

April 1, 2013



Senator Kevin Meyer – Co-chair Senate Finance Committee
Senator Pete Kelly – Co-chair Senate Finance Committee
Senator Anna Fairclough- Vice-Chair Senate Finance Committee
Senator Click Bishop – Fairbanks member Senate Finance Committee
Senator Mike Dunleavy – Matsu member Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

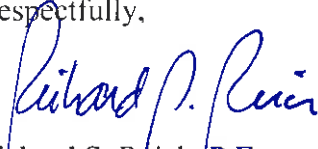
The purpose of this letter is to request your support to address the critical needs for the engineers and engineering professionals in the State of Alaska. Specifically, I request your support to help provide the supplemental funding needed to complete the engineering facilities at both the UAA and UAF campuses.

I am a lifelong Alaska, born and raised in Barrow, Alaska. I went to high school in Fairbanks and later received my Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from UAF. My wife and I eventually moved to Anchorage for career advancement opportunities and I later earned my Masters in Business Administration from UAA. I am a licensed civil engineering in Alaska and all of my 30+ years of experience have been through the development of major capital and infrastructure projects in Alaska. I am proud to state that I am a "homegrown" engineer and I attribute my professional career development to both my UA college education and participating in exciting and meaningful projects that brought benefits to Alaska communities.

As a long standing member and current Chairman of the UAA School of Engineering Advisory Board, I know it is our duty to make sure the University of Alaska understands the demands of our professional industry and that we also take the necessary steps to support and advocate for the essential programs, faulty and facilities at the University. Through the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders across the State working together last year, we were able to convince our legislative body to provide funding needed for the engineering facilities at both UAA and UAF. While this was a tremendous success, only half the required funding was provided and we now need to get the job done and secure funding to complete the projects that have been started at both UAA and UAF.

I urge you to continue to support the growth of the engineering programs and facilities at both UAA and UAF in order to meet the demands of our professional industry. We not only need more "homegrown" engineers like myself, but more engineers that are produced through our state's educational institutions. As a resource development state, we need to make sure that the sharpest and most astute minds are cultivated to plan, design, build, operate and maintain the critical infrastructure for our state and our nation.

Respectfully,



Richard S. Reich, P.E.
General Manager