

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 37

Approp: UAF Bioscience Facility

Senate Bill 37 appropriates \$105 million from the general fund to the University of Alaska to design, construct, and equip a bioscience facility, or BIOS, on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. BIOS is the University of Alaska Board of Regents only priority for new construction projects this year.

The new 110,000 square-foot building will house research laboratories for 18 university programs as well as classroom space and teaching labs. BIOS will consolidate current research and teaching facilities built prior to 1960, and located on opposite ends of campus, into one building equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories for both researchers and students. BIOS will enhance opportunities for students to participate in research alongside University of Alaska's top researchers and thus attract and retain more students.

Each year the University of Alaska generates more than \$130 million from outside sources to support research activities at the university's various campuses. For every dollar the state invests into the University of Alaska research activities, the university is able to leverage \$6 from other new revenue sources. Construction of the bioscience facility, with its top-notch lab equipment, will provide the much-needed space to expand biomedical and health research at the University of Alaska and will firmly establish Alaska's nationwide role in bioscience research.

Please join me in support of this construction project and pass Senate Bill 37.