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**The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. - Alaska Section**  
P.O. Box 230367 Anchorage, Alaska 99523-0367

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February 4, 2013

Senator Johnny Ellis  
State Capitol Building 119  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Forwarded by email to: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us;

Subject: SB40, Appropriation for University Engineering Buildings

Dear Senator Ellis:

The Alaska Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) strongly supports SB40, which provides \$59.3 million to the University of Alaska to complete the design and construction of a new engineering building at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and \$47.3 million to complete the design and construction of a new engineering building at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Both facilities are now in the design phase and on schedule. Dramatically increasing engineering enrollments are stressing the ability of both campuses to meet the demand for engineering educations is still an issue as it was last year. It is very important to provide local access for engineering students, or many will either go without, or leave the state to enter other institutions. Many of those who leave the state do not return.

IEEE currently has about 500 members in Alaska. It is the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology, with over 400,000 members.

Thank you for sponsoring these urgently needed appropriations. Please advise if we can do more to support SB40.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert Seitz, Chair  
IEEE Alaska Section  
<seitzak@ieee.org>

CC: Senator Gary Stevens, Kodiak (Chair)  
Senator Mike Dunleavy, Wasilla (Vice-Chair)  
Senator Bert Stedman, Sitka  
Senator Charlie Huggins, Wasilla (Senate President)  
Senator Berta Gardner, East Anchorage