November 9, 2009

Governor Sean Parnell
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

I am aware that you are in the process of considering the University of Alaska’s Draft FY11 Budget Request. The City of Cordova is writing to you in support of one particular part of the University of Alaska’s Draft Operating Budget – support for six coastal extension agents in the Marine Advisory Program.

Cordova and the entire Prince William Sound region very much benefit from having a Marine Advisory Program agent in our region. As a fishing community, the University’s Marine Advisory agent has enabled fishermen in our community to earn more income from our fisheries through technical assistance in fishing techniques, safety, marketing and processing. The Marine Advisory Program has also assisted in the education of the next generation of fishermen with networking and training offered at the Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit. Supporting our youth so that they can maintain their livelihoods in our community is critical to our economic well being.

In Cordova, the Marine Advisory Program is the face of the University. However, this position has been funded completely on grants and donations for the past five years. In particular, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation has donated office space for our Marine Advisory Program agent. Without a permanent commitment from the University, we may lose our coastal Marine Advisory Program in Cordova next year. We need applied University programs like the Marine Advisory Program in rural Alaska.

We strongly encourage you to support this request.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy L. Joyce, Mayor

TLJ:lk

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director
Office of Management and Budget
P.O. Box 110020
Juneau, AK 99811-0020