

From: [Daniel Rauchenstein](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Löki Tobin](#)
Subject: Supporting SB 52
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:59:21 AM

Hello,

My name is Danny Rauchenstein, I was born and raised in AK, I am an Engineer and an Employee Owner of RESPEC (formerly PDC Engineers), a professional consulting services firm that has been heavily involved in building and maintaining Alaska's infrastructure for the last 30+ years.

I am writing in support of SB 52.

The Base Student Allocation has not been meaningfully increased in over a decade, despite large increases in costs due to inflation and other market factors.

Alaska will struggle to prosper without a solid, well-funded and stable public education system. 90% of the state's children attend public schools. An investment in our children ensures their health and wellness as well as the health of our state. We are a state with significant resources and we have no excuse for not prioritizing the long range success of our children.

Additionally, the Architecture and Engineering industry in AK is chronically understaffed due to skilled candidates leaving the state and inability to attract candidates from outside. The state's lack of commitment to funding public education has played a large part in this and our entire industry is struggling to meet the demand for professional services. We are going to leave a lot of infrastructure money on the table because we don't have the capacity.

Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,
Danny Rauchenstein, PE