

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE BILL FILES - 1987 - 1988 8879

HB 390 cont., CSHB 390 357

1 private industry;

2 (5) one member is to be appointed from individuals with
3 experience in national and international research programs;

4 (6) one member is to be appointed from the general public;

5 [AND]

6 (7) the executive director of the Alaska Science and Tech-
7 nology Foundation established under AS 37.17; and

8 (8) the senior science advisor in the governor's office,
9 who serves as chairperson [CHAIRMAN] and director of the commission.

10 * Sec. 4. AS 44.19.259 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 44.19.259. TERM OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. Members of
12 the commission, other than the senior science advisor and the execu-
13 tive director of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, serve
14 staggered terms of four years and until a successor qualifies and is
15 appointed.

16 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

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C S H B

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3/3/88

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT
THE ALASKA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

- 1) What is the Alaska Science and Engineering Foundation?

The Foundation is an agency to fund Alaskan projects and programs of a scientific and technical nature whose results will be economically or scientifically useful to the state.

- 2) What are the goals of the Science Foundation?

The goals are to use the tools of basic and applied research to promote: economic development and technological innovation, public health and the sustained growth of science and engineering capability in the state.

- 3) How important is the Foundation to Alaska's future?

Science and technology will be a key driving force for future economic development in the State of Alaska. Over the past 50 years, the research and development expenditures in the United States have been responsible for 30 to 50% of the improvements in society. There is no more important single task in Alaska than to convert our economy from one based upon natural resources and their erratic

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cycles to one of significant value added to our resources and broad economic diversity.

4. Why should the State of Alaska be involved with research and development activities? Is the private sector not capable of selecting and providing this necessary effort?

Investment in research and development is risky under any circumstances, so most businesses make such investments only if there is a good probability of an adequate return. Of course, the possibility that technology may create entirely new forms of wealth and provide a large payoff constitutes an even greater incentive. Because most small firms have little funding available for research, government assistance in funding research and development is necessary in order to spread the risk while insuring that necessary research gets done.

More than most other states, Alaska is deficient in income from sources other than raw natural resources. On a national scale, Alaska firms rank lowest in terms of their expenditures of research and development dollars. Applying technology to our natural resources to produce "value added" products or new forms of manufacturing is therefore likely to be the most direct way to improve our economic development.

Finally, special consideration must be given to the future citizens of Alaska, and to the establishment of programs for their benefit. Government traditionally assumes this responsibility, and through forward-looking research programs can provide the data bases and knowledge which are prerequisites for the formation of future businesses and areas of economic growth.

- 5) What economic benefits to Alaska can reasonably be expected from the State's investment in the Foundation?

All of the evidence at the level of the firm, the industry, and the general economy indicates that the contribution of research and development (R&D) to economic growth and productivity is positive, significant and high.

The current consensus among professionals who have studied national R&D issues is that the average gross social rate of return on R&D expenditures lies between 30 percent and 50 percent. (In this context, the "average gross social rate of return" includes the profits of the innovator plus any profits which accrue to imitators or which can be directly attributed to the use of the innovation.) Typically, one-third to two-thirds of this return is captured by the investor, with the remainder accruing to other beneficiaries. By focusing its research grants on Alaskan problems, and Alaskan scientists and researchers, the

Foundation can maximize the in-state capture of these benefits.

R&D investments are of course inherently risky. There is a great deal of variation in R&D rates of return, both across projects and for given projects over time. There are no guarantees of success. Still, while a downside loss potential exists (i.e., the amount of R&D investments), the upside potential, potentially much greater, is worth reaching for.

- 6) Does the need for a long-term commitment and funding mean no immediate returns are foreseeable for funded projects?

No. Many practical and useful technical projects of rapid return will be funded by this foundation.

- 7) What are some examples of programs that might be funded?

Research into the enhanced recovery of oil and utilization of natural gas.

The chemistry of the drying and stabilization of coal in order to raise its heating value from 7200 BTU/lb to 11,000 BTU/lb and thus increase its marketability.

The determination of the maximum sustainable yield of bottomfish and other fisheries in Alaska waters.

The investigation of causes of seasonal affective disorder in the Arctic climate and its relationship to injury and suicide.

Seed capital for engineering and development of a recirculating salmon hatchery in western Alaska.

Research on the genetic differences between pen reared salmon and the wild stock.

8) Who will be eligible to apply for funding?

All Alaskan residents, businesses, organization, institutions, state or private universities shall be given primary consideration for funding. When no Alaskan group or individual is capable of doing the work, whether through lack of personnel or equipment, they are encouraged to enter into a joint venture with a group from outside the state. In cases where there is no one in the state capable of addressing a problem, outside scientists and engineers would be encouraged to apply.

- 9) Why is it important that the foundation be financed through an endowment rather than annual appropriations?

A long-term, serious commitment to science and technology at a suitable level of funding will achieve the maximum effectiveness for the state's science dollar. In technical business, projects only come to fruition after several years. Many scientific projects, particularly those in renewable resources, require studies which must be sustained in an uninterrupted fashion through time. No satisfactory answer is available unless a long-term research commitment is assured.

- 10) About how much money will be available for research support?

An endowment of \$100 million housed in the Permanent Fund will produce an annual basis from \$6 to \$8 million dollars. This is not an excessive amount for research but can be the basis of a long-term commitment.

- 11) How does the organization of this foundation compare with well-known examples such as the National Science Foundation or the Ford Foundation?

Aside from differences in their stated objectives, the Alaskan Foundation will have many features similar to other

foundations: a nine member board of directors comprised of four scientists or engineers, two of whom are from outside the state, plus four public members and one member of a state agency. Technical review will be performed by an advisory panel of technical experts selected from within and outside the state. The daily operation of the Foundation will be guided by an executive director and staff.

12. Why should the board of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation include members from outside Alaska?

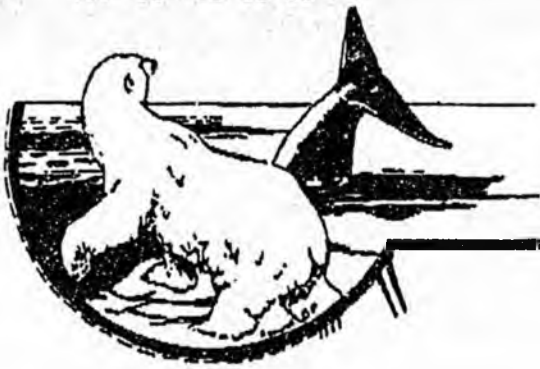
Because Alaska has a relatively small population of scientists and engineers, much of the knowledge and critically useful expertise about Alaska resides in the lower 48 and in other countries. If we are serious about producing the best science that we can -- and attracting to Alaska the best talent that we can -- the Foundation will need to include in its board outstanding representatives of the national scientific community. This link will be critical in establishing the Foundation as a credible and meaningful scientific institution on a national scale. From another perspective, it also will provide a measure of protection against undue parochialism in the pursuit of the Foundation's goals (a perceived flaw in some previous research funding efforts in Alaska). Additionally, an organic link with outside scientists and agencies (such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, et

al.) will enhance the Foundation's opportunities for participating in joint programs and federal funding.

Because the Foundation's proposed enabling legislation (HB 390) specifically provides that Foundation-sponsored research shall focus on Alaskan problems, with preference given to Alaska's applicants, there is little question that the benefits of Foundation-sponsored research will accrue primarily to Alaskans.

- 13) Have other states established science and engineering foundations?

Yes. Forty-three other states have spent a total of \$700 million to establish research parks, incubator programs, small grant programs or other mechanisms to assist the link up of technology with economic development. The top seven states have spent \$350 million for this purpose. Alaska has spent nothing.



UIC-NARL

TELECONFERENCE ON H.B. 390 & 391; 2-23-88
 TESTIMONY BY DALE. B. STOTTS, PROJECT COORDINATOR UIC/NARL

On behalf of the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, through its President, Ronald H. Brower, Sr., I am pleased to express UIC's support for the enactment of H.B. 390 & 391.

As the present operator, and soon to be owner of the former Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, UIC is very encouraged by legislation to establish an Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, along with the funding mechanism provided by an endowment to the Foundation.

Governor Cowper and state legislators that support these two bills should be comended. The vital role of science and technology in Alaska's growth and development is yet to emerge at the level this great land and its citizens deserve.

We recommend that the Foundation develop a close association with the Arctic Research Commission and the National Science Foundation. Tremendous amounts of time and resources have gone towards the reorganization of the national interest in arctic research and science, and any duplication of effort would constitute a poor investment of tax payer monies.

(907) 852-7800, Pouch UIC/NARL, Barrow, Alaska 99723
 Ukpeagvik Industrial Center / National Arctic Research Laboratory
 (Formerly: Naval Arctic Research Laboratory)

TELECONFERENCE ON H. B. 390 & 391

2-23-88

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As an organization with some expertise in providing logistical support to government, education, industry, and science and research, we recommend that the Foundation carefully weigh regional differences in cost of project support. This would be helpful when establishing the maximum percentage of a grant award that may be expended to pay for overhead costs of a grantee's project.

In the fall of 1987, I provided to the Governor's Science Advisor's office, information on logistic support capabilities of the UIC/NARL facilities. It is our understanding that three (3) regional arctic research centers will be designated in the near future. Should this come to pass, we urge the Foundation to consider the vital role that logistic support plays in the conduct of field research, whether it be in the arctic or subarctic areas.

Passage of H.B. 390 & 391 has far reaching implications for the benefit of the Alaskan economy, health, and well being of its residents. UIC stands in full support of this legislation.

Thank you.

DRAFT

SAMPLE PROPOSALS IN RESOURCES AND HIGH TECH

1. Seekins, Maine: Mid Coast Compost and Feasibility Project - Market Survey.
Funding: \$10,000
Private Match: \$91,000
2. Lampila, Oregon: Development of Value-Added Products From Salmonids.
Funding: \$77,544
Matching Funds: \$22,242
3. Merrill, Washington: Bull Kelp Cultivation Technologies.
Funding: \$48,934
Matching Funds: \$22,242
4. Malinkowski: NY: Integrating Surf Clam Culture into an Existing Hard Clam Mariculture Faculty.
Funding: \$38,614
Matching Funds: \$ 6,210
5. McClintock, AK: ANF Model Land Lease
Funding: \$32,440
Matching Funds:
6. Charles, Bethel, AK: Nelson Island and Nunivak Island Near Shore Fishery Survey May 1988 to May 1989.
Funding: \$60,938
Matching Funds: \$2,359,882
7. Burgess, Fairbanks: Underground excavator for subsurface placer mining in winter. Prototype development and testing with CRREL.
Funding: \$12,400
Matching Funds: \$206,000

8. Rao, MIRL: Distribution and Significance of Trace Elements in Alaskan Coals.
- Funding: \$0
- Matching Funds - DOE \$59,749
9. Walsh, Rao, MIRL: Performance Evaluation of Water Only Cyclones Using Radiotracers
- Funding: \$0
- Matching Funds - DOE \$78,224
10. Rao, MIRL: Drying of Low Rank Coals and Its Impact on Coal Surface Chemistry.
- Funding: \$52,076
\$34,000
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$86,511
11. Maneval, Besiot, MIRL: Feasibility of Briquetting and Marketing of Dried Alaska Coal.
- Funding: \$30,450
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$30,450
12. Bandopadhyay, MIRL: Technical and Economical Feasibility of Underground Mining Coal Deposits on the North Slope.
- Funding: \$33,637
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$33,637
13. Bandopadhyay, MIRL: Manual of Practice for Pre-mining in Arctic and Subarctic Alaska.
- Funding: \$33,637
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$33,637
14. Sengupta, MIRL: A knowledge Based System for Selection of Surface Coal Mining Equipment under Arctic Conditions.
- Funding: \$20,857
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$20,857

15. Johnson, Skudrzyk, MIRL: High Pressure Water Jet Fragmentation and Cleaning of Alaskan Coal.
16. Sackinger, GI, UAF: Sea Ice and Ice Island Characterization, Movement and Structure Interactions.
- Funding: \$150,000
- Matching Funds - DOE: \$150,000
17. Kennish, Anch: Evaluate Southeastern Alaska Fisheries as a Dietary source of Omega-3 fatty acids.
- Funding: \$32,410
- Matching Funds:
18. Kramer, Anch: Demonstration of the Culture of Mollusks and Seaweed for sale.
- Funding: \$64,437
- Matching Funds: \$17,865
19. Raymond: Salmon Enhancement in Western Alaskan Coastal Villages through recirculating incubators.
- Funding: \$51,000
- Matching Funds: \$35,777
20. Clinton: Computed operated portable calibration devices for the pipeline.
- Funding:
- Matching Funds:
21. Larsson, Wrangel: Pilot Oyster Project.
- Funding: \$44,000
- Matching Funds:
22. Panst: Littleneck Clam Harvesting, Detoxification, and Marketing.
- Funding: \$14,000
- Matching Funds: \$11,250

23. Nash: Development of Small Scale Fish Smoking Processors.

Funding:	\$30,024
Matching Funds:	\$11,416

AN ECONOMIST'S VIEW OF THE PROPOSED ALASKA SCIENCE FOUNDATION
David M. Reaume, February 22, 1988

In a review of the professional literature on the relationship between research and development expenditure and economic growth, Morton Kamien and Nancy Shwartz of Northwestern University's graduate school of management had this to say: "All of the evidence at the level of the firm, industry, and economy indicates that the contribution of R&D to economic growth and productivity is positive, significant, and high." [JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE, Vol. XIII, No.1, page 11 (1975)]

Nothing that has happened since their survey was conducted has changed that conclusion. The present consensus opinion among professionals who have studied the issue is that the gross social rate of return to R&D expenditure lies between 30% and 50%; where by "gross social return" is meant the profits of the innovator plus any profits which accrue to imitators or which can be directly attributed to the use of the innovation.

A question immediately arises. Can a government funded and managed R&D program be expected to perform as well as the average of those which have been shown to yield such large gross social rates of return? In the body of this report I will address two aspects of this question of interest to those who wish to judge the merits of the proposed Alaska Science Foundation. (1) Why should state government involve itself in R&D; and (2) What can Alaska expect to realize in the form of a return on its investment in R&D?

that an oil company will drill many dry holes for every discovery. (An excellent summary of research into the impact of R&D on growth is TECHNOLOGY, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL, by Roger E. Brinner, Data Resources, Incorporated Study No. 29.)

In major piece of research conducted for the National Bureau of Economic Research, John Kendrick and Eliot Grossman had this to say:

"The most important determinant of productivity growth is what Denison calls 'advances in knowledge'-technological and organizational-as applied in production. It results from cost-reducing innovations in the ways and means of production." (PRODUCTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES TRENDS AND CYCLES, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, page 16)

Of the 30 percent to 50 percent mean gross return on R&D investment about one-third to two thirds is typically captured by the investor with the remainder accruing to other players. The IBM company benefited greatly from prior investments by Apple Computer. Other companies, some outside of the United States, benefit from the developments pioneered by Apple and by IBM. In principle there exist many innovations with a more than adequate gross social return on investment which will not come to market or which will be delayed for some time because the innovator cannot capture enough of the return.

Translated into direct impacts on Alaska these observations can be restated in the form of a small set of propositions.

Proposition #1: There are no guarantees that an expenditure on R&D will have any measurable impact on the Alaska economy beyond the creation of R&D jobs per se.

Proposition #2: For every \$1 million invested in Alaska R&D an expected return of 40 % on investment means that the possible outcomes measured in terms of annual income created center around \$1.4 million per year.

Proposition #3: The potential for a bonanza exists. Publicly funded R&D could lead to breakthroughs with very large rates of return.

A well-designed Alaska Science Foundation is a good idea. On average, the results can be expected to be unexciting but solid; the downside loss potential is minimal (at most we lose the interest on the endowment); and the upside potential is worth reaching for.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DETERMINATION:

The Board of Directors would consist of nine persons. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that they should recommend that "The foundation shall be governed and administered in accordance with applicable law by a board of directors, all of whom are appointed to staggered six-year terms by the governor, with the consent of the legislature. Two members must be scientists (technical experts); two members must be scientists residing outside Alaska; three members of the Alaskan public; and one member shall be nominated by the speaker of the house, and one member by the president of the senate."

It was suggested that the Board of Directors should be Alaskans, however the panel might be a mixture from all over.

Chairman Clinton reminded the group that the basis of the foundation is to broaden the economic or value added base. And he stated that the only way to do this is to bring in outside ideas and talent, because the ones that are here are doing it now; by giving them more money doesn't mean that they're going to increase their abilities or capabilities.

Clinton felt that it is up to the State and the people of the Board to encourage those individuals to stay here. This can be done by tax breaks, for example.

PATENTS:

Clinton explained that a corporation cannot have a license to a patent; this has to go to an individual; that individual has the right to license other individuals to patent that, or has the right to offer that license to a State, for example. One could say that the State has the right to the license to this patent, in addition to the inventor, and the State has the right to give this license to other individuals. So, if this individual leaves the State, the State has the right to offer free use of this patent to somebody who comes into the State and uses it. The only way he is going to be able to protect his patent is to stay in Alaska.

The State could say, "We've got this patent right and we're looking for someone to come in and produce it."

Dr. Behrend reminded the group that once you start dealing with patents, and licenses, and rights with people from other nations -- they have whole different cultures and legal bases, and it can be very complicated. This is no reason, however, not to open it up to everyone. Anyone can apply, however they will have to agree to the State's 'operating terms'.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSION (Continuation)

Fay Pey stated that she, at one point, thought that two years would be enough, however now felt that four would be a better number.

John Carman agreed that four would be appropriate. He said that he could understand the written argument for six. There is a definite negative on the four year term, however it will totally reappoint the Board in every governor's term. He did agree that six years is a long time.

Dr. Basi opted for the six year term. The fact that the governor can change the entire board bothered him.

Dr. Behrend agreed that a six year term would be appropriate. They will be changing. Not all will be chosen for a six year term; the terms will be staggered.

Ed Clinton concurred with the six year staggered term. He was not so sure that this group should determine who should get to give the six year terms. He wondered how this should be addressed to the Governor or incorporate it into the Bill.

John Carman reviewed the term staggering process by saying, "You'd almost have to go: "two six-years, one five year, two four-years, one three-year, two two-years and one one-year." Then after that, everybody else that gets appointed, gets appointed for a six year term.

Chairman Clinton suggested that members appointed from the State of Alaska, should they leave the State of Alaska, will automatically cease to serve and that their position will be replaced for the remainder of the term.

There was some discussion about the Governor's intention when stating: "One member shall be designated by the speaker of the house, and one member by the president of the senate." Members did not see anything inappropriate about the speaker of the house and the president of the

reviewers, other possible sources of funding and the Foundation's stated purposes in deciding to award grants.

Fay Pey showed concern that there was not a proper definition of what a grant proposal is. There was then considerable discussion concerning Item (b) "Not less than 60 percent of the income distributed as grants by the foundation in each fiscal year must be grants of \$100,000 or less, exclusive of other funding."

It was determined that most all the parts of the section needed to be changed. Dr. Behrend stated that some of the details should be left to the Board in putting together its own policies, operating procedures and guidelines that are going to govern what happens. The committee proceeded to eliminate portions of the section, constantly commenting how important the presentation will be to the Legislature.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Item (k) might be eliminated in its entirety and changed. Each member wrote down their thoughts on each item. 'k' was tackled thusly:

Dr. Behrend's statement read: "Any individual, association, organization or institution may apply for grants under this chapter, but a majority of the research and development must be conducted within the boundaries of Alaska or by persons employed by Alaskan businesses or institutions."

Dr. Basi's statement read: "Any individual or association or institution may apply for a grant. If a grant is, however offered and accepted, the recipient would agree to perform at least 90 percent of the proposed work in Alaska."

Fay Pey stated, "Any group or individual can apply for grants under this chapter. . . ."

John Carman stated, "Any person may apply for a grant from this foundation, however strong consideration will be given for a portion of the work to be conducted in the State of Alaska."

Chairman Clinton suggested, " Strong consideration will be given to those responses whose work -- majority of the work will be carried out in the State of Alaska, which has the possibilities of creating an additional economic base for the State."

