



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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My name is Martin Shroyer the General Manager of Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc.

I am writing in support of the Technical Vocational Education Program at the Alaska Technical Center here in Kotzebue. We at Kotzebue Electric Association are in support of reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program at ATC a program which is administered by the Alaska Department of Labor.

It expires at the end of June 2017 and requires the Alaska Legislature and Governor Walker to reauthorize the existence of the program. The reauthorization of this program will continue to support the delivery of vocational training programs that prepare Alaska residents for the workforce. Our organization and many more require qualified individuals who are work ready with safety being a priority.

The Alaska Technical Center provides a range of vocational training programs and workforce development skills. The Alaska Technical Center has prepared many Alaska residents for high paying jobs in the local and statewide economy since its inception in 1981. The return on the investment the State has made on training Alaskans in this region has been and continues to be highly beneficial. We value our partnership with the Alaska Technical Center and encourage you to continue the TVEP program.

Although we are experiencing a downturn in our statewide economy, this presents an opportunity for you to help and continue prepare a well-trained workforce for current and future jobs in Alaska, which in turn will help get us all through the tough times we are all going through now. Thank you for your past support and I hope you will continue to show your support of this program in the future.

Sincerely,

Martin Shroyer
Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 615
Bldg. 647, King Salmon AFB
King Salmon, AK 99613

March 16, 2017

Reference: HB 141: Alaska Workforce Investment Board; Funds

Representative Neal Foster

Representative Paul Seaton

Co-Chairs House Finance Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Neal Foster and Representative Paul Seaton,

I am writing in support of reauthorization of Alaska Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) for five years. The TVEP funds are vital to Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center (SAVEC) in meeting its mission to “promote, coordinate and provide high quality training and education to the residents of Southwest Alaska.” Without TVEP designated 3% funding, SAVEC would be devastated.

As the State’s taxable wages decline, TVEP will have a shortfall of \$1.32 million. SAVEC will have a decrement of \$39,000.00 for FY18. As workers get displaced, it is even more important that we provide training or retraining for Alaskans for Alaskan jobs.

SAVEC provides workforce training for the 31 villages in its service area. This training has direct impact on the local and Alaska economy. In the State’s 2014 Wage Report for SAVEC, 115 HAZWOPER trainees contributed over \$5 million dollars to the State’s economy in the first year after training. This spring, SAVEC has HAZWOPER training classes for incumbent workers and job seekers.

At SAVEC we are working to improve the Seafood Processing Industry's hire of Alaska and local residents. While the State has made gains, locally we still battle high non-resident hire rate between 84.6% and 93.8%. That means over 3,300 jobs leave Bristol Bay and the State. That is a total of \$29 million dollars that could have stayed in the state and multiplied in the local and state economy.

Please reauthorize HB 141: Alaska Workforce Investment Board; Funds.

Respectfully,

Anishia Elbie, Co-Executive Director



March 16, 2017

Dear Co-Chair of House Finance Committee Representative Paul Seaton and Representative Neal Foster;

On behalf of Ilisagvik College I provide our endorsement of House Bill 141 to reauthorize the TVEP program as crafted, with no changes to the program.

Please note, Ilisagvik is fully complying with the goals and intent of the TVEP program as presented in the 2016 TVEP Report and in fact is number one of the training providers in meeting those metrics.

Ilisagvik College is a public, non-profit institution serving Alaskans across the state and is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

At Ilisagvik College we:

- Offer the best possible training that meets the needs of Alaskan employers and helps Alaska residents stay competitive in demanding job and business markets
- Are a public, non-profit institution, with open enrollment, serving Alaskans across the state
- Serve Alaskan residents who are underemployed and unemployed, including Veterans, Seniors and Vocational Rehabilitation clients
- Build positive, sustainable community change by providing the tools necessary for Alaska residents to be work ready, hired locally and able to develop entrepreneurial opportunities
- Work directly with employers to customize courses that specifically train for current and upcoming employment opportunities. Instructors for our courses encourage participants to consider occupational vocational-technical goals for the future and provide for industry driven certifications.

The challenge to provide quality employment opportunities to local Alaskans in the North Slope's oilfields and other industries statewide is really one of providing the educational opportunity for students to prepare adequately for technical high-demand jobs. With TVEP funds we have done some remarkable work and want to continue on this pathway.

With the present fiscal uncertainty and job decline, we understand the fund is less this year and may decline in further years. It is for that reason that we support the status quo with no new additions to the list of providers. We fully support the continuation of the TVEP program as is currently in statute with a new effective date.

Please let us know if we can provide you any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pearl Brower
President, Ilisagvik College



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority
Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Donlin Gold • Lower Kuskokwim School District
Orutsararmuit Native Council • UAF - Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

March 16, 2017

RE: TVEP Reauthorization 2018

ATTN: Rep. Neal Foster
Rep. Paul Seaton

Dear Representative Foster and Representative Seaton:

Yuut Elitnaurviat-People's Learning Center Inc. (Yuut) would like to express our full and unwavering support of Governor Walker's proposal to reauthorize the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) for the next five years.

As you know, Yuut is a fully operational vocational school with a campus located in Bethel. Our organization was created by a local consortium of employers and tribes to deliver workforce development programs to our Yukon Kuskokwim Region, the most populated and underserved in rural Alaska. Yuut has demonstrated repeatedly that TVEP investment can be maximized to benefit some of Alaska's hardest to serve residents. We are regional experts tasked with the mission of getting local residents into high wage occupations. We are responsive to both the long and short term needs of our employers and students. Our local network of resources is second to none. Our ability to leverage programs, funding and partnerships to deliver programs, that are both innovative and high impact, are a direct benefit to the State of Alaska.

Since our campus went into full operation in 2009 Yuut has provided 8060 training services with a 98% completion rate. In fiscal year 2016 alone we served 724 individuals and at the same time restructured to accommodate a 125 student residential charter school that was displaced by a catastrophic school fire in November of 2015. TVEP funding was instrumental in giving our organization the flexibility needed to assist the school during its time of crisis. The school is still on our campus for the 2016-2017 school year and we now have plans to complete renovations and make the arrangement permanent. At Yuut the secondary students have direct access to postsecondary training and vocational opportunities that prepare them to move into the workforce after graduation. It has been an unexpected positive that emerged from the tragic fire.

Yuut services also include direct training for dozens of industry driven classes including: GED instruction & testing (largest program in rural Alaska), Rural Alaska's only State Certified Driving School (permit classes, behind the wheel training, ADL & CDL testing), hosting the Dental Therapy Program (the only of its kind in the US), Rural Alaska's only full apprenticeship programs for Industrial Electric, Plumbing & Carpentry, coordinating the LKSD- Ready programs (brings village based students to Bethel so that they can take advanced math, science & industry classes), and Yuut hosts Village Police Officer Trainings for the entire state.

Yuut carefully collects student data and keeps impeccable financial records. We take our commitment to our funders seriously and strive to ensure we are always good stewards of all public and private funds.



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority
Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Donlin Gold • Lower Kuskokwim School District
Orutsararmuit Native Council • UAF - Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Our greatest source of pride is our commitment to our students. We know them. We know their families. Their success is our success.

TVEP funding has been critical to the quantifiable success of our organization. The TVEP program is an effective investment strategy for the State to support workforce development in the YK Delta. We appreciate your support of the continuation of the Technical and Vocational Education Program.

Respectfully,