



Yakutat School District

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City & Borough of Yakutat

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Yakutat, Alaska 99689

February 21, 2022

Representative Ken McCarty
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative McCarty:

Thank you for presenting House Bill 108 to the Education Committee on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Your effort to increase vocational learning opportunities toward real workforce readiness for Alaskan students is commendable.

Vocational learning experiences provides a successful and effective avenue for advanced entry into the workforce. Too often, students 14 years of age and older are faced with having to make decisions to attend college with little regard of the expense of pursuing a four-year degree. House Bill 108 opens the door to vocational trade education programs and training opportunities with industry-standard certification and workforce availability. House Bill 108 also encourages collaborative efforts in the community as master level professionals are able to instruct and mentor students into respected industry standard certifications.

There has been a decline in the workforce throughout Alaska and in particular in the remote communities. It is imperative that Alaska's students are prepared to meet the growing need for a skilled workforce. Alaska's economic future requires qualified applicants for skilled jobs, and House Bill 108 will assist in producing a stronger, viable workforce with industry skilled work ethics, and experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Hutcherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Patricia Hutcherson, Ph.D.
Superintendent
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Yakutat, Alaska 99689
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