

September 17, 2019

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN), a non-profit organization operating internationally, we highly support the letter of the U.S. Permafrost Association from July 2, 2019. Governor Dunleavy's plan to cut the operating budget of the University of Alaska by \$70 million over three years would irreversibly change the educational and scientific landscape. We, as a non-profit organization with members from all over the world and a very active branch in Northern America (PYRN-NA) dealing with permafrost topics, would like to speak on behalf of permafrost research community.

Scientists and their facilities at the University of Alaska are doing a fantastic job in permafrost research and have highly influenced this research field during the last decades. Their encouraging projects have been highly supported by the unique location of the university within permafrost environments, which provide them an easy access to field work locations. Besides being an optimal location for permafrost research, experienced scientists from the Universities of Alaska have been supported by national (e.g. National Science Foundation) and international (e.g. National Geographic) external funding agencies. In order to do their best job possible, they need a fundamental funding backbone that helps educating the next generation of permafrost scientists. It would be an immense loss for Alaska as a whole if experts in the field have to leave the University of Alaska.

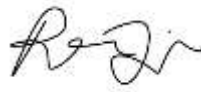
As the next generation of scientists, we want to express our concerns of such a large financial cut for one of the best universities in the field of permafrost research. We hope that you can convince the legislature in finding a better solution. If we can help with any form of support please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks for your attention.

Respectfully,



Helena Bergstedt  
President  
on behalf of PYRN ExCom



Roxanne Frappier  
Canada National Representative  
on behalf of PYRN-NA



Matthias Winkel  
German National  
Representative

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