

December 20, 2012

To whom it concerns:

I write to express my continuing support for the Northern Susitna Institute. As the General Manager of Twister Creek Restaurant/Denali Brewing and the father of three girls I am a proud supporter. Two of my girls aged seven and ten attend Talkeetna Build a Plane (TBAP), for us this experience is the highest form of education possible. They receive hands on practical life experiences that will continue to shape them for many years to come. It is often stated that all of Alaska's best talent leaves the state. It is only by training, educating, and employing our youth in relevant fields that we can hope to keep them here. Last year seven students from TBAP were employed at local air taxis. In my prior support letter I had stated that it is my hope that one day my daughter will also have this opportunity. Through our continued participation in TBAP my eldest daughter has been offered the opportunity to intern at a local flight school in exchange for flight lessons. This is just one example of NSI becoming a catalyst for community partnerships and development.

Without a permanent home NSI's ability to continue to grow and contributed to our community will be diminished. In the past year, the NSI building has been a place that my family and I have gone to to vaccinate our children, attend multiple Folk School classes, celebrate the wedding of our dear friends, remember and support the lives of community members no longer with us. The value of these examples cannot be measured in a profit and loss statement, it requires a core belief that if we invest in our community we will not have to pay twice as much later. Our community believes in NSI. Denali Brewing's founding and participation in the Hudson Memorial Fly-in and the Talkeetna Brewfest raised close to \$10,000 for NSI in 2012. We look forward to building on these events and seeing the benefit that they bring. We are but just one group of individuals that have done this. Example after example can be found of folks volunteering their time and giving their hard earned dollars to see NSI get established.

This past summer my daughter and father built a small boat made out of cardboard, duct tape and glue as a part of an NSI event for people of all ages. Prior to our boat's maiden voyage Joe Page loaned us a kayak paddle, with life jacket on, my daughter paddled past folks of all ages and in the last leg of the regatta race she was able to take the lead and finish in first place. Crowds cheering, kids laughing, families spending time together, a nine year old going home with memories that will build confidence. In valuable! Please feel free to contact us with any questions as it is very important to us to see NSI in a permanent home.

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