January 12, 2010

Representative Alan Austerman
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce supports the University of Alaska Fairbank’s (UAF) 2011 Operating Budget request for six coastal extension agents in the Marine Advisory Program (MAP).

These positions would represent a permanent commitment by the University to the position in each community and region. Five of the positions will be unfunded next year since they have been solely paid for through grant funding. These positions would be located in Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Cordova and Petersburg. The sixth position is a coastal MAP agent in Kodiak, an office that has been empty for 13 years.

Currently there are 16 MAP agents in 10 coastal communities. MAP agents work in partnership with local groups and residents on important locally defined issues including: economic development and diversification, linking research and researchers to coastal communities, building capacity in youth and adults, and connecting youth with science and educational and employment opportunities through university linkages and workforce development.

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce is devoted to improving the economic well being of our island community. We feel the addition of a MAP agent to Kodiak will greatly help us in our mission. Please support UAF’s request for funding of the six coastal agents in the Marine Advisory Program.

Yours in economic prosperity,


Debora King
Executive Director
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce

Dedicated to Kodiak’s Economic Future