



May 16, 2019

Representative Tammie Wilson  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Juneau AK 99801—1182

Dear Representative Wilson:

We write as the campus council for the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Juneau Campus to express our unconditional support for the university's research mission and for continuing University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) leadership of that research.

Every aspect of our society and our environment benefits from close examination and experimentation undertaken by our university's research institutes and initiatives. Much of this work, based at UAF but serving all of Alaska, will translate into applications that inform mineral exploration, sustainable energy, infrastructure development, health care delivery, fisheries and coastal management—indeed the entire range of human endeavor. Here in Southeast Alaska, we are mindful of the benefits of having a UAF research presence at the Lena Point facility in Juneau, engagement of UAF-based Marine Advisory and Cooperative Extension staff in our communities, and opportunities for UAS faculty and students to benefit from UAF research partnerships through the UAS Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) and federally funded Alaska serving research programs like EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) (National Science Foundation), INBRE (IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, National Institutes of Health), and BLaST (Biomedical Learning and Student Training, NIH). Tens of millions of dollars of funding for these initiatives is channeled through UAF and distributed through a statewide network of UA campuses and partnerships, funding hundreds of individual student and faculty researchers as well as large, interdisciplinary scientific teams tackling complex problems like climate change) and unique opportunities, such as the rising blue economy. UA research thus vitally supports Alaska's economy, sustainability and wellbeing.

As the UAS Juneau Campus Advisory Council, we are advocates for full funding of the university's budget, including its vital research function, which leverages external funding and partnerships to create a better future for our state.

Sincerely,

Sander Schijvens, Chair

cc: Juneau Campus Advisory Council Members  
UA Board of Regents  
President Jim Johnsen  
UAF Chancellor White