

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS



April 24, 2019

*Submitted via email*

Re: Support for University of Alaska Land Grant

Dear Co-Chair Drummond, Co-Chair Story and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports completing the land grant promised to the University of Alaska (UA) under the 1915 Wickersham Act. To date, America's largest state has received nearly the smallest land grant (with only Delaware and Hawaii receiving less). It is time for UA to realize the benefits of the nation's promise to support higher education.

A joint federal-state strategy is needed to remedy the university's longstanding land grant deficit. This strategy needs to facilitate the creation of a permanent land endowment for UA that conforms to state constitutional requirements, overcoming one of the key hurdles that has prevented completion of the land grant in the past.

The completed portion of the land grant, totaling less than one quarter of the promised acreage, already supports valuable programs such as the Alaska Scholars Program. This program helps UA educate Alaska's brightest graduating high school seniors in Alaska, where they are more likely to become contributing members of the Alaska workforce rather than taking their talents elsewhere. The additional income from a completed land grant could support so much valuable work at the university, including groundbreaking arctic research, incubation of new businesses, and feeding our talent pipeline with Alaska-trained professionals.

Especially in these troubled economic times, completing the land grant would help the university achieve its mission of educating Alaska's students for active citizenship and preparing them for lifelong learning and careers.

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC  
Orthopedics & Sportsmedicine  
Lockheed Martin  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Doyon, Limited  
Fred Meyer Stores  
GCI  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

Alaska Executive Search  
BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
First National Bank Alaska  
Matson Alaska  
Northern Star Pogo LLC  
Ravn Alaska  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Ahtna Incorporated  
Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
AT&T  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
ExxonMobil  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
HUB International  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
LifeMed Alaska  
Lynden  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
Trilogy Metals  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Yukon Title Company



The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca J. Dean".

Rebecca Dean  
Board Chair

CC: Office of Governor Dunleavy, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, Congressman Don Young, Alaska Interior Delegation