



February 12, 2018

Representative Harriet Drummond, Chair
House Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 233 Education Tax Credits Sunset Extension

Dear Representative Drummond:

The At-sea Processors Association (APA) is writing today to express our support for House Bill 233 sponsored by Representative Chris Tuck. APA is a trade association representing six companies that own and operate 16 U.S. flagged catcher/processor vessels that participate principally in the federal Alaska pollock fishery.

HB 233 would extend the sunset date for education tax credits that incentivize the private sector partnerships with the State of Alaska and other institutions by investing in the education and training of Alaskans. Specifically, the current education tax credits encourage private businesses to make contributions to educational institutions and programs in Alaska, including the University of Alaska.

Since 2000, this program has allowed the members of APA to invest in programs ranging from undergraduate and graduate fellowships to research addressing current fishery management concerns to technical training for youth throughout the Norton Sound and Bering Strait Region.

Here are a few examples of the programs education tax credit funds support:

University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Science

Established the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC) which funds:
The Ted Stevens Distinguished Professorship of Marine Policy
Research Endowment
Graduate Fellowships

University of Alaska Anchorage

Kodiak College – Developing pilot Seafood Processing Industry Mini-Academy

University of Alaska Southeast

Fisheries Technology Program-Exposing HS Students to Introductory College
Fisheries Coursework through Dual-Enrollment.



Alaska Pacific University

Scholarships

Support for programs such as Fisheries, Aquatic Science and Technology Lab

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC)

Support for vocational education training center in Nome

We believe it is important for the Legislature to extend the education tax credit to January 1, 2025 to continue to incentivize significant private sector investment to Alaskans training and education as well as supporting research improving understanding of our fishery resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please let us know if additional or more specific information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie D. Madsen in black ink.

Stephanie Madsen

Executive Director