



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Bert Stedman
Alaska State Senate
By email

Dear Senator Stedman,

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Sitka campus is vital to the residents of Sitka and our surrounding communities. Our local campus provides on-site and distance learning opportunities, including specialized degree and certificate programs in fisheries technology, education, health care, and law enforcement. The Sitka campus provides access to quality education in our rural community, depended on by our residents and employers.

The Senate's FY18 operating budget has listed cuts across the board. While we understand the hard decisions legislators have to make, we strongly oppose this drastic cut in funding to the University of Alaska. Our understanding is that the Legislative Finance Division shows a reduction of \$22 million in University of Alaska program from FY17 to the Senate's current proposal for the FY18 operating budget. A reduction of that magnitude would be highly detrimental. We urge you to undertake every effort to keep the University of Alaska funding at its current level.

Sitka will be happy to provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorman
Municipal Administrator