From: K. Heather Sinclair

To: Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Please support UA funding

Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:55:18 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee

I support the higher education opportunities in this state and ask that you, as my representatives in the Senate, vote against the proposed budget cuts for University of Alaska.

The University of Alaska has played an important role in my life and remains a critical component to this day.

I am a current UA student, working on my Masters in Arts of Teaching so that I may become a certified teacher to work in rural Alaska. I live and work in Unalakleet, Alaska and take my courses online through UAS. Additionally, I graduated with my undergraduate degree in 2010 from UAF. Finally, I took coursework at Kenai Peninsula College while I was attending high school in Soldotna. I intend to use the education that I have gained through the University of Alaska to give back to Alaskans as a elementary school teacher in the state. I speak fondly of my experiences at UAF and UAS to the those I encounter, including the K-12 students I see everyday while interning at Unalakleet Schools. Additionally, I draw upon the incredible opportunities and experiences I had (and continue to have) as a UA student to perform well at my job and serve my community and family.

Alaska's future is at stake with this vote. Please consider the repercussions of these budget cuts and the effect it will have on higher education, employment, and economic opportunities in this state.

We need to invest in Alaska's future by supporting UA funding. Please vote against the proposed budget cuts.

Sincerely,

Heather Sinclair

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K. Heather Sinclair BSSD Intern Unalakleet Schools