



Governor Sean Parnell  
Office of the Governor  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Economic sustainability and the Marine Advisory Program

January 28, 2010

Dear Governor Parnell:

I am writing to strongly endorse the FY11 University of Alaska's request for \$614,000 in support of the Marine Advisory Program (MAP) offices in coastal Alaska. The MAP office in Cordova is located in space donated by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. That in-kind contribution demonstrates the importance our community sees in the MAP programs. I have no doubt that the other five communities where MAP offices are at risk are equally supportive because the program emphasizes so strongly partnerships and working with local communities.

Thanks to MAP and local coordinator Torie Baker, residents have access to excellent information and training on issues such as fishing technology, marine safety, workforce training and fuel efficiency. In the past five years – and supported by grant funding, Torie has not only organized and implemented MAP or University-specific programs, but she has also done a tremendous amount of partnering with a wide variety of other organizations. She works with everyone from the academic and scientific communities to the fishermen's union and city appointed task forces on fishing related issues.

I have lived in Cordova for over 30 years and experienced several periods when there was no MAP office. It will be extremely beneficial for our economy for this office to be active during the coming decade. There is great value in the networking opportunities Ms. Baker has helped forge among fishermen, the industry, and the scientific and academic communities. It is difficult to quantify but the loss of Cordova's MAP office would be very detrimental to our region.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bird  
President