

United Academics
AAUP/AFT local 4996
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January 29, 2024

Dear Representative Stapp,

United Academics AAUP/AFT Local 4996 is the union representing all non-adjunct faculty at the University of Alaska. We represent approximately 1100 full-time faculty members across the state. Thank you for sponsoring HB236: UA Major Maintenance and Modernization Fund. United Academics supports this legislation.

A predictable annual revenue stream is important to the University's ability to flatten the deferred maintenance curve and will provide for both greater financial stability and sustained focus on long-term planning for better project execution. An added benefit to HB236 is that predictable funding will strengthen the construction industry by allowing contractors to scale operations and support new job growth across the state.

Having safe, modern, efficient buildings is essential for faculty to fulfill our teaching and research missions and for students to learn, grow, and flourish. Students who attend UA are more likely to remain in Alaska and contribute to Alaska's workforce and economy. Vibrant campuses with modern facilities contribute significantly to attracting and retaining those students to UA.

We view this strategy for consistent annual state funding for maintenance and renewal as positive for students, faculty, staff, and Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jill A. Dumesnil, President