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March 8, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce we urge you to ensure the Job Corps program has sufficient funding to continue connecting employers and young Americans in our community. The Alaska Job Corps Center is vital to our community, and the loss of Job Corps would be devastating to our economies, both at a local and national level.

One of the takeaways of the recent election, across both parties and in both rural and urban communities, is that jobs are increasingly out of reach. Some of these jobs have left our communities, but others, particularly in key industries such as manufacturing, require more training than in the past. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, there are 5.6 million jobs that remain unfilled because employers cannot find workers with the right set of skills. Some estimate that this 'skills gap' costs our economy \$160 billion annually. Job Corps bridges this gap, helping both young Americans and employers to fill these jobs. Small businesses in our communities work closely with the Alaska Job Corps Center because the center reliably produces skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to a small business' growth.

Job Corps also works for our local communities. Every dollar invested in the program results in nearly \$2 in economic activity in the local economy because of the purchasing of goods and services in the community. As a result, the average Job Corps center directly and indirectly supports 228 local jobs. Nationally, the 125 Job Corps centers are tied to about 30,000 jobs, the vast majority of which are in the private sector.

Most importantly, Job Corps works. The National Job Corps Study found that "Job Corps improves outcomes for disadvantaged youth." Further, the study's authors note that "Job Corps is the only federal training program that has been shown to increase earnings for this population." In the 20 years since the study was conducted, the program has continued to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, and outcomes. Today, nearly 90 percent of graduates secure a job, enter higher education, or enlist in the military. It is our nation's most effective career preparation program for economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24 and helps break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and public dependence that costs taxpayers and the economy billions.

**RALPH RENZI – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR * CHRIS CHAPPEL – PRESIDENT, Northern Industrial Training * CASSI CAMPBELL, MEA
DANALYN DALRYMPLE, Dalrymple Law, P.C. * JEHNIFER EHMANN, F-E Contracting * KELLY LARSON, Alaska State Fair
GORDON FLETCHER, Humdingers Gourmet Pizza Co. * ANNE THOMAS, Body in Balance Physical Therapy, CHAD BOSTICK, MVFCU
CECIL SANDERS, Last Frontier Magazine * AILIS VANN, Midnight Sun Yoga Center * JACKIE ENDSLEY, IBEW Local 1547**

Job Corps' success has earned it bipartisan support for 52 years, including from our Vice President, who was an inaugural member of the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus. We request your support for the Job Corps program and encourage you to use and integrate it into your jobs agenda. If our country is to achieve your plan to "Bring Back Jobs and Growth" our nation must invest in programs that have a proven track record of preparing a well-trained workforce. Job Corps is one of the most worthwhile investments toward these goals. For the sake of the young Americans in our communities and the employers who hire them, we encourage you to support and fully leverage Job Corps' success in preparing these young people for careers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Chappel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Chappel".

Chris Chappel, President
Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States
The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management & Budget
The Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Senator Dan Sullivan
The Honorable Representative Don Young