

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: SB210

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie and Jim [mailto:julieandjim@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB210

Dear Senator: It is the opinion of my family and all of my friends here in Haines that SB 210 would be needlessly cruel to the most vulnerable of the Alaska citizens who have worked hard to defend this country and state as well as help to build this state as I have for the last 60 plus years. Please stop to conciser how much the wounded warriors in Alaska have given to us and how they have been treated since coming home. I, thank god, am not among them, however I did spend 20 years in state service in this wonderful state in a dangerous position not thinking the legislature would ever dream of treating me and my wife and the thousands like us in such a shoddy manner. The moment you pass such a bill Boroughs across the state will immediately revoke our property tax exemption as many Boroughs and towns in Alaska like ours spend our money like drunken sailors while continuing to prove how unfit they are to be stewards of our well being. Haines is the eldest community in Alaska per capita and our tax money would be too much of a temptation. The hardships this bill would create would be heart wrenching for many Alaskans who worked hard all their lives and sacrificed much to be able to finally relax for what little time they have left only to have that security blanket pulled from them. Many in Alaska will wind up unable to keep their dream homes. So many home owners have labored under inflated evaluations set by untrained government employees who are strongly influenced by other officials to inflate property values in order to gain more tax based funds for pet projects and the seemingly endless and expensive studies aimed at compensating for the professional shortcomings of the Borough or city officials we elect or hire.

Before making such a move please conciser the ripple effect on those you have pledged to serve. Smaller government will solve more than throwing us to the dogs.

Jim Shook
P.O. Box 1286
Haines, AK
99827
(907) 766-3835

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Senior Property Tax Exemption

From: Eric Ash [mailto:epa@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senior Property Tax Exemption

Senator MacKinnon,

Being a retired senior I would ask that our tax exemption not be changed. Retirement planning is based on expenses vs. income, and an increase of our property tax would be quite a bump to the expense column. If the decision on our exemption were sent to the local level you know Mayor Spendowitz would gleefully end it.

Best regards,
Eric Ash

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: SB 210

From: Ronald Johnson [mailto:rajohnson@alaska.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 2:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>
Cc: John Davies <jdavies1945@gmail.com>; Diane Hutchison <dhutchison@fnsb.us>
Subject: SB 210

RE SB 210,

I get this benefit and can survive just fine without it.

As always, there is a trade off. If push comes to shove, **I don't think the FNSB [for example] should be forced to offer this to all of us. It is an unfunded mandate.** The amt for FBKS, I believe, is of the same order as what the FNSB has gotten from revenue sharing.

My limited research indicates many other states leave it up to municipalities and it is income limited.

For NY, for ex,

"Local governments and school districts in New York State can opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying senior citizens. This is accomplished by reducing the taxable assessment the senior's home by as much as 50%.

To qualify, seniors generally must be 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limitations and other requirements. For the 50% exemption, the law allows each county, city, town, village, or school district to set the maximum income limit at any figure between \$3,000 and \$29,000."

My guess is that we are the only state that (1) requires municipalities to offer the exemption to seniors, (2) requires it regardless of income, and (3) has such a high exemption amount [150 K].

--

Ron Johnson
Professor Emeritus
Mechanical and Environmental Engineering
Univ of Alaska Fairbanks

2113 Jack St
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:07 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: SB 208 & 210

From: Harvey Karen [mailto:kjoharv@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 4:26 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 208 & 210

As residents of Alaska since 1972, we plead with you not to pass SB 208 which affects the AK Performance Scholarship Program. LET'S KEEP OUR SCHOLARS IN THE STATE INSTEAD OF DRIVING THEM OUT. GOOD LORD, WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE OUR GRADUATES NOT DISCOURAGE THEM, FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE.

DO NOT PASS SB 210 which eliminates property tax exemption for senior and veterans . We have owned our own home and have been taxpayers since 1978. We are on fixed incomes, past State of Alaska employees and raised our four children in Alaska, all who are upstanding and good residents of Alaska.

DO NOT pass 208 and 210.....PLEASE!

Doniece Gott

From: Michael Sewright <msewright@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 4:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sharon Hoffbeck RPEA President
Subject: No on SB 210

As a 67-year old 63-year resident of Alaska I request that you not pass Senate Bill 210 out of committee, or allow its passage on the Senate floor. It unfairly targets seniors and disabled veterans for tax increases, in order to cover the expense of other, unrelated legislation you are considering. Trying to say it simply removes a "benefit" to seniors and disabled vets is like trying to justify removing the PFD as just a "benefit", but in the case of SB 210 just one segment of the population is targeted. Pass it and risk the wrath of all seniors and disabled veterans come election day. Good luck with that.

- M. Sewright

Arnold Liebelt
PO Box 240881
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 321-3505

Date: April 7, 2016

To: Senate Finance Committee Members
RE: CSSB 210

I am writing in objection to the CSSB 210 that removes section 7, which amends the property tax exemption for those over the age of 65. I urge the committee to reinstate this section.

This is not a senior issue, despite testimony you have heard to the contrary. It is a local control issue and a sustainability issue. Existing law is neither fair nor equitable. Municipalities are forced to balance their budgets on the backs of the working class - those under 65. The working class family is struggling today. We have many single and married parents, working 2 or more jobs, putting their kids through school, paying for sports and activities, paying their mortgage, and receiving no exemptions.

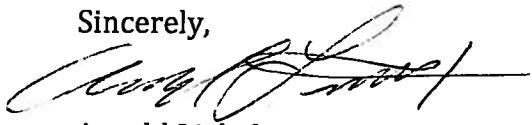
The 65+ population is growing disproportionately faster than those between 25 and 64, and the working class can no longer afford to subsidize this growing population. Statewide, the population between 25-64 will grow 11% between now and 2042, while the population of 65+ will grow 53% during the same time period.

For some areas of the state it is worse. In southeast Alaska, the 65+ population will grow by 32% by the year 2042, while the 25 to 65 population will shrink by 14%. The math doesn't work.

Existing law that exempts the first \$150.0 in property value for the purposes of taxation should have been repealed in FY 97 when the Legislature no longer appropriated funds to communities to offset their loss in revenue. If that had happened, then we would not be debating this here today.

The state does not appreciate federal overreach, and communities certainly don't appreciate state overreach. This is a LOCAL CONTROL ISSUE and control has to be given back to the municipalities to decide at what level property values should be exempted - based on demographics and community needs. No seniors will lose their home. Communities will still allow seniors with financial hardship to continue to be exempted. With all due respect, this state mandated exemption needs to end.

Sincerely,



Arnold Liebelt

CC: Senator Dennis Egan
Representative Sam Kito