

March 28, 2014

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

Dear Senator Kelly,

I know the Senate is working on the capital budget and I urge you to please continue funding for BAKLAP (Boreal Alaska: Learning, Adaptation, Production) and its K-20 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Education component. I realize that this is a tough year with significant financial constraints, but I can't say enough about how wonderful these projects are and what a valuable asset they are to our community and a fantastic opportunity for our students.

I have personally been involved in the K-20 STEAM program through the One Tree project for a few years. My students have had hands-on experience with the boreal forest that surrounds them through a variety of activities. Through these activities they have come to understand that the local environment plays an important part in their lives. They have also seen how their local forest is related to the circumpolar region and climate change. Through art, writing, craft and scientific inquiry, my students have gained an appreciation for their local habitat, and will hopefully go on to become responsible stewards with regard to its sustainability.

I look forward to bringing this program into my classroom year after year. My students look forward to these lessons as well. I thank you for your efforts and hope that you will continue to fund this program. It is well worth the effort!

Sincerely,



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