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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 11:47 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Unacceptable

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

**From:** N8s [mailto:n8amazington@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 11:16 AM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Unacceptable

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver. HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the ASEA contract. This agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Nate Brazington

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 5:00 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379

**From:** Patricia Bower [mailto:pbower01@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 4:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 379

Dear Representative Munoz, Senator Egan, and House Finance Committee members,

I live and work in Juneau, Alaska where the cost of living is high and wages are far below average wages in the lower 48 private sector. It is a beautiful place to grow a family but, a difficult place to earn a fair wage and feed your family. The generous leave and retirement benefits attracted me to state employment. Also it was a vocation where I could make a difference and help others through service. I am one of many state workers who have worked hard to find ways to save government spending, to work harder, more efficiently, and to pull together for the greater good.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

HB 379 will destroy morale among state workers and may well catapult a landslide of workers into a high gear silver tsunami. With more budget cuts, layoffs pending, and now potential withholding of merit increases, retirements will increase rapidly. The brain drain is a term used to describe loss of historical knowledge as older workers leave the workforce. In effect by forcing out existing workforce, you will implement the brain drain. Your effort to withhold merit increases will cost the state money and cause inefficiencies in government, re-training, recreating the wheel, and in many cases a revolving door to unemployment. This will not be good for the local economy or the state budget.

Ask yourselves: What will happen to the real estate market as retirees and workers move away? How will this affect the private sector? What will the state do if their workforce must begin in infancy? How will the state recruit and keep good staff to do the important work we do daily? Certainly a caveat of merit increases after \$90 ppb of oil will not attract new hires. There are many experienced and knowledgeable state employees, eligible to retire or very close, who would prefer to work awhile longer. Don't encourage them to leave employment now. HB 379 is a ticket to mass retirements and disgruntled employees.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. **The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.**

**Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.**

Craig Johnson said, "It is unconscionable to be giving raises". Do you know what I think is unconscionable? House members receive a base \$50,400 per year, plus per diem and office expenses, so the range in 2013 was from \$72,459 (Les Gara – sorry, Les not really picking on you) to \$91,339 (Mike Chennault). Not bad for a 90 day part-time gig...I think a special session for a group of high salaried legislators is unconscionable and HB 379 is grasping at straws. You folks can probably afford to sacrifice your merit increases unlike many state workers who earn far less.

Legislators, I urge you to get to work for Alaska and propose a solution that doesn't demoralize the workforce. Try working the revenue side.

Thank you,

Patricia Bower

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 5:45 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please Oppose HB 379

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**From:** Steven Williams [mailto:whitehallhideout@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 5:25 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Sincerely,

Steven Williams  
4532 Glacier Spur Rd.  
Juneau, AK 99801

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:35 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: NO on HB 379: Paychecks Are Not Political Pawns

**From:** Andrea Mogil [mailto:emailmomo@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** NO on HB 379: Paychecks Are Not Political Pawns

Dear Representative Thompson,

Please vote NO on HB379. State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

HB 379 suspends the last wage and benefit package agreed upon for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. This is already a pay cut. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

Basing the re-implementation of step increases on the price of oil, at any level and especially without regard to the required price for a sustainable budget following necessary oil tax reform, is arbitrary and capricious. It is also a standard that is divorced from any performance measure or other factor that is within the control of any employee, and is unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver. The paychecks of state employees also provide substantial portions of many communities' private economies. Further docking state employees' pay takes essential resources out of these communities. It also discourages talented, experienced employees and business owners from remaining in Alaska and discourages qualified, skilled people and potential entrepreneurs from moving to the state.

Finally, creating upheaval in contract negotiations this late in the game as well as throwing an additional wrench in balancing the budget even after the legislative session should have finished is likely to create a similar situation to 2015, forcing the threat of a government shutdown which drains further resources, both financial and temporal.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

The paychecks of state employees are not pawns in your political game. HB 379 is a losing proposition all the way around.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you,  
-Andrea Mogil

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:36 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379 is NOT the Solution

**From:** Gates [mailto:amlgates@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 379 is NOT the Solution

Our union has already ratified an agreement to accept no Cost of Living Allowance increase and time off for furlough hours. I think the employees of the the State of Alaska are doing our part. We work hard to conserve the resources of the state. Many offices are working with reductions in staff and co-workers are losing their jobs. Taking step increases away from those that are left is a slap in the face to an already demoralized work force.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Generating revenue from companies doing business in Alaska with employees that do not live in Alaska seems much more productive.

Thank you.

Alice Gates  
Juneau

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:36 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB379

**From:** brad baxter [mailto:brdbaxter@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Doreen Baxter



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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:37 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Budget/bill concerns

**From:** Glenda Hogan [mailto:hogan@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 5:59 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget/bill concerns

Dear Representative Thompson,  
I urge you to OPPOSE HB 379 that ends merit increases and pay increments for state employees. Please work to find other ways increase revenue including sales and/or income tax, reducing oil credits, limiting/reducing the Permanent Fund, or increasing the minimum number of students in rural schools

Sincerely,  
Glenda Hogan  
2846 Knik Ave.  
Anchorage, AK

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:38 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose HB 379

**From:** Luke Boles [mailto:lukeboles@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:34 PM

**To:** Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Oppose HB 379

Sen. Coghill, Rep Guttenberg & members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a proud employee of this great state. Every day in my job at DOT I see fellow employees doing quality work and making honest efforts to improve efficiency. We are all doing our part to improve Alaska. State employees provide services that affect Alaskans and visitors every day. A quality state workforce is important for the state.

I'm willing to share the pain of our collective budget woes, and I think the contract my union negotiated does that. No wage increases, no additional contribution to health care and 6 days of furlough are expected to save \$7M.

What sacrifices have you and your colleagues made?

Are you and/or your colleagues collecting the federal per diem rate, while other State employees get the greatly reduced State rate when working away from home? Are you and your colleagues getting your work done on schedule? Or are you not getting the job done in the allotted time, at additional cost to Alaskans? Are you and/or your colleagues attending out of state conferences and staying at \$400+/night hotels? Are you and/or your colleagues looking to put yourselves in luxurious workspace while you expect other state employees to work in poor quality workspaces?

Leaders walk the walk. Leaders make sacrifices before they expect others to. Please, be leaders. Make sacrifices like other state employees have already committed to.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees. A competent state workforce benefits the state.

Thank you for your service and for considering my comments.

Luke Boles  
Fairbanks

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please Oppose HB 379. Support Dedication and Allegiance.

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

From: Tisha Valentine [mailto:tishavalentine@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:41 PM  
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please Oppose HB 379. Support Dedication and Allegiance.

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

When I was hired on with the State of Alaska in September 2014, I was elated. I am a third-generation Alaskan and am proud to be a public servant of our incredible state and it's residents.

Like so many of my co-workers, I love my job and am dedicated to providing the best service possible. I understand that the fiscal crisis has affected everyone in Alaska and am willing to make sacrifices to help pull us out of the deficit. So far this commenced with the "shutdown" scare. I was assured by other state employees to faith in our government and not worry about losing my job quite yet. Then we had the hiring freeze and layoffs. Our office had positions cut and we were all strung a little tighter. Now covering multiple positions, we were forced to decrease the amount of assistance that we could provide the public to cover the volume of work. Not providing my "all" to every customer goes against my work ethic, but it is really felt most by the public that we are trying to help. The residents of the State of Alaska could get through this together though, we know that it won't last forever. Recently our union contract was negotiated, which included 6 days of furlough, but no COLA. This equates to a decrease in wages. Our stipend for travel has now been decreased. Now I'm starting to wonder where our sacrifices end?

I am trying to retain allegiance to the State of Alaska, but am beginning to wonder why? Being able to assist our fellow Alaskans and the love of my job is very rewarding, but the sacrifices are starting to add up. Instead of my employer rewarding me for dedication and service, my employment security is questioned, work load is increased, work ethics challenged, wages decreased, and travel stipend decreased. Just 24-hours ago, I accepted all of this as we are all making sacrifices. I still had my step increase, which would help offset the furlough and lack of COLA. My wages are decreasing every day, but eventually, it would all pay off. But will it? Should I stop defending the job that you do as a legislator? That you really are representing the best interests of the State of Alaska and it's residents? Will you be the one paying my student loans?

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the ASEA contract. This agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you,  
Tisha Valentine

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB739

**From:** Sheila Box [mailto:shera@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:12 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB739

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year. (Departments have also cut many 'unfilled' positions in the last two years, which means those remaining are now doubling up the workload in many cases)

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

ALSO – Please know it is not lost on Alaskans that while Mr. Johnson thinks a state worker, the people who come to work every single day to make bridges safe, ensure teachers and doctors are qualified, make sure that game and fish stocks remain stable, process PFD checks for Alaskans and deter fraudulent claims, provide and ensure the quality of health care, Troopers and corrections staff who ensure our safety, people who check to see that cruise ships aren't contaminating our shores, and so many more services that touch the lives of every Alaskan every single day; those people are not "rich", they make an average salary of \$66,000 per year. Many have advanced degrees, and decades of experience they bring to their work. And they do that work 251 days a year, every year. Interestingly, while Benefits of state workers are listed in the link Mr. Johnson sent out, they are **not** listed on the annual Legislative salary report. So Mr. Johnson, who thinks my pay after 15 years of service and a Masters degree is too high, Works only 90-120 days per year (required) for \$50,400 per year, plus Perdiem of \$24, 439 – a total salary of \$74,839, Plus probably some funds from his "business allowance" of \$20,000 – which he may use any way he pleases. If you Include the benefits missing from the public report, of approximately \$29,000 per year, that's pretty generous – and of course Mr. Johnson only has to work 10 years until retirement, not 20. So the 24,000 Alaskans who work for the people of this state year round make an average monthly salary of \$5,500, and (generously, \$74,839 divided by 120 days and not taking the business allowance for himself) **most legislators make \$18,709 per month**. It's time for legislators themselves to help with the budget crisis – instead of insulating themselves and their pay, buying themselves new buildings, renting cars in their home towns, taking trips all over the country and the world for committees that don't even meet, taking bribes and jobs from oil companies, etc. etc. etc. – while at the same time telling low-income seniors, and the people who work hard for the state year round that we have to cut back, again. It's time for a balanced approach of taxes, PFD, and fewer credits for the oil companies.

Sheila Box

4467 Mountainside Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: ALASKA STATE BUDGET CRISIS AND HB379

**From:** J B [mailto:jampony1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 1:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** ALASKA STATE BUDGET CRISIS AND HB379

To All State of Alaska Government Representatives,

State of Alaska employees and their families should not be burden with shouldering the budget crisis by diminishing their quality of life. The thought that a representative could introduce such a bill at the last minute is appalling. Then for Mr. Craig Johnson to give an interview to Channel 2 News stating "Before I start looking at taking someone's Permanent Fund Dividend or raising their taxes, I want to make sure that we've done everything that we can do as a state to show that we are participating."

Mr. Craig Johnson, you have demonstrated that the citizens of Alaska, who are employed by the State of Alaska aren't as important as the other 725,000 residents. The fact that you crafted and sponsored such a discriminative bill shows the lack of respect you have for a particular demographic of the workforce and dislike for certain Alaskan residents. You feel that all State employees should shoulder the burden because you do not want to take "someone's PFD and raise their taxes." I believe ALL residents of Alaska should shoulder some responsibility not just some.

I would suggest that HB379 be taken off the table for consideration. I would suggest, a portion of the PFD is used to fund state government. A State income tax for non-residents of Alaska be passed, a sales tax for the State of Alaska as a whole be enacted with a tax cap not to go above 8 to 10 cent on the dollar. The oil tax credit to be reduced. The fact that our elected officials and representatives rather see the State of Alaska go broke for giving these oil companies an oil tax credit is mind boggling. You all are making a huge mistake by singling out a particular portion of Alaska residents to foot the bill for ALL Alaskans by diminishing the State of Alaska employee and their family's quality of life with the HB379 proposal.

Sincerely



State of Alaska Employee & Alaskan Resident.

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB379 input

**From:** Joanne [mailto:joanne\_spears@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 12:30 AM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB379 input

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your service this legislative season.

I would like to share with you my concerns about HB 379. State of Alaska employees are already helping with the current budget crisis, by not asking for COLA, taking furlough days, and receiving no increase in employer contributions for rising health insurance costs during the next 3 years. Please do not support HB 379, that takes away merit increases for the hard working employees that are the backbone of Alaska. Merit and increment increases are necessary to keep a quality workforce to provide essential public services.

It is time to move on to finding new revenue sources. I believe it is time to institute a state income tax to share the burden for essential public services. This budget crisis needs to be solved not by only cutting services. I am saddened that the value of the future of our university system has not been demonstrated during this legislative session. The future of Alaska is dependent on our children growing up in healthy homes, attending quality education, and having the opportunity to attend university. If we remove services that support the success of our children we will be in a far worse place than our current budget crisis in the decades to come.

Sincerely,

Joanne

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

ALSO – Please know it is not lost on Alaskans that while Mr. Johnson thinks a state worker, the people who come to work every single day to make bridges safe, ensure teachers and doctors are qualified, make sure that game and fish stocks remain stable, process PFD checks for Alaskans and deter fraudulent claims, provide and ensure the quality of health care, Troopers and corrections staff who ensure our safety, people who check to see that cruise ships aren't contaminating our shores, and so many more services that touch the lives of every Alaskan every single day; those people are not "rich", they make an average salary of \$66,000 per year. Many have advanced degrees, and decades of experience they bring to their work. And they do that work 251 days a year, every year. Interestingly, while Benefits of state workers are listed in the link Mr. Johnson sent out, they are **not** listed on the annual Legislative salary report. So Mr. Johnson, who thinks my pay after 15 years of service and a Masters degree is too high, Works only 90-120 days per year (required) for \$50,400 per year, plus Perdiem of \$24, 439 – a total salary of \$74,839, Plus probably some funds from his "business allowance" of \$20,000 – which he may use any way he pleases. If you Include the benefits missing from the public report, of approximately \$29,000 per year, that's pretty generous – and of course Mr. Johnson only has to work 10 years until retirement, not 20. So the 24,000 Alaskans who work for the people of this state year round make an average monthly salary of \$5,500, and (generously, \$74,839 divided by 120 days and not taking the business allowance for himself) **most legislators make \$18,709 per month**. It's time for legislators themselves to help with the budget crisis – instead of insulating themselves and their pay, buying themselves new buildings, renting cars in their home towns, taking trips all over the country and the world for committees that don't even meet, taking bribes and jobs from oil companies, etc. etc. etc. – while at the same time telling low-income seniors, and the people who work hard for the state year round that we have to cut back, again. It's time for a balanced approach of taxes, PFD, and fewer credits for the oil companies.

Sheila Box

4467 Mountainside Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:34 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Stop 379

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

From: Nancy Dickens [mailto:ndickens66@gci.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:21 PM  
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Stop 379

While you try and balance the budget. Did you ever think that maybe if more people worked and not collected public assistance the state would have more money.

Stop taking money from the hard working people in this state and get the people that have been milking the system for years to work. While you think you are helping these individuals you are just teaching generation after generation how to collect public assistance.

Maybe you should meet with the people in the public assistance office. You might see and hear where a lot of the State of Alaska waste their money. Here is few examples:

1. Alaska increases TANF benefits for every new birth-Stop rewarding women for getting pregnant with children they can't afford. New Jersey did.
2. Make work requirements or at least community service required for all programs. Make people have a work ethic again.
3. Subsistence does not start with food stamp benefits.
4. Proof before before benefits. Currently the new automated Medicaid online system is approving Medicaid benefits to people who are not reporting their PFD income. If reported, they would not be eligible. Since public assistance can not review a case until there is a change reported or a review comes due the State of Alaska is paying for benefits fraudulently. Please allow eligibility technician to search databases for resources before approval.
5. The current HPE program in the hospitals needs to looked into. If we are to rely on the people word of mouth to approve public assistance benefits than there is truly no rules at all. While these individuals are in the hospitals in an emergent need, they can still apply for retro Medicaid and most hospitals have charity opportunities.

These are just a few things that may save the State of Alaska money. I only try and convey these ideas because I have already seen many friends lose jobs because of your decisions and have to leave this state. So please think before you act because great employees can leave your state and find other jobs but then again who will you be left with.....

Thanks for your time.

Nancy Dickens

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379

**From:** Hannah Lotton [mailto:chickadees@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 379

Dear Legislator,

The ability of families to meet their most basic needs is an important measure of well-being. Some state employees (such as myself) qualify for public assistance programs because our current pay is not sufficient. Employing low-wage workers will only cost the State more money in food stamps, Medicaid, subsidized housing, etc. It is a gross injustice to deny these employees and their families a basic needs income level.

The majority of employees across the state are doing exceptional work, but they don't feel valued as professionals because of the focus to reduce spending on state employees' salaries rather than acknowledging the work of excellent public servants. Simply put, this only decreases morale and will lead to deteriorating employee job performance. Many State workers already earn less than their peers in the private sector, therefore we're also losing our ability to recruit and retain top talent.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you,

Hannah Lotton

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please Oppose HB 379

**From:** Christy Gentemann [mailto:ladygentemann@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 9:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 379

Dear Rep. Thompson,

I grew up in Eagle River, graduated from UAF in 2011, and was hired to work for the State in Juneau in 2012. Working for this great state is an honor and I'd like to continue to be able to do so. My fellow coworkers and myself are willing to do our share and help during this time of fiscal challenge, but HB 379 is a disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

We are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA, which is a huge strike to young Alaska such as myself who are trying to establish themselves, and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christy Gentemann

129 7th Street

Juneau, AK 99801



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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose HB 379

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

From: Devki White [mailto:devkiwhite@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 9:53 PM  
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Oppose HB 379

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees. State employees, including myself, made concessions during good faith contract negotiations including no COLA, no increased medical contributions, and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. Please honor our contract and find other means to balance the budget.

Sincerely,  
Devki Rearden  
907-727-1818

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:36 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** HB 379

**From:** Gretchen Roffler [mailto:gretchen.roffler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:58 PM  
**Subject:**

Dear Legislator,

HB 379 is a shameful bill that would try to transfer the burden of an unbalanced budget to State employees, who already work at low wages, and who have already made great sacrifices financially in this economic crisis. Contrary to claims of "bloated" agencies, State employees are what keep our agencies running, providing services to the public despite shrinking resources.

As an employee of a State agency I take offence to the portrayal of lazy, inefficient workers. In contrary, the public is getting a bargain for their money. We could all be making a higher income in the private sector or with a Federal agency; instead we chose to serve the state of Alaska and the public - because we are dedicated employees who love what we do. I am not the only person putting in substantial extra time to go beyond my job duties.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and it is unwise to shift the burden upon us when there are other revenue generating or cost savings options. In the long run, it is a poor strategy for the state, as a "brain drain" has already started and the very dedicated and talented people who make this state function are leaving for more lucrative job offers.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Gretchen Roffler

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:36 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please oppose HB 379

**From:** Doug Love [mailto:k9kaup@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jim Colver <Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov>; Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

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Respectfully,

Doug Love

Proud 35 year Alaskan resident who lives in Palmer

Former volunteer fire fighter at Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department, 8 years service

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:37 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Finance Committee: OPPOSE HB 379

**From:** AUBREY RABY [mailto:araby@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Finance Committee: OPPOSE HB 379

Dear Finance Committee,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Aubrey M. Raby

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:37 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: OPPOSE HB 379

**From:** Debbie Scott [mailto:djsjfs2001@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.



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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:38 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379

**From:** Lori Yares [mailto:lyares@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:32 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; representative.charlie.huggins@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jim Colver <Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 379

Good evening,

I have been a state employee managing our oil and gas resources for several years now, first with the Department of Law and now the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil & Gas. I am honored to serve the citizens of our state and I thoroughly understand the difficulties we now face during this budget crisis.

I take pride in the work I do for the state and its citizens as do many other state workers I have met over the years. However, in recent years I have watched as employee morale has declined and it has become much harder to attract and retain qualified and motivated employees. Benefits for state workers have diminished greatly and we have been asked time and time again to make concessions. Contrary to an unfortunate stereotype, many state departments are actually understaffed and employees often carry a workload above and beyond the position they were hired to fill. This was true before recent cutbacks and even more so now.

Many state employees continue to work diligently through this budget crisis while facing these obstacles. We have even made greater concessions by giving up our Cost of Living Allowance and agreeing to 6 days of furlough over the life of the recently negotiated contract. These concessions are expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year. **Trying to do our part to help with the State's budget crisis, we made these concessions and negotiated our contract in good faith. Unfortunately, the legislature rewarded our efforts with the introduction of HB 379.**

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services, many unrecognized until they are no longer available. We review, administer, and deliver state policies and also manage our state's resources. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity by which we perform our duties.

I have reviewed HB 379 and it is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees who already carrying a heavy load.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

It is not only the general public who does not understand or appreciate the work we do for the State and its people's best interest. **Now the legislature does not respect or appreciate our hard work either.**

**Because of their actions and rhetoric, I am saddened to say I no longer trust many of our state's legislators. I feel they are representing their own petty interests and not those of their constituents or the State of Alaska.**

**Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.**

Sincerely,  
Lori Yares

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:39 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379

**From:** Matthew T. Burkholder, P.L.S., SR/WA [mailto:matt-burkholder@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 379

Dear Representative Thompson,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Matt & Jennifer Burkholder

13100 Killey St.

Anchorage, Alaska 99516

907-333-1640

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:44 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 379  
**Attachments:** Crude Oil Prices.xls

**From:** Eskimo Hugs [mailto:ehrrams@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:36 PM

**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** HB 379

Dear Legislator:

I would like to express my concern over HB379.

As a State Employee for 16+ years I have felt the brunt of budget cuts several times. I have seen colleagues leave State Employment for more lucrative jobs in the public sector as State Employee benefits and pay keep shrinking. However, HB379 is the worst I have seen to date.

Restricting pay increase to when oil is above \$90/barrel is effectively saying to State Employees : **"Thank You For Your Service But You Are No Longer Of Any Value To The State AND Will No Longer Receive Any Pay Increments (Raises) or COLA, No Matter How Well You Do Your Job, For The Rest Of Your Career With The State".**

I believe you have seen , or at least I hope you have seen, the price per barrel historical data. If you have I hope you also realize that restricting State Employees pay increments to a \$90 barrel of oil essentially restricts our pay to what it is currently with no foreseeable pay increase in the future. I base my statement upon the historical data attached to this e-mail.

Data: (Acquired from the State of Alaska, Department of Revenue, Tax Division, Crude Oil and Natural Gas Prices, Date Range 01/01/1990 - 04/18/2016)

11/1/2007      \$92.19/Barrel    First time oil hit above \$90

**In the last 30 years the yearly average price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 5 times (2008, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014)**

- In 2007 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 24 days during the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2007 was \$71.54
- In 2008 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 176 days during the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2008 was \$98.40
- In 2010 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 6 days during the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2010 was \$78.90
- In 2011 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 246 days during the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2011 was \$109.58
- In 2012 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2012 was \$110.69
- In 2013 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 the entire year
  - Average price/barrel for 2013 was \$107.58
- In 2014 the price/barrel exceeded \$90 only 201 days during the entire year.
  - Average price/barrel for 2014 was \$97.88

From the data listed above and attached to this e-mail, the industry only saw consistent record price/barrel within the last 6 years. To believe that the market can sustain that price for the long term is speculative at best and should not be relied upon. If HB-379 was modified to a more reasonable figure, say \$40/barrel I believe it would be more acceptable and more inline with the historical price/barrel.

Most Respectfully  
Robin Swinford

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:45 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please stop HB 379

**From:** Kimberley Maher [mailto:kimbo.maher@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:40 AM  
**To:** Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please stop HB 379

I work for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. As a state employee, I am appalled that HB 379 was introduced the day after the legislative session was suppose to end. It feels like an extra insult that this bill was sprung at the end of the session.

I understand that big steps need to be taken in current fiscal environment, but cutting merit increases to state employees will not improve the situation. We've already had out Cost of Living increases taken away. We are doing more with less already. I work on a team that use to have four people, and now three people on the team to do the same amount of work. Additional empty cubicles are appearing around me as positions are not backfilled (or done so at a very slow rate).

During high oil prices, industry was able to make large profits that would have allowed for their employees to receive higher wages and bonuses that state employees never have a opportunity to earn. Eliminating small step increases is a cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees when out salaries didn't get to benefit from when budgets were abundant.

It's frustrating having to do last minute additional permitting for seismic companies at the end of the winter season who are receiving an undisclosed rebate from the State for their seismic programs. What is the State getting for this money? These are non-Alaskans doing this work. Many of these area have already been shot for seismic data within the last couple of years. The lack of transparency on how much money is being spent with these rebates when state employees are being told that give up more is a total morale killer.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Kimberley Maher  
1212 Little Fox Trail  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 9:27 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please Oppose HB 379

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**From:** Danny Dominick [mailto:ddominick5@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:55 AM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you very much,



Daniel L. Dominick

P.O. Box 80422

Fairbanks, AK 99708

(907) 347-5773

[ddominick5@hotmail.com](mailto:ddominick5@hotmail.com)

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:13 AM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: OPPOSE HB 379!!

**From:** Jennifer Griggs [mailto:griggs907@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:09 AM

**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** OPPOSE HB 379!!

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

**Making raises for state employees dependent on something so out of our control such as oil prices is just idiotic! The Legislature is removing all incentive that State employees have to do a good job by taking away our last wage benefit. I enjoy my job and have worked many years for the state doing the very best that I could. This bill makes it more and more difficult for departments to attract and retain qualified employees, as well as making it more and more difficult for the rest of us to do the jobs we were hired to do.**

This bill not only distorts good faith bargaining, it is shameless cost-shifting of a budget deficit to state employees instead of restructuring revenue to pay for state government.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees. My department continues to cut costs wherever we can in all areas including not filling positions, re-using/recycling office supplies and anything else we can.

**Even if I were NOT a State employee, I would oppose this bill - State workers have given enough. They are residents of this state and work hard too!**

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Jennifer M. Griggs

Concerned State Resident and Employee

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:14 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please - OPPOSE HB 379

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

From: suzieq@acsalaska.net [mailto:suzieq@acsalaska.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:12 PM  
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please - OPPOSE HB 379

Dear Legislators & Senators,

I am a State of Alaska employee and it is hard enough to make it by on my state salary, to have it cut when all prices are going up is really going to hurt my family and I. Please fight this for us.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Regards,

Suzanne Harold  
2072 Persinger Dr.  
North Pole, AK 99705

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**From:** Rep. Steve Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:15 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Cc:** Jane Pierson  
**Subject:** FW: Please rethink HB 379

**From:** Jessica Miller [mailto:swangirl22@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please rethink HB 379

Dear Representative Thompson,

I am a lifelong Alaskan. I grew up in the bush, and lived in small towns and now in Anchorage. I graduated from UAA and work for the State of Alaska in the Department of Natural Resources. I am outraged that HB 379 proposes to take away my last, small, means of keeping up with inflation.

It takes years to train new employees due to the amount of institutional knowledge in state government. We do not have good records and still deal with antiquated systems. If those of us with knowledge are forced to take different jobs it will cost the state more to train replacements. A higher turn over rate will not save the state any money! We are working hard for this state but we are struggling economically to afford these jobs.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please rethink HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you very much,

Jessica Miller  
Natural Resource Specialist III  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources