascinating to for the children to understand just what was happening inside the tree to prepare for the winter. My second year, many children wanted to test germination rates of birch seeds. We had four different seeds from four different mother trees and we took data and grew trees. We made this a class science fair project, won our school's science fair and won a special award at the district fair. This year, we are even more involved. We have started a two year study on determining if birch tree siblings share resources to help each other grow. This experiment is also being replicated at Tanana Middle School and UAF. Our data are showing that similar results. Not only that, but our project received the Doug Schamel Award, the highest award at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District *Interior Alaska Science Fair 2014* on May 29.

Our students are truly doing great science!

Sincerely,



Ronda Schlumbohm  
Salcha Elementary  
8530 Richardson Hwy  
Salcha, AK 99714  
907-488-3267