
From: mdevaul
Posted At: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 6:12 PM
Subject: Thank you for supporting the Alaska's visitor industry!!!

March 17, 2009

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol, Rm. 120
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras,

I moved to Alaska from upstate New York 13 years ago, fresh out of high school, with no idea that I would chose Fairbanks as my permanent home. In order to support myself through the summer months while not attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I searched for a fun and interesting summer job at the UAF Visitor Industry Job Fair. This was my first season as a tour guide with Northern Alaska Tour Company, and I have been working in the visitor industry since 1999 with this small, locally owned organization.

I graduated from UAF in 2002 with a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts, and continued to work seasonally with Northern Alaska Tour Company while I worked on my resume for graduate school. I even accepted a temporary seasonal job in Antarctica as a heavy equipment operator at McMurdo Station to offset my summer season in Alaska's Arctic with a summer season in the Antarctic for two years. Fortunately, when I decided that I was ready to plant some roots, Northern Alaska Tour Company offered me a full-time, year round position. The skills that I have gained wearing many different hats with this organization have expanded my resume in many broad directions with valuable experience in accounting, professional vehicle instruction, supply chain coordination, and most recently: human resource coordination.

I am not only representing myself in this letter appealing for your support for the visitor industry, I am also representing all seasonal workers that, just like I did for eight years while attending school and finding my path, continue to return year after year to organizations in the visitor industry to share their story of Alaska with our visitors.

Specifically, I am asking you to support HB 167 and SB 138 in honor of your many constituents that rely on the visitor industry to support themselves. I bought a house in your district last year, and the visitor industry is what allows me to support myself on my own and live the quality of life that I enjoy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. DeVaul
Northern Alaska Tour Company