

1841 South Salem Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-5156
April 4, 2015

Senator Anna MacKinnon
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator MacKinnon:

The University of Alaska needs \$31.3 million in state funding to finish its Fairbanks College of Engineering and Mines Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility. This building will also house the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, and the new chemical engineering program. If the University stops construction now, it will cost more to finish the Facility later on.

Alaska needs well-trained engineers and researchers in order to develop and maintain our State. Oil prices have fallen. We are getting less income. We have fewer dollars to spend. We have to be tough on our State budget. To get better, we must think of ways to develop Alaska and its resources, and get going in the future. Engineers have always been ones who get things done. We need to train them, and train them well. Think about this. Give them the backing to go into their work for the benefit of all Alaskans.

I got a civil engineering degree in 1954, two masters in petroleum management and public administration, and am an attorney since 1978 in Anchorage. All this helped me become the executive director of the Alaska Pipeline Commission, and the deputy director of the Alaska Division of Energy and Power Development. Before that I led a 1000-soldier battalion in Viet Nam, and retired as the deputy assistant chief of staff, logistics, U.S. Army, Alaska, in 1974. I am a member of the UAA College of Engineering Advisory Board. I tell you all this because I have been around on this planet for 82 years, and know full well why we need trained engineers in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)
George Wayne Skladal
Attorney and Counselor at Law
Alaska resident over 47 years