



March 13, 2013

Brenda Shelden AT, PT  
President  
Alaska Athletic Trainers Association  
PO Box 8272710  
Wasilla, AK 99687-2710

Dear Brenda,

I would like to extend the support of the Northwest Athletic Trainers' Association (NWATA) for the legislative efforts currently under way in the state of Alaska. As the President of the NWATA we are encouraged by the efforts of your members to take this important step in public protection through the regulation of the practice of Athletic Training. The NWATA is made up of Athletic Trainers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. All of the members of our association (with the exception of Alaska) are currently state regulated health care professionals at the level of licensure.

We applaud and support you and your colleagues in Alaska and look forward to having your state as the 49<sup>th</sup> state that regulated this health care profession. We have made a significant amount of progress in the past 5 – 10 years on furthering the importance of Youth Sports Safety throughout the US. Your recently passed concussion legislation was evidence of that movement.

The language that you have proposed in HB 160 is similar to that used in many states regulating the profession. Because all of the eligible candidates will be Certified through a national process, by the Board of Certification (BOC), you can be confident that the Athletic Trainers regulated in Alaska will be held to the highest level of professional standards and competency.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Richardson PhD, ATC/L  
President, NWATA District 10