PUBLIC TESTIMONY

MS. BISBEE: We'll go around the table and introduce ourselves so that you know who we are. And then as I call your name, if you would come up to grab one of these chairs and use the microphone, we would be glad to hear from you. Hello, Mr. Don Brandon, welcome. Sue Ellen, would you like to start?

MS. O'CONNOR: I'm Sue Ellen O'Connor and I'm a counselor in our Wasilla DVR office.

MS. SIMPSON: I'm Becky Simpson, I
represent a community rehab provider in Anchorage, and
I'm also the vice-chair of the committee.

MS. DIEBELS-PARAMORE: I'm Liza Diebels-Paramore, and I'm a community rehab provider here in Juneau.

MS. TOOYAK: My name is Pinky, I represent the employer. I'm a Tribal Voc Rehab supervisor and I'm in northwest Alaska in Kotzebue area.

MR. BOYNTON: My name is Ron Boynton and I also represent the employer.

MS. SINNOTT: I'm Gale Sinnott, I'm the director of Division of Voc Rehab.

MR. EVANS: I'm Mayfield Evans from Anchorage, Alaska, and I'm an employer.

MS. STRATTON: I'm Pam Stratton, I'm in Anchorage, and I'm the director of the Client Assistance Program for the state.

MS. BISBEE: I'm Jackie Bisbee, and I'm from Fairbanks, and I'm a Tribal Voc Rehab representative on the committee.
MR. BURTON: I'm Jim Burton, I'm from Fairbanks, and I'm a DVR recipient.

MS. BISBEE: Okay, Bryan Johnson.

BRIAN JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Brian Johnson, and I recently arrived here and I feel kind of awkward. I'm just trying my best, so I want to just keep, you know, continue.

So I tried to look for -- I had to look for a job, and I put down things I volunteered for, just, you know, what it means, the information, there is so much information, services and technology. So I have a CD, a CD for JST, and I volunteered and I gave that CD with my resume, and the boss looked it over and put it in and I have a video on there that I did.

So then I -- it already was set up, I had my resume there, gave them the information about how I could maybe work there and explained the things
about the job, so looked over it and it seemed like it could help. So I was impressed.

Some people are laid off, and I was kind of stuck, you know, up until now, almost two years.

I'm trying to hope and continue to look for a job.

Also, you know -- well, really that's all have. Thank you for your help.

MS. BISBEE: Lucinda George.

LUCINDA GEORGE: I wish I had a partner here. Good afternoon, my name is Lucinda George, I'm originally from Angoon. I've had to relocate to Juneau because I have many problems, health problems, and one of them is osteoporosis. I've had both legs broken, I believe because of my allergies, I have a hard time hearing because of alcoholism.

I have problems socially, and I've
always been a loner all my life. I come from a very big family, and basically I don't believe I learned anything in school because I hated boarding school. And I had a younger brother that wanted to help me, the very youngest brother, talked me into going to the University of Hawaii, and that's where I went. And I have to admit I never knew I had so many problems. I sat in class with a big bandage on my ear because I had to have operations. I had no idea I had -- that I was bipolar, too. I had just recently found that out, and what can I say?

I mean, I'm 57 years old, and if it weren't for DVR I don't know what I'd be doing. I really don't believe that I would be here. I had just recently accepted a job at the Mendenhall Glacier, but that's a seasonal job. I'm very happy to work, I'm happiest when I'm working, but I would really, really enjoy the idea of having a permanent job where I could
finally have my independence and my freedom to make choices for myself. I've been sober for many months now, and what a different world, what a different world.

I spent the last week going to church.

I belong to the orthodox church, and it was great to be a participant singing in the choir, making Easter bread and everything like that, and I wouldn't be this productive person if it weren't for DVR.

My only complaint is this. I am, in my decision to be sober, I had enrolled into the Yale study program, and they are studying the Alaska Natives here, and I met some wonderful, wonderful doctors, Dr. Brobin, Dr. Levinston, and they had bent over backwards for me, and helping me find myself, I guess. The drugs have become my silver bullet, so to speak. It works for me. I can't speak for anybody else, but I know that they will use this study for the rest of my family, and I am so excited.

I'm so excited, I feel like I'm a child,
and just now beginning to grow, and I need to thank the state's DVR as well as the employment center, as well as public assistance. I think it's just great the way it's set up, and I need to thank them for helping me. I have to pay for my own drugs, and I was just on my way to Ron's. Scott has given me -- the pharmacist has given me credit, trust that I could go and buy my medication from there, and I'm really excited that SeaAlaska has made a distribution, so I want to run there and pay them off and give them some Easter bread, that's how happy I am. That's all I have to say.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you.

LUCINDA GEORGE: Thank you for listening, and thanks DVR.

MS. BISBEE: Michael Traux on the phone.

MICHAEL TRAUX: Okay, I'm here.
MS. ELSTAD: We have Michael on the line that would like to testify.

MICHAEL TRAUX: Well, I'm a stroke victim, and I've had a couple of mini strokes that affected my eyesight, and I have been out of work since 1999. And I decided to go to the Department of Vocational Rehab and see what they could do to help me get back into being employed. And I still have not gotten a solid permanent job as yet, but I'd like to express my admiration for the people at DVR, they are some of the finest and most professional people that I have come across since I moved to Alaska. They have always been exactly on time when I needed them, and in continuing to do job searches to get me back into a regular life. I'm sick and tired of collecting disability and doing nothing.
The lady who spoke just a moment ago from Angoon, I'd like to tell you that I was an alcoholic for over 20 years, and I gave it up, I walked away from it ten years ago, and I have not indulged in one drop of alcohol. So I guess what I can say to you is that I know all about what the fight is all about to get away from alcohol and you can do it. I've done it.

I don't know what I would have done to continue on living the life with a disability of doing no work, just wasting day after day, and DVR has provided an excellent outlet for me to do job search and to get out and to talk to people and see what the labor market is in the state of Alaska.

What else can I say? But the only problem I guess I've found so far is just Haines is a very, very small town, and unfortunately a lot of businesses fold, small businesses, and I don't know how much longer Haines is going to be sustainable. So I need to get out and into a larger environment and work. And what I would like very much to do is work in a food service industry for people, I find it
satisfying to work with the older people. I don't know who I'm calling older person, I'm almost 60 years old myself. But in any event, DVR has been just unbelievably helpful for me with the job search and getting to where I need to be and so on.

I guess the next thing I'm going to have to do, because if I can find work in Juneau or in Anchorage or Fairbanks is the next thing I'm going to do, is the hurdle I have to get over is housing.

I guess that's about all I have to say.

The lady from Angoon, Angoon, she talked alcoholics and alcoholism. Probably the thought of alcoholism is far more troubled than the actual act of getting away from it, that's what I know about it. So I guess that's about it for me.

MS. ELSTAD: Thank you, Michael, for
taking the time to testify today.

MICHAEL TRAUX: Okay. Shall I hang up the phone now?

MS. ELSTAD: That will be just fine, thanks.

MICHAEL TRAUX: Great, bye-bye.

MS. BISBEE: We need the mic back over here. Gerald Sandy Roberts.

GERALD SANDY ROBERTS: I put the Sandy because a lot of people know me as Sandy.

My name is Gerald A. Sandy Roberts. I reside here in Juneau. I found out about this happening just today, and I wanted to come down here. It's important to me to let you and the Governor know that DVR is very special to the people in Alaska. The reason I say that personally, I'm a disabled Vietnam veteran. I moved here to Alaska in 1976. I moved to
Juneau four years ago. I've been a client of DVR for three years now, and in that three year time frame they have done more for me than my government has, federal government, in helping me with my physical and mental ailments, and impediments.

I wouldn't have glasses today if it wasn't for DVR. I've gone to the VA, I've gone to the VA, I've gone to the VA, in fact I go the 27th again. Finally they are going to do something after 36 years as being a veteran, 36 years the VA has finally heard my voice, whereas DVR heard my voice as soon as I became a client of DVR.

They have treated me with more respect and dignity than I've received at any VA place. I have an aversion to government agencies and organizations, to this day I do. But not to DVR. And they basically have helped me over the hurdle.
I spent a lot of time in the brush in Alaska staying away from everyone, and when I decided to come out of the brush and seek gainful employment, I'm so happy that there is an agency there to assist me, and I just want to encourage you, if you have the Governor's ear, don't cut funding, if anything increase the funding to help folks like myself and those that are testifying here today, it's very important. So thank you very much for your time, and have a good day.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you, Sandy. Scott Feldman.

SCOTT FELDMAN: My name is Scott Feldman, I live here in Juneau, I'm a retired veteran. I did 27 years of service between the Army and the Coast Guard. I retired with a 50 percent disability, various reasons, and I spent the first year-and-a-half after I retired trying to get assistance from the VA, their vocational rehabilitation program also. I stumbled upon DVR. I wasn't aware of the program, but I was in the Job Center and was
guided to them. Within a week I was getting assistance from them. I still am getting assistance from them, it's been a year-and-a-half now. I'm not seeking gainful employment because I'm trying to self-employ. So far I am self-employed, me and my wife started a small business here in Juneau about a year-and-a-half ago. We're trying to expand -- I'm trying to expand my capabilities to be able to make the business a full time business for both of us. Right now she's employed gainfully and she can't quit her day job yet.

I would like to say that DVR, and backing up what Sandy said, is amazingly efficient and they do treat you very, very well. I struggle with the federal government. I'm still struggling with the VA trying to get assistance from them, and it sounds
like it's going to be a few more years before I do get
assistance, knowing from Sandy. But I really would
like to say and to promote DVR to the Governor, that
it is a very viable program within the state of Alaska
for people like myself and other people with
disabilities. They listen to you, they try to find
out what you need, they try to create programs within
their guidelines to help you be a better citizen in
this environment and in this state. That's about it.
MS. BISBEE: Thank you very much. Karla
on the telephone.
MS. ELSTAD: Sure. Karla, we'll be
taking you next as soon as we get the microphone.

How is the sound? I wanted
to start by thanking the Governor's Committee for
putting the Center for the Blind and Visually
Impaired, the project, our rural projects on your
MS. ELSTAD: Karla, could you speak up just a little bit, we can barely hear you.

MS. JUTZI: Maybe I should start by introducing myself. I'm Karla Jutzi, I'm the director of the Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and I wanted to start by talking with you today about the special projects in the DVR budget that the center is seeking in order to provide outreach and community-based training to people in rural Alaska who have visual disabilities. Are you able to hear me, Velja?

MS. ELSTAD: Yeah.

MS. JUTZI: Okay. First I'd like to thank the committee for making this project one of your legislative priorities, I think that's wonderful. You may already have the information. The project is currently included in the senate version of the budget, of course we have a long way to go before final passage, but we're very hopeful that it's in the senate version of the budget. And when you go to the
legislature tomorrow, the senators most responsible
for that are Senator Thomas, French, and Davis, and it
would be wonderful if you could thank them.

I don't know if any committee members
were able to go over to the senate finance committee
today and testify, but this week several of us will be
offering testimony to the senate finance committee and
it will go from there to the full senate and hopefully
to a full conference committee.

When you go to the legislature, other
members of the finance committee are Senator Olson,
Senator Dyson, Stedman, Huggins and Elton.

And to refresh your memory, this is a
grant on the federal project line of the DVR budget
that would allow the Alaska Center for the Blind and
Visually Impaired to employ a vision professional to
let people in rural Alaska know what services are
available when they have a visual disability and
provide training in their community to people who
can't get into the centers in Anchorage for whatever
reason. And we believe there are, the statistics show
there are as many as 3,000 people who could be helped
by this project.

The center is also quite excited about
being able to provide training on vision

rehabilitation that's coming up the last week in April
to all the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
counselors, the Tribal Voc Rehab counselors and
others, and we have a national speaker coming, and we
think this will be a really positive training project.

And lastly I wanted to make sure that
all the members of the committee had a personal
invitation to the center's 30th anniversary
celebration. It will be in Anchorage Saturday May 19th from noon to 3:30. It's going to be a picnic, and we are excited that DVR's director, Gale Sinnott, will be one of our dignitaries who will be speaking, and we're hoping the Governor will join us. She's been invited. And we'll have food and music and activities and informational booths, ATLA and Access Alaska will be participating as well as the center, so they will have informational booths, and we hope that members of the committee can participate with us and can attend.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk with the committee today, and I'll be glad to take any questions if there are any.

MS. ELSTAD: Any questions for Karla?

MS. SIMPSON: Can you clarify, I was wondering if you could clarify where the party is in
Anchorage.

MS. JUTZI: I'm sorry, it's on the Park Strip in Anchorage, the far west end by 9th and L by the Hawthorn Suites.

MS. SIMPSON: We'll see you there.

MS. JUTZI: We'll get the invitations out. We've been creating them this week and they will go in the mail soon.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you, Karla. Larry Johnson.

LARRY JOHNSON: Hello, my name is Larry Johnson, on July 11th, 2005 I had a massive heart attack, and that's left me with less than 50 percent of a functioning heart. And I stumbled on to DVR through the employment office out there, and initially met with Ray, who continues to introduce me as a miracle, but I, between DVR and TVR, the Tlingit Haida other half of Voc Rehab, have determined with my doctor that I needed to change my field and put me through a five month business computer class and now I'm working a temporary position in town. So all
along they have been extremely helpful, extremely professional, and have paid for my schooling and paid for my clothes for work, and continue to help me trying to get permanent employment. So I just wanted to throw my two bits out and say they are good people and doing a good thing.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you.
LARRY JOHNSON: Thank you.
MS. BISBEE: Deborah Bush.
DEBORAH BUSH: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Deborah Bush, and I reside here in Juneau and I'm a client with an active plan funded by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Because of the services and support I've received through DVR, I'm a certified optician, through the American Board of Opticianry. I'm currently working through the final requirements to hold a state license, occupational
license in my chosen field.

I've experienced a nine year absence from the work force due to a disabling injury. I was struggling to meet the very basic living needs and had to start over. I returned to work in 2004 as an optician's assistant, I knew I had the physical capacity and the academic ability to pursue more in opticianry, and with some accommodations I could earn enough to stay in my community.

I began an apprenticeship but didn't have the financial needs for travel and testing costs, educational materials, nor tools or equipment. I received partial funding through an injured workers fund and purchased needed tools and equipment. I sought assistance from DVR to accomplish the rest. My DVR counselor reviewed my plan and helped establish
goals. Once my plan was approved, DVR provided the
funding to meet the educational costs and satisfy the
financial aspects of state licensure. I am now an
enabled worker and I'm a contributor to this
community. My earnings are now higher than my
pre-injury wage.

I'm a productive member of this great
state's work force because I received the supports and
services through the Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation. Please continue to provide this
opportunity to others. Thank you.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you. Pam

Mueller-Guy.

PAM MUELLER-GUY: Hello. My name is Pam
Mueller-Guy, I'm from Juneau. I work for SAIL,
Southeast Alaska Independent Living at the deaf
services and interpreter referral program. I wanted
to say DVR has really been very helpful, because when
I first started working I had a low paying job, and
then I had a fall-through and my job was cut, then I
started all over. I developed all the way up with all
the help with school and so forth. Now my career ladder is going up, up, up. Now I'm not no longer Medicaid, I can support myself, and I want to thank DVR for all the help. Hopefully I will get a higher level when I finish with my degree. Thank you very much for that.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you. Becky, do you have some written testimony to read.

MS. SIMPSON: This letter is from Rachel M. Sergent. Before I came to Alaska in June of 2006 I had no clue that DVR even existed or else -- and would have applied a lot sooner. A friend of mine by the name of Michelle Fred told me of DVR when she brought me up here. Because she knew that I wanted to get into school again and she knew that I qualified for the program, she brought me to the Job Center to help get me started. From there I believe it was Claire
who told me that in order to get into DVR I would need
to go to the orientation and fill out the papers. I
did what she said and of course I got into the
program.

When I got into the program I was
introduced to Vanessa Stevenson who was to be my DVR
counselor. At first I wasn't sure if I liked her but
now I trust her with my life.

Vanessa has helped me in so many ways I
don't know where to begin. I guess that first and
foremost she hired Liza Paramore, who is now my CRP,
and she's also been my job coach for my new job at
Reach. I used to work at Safeway as a courtesy clerk
since Reach did not accept me the first time. However
six months later I reapplied for Reach and my neighbor
Bob who works for Reach knocked on my door and more
than two weeks after I turned in my application said
that he was wondering if I could come in and have an
interview with Kim Love, who is now my boss. I now
work for Kim at the state office building downtown,
and I do the bathrooms in the AOB from 5 to 9 Monday
through Thursday. I quit my job at Safeway so I could
work for Kim, and it's an honor to work for her.

Vanessa and Liza both helped me get out
of Aware and into my own place as well. If it wasn't
for them I might or might not still be homeless. They
helped -- they also helped me into so many programs
that I have lost count and I cannot remember them all.
DVR is also helping me with getting my teeth taken
care of. My wisdom teeth were killing me before
Vanessa they would help me see a dentist to get them
taken out, and I do not feel any pain and do not have
to take pain meds.
In the future I'm hoping DVR will be able to get me on to Social Security and back into school so that I can make my dreams come true. I plan on becoming a writer, English teacher, and I plan to open Illusions, which is going to be my own theater company. I don't care what or how long it takes, these things will happen, and if for whatever reason DVR can't help, I'll find some other way. My first play for Illusions is going to be Peter Pan by James Barrie. All of my books are going to be dedicated to him, because even though I never got to meet him he was the one author who inspired me to write. This is also why I want to create Illusions. Every single play I direct is going to be dedicated to him. I really wish I could have met him to tell him all this.

I hope DVR will be able to help me so I can do this. All of it is why I joined DVR. Sincere Rachel M. Sergent.

MS. BISBEE: Okay Nancy Webb.

NANCY WEBB: I just arrived, but as I understand you want to hear testimony from people who have been helped through the office, is that correct?
MS. BISBEE: Sure.

NANCY WEBB: I'm Nancy Webb, and I was able to see Kay Smith several times. Actually I

didn't look at how many appointments, but, you know, it was for several months, and really helped me through a rough spot in my life. I'm one of those people whose kind of disability I have is not one that I bring up very often because people don't know that I have a disability, and there has been a lot of publicity about things like Attention Deficit and that people are skeptical about it, so I generally don't mention it to anyone. But it runs in my family, multi generational, and it comes with learning disabilities, and in my case it affects me in the workplace, especially when I have a lot of anxiety or something is new. If I'm nervous, if I'm very excited, but it
can cause a lot of social problems that affect my work and personal life, too.

And I had just had my first state job when I came to see Kay, I had had a job for a year with the state, and I was abruptly cut from that job at the end of my probationary period and I was traumatized emotionally by this. The union took my part and there was a settlement as a result, but it basically really traumatized me. And then I went through a period of unemployment and was fortunately able to be hired at the Department of Transportation where I have a wonderful job now but I had to get through that first year. And it was tough because I had so little confidence and I had several sort of major life events happen, the death of my daughter occurred during that time, and some other -- my divorce, I just had a lot of hard things happen.
So I have to say that I never realized what a resource this office was. I never knew what it was really for or about, but I'm sure glad I found out, because by coming in to see Kay she helped me get focused on the things I could do something about. She gave me excellent feedback and helped me navigate through the early months of getting to know my new boss and the people I was working with and it really, really helped me out. And also she was willing to sort of pull any kind of resource in she thought would assist me, and I was very grateful to that.

To give you a specific kind of example that's a struggle for me is that I will miss cues when I'm in a group meeting if I get beyond a certain anxiety level. I will end up cutting them off halfway through their sentences without knowing it, and if you can imagine that's really distressing on other person and I don't know what is wrong as well. And auditorily, if I'm on a teleconference and it's a speaker phone or something, and I have learned what
are the areas that give me the most trouble. But I

can't always correct it, because in Alaska when you

have a statewide job you have to use teleconference,

so I work with it all the time. But she really gave

me some good pointers and just that support I think

was really critical.

So, you know, I just wanted you to know

that and that's why I came down to talk about it. I

don't know if you have questions or something for me.

And I would like to say I did get past my first year

probationary period, and now I enjoy my job. When I

first started seeing Kay I was kind of panicking and

thought I don't know how I could possibly last in this

job because it was a lot of detailed work I didn't

know about when I was interviewing, and I was really

panicky. And those months -- now I actually enjoy the

parts that used to make me panicky, so I feel very

happy about that. Thank you very much.
MS. BISBEE: Liza, do you have written testimony?

MS. DIEBELS-PARAMORE: Yes, let's see.

This was sent, this was an e-mail and it was sent from John Bahe, but in case I'm not pronouncing it correctly, it's B-a-h-e, and it is addressed to Ms. Bisbee.

A couple of weeks ago I sent an e-mail to Carol Whelan regarding potential fraud on the part of an individual here in Kodiak. This individual is like me, being assisted with retraining at the Kodiak campus of UAA. The person in question is in most of the same classes as I am. Where I believe fraud has been committed is in the area of truthful disclosure to the local Voc Rehab office when seeking assistance. The person involved has admitted to me that he was in
fact not honest about a settlement he received in
order to get more from the system. This person has
received, yet not disclosed, a settlement in the
amount of $65,000. In addition to this, he did not
reveal the income from his bed and breakfast to the
Voc Rehab office as stated to me.

While I would normally just let this go,
the repeated mention of these dishonest tactics by
this individual continue to be spoken by him. On
Monday he will again be getting assistance from the
Division of Voc Rehab in the way of a plane ticket,
hotel accommodations and fee coverage to renew his
hazwoper card.

With every meeting I have had at the Voc
Rehab office I have continued to be forthright with
truthful information even when I could have followed
his advice and lied to get more. While I would have
loved to have Voc Rehab purchase for me a new computer
to use for school, I openly admitted that I had
already used a portion of my student loans to buy one
myself. This whole thing seems to be the reason why
it is so hard for people in real need -- are unable to
get everything they need.

If people had a tendency to be more
honest, the ones hardest hit by catastrophe would be
in line to receive the much needed help they deserve.
The main issue here is that although I sent a message
out I felt it should have led to checking these things
out. This has gone to a dead end. I make no claims
to be a self-righteous person, but I hate to sit idly
by and listen to the rants of a person screwing the
system that so many of us rely on to help us get back
on our feet.

If you would be kind enough to look into
the fraudulent efforts into the system that save so
many I would be grateful. John Bahe, Kodiak, Alaska.

MS. BISBEE: Brenda Sterns.

BRENDA STERNS: I'm going to have to
turn this way so she can see me speak and talk at the same time. I just found out about the meeting last night, but I want to say -- I don't want to cry, so

I'm sorry.

DVR has really helped my son, I'm sorry.

Kay Smith has really helped him so much, and others that have counseled him. He has a type of schizophrenia, and when he goes to look for a job on his own he doesn't understand why they don't hire him. And he's tried -- thank you -- he's tried so many times on his own, and not succeeded because he doesn't come across very well.

But with their help and others with DVR and the job shadowing, he has gotten a job and is doing wonderful, has his own apartment, and I don't know where he'd be otherwise. Sorry.

Also when he first moved here, SAIL had
supported him with just a big welcome and offered
different supports, too, but it ended up DVR was the,
you know, the support that he got. So I just want to
thank you.

MS. BISBEE: Pinky, do you have written
testimony?

MS. TOOYAK: Yes. I will read it. It
is a fax sent out to Velja. Public testimony, April
10th submitted by Lawrence Bear Noder.

Voc Rehab has taken my concept and has
put it into a workable business plan. I would not
have been able to do so on my own. They have led me
by the hand in the process, which has been immensely
helpful. Voc Rehab has given me the equipment and
membership services I needed to make my business
viable. Their assistance has given me feelings of
independence and the ability to earn a living for
which I am very grateful. And it was signed.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you. Is there anyone
on the phone?

MS. ELSTAD: Is there anyone on line
that would like to testify?

MS. BISBEE: Does anyone else have
anything they would like to offer? We have about
maybe eight minutes. We can sit and chat. We'll stay
here until 5:00, and if anyone else comes in we'll
welcome them. Thank you for coming.

NANCY WEBB: One more thing. One of the
things I was told about the office by going to the
university and taking a training course, I was looking
at what other careers I might have to consider
training into if I didn't get a job, because I just
moved down here to Juneau from Fairbanks, and I took a
class at the university and discovered that the way
the tests were done, that I was having a lot of
trouble. And I met a few students up there who had
disabilities, and I believe that we need a lot more
strengthening of maybe the resources in this office
and the university, if that's possible.

I think that the special education
coordinator, whatever they call the position up there,
maybe doesn't have strong enough ties to the
resources, and so I would believe there are a lot of
students probably that get turned away from courses
that they really would benefit from and careers that
they would benefit from, because they don't have the
proper assistance and support there.

I feel like that's just something we
really need to invest in in the University of Alaska.

I just wanted to mention that. Maybe you all know
about that, but just from my perspective, it was
illuminating.

MS. BISBEE: Thank you.

MS. STRATTON: Thank you.
MS. SINNOTT: Are there any more of these completed?

MS. BISBEE: Not yet.

MS. STRATTON: Jim.

MS. BISBEE: We'll just wait a couple minutes until 5:00.

(Meeting adjourned)