



UAF College of Engineering & Mines

## ***Advisory and Development Council***

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April 14, 2015

House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

The UAF College of Engineering and Mines Advisory and Development Council has been collaborating with the UAA College of Engineering Advisory Board to support the balance of funding to complete the construction of both the UAA and UAF Engineering Facilities in an efficient and timely manner. We applaud the legislature and governors for having the foresight to provide funding for these important and necessary facilities over the past four years. Thanks to these united efforts, we are now witnessing the completion of the UAA Engineering Facility, and following the progress as we work towards completion of the UAF College of Engineering and Mines Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility.

We appreciate the difficult decisions you are making to address the extraordinary fiscal challenges facing the state right now. However, as you deal with the immediate fiscal challenges at hand, we ask you to consider the long-term benefits to the state by staying on course and finishing what we started. While the balance to complete the UAF Engineering Facility is currently \$31.3 million, providing \$10 million in the FY16 capital budget will continue the course of construction to get closer to completing this much-awaited facility. Demobilizing and then remobilizing over time will cost additional funds in the millions-of-dollars, and partial funding will help to mitigate some of these unavoidable costs.

We consider the engineering facilities an investment in our capacity to build and expand Alaska's economy that will sustain us for decades to come. The construction of these facilities supports the future of Alaskan engineers, their families, Alaskan communities and the long-term economy of Alaska. This is an investment in our future.

We are graduating engineers at UAF in record numbers, and our classes are filled to capacity – and then some. We were mandated by the Board of Regents to double the number of graduates in this career field, and we have met the mandate. This facility is part of that equation.

At a time when we are faced with decreasing state revenues and more demands on state dollars, it is important to recognize this is an investment in our future. On behalf of the CEM Advisory and Development Council, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Bryan Clemenz, Chair  
CEM Advisory and Development Council  
Vice President, CH2M Hill

