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February 13, 2023

Honorable Senator Forrest Dunbar  
State Capitol Building, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar:

The University of Alaska (UA) has reviewed Senate Bill 56 (“Version A”) and supports the principles behind the bill. The UA is encouraged by your leadership on this important topic, and also supports the companion legislation in the House.

As Alaska moves forward, there is wisdom in modifying the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program to ensure the highest degree of timeliness and usefulness to prospective students. The notice date of September 30 is of particular importance. (“Not later than September 30 of each year, the commission shall notify each applicant awarded a scholarship under (a) of this section that the applicant has been awarded an Alaska performance scholarship.”) “Proper notice” of the scholarship is one of the highest priorities of President Pitney.

Investing in our future is key to Alaska’s overall success. This bill, as currently drafted, is reasonable and creates a “win/win scenario” for the students and the University.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad Hutchison – University of Alaska State Director

cc  
Pat Pitney, UA President  
Michelle Rizk, VP University Relations