



March 1, 2018

Senator Ana MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 532
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 116 – Education Tax Credits

Dear Senators MacKinnon & Hoffman;

The Alaska Chamber and Alaska Business Week (ABW) are partners in grassroots economic development and entrepreneurship through the education of Alaska's youth.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing hundreds of employers and local chamber across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

ABW is an intensive entrepreneurship experience for Alaska high school students. ABW runs one-week programs teaching Alaskan high school students the basics of business, leadership and entrepreneurship. Statewide programs accommodate participants from communities across the state, offering an on-campus experience at the University of Alaska Fairbanks or Alaska Pacific University. Regional camps bring the program into Alaska communities for students who are not yet ready for an on-campus experience.

ABW Participants compete as teams in a dynamic business simulation with the guidance of adult mentors from the business community. ABW students earn college credit for successful completion of the program, and they are the creators and innovators for Alaska's next generation of products and companies. After completing the program, students have a competitive edge on workplace readiness, college preparation, and overall life success. ABW gives participants the tools they will need to succeed after their high school graduation.

Although modest (approximately \$140,000/year), the funding requirements to deliver business simulation experience to Alaska students relies on the Education Tax Credit. The credit encourages Alaska businesses to remain directly involved in entrepreneurship, workforce development and job preparedness. Senate Bill 116 encourages private sector investment in education throughout all of Alaska.

We urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 116, allowing the private sector to serve as a catalyst of education for the entire State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Curtis Thayer
President/CEO
Alaska Chamber



Andy Rogers
Executive Director
Alaska Business Week

Cc: Senator Click Bishop, Vice-Chair
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Gary Stevens