

From: Curry Cunningham
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
Subject: Proposed Changes to the Alaska's Education Tax Credit program (HB233)
Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018 4:49:12 PM

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I am emailing you on this beautiful Juneau Saturday to express my apprehension about proposed changes to Alaska's Education Tax Credit program.

My name is Curry Cunningham and I am a fisheries scientist here in Juneau, and am writing as an individual who personally benefited from this program and who worries the proposed changes will jeopardize vital parts of our Alaskan post-secondary education system.

I was born and raised between Anchorage and Bristol Bay, depending on the season, and my background as a drift and setnet fishermen led me to pursue college and graduate studies in fisheries.

My intention was to return to my home state and work as a fisheries scientist and help ensure the sustainable use of our extraordinary fisheries resources.

Alaska's Education Tax Credit program gave me the opportunity to return to Alaska and follow my career path through a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, funded by Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC).

PCCRC is funded in part through Alaska's Education Tax Credit program and provides opportunities for graduate students and postdocs to engage in research that benefits our state through enhanced understanding of our fisheries and fishery management systems.

To this end I would strongly encourage you to:

1. Pass HB233 to extend this program given the tremendous benefits it provides to our state's educational institutions.
2. Not follow through with proposed changes to the credit schedule, as these changes would at *best* reduce the efficacy of the program and at *worst* jeopardize the millions of dollars provided for education and research on Alaska's fisheries.

Alaska's Education Tax Credit program provides opportunities for Alaskans that may be otherwise unavailable.

Please do not put its existence or efficacy at risk.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

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