



April 16, 2019

*Submitted via email*

Re: Vital Role of University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dear Members of the Interior Delegation,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce would like to reiterate and emphasize our continued support for the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The Chamber supports, at a minimum, funding the university at the level of the FY19 budget.

UAF is an economic driver vital to the success of our community and the state of Alaska. Engineers trained at UAF are better prepared than students from the lower 48 to handle the special challenges of building and infrastructure projects in Alaska. Medical assistants trained at UAF's Community & Technical College are far more likely to remain in the Interior and reduce healthcare recruiting costs. University students, faculty, and contracts support local businesses whose success benefits the whole community. This is just to name a few of the many ways UAF contributes to the economy of Alaska's Interior through jobs, feeding our local talent pipeline, and increasing Arctic research and opportunities.

University of Alaska (UA) has worked through a strategic plan for the past four years resulting in methodical and responsible cuts resulting in significant reductions in spending and jobs. These strategic decisions have streamlined the university system so it can focus on its core competencies. Further cuts could result in the loss of federal and philanthropic money which might have come to Alaska, the loss of over 500 vital jobs in Interior Alaska, and the destruction of many local businesses.

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

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC  
Orthopedics & Sportsmedicine  
Lockheed Martin  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivlamore 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  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Yukon Title Company



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 Dean".

Rebecca Dean  
Board Chair

CC: Governor Dunleavy