

Doniece Gott

From: Larry Simmons <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: re: Opposition to Governor's Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I do not support the governor's budget proposal.

We must fully education from Pre-K through university because education is our future. I do not believe any new industries will come to a state where the education system has been demolished.

We should fully support the Alaska Marine Highway System because many thousands of Alaskans depend on the ferries as their primary way of transportation and receiving goods. We cannot leave these Alaskans stranded without a way to travel or receive goods.

With the level of crime the state is experiencing, we need to fully fund law enforcement and the courts. Since the primary driver of crime seems to be addiction, we need to offer treatment rather than jail as an alternative, therefore, I fully support therapeutic courts.

The governor's budget proposal will damage our state in so many ways. A full PFD is not worth the destruction this horrible budget will cause. Protect our state and reject this budget.

Sincerely,
SSG. Ret. Lawrence A. Simmons
Soldotna, AK
District O

Doniece Gott

From: Charlotte Carroll [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: Budget Testimony

Testimony on record Senate Bill 20! Please reject the Dunleavy budget and go back to the 2019 budget levels!
I was born and raised in Alaska and have lived here 72 years and my Husband has been here since 1967! We live in
Cordova and the Dunleavy budget would be very detrimental to the town of Cordova! Thank you.

Virgil & Charlette Carroll

Cordova

Char@akcarroll.net

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Daniel Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Gov. Proposed Budget

My name is Dan Sullivan and I am a 39 year resident of Petersburg, Alaska. I support increased funding for education, an intact ferry system for SE, medicare & medicare expansion, the Ocean Ranger Program, public radio, and the University system. I oppose the confiscation of raw fish taxes from fishing communities. I am will to take a reduce or no PFD and I am willing to pay a equitable income tax for the services I think are necessary to allow our state to thrive and flourish in the future.

Thank you,
Dan Sullivan

Doniece Gott

From: Mark Guillory <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BUDGET

Dear Chairs von Imhof and Stedman and other finance committee members,

I strongly oppose cutting education and ferry funding. And agree that the budget should be balanced. Therefore, I support using part or all of the PFD and also believe we need to start an income tax.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Guillory, [REDACTED], Sitka, AK 99835.

Doniece Gott

From: Tracy Sylvester [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Tracy E. Sylvester, I am a commercial salmon/halibut/black cod fisherman currently living and raising my two young children in Sitka, Alaska. Thank you Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

The budget proposes a big cut to an already under-funded education system. My daughter has just started kindergarten, she LOVES Baranof Elementary here in Sitka, AK. She loves her teacher (who would be at risk of losing her job as a new hire) and she loves learning at school. **It breaks my heart that the State of Alaska does not value her education as much as she does.** The threat of cuts has already negatively impacted the entire community: students, teachers, and parents worried that we will have to leave our home to find adequate educational opportunities and job security. **Please make no cuts to education and keep the lives of children out of politics.**

Similarly, UAS has provided educational opportunities to rural Alaskans for decades. The jobs at UAS support the community, and allow Alaskans to stay in Alaska to further their education. **Alaska is a unique place to learn and grow, please do not cut their budget and push higher education out of reach for so many residents.**

The ferries are an absolute necessity to Sitka. When I had to move to Juneau to give birth to my daughter, we were able to move and drive our car on the ferry. Sitka is so small that residents often need to go to another town for one reason or another. The ferry is an affordable way to do that, especially for families. Tourists from the ferries bring money to Southeast, and residents rely on them. **Please no cuts to our ferries.**

Medicaid cuts in Alaska are perhaps the most upsetting of all the concerning proposals in the budget. As someone who has had to rely on Medicaid in the past, I have seen first hand that our system cannot afford any cuts. Medicaid needs more funding for personnel (it is nearly impossible to reach an agent unless you are having a major emergency). Coverage is weak compared to other states, and generally women and children are more heavily impacted by this than men. Yearly Pap smears are not covered, even when requested by the doctor for medical reasons. Births are more dangerous here than in most of the developed world. In 2013, I nearly died at Bartlett Hospital in Juneau because the birthing team was under-staffed and made a series of avoidable errors, the worst being a surgical error that caused me to lose 3 liters of blood internally. It took over 5 hours for the nurse (who was working a short handed shift) to realize there was internal bleeding, then over an hour for the ultrasound tech to get called in to the hospital. I nearly lost my life because the hospital did not have proper staff to handle a common post operation issue.

When Medicaid makes cuts and stops fully reimbursing hospitals for the work that they are doing, the entire healthcare system suffers. In a state where legislators have been working to restrict the poor's access to abortions, it is very troubling to consider the serious lack of access to quality care and safe hospital births. No cuts to Medicaid.

I am willing to take a smaller PFD. I am willing to pay a state income tax. I would like to see the state start taxing the oil industry again and would like to hear legislators talking more about how the state got into this financial mess by cutting taxes for oil companies. I would like to continue to raise my children here and support myself as a commercial fisherman. Our people are our most valuable resource, and it is time the State of Alaska starts putting its citizens first.

Thank you,

Tracy Sylvester

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

Tracy Sylvester

Fishery Conservation Network Coordinator

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA)

[REDACTED] St.

Sitka, Alaska

[REDACTED]

[2018 ALFA Annual Report](#)

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME: Marilyn Menish-Meucci

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: SB20 Subject: General Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME: Senate Finance

HEARING DATE: 04.11.19

I'm Marilyn Menish-Meucci. I live in Petersburg and I represent myself. I'm opposed to Governor Dunleavy's proposed Budget. I'm also opposed to any Constitutional Amendments. I find it offensive that Governor Dunleavy keeps referring to the people opposing his budget as "special interest groups". The people I know that are opposed to his budget want to be able to drive on our state highway, which for coastal Alaskans is the Alaska Marine Highway. We want our children to get a quality education and go to college in Alaska. We want health care to be affordable. We want our Pioneer Homes affordable for our senior citizens. The small communities like mine need Public Broadcasting. We are not special interest groups!! To do this I support repealing the oil tax credit, a state income tax, a school tax and a lower or no PFD.

Thank You.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME: Thomas Edward Abbott

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Family of 5 in Petersburg

BILL #: HB39/SB20 **Subject:** General Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME: Senate Finance

HEARING DATE: 04.12.19

We believe the budget should be balanced in the short term by using PFD earnings and reduced PFD's, for the long term by implementing an income tax.

We support full funding for public broadcasting. Public radio is critical within the public safety network in the state, providing critical information to the public from first responders, so first responders may do their jobs while the public is informed as what to do by listening to public radio. In rural areas, this is critical.

We support funding from Head Start to the University. The ferry system is critical to our economy in Southeast, moving goods, commerce and people among our island communities.

We urge the fish tax revenues to remain in communities.

Doniece Gott

From: math [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Math Trafton, and I am a resident of Sitka, where I plan to spend the rest of my life.

I would like to say that I am gravely concerned for Alaska's future under Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts, especially with regard to education. If we do not fund preschool and K-12 to give our youth a wealth of opportunities to thrive, we are robbing ourselves of such opportunities in the future. Education is an investment with real returns, and it is our responsibility to retain it as a priority.

And the governor must know that his proposed cuts would *kill* our state's one and only university system. The 19 UA campuses spread all across the state do more than simply confer degrees. They serve as hubs, provide valuable community services, and fill significant needs in the work force. If the university falls, we all fall.

Please resist the proposed cuts and work toward a much more reasonable system, perhaps as the House Finance committee has. For this year in particular, I strongly propose we reduce PFD payouts to a modest amount and resist PFD back payment. With these measures, we can ensure adequate funding across the board.

Then, in the next few years, I would like to see a progressive income tax and a repeal on oil tax credits in order to nurture the future of our state.

In the coming days, as you deliberate, please act with integrity to prioritize what matters in our community-oriented state.

Thank you,
Math Trafton
[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

Doniece Gott

From: Martha Giffin Pearson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony on Budget

My name is Martha Pearson and I live in Sitka. I am a parent and a healthcare administrator. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

The proposed operating budget is unacceptable. The proposed 23% cut to K-12 education and 44% cuts to University of Alaska destroy the future of Alaska by weakening our ability to educate tomorrow's leaders. Such care is taken via policy and laws to preserve natural resources in Alaska, yet this budget seeks to save PFD payouts and balance costs to the detriment of our greatest resource, our students.

This is not a problem to be solved with cuts to services. The PFD can be reduced. The State oil tax revenue must be amplified and income taxes explored. Please have courage and take these steps as leaders of all Alaskans.

Thank you,
Martha Pearson

4/12/2019

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Head Start because I have seen how important this program is for our children and families.

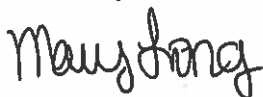
Let me first say how Head Start helped me as a person. When I first started working for Head Start in August of 1989, I had no Early Childhood experience, but was a mother of 2. Head Start provided me opportunities to take classes to achieve my CDA, and AAS degree in Early Childhood Education. I am now working toward my BA. I have learned a lot about children through Head Start.

When my last child went through the program, he had some learning disabilities. Head Start had helped me as a parent advocate for the services he needed, and also helped me as a parent on how I can work with him. When he exited the program, his annual IEP meeting with the public school told me that he would not need the service from the Disabilities Program anymore. To this day he is at the top of his class.

I also had a comment from the Kindergarten teacher working at the public school say that she can see when a child has gone through the Head Start Program, and a child who has not. They are kindergarten ready, meaning they have skills they learned through Head Start. Their social and emotional skills are present, and they know basic academic skills for success in kindergarten.

Without Head Start in our communities where are they going to learn the skills they need to succeed in the public school system?

Sincerely,



Mary Long

St. Michael, AK 99659

Phone: [REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Marie Trigg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Deborah Trowbridge; Rebecca Callahan
Subject: Nome Testimony Session

Dear Finance Committee,

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs depends on Head Start grants, these grants supports teaching traditional values through language revitalization. Please support this vital important education for our next generation, by providing a funding source for a valued young Alaskan children.

Quyannaq,
"Uṅḡaachi" Marie L Trigg
Culture/Language Specialist
[REDACTED]
Nome, Alaska -99762-
Phone: [REDACTED]

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Doniece Gott

From: Stacey Wayne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Governors budget

Thank you to Senator Stedman Senator Von Imhotep and Senator Hoffman for being present to hear passionate public testimony in opposition to the Governor's budget. I testified for myself that I oppose cuts to education, the university system, Medicaid, senior services, public broadcasting, planned parenthood, and municipalities. Please use the pdf to find this years budget. Stop subsidizing the oil companies. Institute an income tax.

Thank you
Stacey Wayne

Doniece Gott

From: Jim Gifford <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Written Testimony apposed to Governors Proposed Budget

Written testimony apposed to Governors Proposed Budget
April 12, 2019

I am Jim Gifford, Valdez Alaska, representing myself.

I do not support the Governors proposed budget cuts.

The process the Governor has chosen, to cut budgets, so that he can payout record Permanent Fund Dividends will cause long term damage to Alaska society, communities and the citizens of Alaska and will take a generation or more to recover from.

I ask the legislature to take a measured approach, take reductions where appropriate, reduce or suspend the Permanent Fund Dividend, reduce the funding to oil companies (if necessary, not eliminate), re-introduce school tax and income tax as necessary.

The State receives adequate funds counting all sources, its just that we, you the Legislature and Alaska society chooses to save it (25 % to the PF), give it away to oil interest support and our citizens (PFD).

Please do not destroy our Alaska society with the Governors draconian budget cuts.

Don't be bullied by his strong man threats.

Take care of our core functions as a state first, then if there is Excess Funds, that qualify, pay out a Dividend, only then.

Again I urge you to take a measured approach, lets build Alaska not tear it down.

Stand strong against the Governors Red Pen Veto threats.

Thank you,

Jim Gifford

[REDACTED]

Valdez, Alaska 99686

Doniece Gott

From: kent Barkhau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Dear Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose the Governor's proposed state budget. It is hard assess what are the worst parts of the proposed budget as there is so much that is so bad. The cuts to education, medicaid and the ferry system are particularly egregious. The benefits we all enjoy through good education of our youth are foundational. Across the State educational opportunity will be greatly reduced under the Governor's proposed budget. If Alaska will not invest in education, then Alaska is jeopardizing its future.

The ferry system is the most affordable means of transportation for students traveling between towns; the ferries also provide rural Alaskans with access to health care, more affordable shopping, and recreation. The ferry systems connects families and communities across the many miles of SE Alaska. Eliminating the ferries is punitive to coastal Alaskans.

I support a reasonable limit on Alaska's permanent fund dividend of \$1000. I oppose all retrospective PFD issuance. I also support a modest income tax. Right now, far too many people are earning their livelihood in Alaska then leaving the State to spend what they have made elsewhere. Alaska provides services to these people during their time in state; those who earn a living here should contribute to maintaining those services. An income tax makes sense. I also support increases to oil taxes, maybe looking to tax policy similar to Norway.

I am also strongly opposed to redirecting raw fish tax from coastal communities to state coffers. Coastal communities provide essential services to their fishing fleets, and local fishermen depend on those services. Raw fish tax not only supports local fishermen but by funding harbor department personnel and staff, raw fish tax also provides community benefits to commercial, charter, sport and subsistence fishermen.

In sum, I ask you to reject the Governor's budget and to instead develop a budget that prioritizes education, supports coastal residents, and invests in Alaska's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kent Barkhau, Sitka AK.

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: early childhood programs

To whom it may concern:

My name is Barbara Mitchell and I am a board member for the Aurora Lights Childcare Center which is operated by Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Juneau. I have been a resident of Juneau since 1986. I have raised three daughters and have 9 grandchildren, 6 of whom reside in Juneau.

I ask that you fund early childhood programs at the amounts approved by the legislature last year for Head Start, PreK, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings Imagination Library, and all education from kindergarten through university.

These programs need to continue and grow in the future because research has shown (Perry Study) that children with age appropriate social and emotional development do better in school, attend and graduate from college, have jobs, pay their taxes, are not on welfare and are productive citizens.

Thank you for listening and for doing all you can to support Alaska's young children and their parents.

Barbara Mitchell
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME:

Sally Dwyer

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):

Self

BILL #:

SB20

Subject

FY20 General Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME:

SFIN

HEARING DATE:

04.12.19

Good Afternoon,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on 2 budgetary items close to my heart.

As a 64-year-old Alaskan, I have seen the "before Ferry" and "after Ferry" impact on our lives in Southeast. It is huge. Our Marine Highway is the lifeblood of our island life. It connects all of us in one way or another and I urge you to fully fund the system. Do not privatize it. I recommend hiring a professional, not a political appointee, to run it efficiently and without interference.

Next

The Public Radio in our community brings listeners daily news, announcements, emergency notices, weather, birthdays and lots of great programming. I would like to highlight the many volunteer DJs who keep things moving with their daily programs and music. Our community supports our local KFSK in record numbers through membership and support. The continued cutting of Public Radio is way past into the bone and is into the marrow. Our Public Radio needs to be fully funded so that it can continue to inform and contribute to the uniqueness of our Alaskan lives.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME: Karen Hofstad

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: SB20 Subject FY Operating Budgets

COMMITTEE NAME: SFIN HEARING DATE: 04.12.19

I'm Karen Hofstad. I could spend hours telling you my concerns for our beloved Alaska.

I will stick to COMMUNICATION, in our sprawling geography, that boils down to public radio. Using Petersburg as an example, our life revolves around KFSK. Emergency messaging is life and death.

Our community works hard with volunteers. We are proud to be one of the top in the Nation per capita for private donations.

Dunleavy's proposed budget would cut \$80,000! which will trigger a loss in federal matching funds. I am opposed to Public Broadcasting cuts. We have one weekly newspaper and public radio period!

I said I would stick to one topic, but I can't resist to urge. Please implement a state income tax to catch the people from South who make their money in Alaska and skip out, contributing nothing! Income tax would not cost the low income residents that we are worried about. The Dividend is peanuts compared to what our residents would be losing under Dunleavy's plan.

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: lio.sitka@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Renee J. Trafton

REPRESENTING:

Self, small business owner

BILL # or SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

The proposed cuts to K-12 education, University of Alaska, and the ferry system ~~are~~ would irreversibly harm the state. There is no budget crisis, we do not need a large PFJ. I support repealing oil tax credits, a progressive income tax, and a modest PFJ. I have lived in Sitka for five years, and I own a small restaurant. I've paid income tax before moving to Alaska in order to help pay for the services I use. I have no problem paying for services ~~the~~ the government provides.

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: lio.sitk@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Lisa Sadleir-Hart

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

State Budget

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance

DATE: 4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

I'm a 30 year Alaska resident. I'm expressing my opposition to cuts in preK-12 and university funding. Education builds needed intellectual and social capital in our communities and our state. This capital allows us to solve complex problems like climate change and grow our economies. I oppose the ~~drag~~ ^{drag} \$309 million and to preK-12 education and ~~the~~ ^{the} 41% to University of Alaska so I can receive a \$3500 PFD. Reduce my PFD and meet the constitutional right to a quality education. Consider the reinstatement of the state income tax and school tax as well and charge the oil companies duly for what they are extracting from our great state.

By Collauna Morley
Sitka resident

Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity.

^{I'm calling}
~~my name~~ I am speaking ^{about the operating budget} today because I am afraid of the red pen that Governor Dunleavy has been seen sporting in his suit pocket. I am afraid he is not listening ~~to our voices~~. Every cut in his budget has real Alaskans attached to them. We know ^{the} faces in our own communities. We know them intimately, cars they drive, the houses they live in, their children's best friends. We know not only what is proposed to be cut, but who is to be cut. The teachers, professors, city employees, public services employees. Some of the best active contributors of our community, cut! We are coming together holding gatherings, brainstorming, writing letters, testifying to our city assembly and to you. We need the share of the raw fish tax to help support our schools and our city needs. We need you, our legislators to fight ^{against} the red pen to keep the faces and services that matter to us most in our communities. Thank you for your work towards legislating a percentage of our pfd for these services. We know Dunleavy can't act alone. So we are counting on you. ~~to assume the voice of Alaskans.~~

Sitka Legislative Information Office

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Kathleen Brandt
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: Senate Finance Operating Budget
COMMITTEE: _____ DATE: 4-12-2019

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

Please do not pass the governor's budget. It's ^{cuts are} too drastic and will cause education to be cut too deeply*, as well as medical difficulty for some, the lack of our Alaska Marine ^{highway} will cause transportation restrictions for many areas and the deep cuts to the University system is irresponsible! And selling the Sheldon Jackson Museum - ridiculous! Public media is necessary - don't cut it.
Thank you for your time

* Finland's literacy rate is high. They spend more on pre-school and early education because they know that's where it counts.

Sitka Legislative Information Office

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Stacey Wayne
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: Budget
COMMITTEE: Senate finance DATE: April 2019

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

I oppose the governor's budget. I was just graduating from Wrangell high school when the PFD was instituted. Even as a teen, I understood the permanent fund was intended to be a way to fund vital public services when the oil money ran out. I remember thinking then how wise our leaders were to safeguard the future of Alaska. Please follow the example of those legislators and use the PFD to fully fund vital services.

I am in favor of an income tax.

I'm afraid our economy has already been damaged by people fleeing the state to find job security elsewhere.

Please work quickly to assure funding for K-12 education, our university system, public broadcasting, planned parenthood, Medicaid, museums senior programs and other services that make our state great.

Stacey Wayne

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: llo.sitk@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Mickey Barker

REPRESENTING:

Myself

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Operating Budget re: ADMHS

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance

DATE: 4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

After listening to the 4/10/19 Senate Finance Committee discussion regarding the ADMHS, many red flags went up for me. I am a Licensed Marine Engineer currently working for the ADMHS, so I understand the problems with some of the proposed changes. "outsourcing" ferry service will be extremely problematic, as a ~~subject~~ public service operates at a loss. No business will operate at a loss, so would require funding by the State. Trying to close the service all winter poses HUGE negative impacts on ADMHS employees, cities like Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, etc who rely on the income from the ADMHS directly and indirectly by ~~it~~ brought in by visitors: tourists. It is also unrealistic to think anyone would count on the State of Alaska for an on-again & off-again system. Many employees have advanced licenses and will move to other employment opportunities - not waiting around to ~~maybe~~ go back to work. There will be a lot of costs to "moth ball" the fleet and then ~~of~~ income while down as well as ~~of~~ service for so many communities - find a way to fund this Vital System. As important as highways

Sitka Legislative Information Office

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

BART MEYER

REPRESENTING:

SELF

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Governor's Operating Budget

COMMITTEE:

SENATE Finance

DATE: 4-12-2019

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

I am OPPOSED TO THE DETAIL AND PRINCIPLE OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET. THIS BUDGET IS NOT GOOD FOR ALASKA, SITKA, OR MY HOUSEHOLD.

I SUPPORT RAISING REVENUES AS PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS. I SUPPORT THE INCOME TAX BEING REINSTITUTED.

I AM COUNTING ON THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE FALL LEGISLATURE TO PROPOSE A REASONABLE BALANCED BUDGET, AND TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNOR'S THREATS AS NECESSARY.

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: llo.sitka@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Liz Zacher
REPRESENTING: Myself & My Family
BILL # or SUBJECT: Operating Budget
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance DATE: 4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

Thank you to the members of the Senate Finance Committee for taking the time to hear public testimony regarding the operating budget. I speak on behalf of myself and my family. As a resident of Sitka for nearly 9 years I would like to impress upon you that I regard the people of this great city as extended members of my family. I have a son Eliot who will soon be 13. He has been here for all of his formative years and Sitka is part of his identity & family. He succeeds here as a student and community member. We are deeply troubled by these proposed cuts that provide vital services to our Alaskan family. The proposed cuts to education, healthcare, Marine Highway, University, public radio, Sheldon Jackson Museum all impact us and the most vulnerable populations in this state and our communities. Please protect these vital services. Remember the people you serve all have families that will be harmed by this. Consider a progressive income tax, reduced pfd's, and oil tax credit elimination. Supporting a budget that invests in our families and future is the best investment. oil is a finite resource and we NEED to cut our dependence upon it.

COPY

My name is Sam Skaggs, I live in Sitka, I have made my life in Alaska over the last 45 years, raised a family and I'm not leaving when I retire. I am an independent investment advisor and financial planner with over 30 years' experience.

The budget proposed by this administration is a budget not made by, or for Alaskans. It is a budget designed by Outsiders that have no idea how to govern a diverse State half the size the rest of the country. Even though we are all rugged individualists, Alaskans first and foremost, take care of each other, because it doesn't matter if we are from Bethel or Hydaburg or anywhere in between.

This budget will cause a massive deceleration of our economy and will especially hurt SE and those in rural areas which much of Alaska is. It ignores the function of government to pool and distribute money as equitably as the process can. This budget blows up the effect of pooling and redistribution and is irresponsible. We don't have a "fiscal crisis" in Alaska. We will if this budget passes.

I do not support the retroactive permanent fund dividend. The permanent fund was never intended to be an entitlement. Jay Hammond, who I voted for, is rolling over in his grave. The permanent fund was designed to fund our government, which helps all Alaskans, when the oil runs out. It is now being used to weaponize an ideology that has no culture in our state. We have a 60-billion-dollar sovereign wealth fund, 20th largest in the entire world, that, with the right-sized, responsible fiscal policies, we can help grow our economy and help each Alaskan have a bright future.

To have this future I ask you to pass a budget that not only gives every eligible Alaskan 600 dollar from the Permanent Fund, but that will pay for the rest of the state's bills, including keeping the \$300 million for our schools. This budget already exists due to your hard work from last year. And...Override the Veto.

Next year, pass a progressive income tax that not only includes us well-off Alaskans but the nonresidents who come and take our fish, take our oil, take and take from our State and never pay anything for the services they use while making an income here. If you are bold, put to the voters to make the dividend based on income as well, so that those that need it most, get more.

Finally, I ask you to be a real Alaskan leader and reject this carpet bagger budget. The governor has pulled a bait and switch on us. If he had proposed this budget while running for governor, I am pretty sure he would not have been elected.

This is the fork in the road for Alaska's future. Please lead us away from the cliff. Thank You. Testimony Senate Finance Committee April 12, 2019

April 12, 2019 Testimony for Senate Finance

Thanks to all the Alaska State Legislators for their hard work in trying to create a workable budget for the state this year.

My name is Rosemary Carlton. I have lived in Alaska for 50 years. Through those 50 years, I have never been as stunned with a proposed state budget as I have this year. In 1969, before the "oil boom" the people of Alaska helped support the State budget by paying a small income tax and an even smaller school tax and we did not receive a PFD. I strongly support both these means of raising revenue while maintaining a moderate PFD for the state if it means small class sizes in our schools, fairly paid teachers, a reliable ferry system, strong healthcare assistance for those who need it, reasonable Pioneer Home fees and the termination of **excessive tax breaks for oil companies**. Of utmost importance to me is the continued **protection and full operation** of the Sheldon Jackson Museum with improvements to the Stratton Library allowing parts of the building to be leased providing revenue. **I just heard this morning that SJM is not funded after July 1.** I hope this is in error.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is part of a National Historic Landmark District and is on the National Register for Historic Places. It has been suggested this part of Alaska's heritage be "investigated" for the potential of sale of it to the highest bidder. How divesting itself of an iconic part of Alaska's history that in the overall picture of State spending is like the proverbial, "drop in a very large bucket," is beyond my comprehension. The museum contains objects that represent all of Alaska's Native cultures. It has a professional staff that cares for the artifacts. The Museum is one of the States top tourist attractions with over 14,000 people coming through last year bringing in \$42,175 in revenue which is enough to help maintain the building.

Museums are not created to be money makers, that is not their purpose, they are created to preserve and protect in the public trust. The state of Alaska holds the collection of the Sheldon Jackson Museum in the public trust in perpetuity. These strong words are backed with laws and ethics to back them up. I wonder what the State's reaction would be if the investigation to sell the museum actually recommended its sale and then it found itself embroiled in never ending litigation. If the Governor thinks he would be saving money by selling our history, he needs to be reminded of the high cost of lawyers and the pace at which litigations move. The contract signed between Sheldon Jackson College and the State of Alaska clearly states "The State will maintain the integrity of real and personal property conveyed to the State under this agreement as a single collection...."

Please, before taking these drastic actions of even considering the sale of Sheldon Jackson Museum or taking crippling amounts of money from any essential State services, bring back money to the state that is now being giving to oil companies, reinstate an income tax, a school tax and yes, share some of the "oil wealth" with the people of the state with a moderate PFD, but don't make us the first state to sell its history and culture.

Thank you for your time.

Rosemary Carlton

[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK 99835

[REDACTED]

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: llo.sitk@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Audrey Beam

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Budget

SB 20/21

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 9/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

To the senate finance committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. I am writing on behalf of myself and my family.

Although I respect the governor's position to reduce spending, I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to education, the ferry system, ^{AND} the healthcare system.

Community colleges will be one of the first things to be cut if university funding drops even 3% in some areas. Sitka has offered general education courses and career preparation for the community since the 70s when we had Islands Community College, to the present day as UAS-Sitka. If we cut the foundation of basic education, we neglect the ability and potential of our citizens to obtain the minimal required educational credentials for employment beyond minimum wage. We also lose the ability to offer college & career readiness classes, GEDs, Professional Testing Services, and an educational institution that provides support for local and distance students.



If such budget cuts are passed, please consider ~~continuing~~ ~~to~~ ~~our~~ extending current funding through December, 2020 to give us time to plan and adjust to the new fiscal climate.

Please also consider a state lottery with 50% of earnings allocated to education.

Please consider a state sales tax and increasing the marijuana tax.

Please also consider requesting federal funding options to better manage the oil industry, so that ^{ULTIMATELY} more of those dollars are going to state citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Audrey Beam

State Head Start Funding

Governor Dunleavy has recently proposed a revised State Budget which would cut all Alaska funding for Head Start in our state - \$6.8 million (including \$569,386 for Kaverak Head Start). This change would impact Head Start programs across the State, and for Kaverak it could mean having to cut up to 4 Head Start classrooms that could serve up to 80 children and approximately 13 employees.

We are asking that you take a few moments to voice your questions and concerns and/or tell what personal impact Head Start has had on your child and family. We have Policy Council representatives from Kaverak going to Juneau next week and we would love to take this opportunity to make your voices heard in our state capital by personally delivering your questions, concerns and stories.

Please return this form to your Center no later than Monday, February 25th so that our Policy Council Representatives can bring all our concerns to the Capital to be addressed. We appreciate all of your help and support. Thank you.

Questions about this budget proposal:

How can someone who worked in rural areas be so much ignorant?? Is education not important?

Concerns about this budget proposal:

My children will not have a Head Start Center to attend as well as many others. More families that lose their job will struggle. Don't this governor know from experience

Personal Impact of Head Start or Early Head Start on your child and/or Family:

I feel for my children. They have school. Two of my kids will have to wait until age 5 to continue with school. This is so unfortunate.

Parent Name: FELISA SOUTHWALL

Parent Address: Box 804 KREVIA MISTON, AK 995

Kaverak Head Start Center: Foreign Mission

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Questions about this budget proposal:

What is this governor thinking? Is he even thinking? All cuts specifically for rural communities only? What about urban areas they have it easier than the villages?

Concerns about this budget proposal:

This is going to impact early education and head start? Where will our kids go to school. Job loss in the villages.

Personal Impact of Head Start or Early Head Start on your Child and/or Family:

My younger children will be without school. They both love it!!

Parent Name Frieda Sathau

Parent Address Box 85106 Breig Mission, AK 99785

Kaverak Head Start Center Breig Mission

City of St. Michael
Box 59070

St. Michael, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 22, 2019

Kawerak Headstart
Nome, Alaska

Cc: Kawerak Headstart St. Michael

Dear Kawerak Headstart:

Greetings from the City of St. Michael, we are grateful for the Kawerak Headstart Program. The program helps with education of our children ages 3 to 5 and has prepared them for our public school.

We fully understand the budgets cuts within our State, cuts of the Headstart Program will affect our Communities in the Kawerak-Bering Straits Region and the whole State of Alaska.

The Communities in this Bering Straits Region supports the Kawerak Headstart Program in continuing operations fully.

We look forward in working with the Kawerak St. Michael Headstart Program and the Kawerak Office in Nome for our children future.

Sincerely:

The City of St. Michael
City Council,

Mayor Harold W. Hawkins

Vice-Mayor Phone Poll 2/22/19 Dave Harvey supports this letter.

Secretary: Mary Hung 02/22/19

Treasurer:

Council Members:

Helen Laws yes 02/22/19 Phone Poll

Doniece Gott

From: mary bishop <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Senate Bill 20

Honorable Finance Committee Member,
Please vote against Governor Dunleavy's proposed operating budget.

Instead, I urge you to restore funding for the operating budget to the 2019 levels.

Dunleavy's promise of a \$3000 pfd at the expense of our state services is ridiculous. Alaska's future depends on good public schools. Medicaid is a necessity for many Alaskans. Dunleavy's proposed budget would be a disaster for towns like Cordova. Our coastal economy depends on the ferry system and the fish tax.

Keep our services, lower the pfd to a minimum amount (<\$1000), and consider restoring the state income tax.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mary Anne Bishop (29 year resident of Alaska)

[REDACTED]
Cordova, Alaska 99574

April 11, 2019

Alice Bioff
[REDACTED]

Nome, Alaska 99762

SB 20 – Operating Budget

Position: SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)

Dear Honorable Committee Chair and Committee members,

My name is Alice Bioff, resident of Nome, Alaska. Thank you all for the opportunity to testify in support of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

I come to you today to ask that you reconsider cutting the Alaska State Council on the Arts funding. The Alaska State Council on the Arts supports the arts within the State of Alaska through education, partnerships with organizations that support the Arts within the State of Alaska as well as nationally, ASCA also administers grants to individuals and organizations in support of the arts.

The Arts play an important role in our local economies, especially here in rural Alaska. We have an amazing community of Artists and many artists rely on their arts to support themselves, their families and their communities.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts plays an important role in supporting this community through programs such as:

The Silver Hand Program, a program that authenticates native made art and adds value to an artist's marketing campaign.

ASCA offers Workshops sharing tools and resources that artists can utilize to take that next step in their artist careers. Workshops for example on how to price artwork or apply for additional grant funds to support their work.

ASCA also support Elders and Mentors that are interested in going into the schools to share their art with the youth through the Artist in Schools Program.

I would also like to add that without the State support and public funding, the National Endowment of the Arts will pull it's funding and we will see the Alaska State Council on the Arts program and services come to an abrupt halt. Please reconsider cutting the Alaska State Council on the Arts. If you need additional information on the programs and services provided, I do have those available.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at, [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

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

Alice Tunuunataq Bioff
[REDACTED]