

House Finance Committee

HB 72 — Operating Budget

Written Testimony

Through 11 a.m. — March 4, 2015



ALASKA
Bering Sea Crabbers

206.783.0188 | 5470 Shilshole Ave. NW, Suite 505 | Seattle, WA 98107
alaskaberingscraabbers.com

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature, House Finance Committee
Capitol Room 519
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairmen Neuman & Thompson and Members of the Finance Committee, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a seafood industry trade association representing slightly more than 70% of the harvest sector participants in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) king and Tanner crab fishery off Alaska. Our members are small, independently owned family businesses providing living-wage jobs to thousands of Americans. We brave the waters of the Bering Sea to produce the highest quality crab for our domestic and international customers. In addition to producing a premier product, we also pride ourselves on being good stewards of the crab resource and the environment; contributing to economic stability in coastal communities; and promoting the safety of life at sea. As participants with a vested interest in the long-term stability and profitability of Alaska's fisheries, we are pleased to offer our comments with respect to the FY2016 funding for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI).

Our organization is very concerned about the proposed cuts to the ASMI budget being contemplated for FY2016. As you know, with over 63,000 direct jobs per year, the seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska. To frame the issue in a different way, at least 1 out of every 7 Alaskan residents is employed in the seafood industry. Of the permit holders who are active in Alaskan fisheries, 72% of them are Alaskan residents spread out over 189 individual communities. These permit holders earn an estimated \$756.2 million, with a significant portion of this income being re-circulated into the local economies of Alaskan communities. In addition to the money fishermen are spending in their communities, the seafood industry pays \$44.2 million in Fisheries Business Taxes and \$13.4 million in Fisheries Resource Landing Taxes. Of those amounts, half are shared with communities and boroughs. And finally, the seafood industry pays \$9.6 million in Seafood Marketing Assessment taxes.

As you also know, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute is funded by a combination of these assessments, Federal sources, and appropriations from the Alaska Legislature. We understand the current proposal is to reduce the State contribution by 39.05% from FY2015 levels. To be quite frank with you, the numbers we provided in the previous paragraph are seriously at stake if you move forward with the proposed cuts to the ASMI Budget. The success of Alaskan fishermen is dependent on three things. First, we need to have a healthy resource available for harvest. Second, we need science-based management to ensure the

resource remains healthy now and into the future. And third, we need viable markets into which we can sell our catch. And that's where ASMI comes in.

The various programs within ASMI allow Alaskan seafood producers to compete in the global marketplace. Alaska seafood is the 2nd most "called out" brand on all US restaurant menus. Spending by the ASMI Foodservice program typically generates a 10:1 return on investment with major restaurant chains spending \$10 promoting our brand for every \$1 ASMI spends with them. Each year ASMI provides the opportunity for Alaskan seafood companies to participate in 25 trade shows, both domestically and abroad. In 2015 ASMI distributed 1.5 million pieces of Alaskan seafood promotional material. And finally, ASMI was responsible for Alaskan seafood promotions in over 25,000 grocery stores across the United States. As a case in point, this past December our organization worked with ASMI and Hy-Vee supermarkets, the largest grocery retailer in the Midwest, on a Holiday promotion focused on Alaskan king and snow crab in multiple store locations in and around Des Moines, Iowa and Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to promoting Alaskan crab, it was quite obvious that ASMI has been hard at work to promote Alaskan sockeye, cod, and surimi-seafood products in Hy-Vee stores as well. That promotional event would simply not have happened without ASMI playing "match-maker" between Hy-Vee and the crabbers.

It is our understanding that based on the proposed 39% cut to the ASMI budget the following ASMI programs will be impacted as described below:

- Consumer advertising would be reduced by 60%
- Communications/PR program budget would be reduced by 40%
- Retail & Food Service budgets would be reduced by 20% each
- The Food Service program would do fewer restaurant and distributor promotions and likely suspend ASMI's engagement with major universities
- The Retail program would reduce or eliminate participation in consumer events
- And finally, initiatives aimed at building new markets such as targeting K-12 school lunch programs would be either suspended or entirely eliminated

To once again be frank with you, these program reductions are not acceptable to us. Obviously I'm not in a position to speak for the entire Alaskan seafood industry. So I will once again draw on a few examples specific to BSAI crab harvesters. As you may know, Alaskan king & Tanner crab must compete in the global marketplace against Russian crab. While we stand behind our product and are happy to compete on a level playing field, we simply don't have a level playing field. Our industry is the "poster child" for what can happen to the market when it is flooded with illegal product. According to the McDowell Group, whom I'm sure you are familiar with, roughly 40% of the king crab sold on the world market in 2013, or about 99 million pounds, was from illegal Russian harvests. In just the past three years we have experienced a 40% decline in the price we are paid "at the docks." Since 2000, the

cumulative economic impact of illegal Russian crab is estimated to be \$600 million in lost revenue to Alaskan commercial fishermen and millions more in lost taxes to Alaskan coastal communities. We need the continued support and activities of ASMI to wage and ultimately win this battle against Russian crab!

And finally, our industry is primarily known for producing king crab and Tanner/opilio (i.e. "snow") crab. However, we also catch Tanner Bairdi, or simply "Bairdi" crab. After enjoying a prominent place in the Japanese market for many years, this species has lost its place in the market over the past decade or so as product was simply not available in large volumes. After very low fishing effort and low quotas for several years, the biomass (and quotas) are increasing. Future opportunities for this fishery are significant. Currently Bairdi is largely marketed as a larger opilio. However, for those who've tasted Bairdi it is clear they are two distinct species with unique flavor profiles and potential end markets. Our organization has been aggressively working to put Bairdi "back on the map" as a unique crab product. We have been working with the ASMI Food Service program to conduct what we've been calling "crabinars." These "crabinars" are an attempt to educate chefs and food service professionals on the unique attributes and taste of Bairdi. We've just begun this effort, but hope to expand these events in the future. We also participated in a meeting of the Global Culinary Innovators Association. This group is on the cutting edge of menu development. We hope to work with this group to position Bairdi on the cutting edge as well! And finally, we've been working through the ASMI Shellfish and Technical Committees to make the necessary changes to the ASMI marketing literature to differentiate Bairdi from opilio/snow crab. Put very bluntly, we cannot do this alone. In order for us to re-capture the lost market or even to create new markets for Bairdi we will need ASMI.

In conclusion, we hope you take our comments to heart as you move forward with the State budget process. Put very simply, an investment in ASMI is a direct investment in the Alaskan seafood industry and Alaskan communities. The proposed 39% cut in the ASMI budget is not acceptable. This cut greatly exceeds what the Governor has requested and will hurt Alaskans. On that last point there is no doubt. Thank you in advance for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Highest Regards,



Mark H. Gleason, Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
(206) 783-0188 (office)
(831) 419-6993 (mobile)
markhgleason@gmail.com

From: vcgibson@acsalaska.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Personal Testimony of our Adult Day Services
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:22:57 PM
Importance: High

It is my prayer that I am not too late with this Testimony.
Our program at Frontier Community Services--Forget Me Not, is one of the most outstanding because of our training and experience. Several years ago Mary Sharp came for our first training. Mary's Mother had dementia and the doctors gave her two years to live.

Mary is an educator/teacher and with her daughter (a psychologist) they developed a program called "Active Living." In this program there are many activities together with music where Mary's mother was stimulated through the five senses.... The outcome was unbelievable; Mary's mother lived for another eight years. They tracked all of this on film.

So successful has this program been that we too have seen "lives lengthened." To me it is like one large family and our elders even make their own choices as to what activities they wish to participate in.

Recently, I have learned that even the cab drivers are talking about what we do and what they have seen; it is all so unbelievable. I have made home visits to encourage families and their elders. When I go to a Senior Center or an Adult living Facility I see no real comparison. Truly, the sooner we can get on board with families the better for all.

Please support programs like ours!

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter with the purpose of sharing my opposition to the proposed \$500,000 budget cut to Adult Day Services.

We have within our home an adult who experiences Down's Syndrome. She attends Serendipity Adult Day Services, Monday - Friday from 8:30 to roughly 5:30. We rely on the predictable respite provided by Serendipity Adult Day Services. Without it, I don't know how my spouse and I would be able to maintain full time employment and somewhat "normal" lifestyles while caring for a person with special needs. Realistically, our only option would be for her to move out our home and into an assisted living facility.

When KM is at Serendipity we can trust that her safety, well-being and happiness is being held uppermost in mind. We trust in the care that is being provided to her. Adult Day Services truly allows a great portion of our day, Monday-Friday, to be free from worry over her and the extent of her needs. With absolute certainty, we know many Alaskans with loved ones in Adult Day feel the same.

Though KM can attend other facilities (and has) for socialization and activities, her "place", her choice is Serendipity. She has made a great deal of friends, who also feel that Serendipity is their "place". Adult Day Services are an absolute God-send for Alaskan's who have a loved one in the home that need structured activities to fill their day in a safe and non-institutional setting. And, for those attending Adult Day, going to a place that they can call their second home - what a precious gift!

Budget cuts will directly affect KM, her friends that attend Serendipity along with other Alaskans attending Adult Day Services (as well as their families). These are people of various levels of ability that are happy, safe and being well cared for, some in their final days - I simply cannot comprehend how such a dramatic cut to those services is necessary, or thinkable as viable savings option. Alaskan seniors, adults that experience special needs, must have advocates who will protect their interests, their lives. They require a personal commitment and over-sight that is beyond disconnectedly altering the numbers on a budget line item which will adversely affect lives.

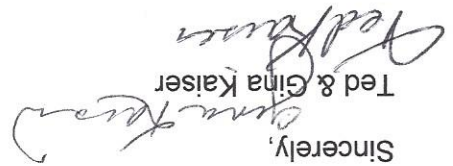
Alaskans need Adult Day Services. This need is rapidly increasing as our community ages. It is a vital service that demands our legislative officers to protect and enhance it, not diminish its ability and range in assisting our friends, our neighbors ... our families.

A final thought:

If your loved needed to attend Adult Day Services so that they could remain at home, what would you think about taking away the funds that support them? Please restore the funding for this much need services.

Sincerely,

Ted & Gina Kaiser





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
Committee name
Committee on HB72, dated MAR 3, 2015
Bill/Subject

I wanted to share/testify on behalf of the budget NOT being cut for Alaska Legal Services; ie: Legal and Advocacy Services.

My family (of 5) recently applied for their help and was happy to be notified so quickly as to whether or not they could help us. Happy to say Alaska Legal Services was able to accept our case! If it wasn't for them being able to do so, in our particular case, our family would have become homeless. Please continue to consider this service a must need for a full budget as is so they may continue to help Alaskans in immediate and dire situations.

Thank you,

Signed:

Cheril Gardner (CHERIL GARDNER)

Testifier

(SELF)

Representing (Optional)

203 W FALLON LEAF CIR; WASILLA, AK 99654

Address

(907) 631-3275

Phone number

From: [Bryan Merriam](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Works state funding.
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:35:43 PM

Attn: To whom it may concern.

I Bryan Merriam am responding in support of continuing state funding for Alaska Works Construction Academy.

After 20 years of Army service, I retired from the military and was seeking a career in the construction trades. I took several classes and hours of hands-on training with Alaska Works which ultimately led to my selection into the Carpenters apprenticeship program. I am now in my 3rd year and have a promising future in this career field. Alaska Works provides much needed training and information for the general public for successful transition into the construction trades. I fully support continued state support.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.



4241 21st Ave W • Suite #302 • Seattle, WA • 98199
Ph: 206-462-7690 • Fax: 206-462-7691 • www.alaskaseafoodcooperative.org

March 3, 2015

Members of the House Finance Committee:

Members of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC) are long-time participants in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska flatfish, Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, and rockfish trawl fisheries. Our five companies operate 16 catcher processor vessels, and our Alaska products compete in the highly competitive global whitefish market. On behalf of AKSC member companies and the Alaska seafood industry, we urge you to resist extremely deep cuts to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) budget, in consideration of the economic impact of these funds.

Seafood is the largest private sector employer in Alaska, and contributes directly to more communities than any other industry. ASMI branding increases the value of the fish, which means our companies can sell it for more, fishermen get more for it, communities see greater economic impact, and the State receives greater tax revenues.

ASMI cuts will result in products with lower values, which will lower tax revenues, and result in a negative net impact on State revenues.

The goal of ASMI is to raise the value of Alaska seafood, and it does this with a miniscule budget relative to the competition. Russia just announced a \$100,000,000 subsidy for the express purpose of competing against the US. Considering that Alaska produces over half of all US seafood, Russia is aiming directly at Alaska with this effort. The Norwegian Seafood Council's (NSC) marketing budget is \$75M. In the last couple of years, Norway has spent more on marketing in the U.S. than ASMI has.

Cuts to ASMI will harm Alaska's responsible fisheries management seafood sustainability program (RFM). For over 30 years ASMI has built the value of the Alaska seafood brand, and a weakened ASMI will severely hamper our ability to fend off environmental NGOs and eco-labels whose goal is to steal Alaska's brand equity.

Alaska seafood has earned the trust and respect of consumers around the world through relentless attention to sustainability, product quality, and Alaska's image. ASMI is critical to maintaining the value of our fisheries to all stakeholders. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson
Alaska Seafood Cooperative, Manager

From: [Jason Anderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Comment letter on ASMI budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:24:13 PM
Attachments: [ASMI letter 3-3-15 House Finance Committee.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Please accept the following comment letter, and consider them in your budget deliberations.

Jason Anderson
Alaska Seafood Cooperative, Manager
(w) 206-462-7682
(f) 206-462-7691
(c) 206-499-7244



Southwest Region School District

P.O. Box 90
574 Kenny Wren Road
Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-5287 • Phone
(907) 842-5428 • Fax

Aleknagik

Clark's Point

Ekwok

Koliganek

Manokotak

New Stuyahok

Portage Creek

Togiak

Twin Hills

March 3, 2015

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee:

Southwest Region Schools encourages you to reinstate the Broadband Assistance Grant for FY16 and FY17, as the original legislation intended.

Southwest Region Schools received financial assistance for our school broadband services this spring, without which our small schools would have remained at 2 Mbps and our large schools at 4 Mbps. Our lack of high-speed broadband to date has not only restricted use of teacher resources and student learning opportunities, but also recently negatively impacted our capacity to implement the new required online state assessments during the AMP It Up Day in January.

The FCC now defines high-speed broadband as 100 Mbps per 1,000 users or a minimum of 25 Mbps download speeds. Prior to our award this spring, our district had less than 60 Mbps per 1,000 users and no school with more than 4 Mbps download speeds. Without the Broadband Assistance Grant, Southwest Region Schools will have no choice but to return to our current low levels of service by July 1st this year, thus wasting the staff time and effort put into implementing the Broadband Assistance Grant goal of 10 Mbps speeds into every school.

Moreover, when we accepted the Broadband Assistance Grant for FY15, we were obligated by the rules of the award to apply for E-Rate funding for FY16 in amounts that we cannot pay without the Broadband Assistance Grant revenue. To now cut the Broadband Assistance Grant leaves us in an untenable position with regards to our E-Rate funding requests for FY16.

A very important aspect to note regarding the Broadband Assistance Grant is that it allows us to leverage federal E-Rate funding to a much greater degree than we previously were able. As a district with a 90% E-Rate subsidy, for every dollar Southwest Region Schools invests in broadband access, we receive an additional nine dollars in E-Rate support. This makes your commitment to the Broadband Assistance Grant a sound investment, and we reiterate our request that you reinstate it.

Sincerely,

Lester E. Parks
Technology Coordinator
Southwest Region Schools
907-842-5287 (8236 direct)
lparks@swrsd.org

From: [Phyllis Pendergrast](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Considerations
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:10:02 AM

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

I am well aware of the hard work you do on behalf of the people of Fairbanks. I know the challenges that you face in attempting to handle the budget. Everything is important to someone and I know I will feel the pinch as will others.

My primary focus is to safeguard and protect those institutions or activities that have a main place in the ongoing vitality and success of our community. KUAC is one of those institutions that serves, educates, entertains and safeguards all the interior and it's people.

I do support the efforts of the university and can never overstate the importance it has in everything we do in the interior and beyond. It is important to understand where as the Board of Regents holds the license and the university does provide support, much of what makes KUAC so vital is carried by the community.

So please consider the ramifications of cuts to the university as it relates to KUAC, but also the direct impact of state funding for public media. This would be a double hit that would dramatically compromise the ability to continue to care for the needs of our community.

Respectfully

Charles Lemke
Fairbanks
Sent from my iPad

From: [Patty Campbell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: budget cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:32:21 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen, I find this totally unacceptable. More jobs lost. Patty Campbell - Haines Alaska

From: [Alex Prichard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. David Guttenberg](#)
Subject: Budget Implications
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:05:23 PM

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed budget changes. Let me blunt, many of these proposed cuts are nuts. Although we have a large budget shortfall due to low oil prices, Alaska is not a poor state. We have a large budget reserve, a huge permanent fund, abundant resources, and many wealthy residents and non-resident workers.

We cannot panic and slash our investment in the future, to do so could be catastrophic and will likely cost us even more in the long-term. Cutting programs like early education will end up costing us even more money while decreasing our quality of life. I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years and have chosen to raise a family here because of the good opportunities, strong communities, and great public education available. These proposed budget cuts dramatically undermine many of the very things that draw people to Alaska and keep us in Alaska. The predictable result of gutting the budget will be that those who can move will move, and we will be unable to hire teachers or University professors or attract new businesses. We are not a poor state, but if we act like one, we will become one.

I strongly encourage you to use the budget reserve to fund a budget that doesn't give up on our future and then create a modern, diversified tax strategy for our state to move away from our sole reliance on oil revenues. It is long past time to institute an income tax that taxes the many non-residents that come to Alaska, make a lot of money and then take that money out-of-state. Make it only kick in when revenues are low if you prefer. Having a progressive income tax will allow Alaska to properly fund our future, these proposed budget cuts do not.

Sincerely,

Alex Prichard
Fairbanks

From: estereditor@gmail.com on behalf of [Deirdre Helfferich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: budget suggestions
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:57:43 AM

The state of this year's budget is a direct result of giving a monstrous handout to the oil companies; that should never have happened and should be rescinded immediately (just take a look at the obscene profits they're making). Alternatives include: reinstitute our income tax (that should never have been removed from the books—even a zero percent tax for form's sake is better than nothing—we need to have that responsibility if we are to be citizens of this state and have a say); "nationalize" our state oil and gas resources and start producing them ourselves following the Norwegian model; invest in other, broader industries such as the peony or film industry so we stop being so dependent on boom-bust cycles all the time. We are wasting our chance with this one.

Even if we fired every state employee, we couldn't possibly balance the budget nor save the money we are losing. Run a deficit and accept the huge amount of federal dollars that will come with Medicaid expansion, tax the oil companies and the public, and broaden investing in other industries.

Sincerely,
Deirdre Helfferich

--
Deirdre Helfferich
PO Box 3 • Ester, AK 99725
907.479.3368

Warning! NSA analysts could be reading this e-mail. And because there's hardly any accountability, we have no idea how they may use it. If that bothers you, [click here to do something about it.](#)

From: [Brandy Barnes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:12:32 PM

The ACA has helped me and several people I know tremendously. I have gotten knowledge from these courses that I haven't even received in the 3 years I was in the field. The certifications I receive have helped my resume look good, and the instructors helped me with figuring out how to get into the Apprenticeship program. I think the Alaska Construction Academy plays a vital role in our community getting Alaskans into the work force and would be extremely sad to see the programs get dropped from the community. Thank you for hearing me out.

Sincerely, Brandy Barnes

From: [Davidgaston](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska construction academy funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:01:43 AM

I whole heartedly support the construction a academies: Why? Because it's an excellent program in allowing soldiers to learn skills and being a stepping stone in allowing soldiers to have a way to support themselves and families when they ETS the program also made a positive impact on me as well giving me confidence and giving me the ability to work with my hands and because it's a free program that supports civilian and soldiers is a big plus. It means a lot to me that the people involved In the program gave up there time and knowledge to help Thank you so much.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [GARRY KELLER](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding"
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:14:20 PM

To whom it may concern,

i strongly support the Alaska Construction Academy Program. I have taken courses in Welding, Electrical and Plumbing. I believe the training I received was helpful in gaining employment in by current job as a Maintenance Technician for Valley Residential Services.

Being a free program provided me with the opportunity to explore a variety of career fields i may have not otherwise explored.

Please continue to provide this program for future students as it is beneficial in helping many explore trades and develop skills they might otherwise have never considered.

Sincerely,

Garry W.Keller

From: [Gary Bidwell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding Anchorage
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:51:25 PM

Hi my name is Gary Bidwell I am writing in concern for Alaska Construction Academy in Anchorage. I have found these services have sharpened my skills and made me more beneficial to my employer. It has opened more opportunities for advancement in my current occupation as well as further educational prospects.

I currently work for 1800 asphalt and have advanced to supervisor as well as bidding for jobs based on understanding construction techniques and plan on attending U.A.A for construction management.

Thank you for your time
Gary

From: [John Lewis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [John Lewis](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding - Anchorage
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:21:50 PM
Attachments: [Finance Committee Members.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,

Please accept my attached remarks in regards to funding of Alaska Construction Academy.

Finance Committee Members,

I joined the United States Marine Corps when I was 19 unsure of what direction I wanted my life to take in the job industry. In the early 1990's I was honorably discharged with a service-connected disability. I floundered for several years working numerous dead end jobs that offered no benefits and low pay. The Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) program honored my military service and allowed me to become familiarized with different apprenticeships and provided assistance applying to those programs.

In 1996, I was accepted into the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program and was sent to work in Healy, AK to learn the trade of a Boilermaker on the new power plant being constructed. This first year I worked enough to earn 55 thousand dollars with full benefits. Health insurance being the most important of those benefits since my infant son was hospitalized with life threatening abdominal issues at a cost that would have forced my wife and I to file for bankruptcy.

Through the years, I have been able to be gainfully employed at different construction jobs in just about every corner of our state. This work has paid a livable wage with a complete benefit package. At no time since benefiting from the employment opportunities' H2H introduced me to have I ever needed state or federal assistance to make ends meet for my family.

I have benefited greatly from such an outstanding program and have participated in the teaching of AK Construction Academy Classes at the King Career Center in Anchorage. It is a great asset to the State of Alaska to have people shown the opportunities that exist in the construction market. I have personally watched others much younger than myself attend these classes, enter apprenticeship programs, and then become employed in great paying jobs that create more economic benefit with the ability to have money to spend in local communities.

I would encourage those of you that are looking at cutting these outstanding programs to not be short sighted by only viewing the money “saved” by cutting these programs as the economic benefits of Alaska Construction Academy programs gives back far more than it receives through investing in the Alaskan workforce.

Thank you for your time,

John Lewis

6020 E. 43rd Ave

Anchorage, AK 99504

From: [lueli logo](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding(Anchorage)
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:16:57 PM

I've enjoyed the class put on by the Alaska Construction Academy. I have already taken a Carpentry class and am currently taking another course now. The methods I've learned in the class are actual rules and regulations provided by the state and I believe nation wide. Learning how to use a skill saw and not just building by putting wood together but by putting wood together with the lines and rules that have been set for construction. Those simple rules of carpentry I've never would known if I haven't taken the classes. It helps keep not only me safe but others as well when doing my own home projects even if I didn't use this class to get into another career.

lueli logo

From: [Matthew Nerlfi](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding for Anchorage
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:23:30 PM

Greetings.

My name is Matthew Nerlfi and the purpose of this message is to urge you not to cut the funding for the Alaska Construction Academy.

This school is in the business of helping individuals young and old achieve employment success through the programs that they offer. As you well know, the ACA is well informed and very diverse when it comes to the people they hire and the classes available to the public.

Personally, I spent about 6 months total enrolled at the ACA and my time spent there was not in vain. I took several of the very thorough courses that the school offers, including carpentry, welding, advanced math, and I even received a forklift operators card. Shortly thereafter, using what knowledge and skills I had gleaned from the Academy, and referencing my experience with the ACA, I was promptly accepted into the Carpenters Union Apprenticeship Program

I am now a 4 year member of Carpenter's Union Local 1281 right here in Anchorage, and well on my way to a journeyman's certification.

My story is just one of many success stories that you will hear. It is imperative to continue funding the Alaska Construction Academy, From aiding the individual trying to better himself, to assisting in improving our state's job growth, the ACA helps people. It is the number 1 goal of every staff member there, and it shows. The Academy gives people, like myself, with little to no experience, a fighting chance to enter into vocational and trade school.

Please consider this message, this school is doing great things, not only for our city of Anchorage, but also for many places in rural Alaska.

Sincerely, Matthew Nerlfi

From: [Nancy Mendenhall](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:49:37 AM

Nancy Mendenhall

<http://nancydanielsonmendenhall.strikingly.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Mendenhall** <mendenhallnancy01@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 12:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
To: lhfcfin@akleg.gov

Honorable Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee:

I am sending you a copy of what I sent to the Board of Regents (cc: others) regarding the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and its service to Alaskan communities. Thank you for taking time to review it in these difficult financial times for the state.

Nancy Mendenhall

<http://nancydanielsonmendenhall.strikingly.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Mendenhall** <mendenhallnancy01@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Feb 28, 2015 at 4:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
To: senator.Donny.olson@akleg.gov, Senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov,
senator.pete.kelly@akleg.gov, senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov,
representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov, Representative.tammy.wilson@akleg.gov,
representative.paul.seaton@akleg.gov, representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov

Honorable Legislators: I am sending you a copy of what I wrote to the Board of Regents regarding Ak Cooperative Extension Service. Thank you for taking time to review it, Nancy Mendenhall

Nancy Mendenhall

<http://nancydanielsonmendenhall.strikingly.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Mendenhall** <mendenhallnancy01@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 27, 2015 at 1:05 PM
Subject: Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
To: ua-bor@alaska.edu

February 27, 2015

To: University of Alaska Board of Regents
P.O. Box 755300

Fairbanks, AK 99775

Att: Brandi Berg

From: Nancy Mendenhall

P.O. Box 1141

Nome, AK 99762 [907-443-2455](tel:907-443-2455)

Dear University of Alaska Board of Regents:

I am writing you about the importance of the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service to the communities and residents of Alaska during this time of priorities-setting and serious budget concerns for the state. I will focus on rural Alaska because those needs are the ones I am most familiar with, but clearly many of the CES programs are needed everywhere. I will give examples from my own region with the belief that similar needs for CES, and successes through CES, exist throughout the state.

I was on the Alaska CES Advisory Council for six years and have stayed concerned about the program since then. My other relevant experience is that prior to retirement I was campus director at UAF for nine years (worked there for over 14 years). Having lived in this region since 1970, I have seen how much CES has accomplished and how it has increased its outreach through energy given to partnering with non-profits, the schools, and other service organizations. I have been one of the partners sitting in meetings with CES when, until this year, I was Chair of the Nome Community Center Board for ten years. Because of its mission, Alaska's CES is well-situated to help bring together service organizations that otherwise could tend to operate without needed coordination.

As I am sure you know, the CES mission addresses the needs of rural communities everywhere in its focus on education that improves living standards, hands-on training for domestic needs, programs for youth, and social and physical wellness. It makes this available to people who may never take a college course for credit, though their children may. It does this while recognizing/respecting cultural differences, the influence of poverty, and making the best use of services available.

Rural Alaska is similar to many other parts of the US in having such needs but also has geographic isolation issues, with most of rural Alaska not on the statewide road system. Through CES and its work with partnering, these communities get support and training they would never get otherwise. Furthermore, in many cases these communities have a majority of Alaska Native, even the vast majority, so they have additional problems--such as institutional racism that still exists in this region, so I suspect it does in the others. The unemployment rate is very high in this region because there is little economic growth. The present school curriculum does not address the cultural and regional needs enough, though that is slowly improving. The percent of young Alaska Native young people incarcerated due to alcohol-related crimes is unacceptable and is directly related to these factors above. In my region, CES is involved in programs to help overcome some of these community and family problems through free or very inexpensive workshops and classes.

For example, in addition to presenting the traditional non-credit classes that CES is identified with, such as fish preservation, gardening, reindeer herding, budgeting, outdoor safety, and outdoor clothing construction, the agent here in recent years has helped organize and in several cases taught classes or parts of classes in young peoples' parenting, social wellness,

building self-awareness and pride, women's issues, overcoming historical trauma, deflecting crises-- all badly needed. And of course they are needed in urban areas too.

Our agent has also been involved in projects to "training the trainers" so that the programs continue and grow. She is accepted as part of the team by the Native organizations who wish to do more of this kind of program. Much more is being done in this region for such needs than was five years ago. Again, every single region needs more attention to non-credit classes and workshops that give rural families--especially young families--better survival skills, meaning survival in all respects.

As the Board of Regents looks at the UA programs and budgets, I urge it to look at the unique needs of rural Alaskans and do everything it can to support CES programs that address the quality of life for those hundreds of communities. The University of Alaska may be unique among state universities in the proportional size of this responsibility.

Thank you for your continuing support to Alaska Cooperative Extension Service during these tough financial times for the state,

Nancy M. Mendenhall

Nancy Mendenhall

<http://nancydanielsonmendenhall.strikingly.com>

From: [Ronald Johnson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AK operating budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:42:20 PM

It is certainly understandable that those affected speak out against specific budget cuts. In that respect,

I commend the members of your committee for respectfully listening to hours of public testimony.

However, I support the need to cut our unrestricted general fund spending by several hundred million each of the next two or so years [even if oil rebounds up to, say, \$ 100/bbl, we will still be several billion in deficit spending with unrestricted general fund [UGF] spending exceeding \$ 5 B/yr.]

We will exhaust our budget reserves within 5 years even if we reduce the UGF spending to, say, \$ 5 B/yr.

So, this is a necessary step to avoid a crisis in the not-too-distant future.

Besides the obvious need to diversify our economy [and hence enhance tax revenue] , we will need to look for other revenue enhancements. We may also have to consider very unpopular steps such as reducing the fraction of PF earnings that is distributed as PF dividends.

Respectfully,

Ron Johnson
Jack St
Fairbanks, AK

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From: [River Bean](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: budget cuts to the Division of Agriculture
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:47:35 PM

As a Mat-Su farmer and member of Alaska Farm Bureau, I fully support cutting whatever is necessary to help balance the State budget. The Division of Agriculture is very ineffective and a total waste of our precious resources. I would guess that the entire Division costs the State at least \$1 million/year. The current Director has been 'on the job training' for years and has done nothing good for the sustainability of agriculture in this State. She was appointed by her High School buddy, Sarah Palin, and was put in the leadership role of the Division. She even wrote on her application that 'when she was 5 years old she liked that cows said moo'. That entitles her to earn that much \$?!? No qualifications. The entire staff at the Division is inefficient and a waste of our spending further funds on its' existence. The only position that is worth saving is the ARLF. Even that position does not need loan officer. The same farms apply for loans each year and the paperwork is virtually the same. Any clerk can approve/work with those applicants.

River Bean

Arctic Organics
1305 N Smith Rd
Palmer AK 99645
(907)746-1087

March 2, 2015

Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed Division of Natural Resources budget. Please take time to read my concerns as a concerned lifelong resident of Southwest Alaska.

The Alaska Division of Forestry's southwest region spans over 80 million acres. The resources needed to provide fire suppression to that region of the state have been completely eliminated. The so called "cold base" that will "ramp up" in times of high fire danger WILL not provide adequate protection needed in this large and diverse area of Alaska.

The Southwest Area is the largest area covered by DOF. Unlike any other area in the state, the region covers an area larger than the state of New Mexico. The terrain and challenges are unique when it comes to fire suppression. All front line and initial attack resources have been stripped. Response to wildland fires will be significantly delayed when relying on borrowed resources from bases hundreds of miles away. Hundreds of communities and thousands of homesteads, Native Allotments, mining camps, lodges, and historical sites will be put at risk. Most of which are on lands that have been identified as Critical or Full protection sites.

An Interagency Agreement between the State of Alaska and the US BLM Alaska Fire Service allows for Alaska Smokejumpers to respond to Southwest Area fires that are beyond the range or capability of our normal IA forces. With IA forces stripped from SWA smokejumpers that are in limited supply as is, will be stretched further. Leaving not only the SWA vulnerable to large fires not contained during the initial attack period, but the rest of the state.

The SWA is NOT an area that is plagued by human started fires, lightning combine with weather conditions dictate the fire season. While DNR officials have recently been quoted in the Juneau Empire stating fire activity in the state has shifted north, there is no data to support this. "Fire activity is shifting more to other parts of the Interior, so we're going to focus our efforts more on ... the Tok area," Fogels said. "If there is fire activity in the McGrath area, we will be able to fight those fires. ... If we have a bad fire season there, costs will be higher (down the road)."

The SWA office manages crews from Shageluk, Nondalton, Nikolai, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Chevak, Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay. SWA EFF crews make up over 160 individuals who are trained annually and are ready to support fire suppression not only in Southwest Alaska but also throughout Alaska and the Lower 48. With the current suggested cuts the personnel who train these individuals, have been eliminated. In addition, the admin who process hiring paperwork, complete timesheets, and manage any personal requirements such as medical issues that do occur on the fire line have been eliminated. While DNR says they have a plan to keep these crews active and ready to serve NO such plan has been shared. Alaska is at

risk of losing nearly 200 qualified Emergency Firefighters. The Juneau Empire on Feb. 26 quotes DNR Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels-He said the state will bring in additional fire crews from the Lower 48 if need be, something the state will then need to pay for at a cost that "will be more expensive than if we had our own fire crews."

DNR Officials have confirmed the costs of fighting wildland fires in Southwest Area WILL INCREASE with the suggested budget cuts. Keeping your fingers crossed and hoping that wildland fires do not occur is Unacceptable. "The more money you spend up front in preparedness, the cheaper it will be to fight those fires," Fogels said.

Budget cuts within the DOF should not be focused on stripping one area of all resources. Reducing staff and resources in the SWA may be part of the budget solution, but should not be the only solution.

Rep. Bryce Edgmon, D-Dillingham told the Alaska Journal of Commerce in October "Rural lawmakers on the House and Senate Finance committees will have to keep an eagle eye on the budgets to ensure that, if reductions have to be made, rural programs aren't singled out unfairly." This is a prime example of a large rural area of the state unfairly being singled out.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to continue to provide fire suppression resources in Southwest Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chrsitine Harrington
Christine.e.harrington@gmail.com
907-360-4334

March 2, 2015

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chrsitine Harrington
Christine.e.harrington@gmail.com
907-360-4334

From: [Joseph rossman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Hb 72-APPROP
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:31:58 PM

Dear members of the House Finance committee. Concerning the proposed cuts to the 2016 operating budget, I have concerns about the proposed cuts to the ak DNR in southeast. I own a small logging company in Haines. I depend totally on the Haines state forest for the timber that makes me a living. 90% of the timber I log and sell stays in Alaska, and serve's Alaskans. I produce firewood for haines and Skagway, I produce a logs for several small mills that produce beams and boards for the local Haines-Skagway area. Also I produce House logs that gets shipped to Interior Alaska and Yukon territory Canada. There are many small logger's like me who operate all over southeast Alaska and we all depend on timber from lands owned by the state of Alaska. I understand that the budget must be cut but if you remove our ability to purchase timber, you also remove all the economics that cut timber produces. And the ability of Alaskan residents to use the resources they own.

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From: [Brenda Jones](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: DNR Forestry - Haines State Forest
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:00:53 PM
Attachments: [HBSD Enrollment 1955-2015.pdf](#)

House Finance Committee

I am sending you this note as a concerned full-time resident of Haines, Alaska. I am also the parent of a child that will be entering the job market in the next few years. Quality of life means that we have the opportunity to live in our communities with our children, grandchildren and other loved ones around us. It is unfortunate that our young families are continuing to leave our community due to lack of employment opportunities. Additionally, our utility costs are onerous.

It is with shock and disappointment that I have learned of the proposal to cut all DNR Forestry positions in Southeast Alaska. I think that it is important that we are all reminded that the Haines State Forest is 286,000 acres in the Haines Borough. The State has a responsibility to the community to actively manage this resource. Closing timber sales in the Haines State Forest will result in the layoff of two foresters with substantial institutional knowledge and a combined total of 50 years of experience as Foresters for the Haines State Forest. However, the impacts to the community are much larger. The closing of timber sales in Haines will result in the direct loss of a livelihood for eight families that I know personally. Additionally, there are others that will be impacted that serve in support roles in our little community.

My perspective of the deep impacts this will have to the community comes not only as a full-time resident, but also as a former Board Member and past President of the Haines Chamber of Commerce, and as a former Haines Borough School District (HBSD) Board Member, past HBSD President, and past HBSD Treasurer.

In Haines we value all industries that provide support for our families. However, the real economic force that has allowed our community to thrive has been through the timber industry. The Haines Borough School District (HBSD) is suffering due to a loss of enrollment. Attached is a graph that reflects the enrollment of HBSD from 1955 to current date. The high point of enrollment of 596 students was during active logging in the 1960's and 1970's. After the timber industry suffered severe losses enrollment dropped in the 1980's to a low of 320 students. Then an increase in the timber industry helped the Haines community again and enrollment increased in the 1990's and leveled out with enrollment in the low 400's. After another decline in the timber industry starting in 2000 enrollment has been on a steady decline. The current enrollment is 268 students with a projected enrollment for next year at 243. The promise of the pending Baby Brown Timber Sale in the Haines State Forest had the community hopeful that we would once again see an increasing economy for our community that is capable of supporting young families. The proposal to cut support for timber sales in southeast diminishes any hope of a recovery for our community.

I am supportive of all forms of economy in our area. We need a vibrant economy that is based on responsible and sustainable resource development. We also need a reliable source of energy to service the long term needs of our community. We need the necessities of the community to be put first, instead of the desires of outside special interest groups. We need the the ability to allow opportunities for hard working Alaskans to support their families in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Jones Josephson, MBA, EA
Haines Resident

P.O. Box 51, Haines, AK 99827
Telephone: (907) 766-2170
Email: brendajones57@gmail.com

From: [Loretta Maillele](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Cuts McGrath DNR Fire Camp
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:01:19 AM

I am writing this email regarding the budget cuts that will terminate 16 of the 22 positions in the McGrath Division of Forestry Fire Camp. Leaving a 6 man crew to man the camp and try and protect our whole southwest division during a busy fire season, the largest region in the Division.

I work in the kitchen as Cook I and I don't see how 6 people is going to respond and fight fires. The Funny River Fire burnt a record number of acres, threatening homes, businesses and lives while they had the resources available within minutes and hours of the fire. We live off the grid, it will take hours to bring in outside resources and time is crucial when you have a wildland fire, it will not wait for outside resources and fire personal from down states. The cost of bringing in outside resources will be more then they are spending right now to keep our camp fully staffed as it was stated in the ADN newspaper by our leader Chris Maisch, it will save 1.2 millions dollars but it will cost more to bring in outside resources.

With these budget cuts you will leave our lands, our homes, ours businesses, our cabins, our Native allotments, our fish camps, our gold mines, and our lives at risk while the Division is required to protect us and our lands. Our trapping grounds, hunting grounds, berry picking grounds, our future and our past, will be put at risk. Not to mention our wood cutting grounds and timber will burn, with the cost of fuel in the villages that would hit us hard as we all depend on our wood stoves for heat during our cold Alaskan winters.

We have the trained personnel here in Mcgrath, there should be no reason to remove them and risk lives and property while the Division of Forestry is required to protect us.

I will be one of those 16 workers terminated from work. I have three daughters at home and one in college, a \$1127 a month mortgage on our home, and \$2,000 a month in bills, and I am a single mother. My options will be simple, I will lose my home.

After the budget cuts that removed the Innoko Wildlife Refuge office from Mcgrath, another cut that will cause more job lost will be devastating to our economy where jobs are scarce. Please reconsider this budget cut, a cut that doesn't make sense in the long run. A cut that will put lives and property at risk, a cut that will cause 16 personal to take the hit hard and will cause me to lose my home.

Thank you

From: [Emily Coate](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Learning matters
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:16:11 AM

Dear members of the House Finance Committee-

I was driving home last night and happened to catch the end of this story on NPR (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2015/03/02/377569413/can-family-secrets-make-you-sick>). It talked about the start of the Adverse Childhood Experiences, or [ACE](#) study that looked at whether or not childhood experiences have any bearing on who we become and how our bodies age and combat stress through our lives. The answer is YES. Funding for programs like Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings IS essential because it's supporting the most vulnerable of Alaska's population. The experiences these children have stay with them through their whole lives, and help shape how they function in society, how they will help guide our state and most importantly, how they will raise their own children. We have to stop throwing money at the problem... let's work to avoid the problems to begin with. Reinstate funding for Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings and show the state that you care about families doing the hard work of raising our future Alaskans.

Thank you-

Emily Coate Thompson

Juneau AK

From: [Amanda Goins](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Keep early childhood funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:23:47 AM

Hello,

I am writing in as a concerned citizen. I understand that early learning funding is on the table to be cut. We use the Dolly Parton Imagination Library service and my son LOVES getting a book every month. It definitely encourages his enthusiasm for reading.

We also utilize the various activities and resources offered by AEYC from the library nights to the turf for tots night. These opportunities play a vital role in our son's socialization.

Additionally, while I am still on the waitlist for the Parents as Teachers program, I believe it to be a vital program to start children on the right path, encouraging their developmental milestones.

Please keep funding these important programs for our children.

Sincerely,

Amanda Goins

From: [Aneeyah Bohulano](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Reinstate funding for Parents as Teachers Program
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:07:04 AM

Hi there,

My name is Maricel Bohulano from Juneau and my two year old daughter is currently on PAT program. I am a full time working mom so this program helps me a lot to learn about my daughters development and things I can do to boost her development. The PAT coordinator brings a book that we read every night and we do activities every visit. Every visit, me and my daughter get to bond and play together at that one hour that we all need as a family. This program also give us a chance to meet other families out there that all want their kids to have a good family foundation.

I ask to please reinstate PAT funding to support families like me to have a better understanding with early education.

Sincerely,

Maricel Bohulano

From: [Anne Vander Naald](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Learning Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:35:31 AM

Hello,

My name is Anne Vander Naald, and I am currently 7 months pregnant. I recently learned about the legislature's decision to cut funding for Early Learning. I was especially sad to hear the Parents as Teachers program is going to be cut. As a first-time new parent-to-be, I was feeling comforted by the fact that my husband and I would be able to participate in this program and receive this form of support. We live in Juneau without any family nearby and we therefore lean on our community of friends and support workers to help us navigate this new territory. I know there are many other first-time parents in the Juneau community who feel the same way I do. The current day care crisis is one indicator that more parents may be forced to stay at home and would therefore need more support - in the form of a program like the Parents as Teachers program, and others that are being cut.

Please consider this my request to work to bring back some semblance of support for new families of little ones. We need all the help we can get!

Thank you,
Anne Vander Naald

From: [Annie Albrecht](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early learning finding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:33:17 PM

In response to the decision to cut the early learning fund....that is a terrible idea. The more research that is done to identify where children become at risk for failing out of school....the more it has become clear that it is the earliest years (birth to age 3) that are the most critical.

My children have benefited most specifically from the imagination library program but, as a community member, I also fully support the other programs that AEYC organizes.

Please reconsider this cut and try to recognize the potential effect it will have on Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Annie Albrecht

From: [Cynthia Parkin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:20:48 AM

Thank you to the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to testify. My name is Cynthia Parkin and I am writing today as a supporter of young children. <?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I support restoring funding to Alaska's early care and learning systems and programs. For Alaska's children today and for the state of our economy tomorrow, it is critical that we invest in priorities like:

***Best Beginnings** and their work to increase community engagement around quality early learning and early literacy through programs like Imagination Library.*

***Parents As Teachers** to provide services to families with young children with critical home visiting services.*

***PreK**, an investment in our state in quality early learning to ensure our youngest Alaskan's get a healthy start in their education and enter Kindergarten ready for success.*

Research has demonstrated that investing early on in a child's life helps better prepare children for school, for work and for life. Thank you for your leadership in supporting quality early learning for Alaska families and children.

Cynthia Parkin,

2419 Telequana Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Dawn Harmon](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Best Beginnings
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:48:00 PM

A MESSAGE TO THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Instead of writing my own thoughts regarding the importance of funding early learning programs, such as Best Beginnings, I looked to someone more educated than myself; someone who is respected around the world; former secretary of state, General Colin Powell.

The following is from a commencement address given by General Powell:

I spend a lot of time with youth groups, and I say to people, "When does the education process begin?" We're always talking about, "Let's fix the schools. Let's do more for our teachers. Let's put more computers in our schools. Let's get it all online."

That isn't the whole answer. It's part of the answer. But the real answer begins with bringing a child to the school with structure in that child's heart and soul to begin with.

When does the learning process begin? Does it begin in first grade? No, no, it begins the first time a child in a mother's arms looks up at the mother and says, "Oh, this must be my mother. She's the one who feeds me. Oh yeah, when I don't feel so good down there, she takes care of me. It's her language I will learn." And at that moment they shut out all the other languages that they could be learning at that age, but by three months, that's her. And if the person doing it, whether it's the mother or grandmother, whoever's doing it, that is when the education process begins. That's when language begins. That's when love begins. That's when structure begins. That's when you start to imprint on the child that "you are special, you are different from every other child in the world. And we're going to read to you." A child who has not been read to is in danger when that child gets to school. A child who doesn't know his or her colors or doesn't know how to tell time, doesn't know how to tie shoes, doesn't know how to do those things, and doesn't know how to do something that goes by a word that was drilled into me as a kid: mind. Mind your manners! Mind your adults! Mind what you're saying! This is the way children are raised properly. And I watched my own young grandchildren now come along and they're, much to the distress of my children, they are acting just like we did. You know? You imprint them.

And that's what you have to do to prepare children for education and for school. And I'm working at all the energy I have to sort of communicate this message that we need preschool, we need Head Start, we need prenatal care. The education process begins even before the child is born, and if you don't do that, you're going to have difficulty. And we are having difficulties in so many of our communities and so many of our schools where kids are coming to first grade and their eyes are blazing, they've got their little knapsack on and they're ready to go, and then they realize they're not like the other first graders who know books, have been read to, can do their alphabet. And by the third grade, the kids who didn't have that structure and minding in the beginning start to realize they're behind, and what do they do? They act it out. They act it out, and they're on their way to jail or they're on their way to being dropouts. It's predictable. If you're not at the right reading level at third grade, you are a candidate for jail at age 18,

and we have the highest incarceration rate because we're not getting our kids the proper start in life.

But it begins with the gift of a good start. If we don't give that gift to each and every one of our kids, if we don't invest at the earliest age, we're going to be running into difficulties. It's why we have a dropout rate of roughly 25 percent overall and almost 50 percent of our minority population living in low-income areas, because they're not getting the gift of a good start.

General Powell has also stated the following:

"You can invest in children today, or you can build more prisons tomorrow."

Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I can't state the case for funding early learning better than General Powell. I urge you to reconsider the cut to programs such as Best Beginnings.

Sincerely,
Dawn Harmon - Fairbanks, AK

Dawn Harmon

"How can you talk if you haven't got a brain?"

[Dorothy - Wizard of Oz](#)

From: [Dawn Paulson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Widening the Net
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:28:35 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the budget cuts proposed that would eliminate the Widening the Net preschool program. My daughter attending Widening the Net two years ago at Palmer High.

It was a wonderful experience for her. She was so ready for Kindergarten and has excelled at school ever since. She would not have had the opportunity for preschool if not for this program. We are a middle class, one-income family who does not qualify for any assistance.

We were so incredibly blessed and grateful for this program.

My son is turning 4 this month and I had high hopes of him being able to benefit from the program next year. I'm devastated at the possibility it will not be available. These kids need preschool! Study after study shows the benefits of preschool on graduation rates, and overall success. With graduation rates/drop out rates the way they are, I can't see how the state can not afford to pay for preschool. It can be taken further to look at the rates of kids who don't graduate and go on to get locked up. Now that's expensive!

Let's get kids graduated, let's keep them out of jail - fund preschool!

Dawn Paulson

From: [Ellen Story](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:58:42 AM

Hello,

My name is Ellen Story and I am a special education teacher for grades 3-5 in Juneau, AK. I strongly encourage you to restore the one time grant funds for education.

The Juneau School District has faced budget cuts each year over the last few years and we can't afford to take another cut. Last year 7.5 special education positions were cut. This brought about legal concerns for students who should be receiving support according to their individual education plans but without adequate staffing did not. If the funds for education are not restored, the Juneau School District will face another 1.1 million dollar cut. It is our students who will feel the loss the most. Please consider the impact this has on all our students and vote to restore the one time grant funds for education.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ellen Story

From: [Erin Felke Caf](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Subject: Keep early learning funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:52:21 AM

Hello, I am writing in as a concerned citizen. I understand that early learning funding is on the table to be cut.

I recently registered for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library service for my 2yo daughter, and I'm sorry to hear that the program might lose funding. Not only is reading an important parent / child bonding time, it also encourages language development, imagination, and enthusiasm for education.

We also utilize the various activities and resources offered by AEYC from the library nights to the turf for tots night. These opportunities play a vital role in our son's socialization.

Please keep funding these important programs for our children.
Sincerely,

Erin Felke-Caf

From: [Montero, George L \(DNR\)](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Mavacat](#)
Subject: Our Children Our Future!
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:17:26 PM

Hello,

My name is George Montero, a resident of Juneau, a parent of 5 children, and a grandfather of three. I believe that the building blocks to our children's future starts from the time they are born. Those first few years of development are so important in their growth, and crucial to children's future learning abilities.

I am wondering why my fellow Alaskans, my Government, are evening gambling, or even weighing in on the risk of cutting away the very fabric that will crush our children, your children's future, or Alaska's future. For the last seven years I and my wife Christy have utilized every resource available to teach our children starting with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books, Head Start, and now the IDEA program.

Currently we home school our little ones, Sara-7, and Daisy-5 years of age, through the IDEA program. When we first started these programs friends, and family had already noticed that our children had developed a certain criteria above their siblings. Their English was profound, and their actions more analytical in their response to learning new things.

The IDEA program even wondered if this would work for us. With me working full time with the State, and my wife a full time home maker, and teacher. I say this because my wife is deaf, and I do not mean hard of hearing. Yes, she is deaf. At first I had some concerns, but after several years I am completely on board with her. Every day gives a new, and our children's future is very important to the both of us. To watch them grow, and cherish what they learn every day is at personal best, and our greatest achievement on every level. Sara is now in 3rd and Daisy 1st grade. Both girls have also been in Violin class since October of 2013, and continue to learn how to play music under the direction of Lisa Miles, The Heart Strings. Sara has just graduated from Suzuki volume one, and Daisy continues to strive under Mrs. Miles instructions.

We are very proud of their learning and take pride in this. To cut Early Learning or any educational programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books funded through Best Beginnings is a gamble that I do not support! The very future of this State starts with our children! Why teach them that education is not important by not giving them the essentials. I ask you why? Are your children not important to you? Is the future of this State not important to you? Was your own education not that important to you? Ask yourself, is this really worth cutting? What's at stake? Our children's future, your children's, or your grandchildren's education are now in your

hands.

Please, I implore you to not take this away! There are things to cut, and there are some things that should not be cut! Would you cut your child from early development!

Cheers,



Department of Natural Resources

George L. Montero Jr.

Requesting RSA/SDPR Grants.

Accounting Tech III

Support Services Division/ Financial Services

PO Box 111010

Juneau, Alaska 99811-1010

PH: 465-2436 FAX: 465-3886

From: [Guada Thatcher](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Ashley Crace](#); [April Blevins](#)
Subject: Regarding the funds
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:18:49 PM

“Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, for the record my name is Guada Thatcher. I am writing regarding HB36 and want to make the following points: 1.Please don't cut the funds for Preschool children need this Early Learning Education.2.I am one of the believer that theres no such thing too young to learn and having the Preschool running in Bethel the benefits of teaching them and at the end of the year seeing everything what they have learn through out the year is PRICELESS and we all know, knowledge is the key for the future for all the children.Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

From: [Hayley Anderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please restore funding for our children
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:00:32 PM

Dear Finance Committee members,

I support restoring funding to Alaska's early care and learning systems and programs. My one-year-old daughter receives a book in the mail each month thanks to funding from Best Beginnings. This program as well as Parents As Teachers and PreK are critical investments in our children today and the state of our economy tomorrow.

Stable families are the backbone of our economy. When you support working families and their young children, you see big returns in a well-prepared workforce that misses fewer days of work, as well as a society that is healthier and happier. Isn't that what we want for Alaska?

The essence of the American dream is giving our children a better, brighter future. Thank you for your leadership in supporting quality early learning for Alaska's children.

Sincerely,
Hayley Anderson
1964 Commodore Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Whitelos](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: House Finance Committee Budget PREK Grant March 2,2014
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:57:41 PM

Dear Committee .Chair, Thank you for accepting my written testimony. My name is Janet Balice and I have been a teacher at Nome Elementary for the past nine years. I am speaking to the proposed cuts to the PREK grant which is a program that directly affects children and the positive results can be documented. I have seen Nome Elementary and Nome Kawerak Head Start before the PREK Grant and after the PREK grant. Before the PREK grant students came into kindergarten scared, angry, confused and not knowing the basic academic or personal skills to succeed at school. A number of them took a lot of the principal's time in their office in the fall crying, screaming, kicking until one day lo and behold they turned into pretty nice kids and started to try to make a go of this new thing called kindergarten. But even then they were far behind grade level markers and often would fall even farther behind as they tried to maneuver the mysterious world of classroom tools like crayons and scissors, school routine, PE class, the lunchroom and interacting with other students. The data we use in Elementary school says that if a student is not on grade level for reading in first grade they have about a 10% chance of ever catching up and having a successful completion to their school career. Well with a school beginning like I describe that is not surprising.

Contrast that now for the past five years of the PRE K grant to our 50 some Head Start and Nome Preschool graduates who walk into their first day of kindergarten head held high, smile on their face, waving goodbye to their families and sitting down to start to learn. And the proof is that every fall when they take the kindergarten entrance screening more often than not they are at proficient or near proficient for entering kindergartners as compared to those who do not have the advantage of this structured Early Childhood program. Our data tracking of these students shows that they continue to make gains and bust right through that kindergarten curriculum. This PREK program changes the lives of students and their families and takes the wonderful things local preschool entities do and makes them even better.

Lastly, it does this at a cost of \$6330 per student because of the partnership with local existing preschool entities which is far less than the approximately \$17,000 dollars per student per year that is spent on students K-12. It is a bargain that reaps benefits for the student, their family and the community throughout a child's school career.

From: [Jessica Bethers](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Keep early learning funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:37:40 AM

Hello,

I am writing in as a concerned citizen. I understand that early learning funding is on the table to be cut. We use the Dolly Parton Imagination Library service and my daughter LOVES getting a book every month. It definitely encourages his enthusiasm for reading.

We also utilize the various activities and resources offered by AEYC from the library nights to the turf for tots night. These opportunities play a vital role in our son's socialization.

Additionally, while I am still on the waitlist for the Parents as Teachers program, I believe it to be a vital program to start children on the right path, encouraging their developmental milestones.

Please keep funding these important programs for our children.

In gratitude,

Jessica Bethers

--

Jessica Bethers
Consciousness Cleaning
"Holistic Cleaning with Energy Shifting"
www.consciousnesscleaning.com
907-957-6210

From: [Karen White](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed Funding Cuts to early childhood development
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:57:56 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the nursing director at Bartlett Beginnings at Bartlett Regional Hospital. But I am writing as a Juneau resident who is extremely concerned about the proposed funding cuts to Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Pre-K. Included in these programs is the Imagination Library wherein each newly born baby is eligible to receive a free book a month for their first 5 years of life. All of these programs foster childhood development and strengthen family relationships. The long-term benefits of these investments cannot be refuted. Please do the smart thing and invest in the future of our youngest residents.

Thank you.

Karen White

Karen White, BSN, RNC-OB

OB Director

Bartlett Regional Hospital

3260 Hospital Dr.

Juneau, AK 99801

907-796-8657

kwhite@bartletthospital.org

From: [Kathy Blanc](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Reinstate funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and Pre-K Programs
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:35:03 PM

My name is Kathy Blanc. I am a parent and Juneau resident. I am writing to remind you that early learning programs are the most effective investments the government can make, even during difficult fiscal times.

High-quality early education programs are proven to:

- Help children enter kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed in school
- Increase high-school graduation rates and college attendance
- Reduce teen pregnancy rates, crime, and other social problems
- Reduce long-term social costs for special education, child welfare, and public assistance

The achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers is apparent by 18 months of age. The good news is that early learning programs significantly narrow this gap.

Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers, and Pre-K programs are investments that provide both short- and long-term economic benefits.

Not investing in at-risk children through early childhood programs poses a profound threat to the future of our economy.

Fast forward 20 years without adequate investments in early childhood service, and we are left with a less educated workforce that has a lower earning potential, is making fewer tax contributions, and is creating a greater need for spending on preventable social services.

While we focus on reducing the deficit, we must recognize that early childhood programs are cost-effective investments that are critical to Alaska's economic growth.

Sadly, young children don't have lobbyists -- Please keep your youngest constituents in mind during your committee work!

Thank you for your service to the state.

Kathy Blanc
3003 Foster Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Kelly McBride](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: testimony regarding budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:55:12 PM

My name is Kelly McBride. I am the chair of the Mat Su Imagination Library, and I work closely with our Widening the Net preschool program and the Early Childhood Partnership of Mat-Su. I came to the Mat-Su LIO on my personal time to testify, but had class at 5 PM and had to leave before it was Mat-Su's turn.

In light of current oil prices, we need to look at opportunities to invest in the future. I believe children are our future, and they are worth investing in. Early intervention is the best way to change our struggling education system, and the best way to change the trajectory towards an ever growing prison system. We have more and more children coming to us with challenging behaviors or who have had adverse childhood experiences such as trauma and abuse. Children with high quality learning experiences are not only more likely to succeed in school, but impact on our community long term by being more likely to graduate from high school, attend post-secondary education, have health insurance and make healthier lifestyle choices.

The proposed cuts would have a significant impact on our community. The MSIL provides books to 3200 children a month. The Early Childhood Partnership provides activities for families who teach their young children at home and private childcare providers. The Widening the Net preschool serves a 100 children at Butte, Goose Bay, Shaw, Trapper Creek and Willow, many of which do not have any other opportunity to attend preschool. The children who have attended this program in previous years have outperformed the district average in every area of the Kindergarten Developmental Profile and on literacy assessments. They are more likely to be successful not only in school, but as future citizens of the Mat-Su.

Please consider re-instating at least partial funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and State PreK. I hope that Alaska will someday consider voluntary universal preK for 4 year old children as part of our education system, but HB 36 was not mentioned in the budget.

Respectfully,

Kelly McBride

From: [Kimberly Hankins](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Preschool Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:49:42 AM

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Kimberly Hankins and I am the site administrator of Joann A. Alexie Memorial School in Atmautluak, Alaska. I am writing regarding HB36 and wish to strongly encourage the continued funding of preschool and early literacy programs across the state.

Preschool and early literacy programs are essential in helping improve students' abilities in oral language, receptive language, phonological awareness skills, print knowledge, alphabet knowledge, and motivation to read. Without proper funding for preschool and early literacy programs many communities simply cannot afford to offer such services to students who both need and deserve them.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

--

Kimberly Hankins
Site Administrator
Joann A. Alexie Memorial School
Atmautluak, AK
(907) 553-5112

From: [Noella Blankenship](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Need Prek
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:35:16 PM

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee for the record, My name is Noella Blankenship. I am writing regarding HB36 and want to make the following points that we really need Prek in Bethel, Ak especially mostly our children are low income and English is their second language. Children need to be in prek coz even mostly are in prek some of the children are still struggling because of lack of language much more if there is no prek?? Do u think these children are ready to go to Kindergarten? Second, losing a job in Bethel is very hard especially everything in this town are too expensive.
Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Public Testimony to the Finance Committee
March 3, 2015
Pauline P. Smith
Executive Director
Alaska Literacy Program

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Alaska Literacy Program is a member of the Best Beginnings early childhood partnership working to assure all Alaska children are healthy, ready for school and successful ^{for} life. For the past 20 years we have collaborated with the community to provide a family literacy program for low income families. We have benefited from ~~your support of~~ Best Beginnings in the past through professional development opportunities and community partnership.

I urge you to please consider the following actions:

Do not zero out programs that affect the most vulnerable, Alaska's infants and children.

- Please continue to support Best Beginnings in the FY 2016 budget – our ~~Anchorage~~ partnership benefits with trainings, funding and support for our initiatives. Building and maintaining a partnership takes investment of time and money from all partners. Best Beginnings provides that support.
- Please continue to support Parents as Teachers We have used Parents as Teachers in home visits and have observed first-hand improved parenting and awareness of child development in the families who home visits. ^{increased}
- Please continue to support the investment in Early Head Start and family literacy. Early childhood education is an investment in Alaska's future. Investing in family literacy supports a healthy workforce and strengthens our economy where adults have the skills to provide for their families.
- Finally, I urge you to expand Medicaid to provide over 40,000 Alaskans with access to health care.
- Thank you for your attention and the work you do for Alaska's children and families.

743-0201

From: [Rebecca Gaguine](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:56:04 PM

Dear Finance Committee,

I cannot imagine how difficult your jobs are. And I'm sure that no matter what programs you put on the chopping block, people will be upset about it,

But I think that the long lasting ramifications of cutting something as important as early childhood education.

Alaska routinely ranks within the bottom 50% of the nation, and I'm betting there'd be no surprise to see that the states that do rank highest have no shortage of amazing early education programs.

I read an interesting study recently that children who came from lower socioeconomic families hear an average of 1/3 the words on a daily basis than a family who can afford to have a stay-at-home parent. Programs like the Imagination Library, and Parents-as-Teachers, offer an opportunity for kids to be exposed to more words and more education concepts, and especially since these programs are targeted at families who might be struggling, they are vitally important for the growth of our future leaders.

Please do not cut off chances for every child, no matter what their circumstances allow, an equal chance for learning and more importantly to enjoy that learning.

Sincerely
Rebecca Gaguine

From: [Rebecca Sentner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: House Finance Committee Public Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:52:36 AM

Hello Chair and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify online. My name is Rebecca Sentner and I am emailing you today as a concerned resident of Anchorage, AK.

I support restoring funding to Alaska's early care and learning systems and programs. I believe it is our responsibility as a community to value, protect, and provide the best possible environment for our children. Evidence shows investing in early care not only benefits Alaska's children today, but also improves the state of our economy tomorrow.

I think it is important to invest in programs such as:

- **Best Beginnings** and their work to increase community engagement around quality early learning and early literacy through programs like Imagination Library
- **Parents As Teachers** to provide services to families with young children with critical home visiting services
- **PreK**, an investment in our state in quality early learning to ensure our youngest Alaskan's get a healthy start in their education and enter Kindergarten ready for success

Thank you for your leadership in supporting quality early learning for Alaska families and children.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Sentner

From: [Sara Miller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Keep the early learning funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:25:18 AM

Hello,

I am writing in as a concerned citizen. I understand that early learning funding is on the table to be cut. We use the Dolly Parton Imagination Library service and my daughter LOVES getting a book every month. It definitely encourages her enthusiasm for reading. We now have a small library to pick from each night.

We also utilize the various activities and resources offered by AEYC from the library nights to the turf for tots night. These opportunities play a vital role in our daughter's socialization. Often times the winter is rainy or cold and having a dry, fun place to play with friend is great. Being a working mom-these opportunities are a great time to bond with my daughter.

Additionally, while I am still on the waitlist for the Parents as Teachers program, I believe it to be a vital program to start children on the right path, encouraging their developmental milestones.

Please keep funding these important programs for our children.

Sincerely,

Sara Miller
saramiller50@hotmail.com
414-232-8720

From: [Sara Stekoll](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding early childhood education programs
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:53:17 PM

Dear sirs and madams,

I am a local Juneau parent with concerns about the recent funding cuts to early childhood education programs, including Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. My child has been involved in many ways with these programs, which have been not only exceptionally helpful from a parenting perspective, but also have provided my child with greater breadth of experiences than would otherwise have been possible.

I understand the necessity of funding cuts during a budget crisis, but with the obvious inefficient spending of money by the local school districts, I am upset to see cuts made to such well run and beneficial programs as AEYC provides. These programs are important to the social, emotional, physical, and educational development of young children across multiple socio-economic statuses, and provide a solid building block for further education in the K-12 system.

Please reconsider cuts to these programs.

Thank you.

Sara Stekoll

From: [Sat Nam Kaur Khalsa](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early learning program
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:59:37 PM

My name is Sat Nam Sears and I am from Juneau Alaska. I am a mom of a 15m old beautiful boy and I have benefitted greatly from the Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings programs. Being a new mom is overwhelming and time consuming. Parents as Teachers really helped me focus on what was important with my infant. There were activities to do and someone to talk to about all the changes and challenges. Connecting with other families and finding resources in the community is invaluable. There were so many times when I was clueless and my home coordinator would share some pertinent wisdom. I don't know where I would be without the program. Please keep the program that is such a big help to so many families. Thank you, Sat Nam Sears

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chase And Steph](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early learning funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:18:00 AM

Hello,

I am writing today because I am very sad to learn that early learning funding for the State of Alaska has been cut. How do you expect infants and toddlers to grow into the responsible kids, teens and adults that Alaska so desperately needs? I am not so worried about the kids who's parents have sent emails or spoken in regards to the cut but I fear for the kids who's parents don't care. The Dolly Parton Library is the only way some Alaskan kids will ever receive any books. How can you believe in the greater good of the state when you don't believe in the youngest Alaskans? What kind of message is being sent to the residents of Alaska that early learning isn't important? Again, it is for the kids who's parents won't sit and read to them or teach them colors, letters and shapes...it is those kids who lose because of your actions.

Thank you,
Stephanie Roughton
417-825-3344

From: [Tamora Harding](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support the Children, our future
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:30:49 AM

Thank you for this opportunity to share my support for quality early care and education in Alaska.

My name is Tamora Harding-Childs. I am a mother, an early childhood specialist for thread, an active member of Early Childhood Partnership of Mat-Su, and a spouse of a public school teacher. I am impacted daily by the need to protect and promote early care and education in my state. I support restoring the funding to Alaska's early care/learning systems and programs for our children today and for the state of our economy tomorrow. For the continued advancement of our bright futures, we must invest in foundational priorities such as:

- ***Best Beginnings** and their community engagement around quality early learning and early literacy.*
- ***Parents As Teachers** that support families with critical home visiting services for their young children.*
- ***PreK**, an investment in Alaska's youngest citizens get a proper start in their education of 12 years and beyond.*

Thank you for your leadership in supporting and protecting the present and the promising future of Alaska families and children.

Tamora Harding-Childs, M. Ed

Early Childhood Specialist

Direct: 907.373.5024 Fax: 907.373.5067

ANC Main: 907.265.3100 or 800.278.3723

ANC Fax: 907.265.3115 or 877.563.1959

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From: [Bobbi Keuken](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Department of Education Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:07:23 PM

As a Guidance Counselor in the state of Alaska, I would hope government officials would strive to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to education cuts. Please understand that cutting Masters degree level positions of individuals who have been specifically trained to deal with the rising rate of mental health issues is a huge mistake.

School counselors to help students develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for healthy and successful relationships as they grow. Those children who do not have a stable home life, especially need school counselors who collaborate with teachers and administrators to develop a positive and safe environment. Counselors interact with community organizations also and strive for multiple sources of input to ensure to present the best positive outcome for a student. As a non-disciplinary part of our school systems, students are more likely to come to us rather than an administrator who handles discipline or a teacher who gives them a grade.

Do school employees other than psychologists, special education teachers or counselors have the experience, knowledge or time to talk to student about mental health issues commonly seen today? Are they prepared to discuss suicide, suicide prevention, self-harm (i.e. cutting, burning), death, car accidents, parental drug use, child drug use, domestic abuse, etc. Do teachers have time to coordinate mandatory state assessments and measures of progress testing, which includes preparation, training proctors, proctoring, and make-up sessions all based on a deadline several times a year? We as counselors are trained to handle these and many other issues.

Cutting school counselors positions is basically stating to parents and children, expertise is not needed for someone to talk to their child about mental health. For example, a student could talk to the school secretary in place of a counselor about why they are slicing their arms every night with a razor blade. The secretary would then be responsible for helping that student work through their issues to help them stop cutting. Is a secretary trained on this subject? Maybe, maybe not. For the maybe nots, schools might wake up the next day to find there is a fellow student who reached out to an adult, but committed suicide the previous night because the signs were not recognized. Not everyone in a school system is trained to see these signs, so they call the counselor.

Are you comfortable as a government official seeking mental guidance from your administrative assistant (school secretary), your boss (administration), or a coworker (teacher) that has barely enough time for their own workload much less to hear your issues? Or do you want your child asking an unqualified individual for help?

Bobbi J. Keuken
Guidance Counselor
Schoenbar Middle School
907-228-7219

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From: [Elizabeth Downing](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)
Subject: Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:11:13 PM

[Note: Our Board is conducting superintendent interviews this afternoon and may not be able to testify live.]

Alaska State House Finance Committee

Representatives,

I'd like to share with you the impact of cutting education funding on the Kenai Peninsula schools. The potential loss of the proposed "one-time funding" will not only cut \$2.6m+ to our district but, due to the Maximum Allowable from the Borough, will reduce funding by an additional \$550,000+. We are in the process of trying to make up an \$8 million deficit in our FY16 budget. The one-time funding will go a long way to reducing this. Yes, we are looking at increasing the PTR, reducing staffing at all levels, and cutting opportunities for our students. These will hurt but with Legislative support for these one-time funds, they will not be devastating.

Programs that support early learning, pre-kindergarten, and intervention are effective in achieving student success. Students enter elementary school ready to learn requiring little or no intervention when they have early learning opportunities. Those who come to our schools without it, or come with English as a second language, learning disabilities or other challenges, are brought up to grade level through our effective intervention programs. With these programs in place, KPBSD has increased our graduation rate by 10% in recent years. Please support these programs.

The most effective way to increase student success is with good teaching. The program I feel has best impacted this area is the Teacher-Mentor program. It provides a consistent evaluation, coaching, and support for that new-to-teaching educator in real time. What a gift to our children - exponentially increasing the effectiveness of their teacher in a way that improves learning for that class and each class of students throughout that teacher's career.

I understand our budget crisis and how the CBR will not provide the bridge we saved for between the low throughput of oil and the start of the gas line. A year ago, we didn't know that a barrel of oil would be down to \$50. We don't know whether it will be higher or lower next year although I hear from those in the business that it will once again be high. Regardless, we need to diversify our economy and the best way to invest in a healthy

economy is to invest in the education of Alaskans from early childhood through adult career transitions. It is their brain power that is the real driver of our economy in the near future and far beyond.

As a mother of a public school student, as a school board member, and as a 30 year educator and advocate for PreK through university education, I want you to know how much I appreciate the difficult decisions that lay before you. My plea is for wise and generous investment to create the best opportunities for Alaska's future.

Thank you,

Liz Downing

From: [Kate Quick](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fund education
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:13:50 AM

Dear honorable legislators,

First, thank you for your hard work serving our state. I understand the difficult budget situation you're dealing with, and don't envy the decisions you have to make because of it. However, I am deeply concerned about the level of cuts being proposed to public K-12 education.

I am not a k-12 teacher; I am a concerned parent of a kindergartener, a third grader, and a fifth grader. Two of my three kids needed special tutoring in reading and math. If not for this tutoring program, their struggle to learn the basics would have been much more frustrating for them. If your proposed budget goes through, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District will be forced to cut these crucial programs, leaving struggling kids to fall further behind.

Our school district will also be forced to increase class size while laying off personnel. Class sizes have already been increased beyond a reasonable number; my children are all in classes with about 27 students, and our middle school and high school classes are even larger! With larger classes and fewer resources, more students will fall through the cracks.

The future of Alaska is at stake here. If you cut education funding in the way you're currently proposing, we'll have a poorly educated populace, making it harder for Alaska to compete in an economy that demands a highly educated populace.

Fund education!

Sincerely,
Kate Quick
1496 Watson Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-799-5031

From: [Lili Misel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Protect Education
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:18:39 PM

Dear Finance Committee-

This is a year of hard choices and I do not envy the job of this committee. However, as you make your decisions, please keep in mind the future of Alaska.

Top priorities for the legislature this year should be funding for public education and early childhood programs. Although the Alaska budget has gone to hell with lower oil prices, the future of this state should not be fallout from those cuts. Without a well educated younger population, the state will suffer in the future. The public education system in Fairbanks is very strong and we have been very pleased with the education that our children has received. The University of Alaska also should continue to be funded. The university provides an excellent education for the youth of the state, and research completed at the campuses helps to drive the economies of their communities. Please support Pre-K through university education in the state of Alaska. Do not shortchange our future.

Medicare expansion as the governor has put forward should also be expanded. It is again in the better interest in the state to support those who need medical assistance. There is nothing worse than being ill and not being able to afford treatment and again, it helps a large portion of our state's population.

Sincerely,

Lili Misel
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Margaret Eagleton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: education funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:47:34 AM

To all whom it concerns:

Because I cannot attend in person, I am writing to you today to ask you to reinstate full funding to all education.

While I am the parent of a high school student in Fairbanks, my concerns range from pre-K funding all the way up through the University of Alaska across the whole state.

I have been impressed with my daughter's education to date, but I fear that this might not be the case in the future.

I, for one, would forgo my permanent fund dividend and pay taxes to ensure quality education for our youth. That is the level of my commitment to our future. What is yours?

Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Margaret W. Eagleton
93 Roxie Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-3535

From: [Jeanne Foy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Education funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:50:49 PM

Please fund education at the level that was passed last year. Students will be harmed by cuts to education funding.

Jeanne Foy
511 W. 10th St.
Juneau AK 99801

From: [Lisa Worl](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Representative.Tammi.Wilson@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Representative.Dave.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: Education funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:23:47 PM

Honorable Representatives of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing as a concerned parent of school age kids and as a Juneau School board member.

I understand that each of you is charged with setting our State of Alaska budget with a enormous deficit. I appreciate the funding the legislature has provided yet the funding increases have primarily been for PERS/TRS and not enough to keep up with inflation providing minimal funding to our operating budget. For this reason we're facing a fifth year in a row of budget cuts in the Juneau School District.

Our district has seen significant increases in graduation and each of our elementary schools, including the Title I schools with disadvantaged and challenged students, are currently four-star rated. Also, more of our previously under-performing high school students are now taking honors level and Advanced Placement classes.

However we are now cutting the very programs which were integral to providing support to the students who need it most. It is likely the gains we've been making in these past years will slide as we cut more teachers, support staff, programs, and professional development. Our initial years we were able to keep the cuts from the classrooms but now as our costs continue to rise and with no reserve we're left with having to cut essential programs and staff. As a school board member, there is nothing more disheartening than passing a budget which further increases class size and eliminates programs you know are helping students succeed and graduate in order to balance a budget.

While the state budget is beyond our control, we are doing the best we are able on the local level to deliver world class education to each of our students with our decreasing budgets. Please consider restoring the one-time education funds that were approved last session. Investments in our students now will reap a productive work force and competent labor pool for our state in the future.

Respectfully,

Lillian M. (Lisa) Worl
Juneau School Board
9159 Wolfram Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Mike and Andi Story](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Representative.Tammi.Wilson@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Representative.Dave.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Cc: [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [schoolboard@juneauschools.org](#); "Miller, Mark"
Subject: Please Restore one time funds for K- 12 education students
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:45:08 PM

March 3, 2015

Dear Honorable Representatives of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Andi Story and I am a Juneau School Board member and testifying on behalf of the Board for the children in our district. Thank you for the increase to the Base Student Allocation and the one time funds passed last session. Our Board urges you to prioritize restoring the one time funds.

Loss of the one time funds is a cut of 1.1 million for Juneau students and will result in even bigger class sizes and less attention and resources needed for student learning.

It is more crucial than ever, as we go thru this downsizing of our budget that we prioritize what helps move Alaska ahead as a state, and that is having an educational system in place that is perceived as excellent. People, when looking at where to raise their children and work, or locate their business, look at school offerings, class sizes and student academic achievement.

School Boards and the education community across the state have been working on improving our education. We are doing what the Legislature and community has asked, adopted higher learning standards, and working on improving instruction and delivery choices to our children. It is paying off in Juneau and around the state. In Juneau our overall graduation rate is the highest it has ever been at 80 percent.

Our district has reduced 11 million in the past 4 years and over 100 positions. We are at a tipping point of being able to continue interventions, desired class offerings and maintain reasonable class sizes.

Our economic wellbeing as a state is tied to the educational success of our students. The states with the highest achievement rates, have made investments in early learning so children come to school ready to learn, and the states have strong career and technical programs. Restore the preschool program grants and early learning investments of Best Beginnings, and Parents as Teachers. Please restore the Alaska Construction Academies thru the Department of Labor funds. It funds Juneau's high school classes in the trades including Woods, Welding, Basic Construction, Computer Aided Drafting, Mechanics, and the House Build program.

In closing, I will summarize a favorite quote from a recent editorial in my local paper, "Salmon, oil and minerals are not Alaska's greatest resource, that honor goes to our children". Thank you for your service and guidance over our resources.

Sincerely,

Andi Story

Juneau School Board Member

(907) 789 - 4292

From: [Jim Puckett](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please fund the Health Care Commission
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:54:03 PM

To the members of the House Finance Committee,

Please fund the Alaska Health Care Commission (AKHCC). Increasing health care costs in our state are unsustainable. Since its creation the AKHCC has conducted valuable research, heard and received voluminous public testimony, and compiled many thorough recommendations for the governor and legislator to consider. Health care is a very complicated issue with many pieces and stakeholders involved. The AKHCC is an ideal group for the many and disparate participants of Alaska health care to share their concerns and voice their recommendations. If not the AKHCC, then what other group can do as good a job? It is critical to retain and continue supporting the AKHCC!

Thank you for your consideration!

Jim Puckett
3070 Glacierwood Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

akind1fundy@hotmail.com

907-978-5394

From: [Vera Woods](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: pat.manning@nsbsd.org; [Brooks and Katie Fry \(wyofry@gmail.com\)](mailto:Brooks and Katie Fry (wyofry@gmail.com))
Subject: of keeping Healthy Futures Funded
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:14:11 AM

Testimony:

March 4th, 2015

Please continue to fund the “Healthy Futures” for our schools. Please do not discontinue this fund.

We live in a very remote and isolated community and we are a small population of 350+ people, majority is our children. We do not live where we can go to a park, an indoor ice rink, a large community playground, a YMCA or any teen club centers. This funding helps our school and our community to have an opportunity to play outside or indoors, it keeps our kids healthy. This program just made an impact this year and some positive changes! This is good!

I am a parent, local school advisor member, church member, and museum curator! I support our school and our community! Please continue to support our school. Thank you.

State of Alaska Independent Living Budget Cuts

Background

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are non-residential Alaskan nonprofits that provide independent living services to older Alaskans and people who experience a disability. CILs assist individuals and families to find the information and gain skills that are essential in employment and maintaining inclusive, active, independent lives. There are CILs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Nome, Kotzebue, Homer, Soldotna, Seward, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Haines. Itinerant independent living services are offered in at least 70 additional locations.

- The current Governor's budget slashes:
 - \$164,000 or 13.2% from the statewide Independent Living budget;
 - \$48,400 or 19.4% from the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and
 - \$118,000 or 100% of the Interpreter Referral Line (IRL).

- Last year CILs assisted over 3,700 Alaskans with disabilities across the state to obtain or remain independent. Centers employed 65 individuals with disabilities.
- The State estimates that 175 Alaskans with disabilities served by the CILs will be impacted by this budget cut.
- CIL services assist people in identifying and using lower levels of care saving the State money. If even one person of the 175 impacted by the budget cut end up in a higher level of care (assisted living, nursing home) the budget cut savings will be erased.
- Centers assist individuals in moving from nursing homes back to their home communities. In FY14 transitions made by CILs **saved the State of Alaska over \$400,000 in Medicaid dollars.**
- In FY14 the IRL programs at Access Alaska and SAIL provided interpreters for nearly 300 appointments, the majority of which were

related to medical, education/training and employment.

- All CILs lend or donate pieces of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) to Older Alaskans or people who experience a disability. In FY14 Access Alaska loaned 2,399 pieces of DME, saving individuals, Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance over \$500,000 in purchase costs.

One Kenai Peninsula resident commented: *"I was confined to a nursing home for over 9 years until the ILC rescued me. I now live in the community. It is great to once again feel part of this community."*

Message

We realize the State of Alaska is in tough times financially and are willing to help shoulder the burden however we ask that most, if not all, of these funds be restored. IL services SAVE the State money by keeping Alaskans at home and using the lowest and *most inexpensive* levels of care.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

Shannon Cefalu

Representing:

Self

Bill No./Subject

Kenai Peninsula College Budget

Committee:

House Finance

Date of Hearing:

3/3/15

I am a part of the Kenai Peninsula College system, and I attend school at the Kachemak Bay Campus.

Our campuses on the peninsula are already very small, and the \$700,000 budget cut currently planned could cripple our schools. Classes would be discontinued and whole departments could be cut.

I moved to the state of Alaska to live near my family, but these cuts could require that I leave my family to get my college degree.

I understand that cuts must be made and that there is no easy solution. But if the budget money could be cut over a series of years, our campuses could have a chance to adjust and make difficult changes. I know this was the original plan, and I ask you consider making it the current plan. My school may suffer otherwise.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I know you are doing all you can to minimize the damage done to our state's education system.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Tucker Hiller
Representing: Self
Bill No./Subject: 72
Committee: House Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/03/12

Please support the's programs
Because homer kids like to play
at parks and read at the
library. Please care about
Homer kids because kids are
Cool! I like kids.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

TAKA HAGUE

Representing:

SPROUT HOME IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Bill No./Subject

Committee:

HOUSE FINANCE

Date of Hearing:

3/3/15

MY NAME IS TAKA HAGUE AND I WORK FOR SPROUT AND AM THE COORDINATOR FOR THE HOME IMAGINATION LIBRARY AND AM MEMBER OF THE HOME EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION. BOTH FUNDED BY BEST BEGINNINGS, IMAGINATION LIBRARY PROVIDES 300 FREE BOOKS A MONTH TO CHILDREN IN HOME, SEDOLIA AND PORT GRANT ON A MONTHLY BASIS PROMOTING EARLY LITERACY, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND ULTIMATELY PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN. I HAVE SEEN THE DIRECT IMPACT THE BOOKS HAVE WITH PARENT CHILD INTERACTION AND BONDING IN HIGH RISK FAMILIES. THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RECOMMENDS CHILDREN BE READ TO AT BIRTH AND THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS MAY BE A FAMILIES ONLY ACCESS TO EARLY LITERACY. INVEST IN EARLY LITERACY, INVEST IN KINDERGARTEN PREPAREDNESS, INVEST IN KIDS, INVEST IN THE FUTURE!

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: LARS DICKSON
Representing: SELF
Bill No./Subject: 72
Committee: HOUSE \$ INCREASE
Date of Hearing: E/03/15

It is important to support early childhood programs in Homer because they are little. Kids are cool and awesome and we should care about them. The people that help little children are epic.

~~BEN DICKSON~~

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

BEN DICKSON

Representing:

~~Me~~ self

Bill No./Subject

72

Committee:

HOUSE FINANCE

Date of Hearing:

3/03/2015

PLEASE support these programs, because Homer children like to play at parks and read at the library please care about Homer kids

faxed 3/3/15

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Susan Drahtman
Representing: Self
Bill No./Subject: HB72
Committee: Finance
Date of Hearing: 3-3-15

① Please restore funding for Public Radio in general and KBB1 specifically. It is vital to our community.

② Please restore full funding for Infant Learning Programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Respectfully,

Susan Drahtman
4042 El Sarino Ct
Homer, AK 99603
907-399-1943



Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.

3935 Svedlund Street
Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-7655 Fax: (907) 235-3739

March 3, 2015

Honorable Members of House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99603

Dear Honorable Members:

Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. respects the Finance Committee's difficult decisions this year with reduced revenue. We appreciate all the support you have provided to Alaskan seniors. However the proposed budget cuts target the most vulnerable population; Alaskan seniors. Alaskan Seniors have shaped our cities and communities into the great State that we enjoy today.

According to the 2010 census, **33% of Homer residents are seniors** and 46% of the households are comprised of individuals 65 years and older compared to 53% of households with individuals under the age of 18. We are ranked 7th by community and 2nd by borough in the State as the projected fastest growth for future seniors and are expected to see a 16% increase in population.

Home and Community Based services are a cost savings for the State of Alaska. Adult Day Services provide a needed respite for family members who keep their loved ones in the home. The proposed budget cuts directly affect 11 seniors in our program. The cost for the low-income families to provide care during the day is \$82.96.

If the \$500,000 is reduced from Adult Day Services, families will not be able to continue caring for their loved ones at home. The grant supports subsidized care to keep seniors at home and saves the State money. If a family can no longer take care of their loved one at home, then long term care is their only option. The cost for providing care will increase 90% to approximately \$838 per day (most of which is paid out of Medicaid)

Please Vote No on HB 73 to remove \$500,000 from the Mental Health Budget for Adult Day Services. It is not a budget savings but a budget increase.

Respectfully,

Keren L. Kelley, MPA, LNHA

40 Years of Great Service Helping Seniors "Live Life to Its Fullest!"

www.homerseniors.com



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www.homerseniors.com



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130 Seward St #214
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
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www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office

PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547
www.facebook.com/andvsa

March 3, 2015

Honorable Mark Neuman, Operating Budget Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 72 – Operating Budget Testimony

Dear Representative Neuman:

On behalf of our victim service programs throughout Alaska that provide emergency transportation, intervention, sexual assault response, safety planning, legal advocacy, rural outreach, education and prevention to victims of crimes involving domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, we are writing to thank you for your support of the Department of Public Safety's subcommittee recommendation to fund \$367,200 to avoid a decrement to victim services in FY 16. We also appreciate continued support of prevention activities so we can continue our prevention work that is showing results in changing social norms in our communities. We know that these are tough budget times and difficult decisions had to be made and we are very grateful for your support.

Many of our programs have already contacted their individual legislators to thank them personally for supporting CDVSA funding. Given the hundreds of Alaskans signed up to testify before the House Finance Committee, we wanted to be respectful of the committee's time and submit written comments. Please add our comments to the bill file for HB 72 – the Operating Budget.

Again, I thank you for supporting our programs that are an integral part of public safety in communities throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

Peggy A. Brown, Executive Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH
Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

From: [Dawn Harmon](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Human Services Community Matching Grant
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:39:07 PM

A MESSAGE TO THE STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish I had some eloquent way of conveying my feelings regarding the importance of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG). Sub-grantees receiving these funds provide services "whose unavailability would subject persons needing the services to serious mental or physical hardship." While, ideally, these services wouldn't be needed, the harsh reality is that they are. Once more, the sub-grantees are using the funds they receive from this grant to leverage so much more, in ways that government entities could never dream of. In short, they are using government funds much better than the government can.

I do not envy you and the hard choices you must make for the next few years regarding state funds, but, as government cuts are made, more people will be needing the services provided by these agencies.

I urge you to support funding of the HSCMG at Governor Walker's recommended level.

Sincerely,

Dawn Harmon, Fairbanks, AK

Dawn Harmon

"How can you talk if you haven't got a brain?"

[Dorothy - Wizard of Oz](#)

From: [Ruedrich, Lillian](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: March 4-budget testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:24:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to testimony this week, and to consider written comments as well. I wear several hats in the Fairbanks community, am involved in multiple projects affected by the State budget, and I find it difficult to narrow down the most pressing need to communicate with you. There are simply too many things on the chopping block. My fervent hope is that you consider well the impacts of these decisions and not cripple our government with budget cuts in order to make up the entire deficit. Additional revenue has got to be generated, and in my opinion should include individual income tax. Implementation of that strategy would be several years away, I'm sure, so in the meantime we will need to use the savings accounts set up for this very situation.

As for the budget now under consideration, please restore funds for the Human Services Community Matching Grant and its rural counterpart, Community Initiative Grants. Here in Fairbanks we have leveraged those funds extremely effectively, and assisted local non-profit organizations to carry on their work providing services valued at **15** times the amount of the Fairbanks grant. With State funds of about \$360,000 in FY14 matched with Borough dollars, other private sources, project income and in-kind, the value to the community reached over \$5 million. The organizations seeking funding from this program are doing critical and important work for our community and deserve continued support.

Thank you for considering these comments and for doing the tough job ahead creating this year's State budget.

Lillian Ruedrich

Director, Student Services & Interior AHEC Program, BS, MPH

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital/Denali Center

1650 Cowles St, Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-458-6417 office

907-457-4850 fax

907-750-7847 mobile



We exist to make a difference in people's lives through excellent patient care

From: [Karissee Ackerman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: Independent Living
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:59:20 AM

Written Testimony for House Finance Committee
3/4/2015 Hearing on HB73

From: Webb & Joanna Phillips [mailto:webbrobert.phillips@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:34 AM
To: Karissee Ackerman
Subject: Independent Living

Hello, my name is Webb Phillips. I live in Fairbanks.

I am writing to express my concern about the cuts to the Independent Living budget. This budget cut could negatively impact each of us who reside in the state but especially people with disabilities. The independent living programs help thousands of Alaskans like me who need a little assistance to live independently. These programs are cheap and save the State money by helping people stay out of expensive institutions. I know the State has less money to work with but it is important not to cut these programs that help Alaskans to help themselves. **Please restore the Independent Living funding in the Dept. of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation budget.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Webb Phillips

ON August 8TH 1989 I was vacationing in New Zealand and had a Head on car crash, and became a Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor. I recovered in a Hospital, Hospital Hospice and at my TCU Head Nurses Sheep Ranch. During this time a Nurse wrote her Masters Thesis using my minds injury and recovery as her subject. My head Surgeon read it, interviewed me and told me I'd be back in College in a years time. In January 1990 After returning to Fairbanks Alaska, I joined Access Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Group and gained an Independent Living specialist to help me reenter UAF's Down Town Center to learn Speed Reading.

That Sumer, against the warnings of David Jacobson, the CEO of Access Alaska I left Fairbanks and the aid of Access Alaska and my Independent Living specialist aid worker to help at a Christian Bible Camp at Woody Island, 14 Miles off Kodiak Island. I was able to further recover Physically running after the Children and helping the camp and Woody Island Mission function. However the stress of being away from home and the Independent Living specialist aid of Access Alaska. Caused me to become Mentality Ill. I was able to recover first with Fairbanks Mental Health, then my Family Doctor Gianni and his Phycologist&Neurologist Student PA. Finally I was able to gain the treatment of Dr Martino since 1993. I was also able to start Tutoring my first student for the Literacy Council of Alaska, Fairbanks. I taught my student and

fellow Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor and Access Alaska Consumer and TBI Group Member.

I had asked the Literacy Council to test my loss at Literacy Skills. They agreed, telling me they would reteach me to the 12 Grade Level of Literacy and Scholastics in General. I graded at the Sophomore level having lost only the Junior Level of my Education. They then, in conduction with Access Alaska found me my first Student to teach in the Winter of 1991. We were able to regain everything from the 1ST through 8TH Grades. I then turned my Student over to another Literacy Council Tutor.

With the recovery spawned by the aid of Access Alaska and Studying for one hour for every hour I Tutored my Student. Then Tutoring my First Student for three hours a week for one year. With the aid of the Literacy Council of Alaska and both our Access Alaska Independent Living specialists I was then able to reenter UAF. Then with my Access Alaska Independent Living specialist's help I was able to use the American Disability Act to gain Full Time Student Status; Dorm Housing, Commissary Use, Books, Tuition and proper GYM and other class Scheduling.

I finished my Senior year, I'd already regained my Junior Year by teaching my fellow TBI Survivor for a year, in three none stop years in Fall 1994. With the exception of one drive to Manhattan New York yo visit my Jazz Musician Uncle, my cousins and there families. Also my Best Friend and College Professor in Edison New Jersey. I then volunteered in rebuilding 24 homes in Hul Illinois which had been flooded out with one of the first 100 year Dike Failures in the Summer of 1993. I include this Solo Sumer trip and Successful Volunteer recovery of Hul Illinois to prove my own recovery and ability to venture forth from my Home in Fairbanks. I give thanks and indeed claim the aid of both Independent Living Aid Organizations for helping me do so!

Both Access Alaska and The Literacy Council of Fairbanks Alaska provided me with the Independent Living Instruction Programs to both use for my on benifit but also for my fellow TBI Survivor, Access Alaska Consumer and Lathrop High School Graduate. Who the Literacy Council of Alaska, in Fairbanks Helped be to find my Educational Level and use it to both educate a fellow TBI Survivor and by doing so regain a full lost UAF Junior Year. Which in turn enabled me to earn my History Degree and Philosophy Minor as well as rebuild 24 homes in Hull Illinois Independently.

I then worked for FRA for two years, Sears Warehouse for six before working for my presssent duel job of hat tossing Crossing Guard at 10TH and North Lathrop Street. For First Student Management and Recess Teacher Duty Aid for Denali Elementary. I'm still a Alaska Literacy Tutor, with my last Student Tutored to successful completion of the Junior Level at UAF. The Independent Living Services of Access Alaska and the Literacy Council have enabled the recovery of many Literacy Students, all of which suffered and Survived Traumatic Brain Injury. I can also brag of passing my independent living skills on to my 1ST through 6TH Grade Denali Elementary Students. I judge this by the number of real fights that I've been unable to stop on our Play Ground. For the Last Five

years I've witnessed only Five per year. I've also been able to influence my Drivers to not crash and to wake up all the Students who walk or ride by me as I keep warm and throughly enjoy tossing my Fedora to clearly indicate the next oncoming vehicle!

I still need to have Access Alaska to both attend the 1ST Monday and 3RD Monday's Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Meetings from 5:30PM to 7PM, the Wall Busters Meetings on the 2ND and 4TH Mondays at 12:30PM to 2:30PM.

My Literacy Tutoring and other Volunteering aid. I now also help a fellow Disabled and Elderly, don't tell her I used that last term, get around town to pay her bills and do her shopping. Independent Living, Pass It On!

Sincerely,

Webb Phillips

From: [Brandy Richardson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Craig, Alaska Public Library
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:01:17 PM

To whom it may concern,

This email is in reference to HB 72 and 73. It is to voice my concern over losing funding that has helped our library. My family has benefited so much from the programs offered through the library, specifically the ones offered through the AlaskaOWL program. We have used this resource to help our family create a garden in the temperamental Southeast. My children have used this to understand anatomy of sea life as well as other educational programs, all of this is only available because of the library and it's services. If not for the library and the services they've provided we would be limited to programs offered locally, which are few and far between because of our remote location.

My children have also been part of the Dolly Parton Imagination library. This early literacy program was simply wonderful in getting my children excited about books and literature.

It makes me sad to think these programs could be going away because of budget cuts. I realize cuts need to be made, but on behalf of my family, I'm asking you to reconsider cutting funding for our libraries which are a vital part of life here on the Prince of Wales.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Brandy Richardson

From: [Ketchikan Public Library](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Do not cut funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:12:20 PM

Please do not cut funding to our libraries and to broadband services. Here in Ketchikan, it is very difficult to go elsewhere for these services. Do not base your funding decisions based on numbers from the towns on the roads--remember that there are others in Alaska and in particular, SE Alaska, who are very dependent on our libraries and the services they provide and who cannot just hop in the car and go somewhere else.

--

Ketchikan Public Library
1110 Copper Ridge Lane
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-3331
www.firstcitylibraries.org

From: [Nicole Hyson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Libraries Matter
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:21:36 PM

Good morning,

I just wanted to take a moment to express my deep feelings about our Alaska libraries. As someone who has lived in half a dozen states and over 20 different counties/boroughs before settling in Alaska 15 years ago, I learned at a young age the importance of libraries. No matter how strange my new home-the library tied my world together in rainbow ribbons of familiar words, authors and tales. Since moving to Alaska, I've found this to be even more true. With the vastness of our state, the libraries have become the vascular system connecting us to each other. Whether in Fairbanks, Wasilla, or Craig, I am connected to fellow seekers of knowledge. Through the OWL network, I can even see beyond our horizon and into the world of someone else. In the summer of 2012 I had the privilege of visiting Craig during the Week of Literary Abandon. OWL was still very new and I must admit to sitting in wonder as libraries from around the state popped on the screen during the Pitchapalooza. They weren't in the far corners of the state. They were six feet in front of me-connected by the library. Every time I visit my Wasilla branch it is filled in every corner. Kids, teenagers, middle aged, and beyond. There is no age discrimination in the library. All are welcome, and all are served. I know it might seem like a world where everyone has a laptop of their own, and the need for anything beyond our front door isn't necessary...that it is an indulgence. But is that a world we want to embrace? Shouldn't there always be a safe place? An oasis where imaginations can be fed, minds developed, and every librarian is the ambassador to a world worth getting to know.

Thank you,
Nikki Hyson
Library patron for 35 years

From: [Paula Payne](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Miriam Dunbar](#)
Subject: Library funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:04:45 AM

Hello Comittee,

I cannot comment in person because the hours selected for our community coincide with the absolute busiest time of day at our library: after school. After school hours we are flooded with children and community members, but mostly latch key children who are told to entertain themselves at the library for three to four hours awaiting pick up by their working families.

Libraries are more and more serving as community centers, focal points of the community, and public meeting places. Our library acts as our town day care, after school program, games arcade, mall hangout, and bookstore.

We cannot afford to loose any of the services available to us and our patrons, especially after school children.

Thank you,

Paula Payne
Cordova Public Library
Programming

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Bob Adams](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AMHS FY16 Operating Budget Status
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:41:05 PM

Please do not apply drastic cuts to the Marine Highway this season. In Ketchikan we rely on good service to and from Prince Rupert.

Allowing more time for the Advisory Board to assist with necessary budget cuts would give valuable advise from those who live and work in the Southeast area.

Robert Adams
3304 S. Tongass Hwy.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

March 3, 2015

Clay Koplin, Former Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) written testimony to:

House Finance Committee Co-Chairs

House Finance Committee

CC: Representative Stutes and Senator Stevens

RE: HB72 - AMHS Funding Testimony

Dear Co-Chairs - Representatives Thompson and Neuman:

For seven years I served on the Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The ferries are more than a line-item expense. They are an integral and critical part of the economies of Alaskan communities both coastal and interior; I just use Cordova for familiar examples. Please consider the following before reducing services:

- In Cordova, a three-week cancellation of service resulted in losses of \$1,000,000 to fishermen when the processors had to freeze their fish instead of shipping them fresh through Anchorage by ferry and reduced the price by \$1.00 a pound to fishermen to maintain a market price
- An Estimated \$10,000,000 - \$20,000,000 of shopping by Cordova businesses and residents now occurs in Anchorage annually rather than in Seattle due to the FVF Chenega in Prince William Sound.
- The AMHS dramatically reduced the cost of Cordova student travel by allowing access to the closer southcentral region and allowing ferry travel versus air travel
- Fresh Copper River Salmon leaves Cordova on the ferry early in the morning via private carriers who deliver to Ted Stevens International Airport in time to catch early afternoon planes to markets all over the world. There are dozens of businesses and organizations in this value chain including the State of Alaska through raw fish tax revenues of this high-dollar market
- The recent 5% rate increase and dramatically lower fuel prices should be improving both the top and bottom line of AMHS financials, so why such deep cuts?
- Cordova lodging is often booked 3 years in advance, and cancelling ferry service on short (a few months or less) notice requires tourists to completely restructure travel plans which often results in cancellations to Alaskan businesses.
- Coastal construction, sewer, water, energy, airports, and roads projects – many of them partially funded by the State of Alaska and conducted by rail-belt based firms and vendors, rely on AMHS transportation to reduce transportation costs. Reducing ferry service just shifts the higher private sector costs to other departments or delay construction at great cost. Planning horizons are often several years.
- The greatest single complaint of the AMHS during my tenure on MTAB was an unreliable schedule. Indiscriminately taking ferries out of service forces businesses to seek alternatives, which further guts AMHS revenues – a downward spiral like the economies they touch.
- Please compare the cost of parking a ferry to the cost of operating it – it might surprise you.

Thank you for your consideration for funding the continued operation of our coastal highway,

Clay Koplin, Cordova

From: [City of Tenakee Springs Alaska](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Comment on AMHS
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:15:49 PM

Greetings from Tenakee Springs.

Our small community is located on Chichagof Island about half-way between Juneau and Sitka. We are completely off-road (no cars here) and are very dependent on the AMHS ferry for the movement of people and supplies between our neighboring communities of Angoon and Hoonah and our hub city of Juneau.

We understand the need for budget reductions, but AMHS is a lifeline to us and we urge you to please maintain the already published summer schedule, giving all of our region a little time to plan for the future cuts.

Sincerely,
Don Pegues, Mayor
City of Tenakee Springs

From: [Greg Podsiki](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Ferry cutbacks.
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:23:59 PM

In all fairness to S. East Alaskans who depend on the ferries for much of our tourist dollars, you will I hope close the Parks Highway completely for three days each week during the summer months when those other Alaskans depend on their tourist dollars. This of course would save millions of dollars in costs associated in maintaining the highway, law enforcement accidents and moose deaths.

I think it is time for coastal communities who depend on the AMHighways for their existence, to unite and take the state to court. No more cuts to our ferry system. Summer or winter. Greg Podsiki,
Po box 25, Haines Ak. 99827

Sent from my iPad

From: [HunaMary1.](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cutting the budget on AMHS
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:54:44 PM

I live and own a business in Hoonah we depend on the ferry system it is our lifeline to bring and take goods out of Hoonah
how and why can you justify this cut we have been cut so bad now with 2 ferries per week and have to suffer when and if we get basic living supplies in or out by out I mean our fresh fish market coming up and going on right now Hoonah is you did you homework is and has always been your busiest port's and has more coming in and out.

My community **DEPENDS** on this ferry system make cuts to the cities where they have jet service in and out the Marin Highway is out highway like I-5 is to Seattle to get in and out of state.

You seriously need to look at who and how the ferry system is used in SE Alaska in our smaller communities all the outlying towns come to Juneau on a regular bases and are spending monies on a regular bases you have Gold Medal coming up how do you think everyone is going to get there and just how much is going to go to the economy of Juneau. Fall time when PFD's come out people flock to Juneau to spend monies.

Please don't mess with our schedule and work to make it better for the communities that depend on the services provided by the Alaska Marine Highway talk to the people in Hoonah don't assume that you know what we want and what we need come and hold a town hall meeting and take us seriously

From: [Sandy Van Dyck](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Ferry service
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:51:25 AM

Hello. We are residents of Cordova, and have been for 33 years. The ferry service is our highway. It just does not have a road. It is vital for the existence of living and doing business in Cordova. Cordova is already one of the most expensive places to live in Alaska. It is going to get a whole lot more expensive with your proposed cuts.

I imagine some think you have an airline. Yes, we are served by Alaska Airlines, but shame on you if you have a change in plans to already an expensive ticket. The change fee alone is 125 bucks, to the heavily subsidised in Alaska Airlines.

I hope you will find a way to help save our ferries.

Jeff and Sandy Van Dyck
PO Box 473
Cordova, AK 99574

From: [Jennifer Todd](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:48:09 AM

Greetings! My name is Jennifer Todd and I am the Assistant to the Superintendent of Chatham School District. Chatham School District is a very unique district in that we are made up of four different locations in Southeast Alaska, Angoon, Gustavus, Tenakee Springs and Klukwan. Part of my job is travel arrangements for the district. The Alaska Marine Highway is absolutely vital to us. As you face this very difficult financial climate, so are public schools, and as our funding for travel decreases, the AMHS is an important part of staff attending trainings, conferences, food service programs within schools, board meetings, sports, field trips, etc. I cannot express enough how detrimental decreased service would be to our district.

On a personal note, I don't know if I would continue to live in Southeast Alaska without the Alaska Marine Highway. It is so very vital to our lives here. It's how we go to the doctor, go to Costco, fix our cars, go on vacation, etc. Please remember the community members and students of Southeast when you make your difficult budget decisions. Thank you, Jennifer Todd

Greetings,

I understand the need to make budget cuts, but limiting summer ferry service is not in the state's best interest. Our ferries transport vehicles and foot traffic bringing outside money into our economy. Marine transportation of people and freight is fundamental to community survival in southeast as well as points north. We should continue to invest in a combination of roads and ferries linking our communities, and capture outside revenue when it is readily available.

I urge you to keep summer service as high as possible. Local residents will adapt to a more limited schedule when the non-resident money leaves at the end of the season. If we reduce summer service, those visitors will take their vacation money elsewhere. Visitor revenue is new money injected into our economy each year, and ferry travelers are a unique and important segment of our visitor population.

Referring to the AVSP report by the McDowell Group: Similarly to highway visitors, visitors that used the ferry system stayed in Alaska **much longer than total visitors**, spending an average of **13.6 nights** in Alaska.

- They dine in restaurants, shop for gifts, souvenirs & clothing, pay for accommodations, use local transportation, purchase fuel, and pay for tours and attractions.
- Nearly half of them are repeat visitors to Alaska.
- Sixty percent of ferry visitors were likely to lodge at a hotel or motel, in contrast to 38 percent of the state's total visitors.
- Four out of five ferry visitors traveled in the Southeast region of Alaska.
- Eighty-eight percent of ferry travelers used the ferry to travel between communities, spreading the spending around;
- **55% traveled to South Central;**
- **49% visited the Interior of the state.**
- Many combine road access with ferry in how they enter and exit the state.

Why would we voluntarily give up this revenue when the state is facing a recession? And it's not just about the ferry. Lost revenue from this visitor segment will negatively impact eateries, accommodations, grocersm services like medical & repair shops, and more. Tour operators have already booked groups for 2015 who will be cancelled.

I strongly urge you to carefully weigh what could result from the loss of this seasonal revenue, and the impact it will have on Alaska businesses.

Submitted by:

Joann Flora, tourism marketing director & former tourism research manager
419-7444, 8155 Easy St., Juneau, AK, bombeck53@gmail.com

From: [Kelsey Taylor](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Feedback regarding cutbacks
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:29:44 PM

Cutting the ferry schedule would be devastating to both alaskans and tourist. There would be less money made if there were cuts in the ferry schedules.

From: [Lee Parker](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: ["Toshua"; "Mayor"](#)
Subject: RE: Alaska Marine Highway Funding Alert
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:18:12 PM

Attention Please:

Regarding the scheduled budget cuts to AMHS, if the budget cuts reduce service to and from Gustavus, it could prove costly to the community of Gustavus. Two examples follow:

- (1) Frontier Freight transports freight from Juneau to Gustavus on the weekly ferry. The company started business with one box truck and one flatbed truck when AMHS started ferry service between these two ports in 2010. We now run six 28' box trailers and flatbed trailers on the weekly Gustavus ferry runs. Plus we maintain a fleet of trucks at both ports to provide pick up and delivery services. Where it once was very costly and difficult for Gustavus residents to get products shipped, the combination of Frontier Freight's cost effective trucking along with the dependable service from AMHS in shipping the company's trailers, shipping costs have been substantially reduced. And more importantly, freight is shipped much more quickly with more dependability, which also translates to reducing expenses to our bush businesses and residents.
- (2) ToshCo also started business when AMHS announced that they would start service to Gustavus in 2010. ToshCo was able to provide groceries at a much lower costs than groceries transported by air. And with rapid acceptance of their groceries by the community, it quickly expanded to provide low cost lumber, hardware, electrical, plumbing and auto and sporting supplies. The community now depends on having the convenience and affordability of local access to these common every day products. Without regular, dependable service from AMHS, ToshCo could find it difficult to continue.

Everyone who lives and/or does business in Gustavus has seen a great increase in the standard of living because of the convenience and affordability of AMHS service. All of us who depend on AMHS, plead with the legislature to continue to fund this important marine highway service.

Thank you.

Lee Parker, President

Frontier Freight

Gustavus, Alaska

From: Shelly Wright [<mailto:arielle@seconference.ccsend.com>] **On Behalf Of** Shelly Wright
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway Funding Alert

AMHS Funding Alert from Southeast Conference

The Alaska Marine Highway System

operating budget is in peril



The Alaska Marine Highway System needs your help

Please consider participating in the upcoming public hearings on the Alaska Marine Highway operating budget. The more legislators hear from constituents, the more likely they will act to provide more reasonable cuts to the budget. While we recognize the state needs to take measures to address the current revenue downturn cutting off the main transportation corridor to the coastal communities of Alaska is not the answer.



Current AMHS FY16 Operating Budget Status

Board of Directors	
Patricia Phillips - President	It is well known that the State is facing a 3.5 billion dollar deficit for the coming budget year (FY16). Particularly hard hit is the ferry system - approx. \$8-10 million cut (or more) to the AMHS operating budget.
Garry White - Vice President	
Chelsea Goucher - 2nd VP	AMHS cannot absorb a cut of this magnitude in a single year without serious, long-term impairment of the system that means harm to the entire coastal region. Southeast Conference was formed over 57 years ago to help facilitate the creation of the Alaska Marine Highway System and has been a strong advocate for it ever since.
Tory Korn - Secretary	
Merrill Sanford - Treasurer	
Lori Blood - Juneau	Public Testimony on FY16 operating budget this week The Alaska State House of Representatives will be meeting this week for the introduction & Adoption of the Subcommittees' recommendations. If there is a local LIO in your community, you may go there. For communities without a LIO (considered "off net" callers) you can call 907 465-4648 by 5:00 pm Monday to
Mary Becker - Juneau	
Bryce Dahlstrom - Klawock	

Gordy Wrobel - Elfin Cove	obtain the call in phone number (I'm told it will be 844-586-9085).
Glen Thompson - Ward Cove	The House Finance Committee will take both live and written testimony before a final decision is made. If you would like to submit written comment, please email them at this address: lhscfin@akleg.gov
Carol Rushmore - Wrangell	
Liz Cabrera - Petersburg	If you would like to phone into the meeting with your comments, these are the times and instructions per the Legislative website (Public Testimony Limited to 2 minutes each):
Dennis Watson - Craig	

Staff	<u>Tuesday, March 3rd</u>
Shelly Wright -Executive Director	1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Juneau
Cheri Lancaster -CFO	3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Homer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su & Seward
Robert Venables -Energy & Transportation Coordinator	
	<u>Wednesday, March 4th</u>
Kaleigh Holm - Marine Industry Coordinator	1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Barrow, Dillingham & Fairbanks
Lia Heifetz - Food Security Coordinator	4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Bethel, Cordova, Kotzebue, Nome, Valdez, Wrangell & "off net sites" (EVERYONE WITHOUT A LIO OFFICE)
Lynn Campbell -Timber Coordinator	<u>Thursday, March 5th</u>
	1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Anchorage
	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Sitka, Petersburg, Delta Junction, Unalaska, Glennallen & Tok

Other instructions:

Arrive 15 min early for sign in process

Arrive 15 min prior to end of allotted time or testimony will close early

Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same

message

Talking Points: What should I say?

- We realize cuts have already been made these past 2 years and while many efficiency measure have been implemented, further cuts are necessary.
- AMHS cannot absorb a cut of this magnitude in a single year without serious, long-term impairment of the system that means harm to the entire coastal region.
- The state has funds in reserve to help transition toward more efficiencies and cuts to the operating system.
- We believe the state should honor the published schedule this summer that already has many voyages filled to capacity. Not just because of military families and tourists; but because it is the lifeline for communities across the coastal region.
- AMHS is vital to Alaskan businesses many of whom have contractual obligations based on the summer schedule and many others who use the ferry system to move fish and other commodities.
- The Legislature established a Marine Transportation Advisory Board to assist in the strategic planning for the AMHS. Please urge the Legislature to give the communities and MTAB these few months to plan for the cuts to be implemented next year.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wright, Executive Director

Southeast Conference

SEC is the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (**ARDOR**), the federally-designated Economic Development District (**EDD**) for Southeast Alaska. Each of these things requires Southeast Conference take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning.

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Southeast Conference | PO Box 21989 | 612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite B | Juneau | AK |
99802-1989

From: [Ms. Nelle](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cuts to ferry system this summer
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:56:33 PM

I strongly urge that there be no cuts to the 2015 summer ferry sailing schedule in Southeast Alaska.

Our community of Haines depends on the ferry for many reasons, but to hit us this hard when the bulk of our income will arrive on these ferries (in the way of tourists) is a stab in the gut! And the wallet!

And what of the visitor who has arranged his/her trip of a lifetime, only to be told "sorry"? Is this how we want to treat prospective visitors? Imagine all of the bad-mouthing they will tell their friends.

I think the ferry system may be suffering from a top-heavy administration. Let's see the cuts happen there, and not on the boats that make the money come in.

Nelle Jurgeleit-Greene
PO Box 515
Haines, AK 99827
907-766-3360

From: [Norm Carson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Committee Comments for FY 16 AMHS Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:24:42 AM

March 3, 2015

House Finance Committee

Representative Neuman

Representative Saddler

Co-Chairs

Dear Committee Members:

I represent the Pelican Chamber of Commerce as president of that organization. The Chamber consists of 19 member businesses; 12 owned by local residents and 7 operating or with business interest in the community. While we are small in numbers, some might say insignificant in the grand scheme of things; we are your neighbors; we are part of this State.

Pelican fell on tough economic times over the past three decades as the commercial fishing industry changed. The king salmon treaty between Alaska, Canada, Washington, and the NW Tribes, the IFQ program for halibut & black cod, the closure of Glacier Bay National Park to commercial fishing, Federal restrictions on the guided sport halibut fishery, and the provisions within the 200 mile limit which replaced a foreign fishing fleet with a domestic factory trawl fleet from outside Alaska that has a by catch of halibut in excess to that our longline fleet is allowed, have all taken a bite out of Pelican's economy.

But Pelican has rallied back; through effective local leadership and help from both the State and Federal government we have a renovated hydro-electric facility, new harbor, State Ferry facility, domestic water system, fuel tank farm, and new commercial ice making machines for the fishing fleet.

A new locally owned fish processing firm has begun purchasing, processing, and shipping out their product on the reliable service provided by the AMHS. Without that transportation unit

this business could not continue to grow and/or survive. This company has customers and orders for 2015; but it must get their product to market through Juneau via the State ferry system or it will not be able to compete.

In the past few years we have seen 5 new housing starts, 7 significant homes re-models, another home construction was recently permitted, a large scale fishing lodge renovation, major work at the fish plant, and more at the public utility. All of this development requires the transportation of heavy materials from Juneau. If Pelican should lose ferry service or have it disrupted from the present schedule most of these projects will cease. The loss of this activity would have a downstream economic effect on businesses outside of Pelican.

It is estimated that 90% of the community groceries are shipped in on the State ferry. On “ferry day” the community turns out and we help one another unload the freight vans filled with grocery orders and construction materials. Not all these goods could be shipped on the scheduled air carrier and those that can, come at a rate of \$.85 per pound.

Our tour related businesses count on the ferry system and we build much of our schedule around the AMHS schedule; the 2015 schedule has been out for weeks. It will be very disruptive and will result in the loss of revenue for those businesses if the schedule were modified. We encourage the 2015 schedule be fully funded.

We urge caution in making large scale cuts to the AMHS budget and for recognition of the economic impacts that significant service reduction will have on our coastal communities. Perhaps it is time to consider a dedicated stream of revenue to the AMHS through an additional tax on fuel; including marine fuel.

Thank you for considering these comments:

Norm Carson, President

Pelican Chamber of Commerce

From: [Marcelo Quinto](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway Ferry schedule for 2015
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:12:50 PM

I am resident of Alaska all my life and I have watched the Marine Highway start and grow to it's present size. We cannot afford to go back to where we were 50 plus years ago. I would be like taking away the train from our neighbors up north, The ferry system allowed our residents to work and live in the community they choose. That growth in the community allowed for families to stay together year round instead of sending their children off to boarding school where they cannot see their families for months at a time.

The ferries were to connect the small communities with the rest of the state and also make it possible for people to have a viable business without the major cost of everything coming in by air. It also allowed our students to communicate and connect with other students in the area. This allowed the students to learn how other people live and what to expect when they go on with their own lives.

The ferries are part of all the communities in Southeast Alaska They are needed to provide transportation, for buying and selling goods, for going to have medical treatment, visiting families, getting to meetings, watching their student compete in school activities, the ferries allow families to keep in contact and share goods with each other. It would be a major setback if the ferry system did not do the job that it was created to do.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will consider keeping the ferry schedule at its present state.

C202

Marcelo Quinto
2551 vista Dr.

Juneau, Alaska

From: [Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AMHS Funding & Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:42:28 AM

To: State of Alaska House Finance Committee
Re: AMHS Budget Cuts

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to voice my concern regarding the proposed \$8 million cut to the AMHS operating budget. I live in Gustavus and operate a small kayak rental and tour business based here. As the most recent addition to the southeast ferry system, Gustavus residents, visitors and businesses have appreciated and benefited greatly from the dependable year round ferry service to our community located at the mouth of Glacier Bay National Park.

I do understand that the State is suffering a major deficit for the coming budget year and that cuts need to be made, but the AMHS cannot absorb a cut of this magnitude in a single year without serious, long-term impairment of the system which would effect our entire coastal region. Please consider using reserve funds to help transition toward more efficiencies and cuts to the operating budget. I feel it's especially important that the state honor this summer's published schedule, which already has many voyages filled to capacity. Too many military families, tourists, and residents have already made their travel plans, but most importantly, the ferry is the lifeline for all the communities in Southeast. I would urge the Legislature to work with the Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) over the next few months in order to allow the time for the MTAB and affected communities to plan for the cuts to be implemented next year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kara Berg
Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks
P.O. Box 26
Gustavus, AK 99826
ph. (907) 697-2257
info@glacierbayseakayaks.com

From: [Bridget Smith](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:36:41 AM

Dear Committee Chairs and Representatives Neuman and Thompson:

When Gandhi said that "the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members," he was reminding us of the moral dimension of governance. We have the opportunity now to support the health of many Alaskans who would not otherwise be able to afford medical treatment.

The decision to expand Medicaid would benefit the state overall because a healthy population means a more robust and strong state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget Smith

137 Sixth Street

Juneau, Alaska 99801

asper-smith@gci.net

Tel: 907-586-1411

Cell: 907-209-0025

From: [Garry](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:01:27 PM

Dear Legislators,

Access to health care is an important issue. The expansion of Medicaid in Alaska will not only result in some of our most vulnerable citizens receiving health care, it will be an infusion of outside funds to our hospitals, clinics, doctors, nurses, and health care professionals. Money that stays in our state and has tangible benefits to our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Garry Utermohle
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Linda File](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:05:54 AM

As a life-long Alaskan, I am convinced that Medicaid Expansion is good for Alaska. I'll go further and say it is necessary. The economics make sense, the need is there, and the people who this expansion will serve are waiting. Do not deny to thousands of Alaskans reasonable access to health care that you yourselves enjoy, (courtesy of the State of Alaska). Take the step into expansion and create a legacy of good for all people.

Linda File
Substitute Teacher, Fairbanks (temp worker)
Resident since 1965
from North Pole, AK

From: [Lynda Giguere](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support Medicaid Expansion
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:13:19 PM

I strongly support Medicaid Expansion and urge the House Finance Committee to resist the temptation to play politics with this incredibly important issue.

Medicaid expansion represents 4,000 new jobs, healthcare for 40,000 Alaskans, \$1 billion from the federal government, a potential savings of \$20 million to \$35 million over five years, and, has the support of the State Chamber of Commerce, so it must be good for business. Do the right thing for your constituents and support Medicaid Expansion.

Sincerely,
Lynda Giguere
217 5th Street
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 723-6910

From: [Mary Zalar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget comments
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:16:30 AM

Dear Finance Committee members,

Thank you for accepting email comments as I am not able to attend the Fairbanks budget hearing this afternoon. I am not as intimately acquainted with the state budget as you are having been analyzing various department budgets, etc. Thus, I can only state my priorities for what I think are important programs to support as much as possible.

Medicaid expansion in the State of Alaska is a huge priority for me. PLEASE, PLEASE pass legislation to facilitate Medicaid expansion and provide insurance coverage to thousands of Alaskans. We are all aware of the importance of maintaining good health as well as how difficult it is to afford health care. You and I have health insurance that allows us to seek help when needed and to utilize preventive services. We need to help others have access to health services.

I fully support pre-school and K-12 education as well as the University of Alaska. Realizing that cuts must be made, I think I would focus on classroom support for K-12 and maintaining robust academic and research programs at the University of Alaska. Athletics are not a high priority for me, although I realize that college athletics are a value for many people.

Public broadcasting is a HUGE part of my life. It might be possible to move toward a nonprofit model that requires less state support, but drastic cuts to public broadcasting budgets are not a good idea and would be detrimental to many people.

The State should focus on core programs that are constitutionally mandated and programs that define us as caring human beings—we must take care of the less advantaged through support for Medicaid expansion and support to the programs and nonprofits that serve these populations.

Good luck. It is a huge task and I appreciate the thoughtful work of the Legislature and Governor.

Mary Zalar

PO Box 81743

Fairbanks AK 99708

Zalar@alaska.net

From: [Pat Behner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:28:36 AM

I am writing this note to encourage you to allow the Medicaid Expansion program to take place. recently retired from teaching high school, mostly in North Pole, for over 35 years. In those years, I witnessed first hand just how important access to health care is for growing Alaska families, especially those who qualify for our State's version of Medicaid. Health care is essential to learning and to the future of our state.

Thank you,
Patsy Behner

Sent from my iPad

From: [samantha savage](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support Medicaid Expansion and Funding for STI Testing
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:32:40 AM

I would like to thank you for your service to Alaska and taking the time to read my letter regarding Medicaid Expansion and STI testing.

Having affordable access to health services is important for Alaskans. Nearly 42,000 Alaskan adults would be eligible for health coverage under the expansion. These are people earning up to \$20,314 a year, which translates to \$9.76 an hour for a regular work week. Today, if you are a childless adult without a disability in Alaska making less than \$20,000, you have no affordable health care coverage available to you. It makes no sense to abandon the most vulnerable in Alaska. This would provide coverage for those who lose coverage while they are looking for work, going to school or starting a new business. Its important as Alaska enters a new fiscal climate it makes sense that we would want to make sure we have a strong and healthy work force for when we do make our recovery. Over the next five years, Alaska would receive \$1.1 billion in new federal money, which would create 4,000 jobs and have a positive ripple effect throughout our state economy. These new jobs would mean \$1.2 billion in new wages for Alaskans and \$2.5 billion in increased economic activity.

The next issue that is important to me is funding for STI testing. Alaska ranks #1 in new cases of chlamydia. Untreated this STI can cause infertility, ectopic pregnancy (a dangerous condition that in which the fetus develops outside the uterus and can cause death to the mother is untreated) and can be the cause of chronic lifelong pain. The cost of funding prevention efforts is far less then the costs associated with not providing funding. The state spent at least an estimated \$1.2 million on treating completely preventable STIs in 2013, which is not counting costs associated with productivity losses from missing work to receive medical care.

Again I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, and I hope you keep the medical and financial needs of Alaskan's in mind as you make policy decisions.

Samantha Savage
1443 Gordy Way
North Pole 99705

From: [Sydney Reese](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Operating Budget Testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:57:33 PM

Dear Committee Chairs Neuman and Thompson,

My name is Sydney Reese and I am a Juneau resident and a full-time student at UAF. All Alaskans deserve the chance to keep themselves healthy and secure, so that is why I'm asking you to reinstate the Medicaid Expansion funds into the budget. Not only would it provide more than 40,000 Alaskans with access to affordable healthcare, but by ensuring better primary and preventative care, it would eliminate the need for more dire treatment, saving Alaska \$6.1 million dollars a year. Alaska cannot be a strong, productive state without being healthy.

Sincerely,
Sydney Reese

From: [Dan File](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#)
Subject: Medicaid funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:29:44 AM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I'm solidly in favor of reinstating Medicaid Expansion funding into the budget. As an elementary school principal and an educator for 31 years, I have repeatedly seen families struggling to make ends meet. Many family budgets are stretched thin with housing and energy costs in Fairbanks, and when disaster strikes or there is a long term illness, these families are devastated. Students from these families often come to school hungry, with minimal clothing, and are not ready to learn.

Our state government should be helping our most needy by providing Medicaid services. My public service job provides healthcare using public funds, as does yours. It is disingenuous for the legislature and our state to deny our most needy this benefit.

Sincerely,
J. Daniel File

From: [Steve Hill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72 written testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:36:01 PM

My name is Steve Hill, I am a rancher/farmer in the upper susitna valley. I raise Tibetan Yak and Hogs to provide a local source of meat, like all livestock producers in the area we depend upon Mount McKinley Meat and Sausage to provide the State required slaughter and inspection services, these services are required in order to legally sell our products to Alaskans. There are no alternatives to this service in south central Alaska. While I whole heartedly agree that state has no business running a slaughterhouse when the private sector can provide the service, there are some unique problems to be overcome in order to achieve the closing of MMM&S with out leaving producers like myself without an avenue to legally process our livestock. I would caution you as legislators to not cut the budget without a plan in place for either regulatory relief or a plan in effect to transition to a private company without a lapse in service (any lapse in service would bankrupt most small producers).
Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Hill
SunnyHill Ranch
907-715-1401
HC 89 Box 561
Willow, Ak 99688

Sent from my iPad

To lhscfin@akleg.gov

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts.

I have seen the direct benefits of this program on youth in our community of Nome. Young people who are given the opportunity to participate in the Youth Court treat the sentence very seriously and learn from it. The Peers who serve on the court also establish both a community norm of expected behavior for their peers, as well as providing peer support in making good choices. I recently spoke with a young adult talked about her Youth Court experience as the turning point in her life ... a pivotal time when she could have gone "down a darker path". Now a college graduate, this young adult is working directly with young people to make a difference in their lives and our community.

In addition to the individual changes we have seen in youth, these programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marsha Sloan

Nome, Alaska

marshasloan@gci.net

From: [Angie Taggart](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for Obesity Prevention Grant
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:21:17 PM

Dear Amazing Alaska Lawmakers,

Please consider funding the Obesity Prevention Grant. If this grant is taken away the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District will NOT have:

- Supplies for any program, activities, and clubs through the grant like Girls on the Run, Karate Club, multiple Jump Rope Clubs, Running Clubs, Marathon Club, Archery, Fitness Class, Menu Contests, Cooking Classes, Ping Pong Club
- Scholarships for students to participate in physical activities
- Professional training opportunities for PE teachers, counselors, other staff through the grant like Zumba Certification, NASP certifications, State and National Conference attendance
- Support from the Wellness Coordinator position in supporting Obesity Prevention efforts and Wellness Policy implementation
- Extra duty contract for programs
- Support for a .2 PE position as currently funded
- Breakfast Programs

I really appreciate you supporting the Obesity Prevention Grant for the wellness of our Alaskan kids! You will not be disappointed in the results for generations to come!!

Thank you for your time and hard work,

Angela R. Taggart

Elementary P.E. Teacher – Fawn Mountain

Ketchikan, Alaska

From: [Mary Koppes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: General Operating Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:34:00 PM

I am writing in support of accepting federal dollars and expanding Medicaid in the state. Medicaid expansion makes fiscal sense, but more importantly it is the right thing to do. Thousands of Alaskan's are not able to receive the benefit of expanded healthcare options since Obamacare was passed. We are now being given free monies from the federal government to expand Medicaid and include those who fall into the coverage gap due to their income. In two years when the federal government is pay ing at 90% we're still getting a good deal, helping keep people healthy, reducing overall costs by having more people have real healthcare options for preventative screenings and sick care (rather than folks using the ER and hospital's losing out on charity care).

I was shocked to learn that healthcare for prisoners is covered by the state's general fund but the legislature has vetoed free care for over 40,000 Alaskan's who are working to stay afloat.

Please do the right thing and accept federal funds and expand Medicaid.

Thank you,
Mary Koppes

Petersburg, Alaska

3-2-2015

Hello my name is
Priscilla Brundridge
I've been coming
to the center for
a couple of years
this center gives
it's all help us
feed us even take
us to the Dr. S
An shopping this
people ~~are~~ are so
good to us we need
them. Thank you

March 2, 2015

My name is Juanita Diaz Camilon. I am 84 years old.

My health is rather shaky because of diabetes.

Perhaps if I were a little younger my health would not be as erratic. I could still be at the ferry system; I could walk, run, & jump; I could walk steady, not erratically, & not feeling like about to fall w/o a cane, walker or roller chair to keep me up.

Rendezvous is a blessing for us rather old people. It's a place to go to every day rather than stay home, clean house or mow over our lawns. Our people come here a little scared of something different. Our staff of four always do everything to make them feel at home. After awhile the other clients make gestures towards the newcomers & pretty soon they are smiling & joining us in our activities as much as they can.

The staff at Rendezvous consist of: Bobbie Kessinger, Sandra Anthony, Debbie Ferguson, Licha Kelley-King

Thank you for listening.

Juanita Diaz Camilon

March 02 / 15

State of Alaska
Legislative Offices

To Whom it may concern:

Please keep the Rendezvous Senior
Day Care Services ^{in Ketchikan} open!! We need
them! So many of us have problem which
are critically helped daily + weekly.

The Senior Van rides to the Center
from our homes' gets us to Rendezvous
which offers daily lunches + pm Snacks.
Critical weekly trips to Grocery shopping,
Post office and pharmacy are essential
activities keep us alert: computer
services, games, cards, musical concerts,
crafts. We are happy and kept busy.

Visits to Lab appointments at the Hospital
and Dr's Office visits are essential.

Everyone here depends on it. It
provides a great and helpful environment.

Thanks so much,

Susan S. Cant

Comments to House Finance Committee

Paul Slenkamp; Senior Resource Manager, Trust Land Office

Speaking for the University of Alaska Lands and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands Offices;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would like to address the proposed elimination of the Division of Forestry Timber Program in SE AK.

Both the University and the Mental Health Trust derive significant revenues from timber. The Alaska Mental Health Trust has generated \$45 million in stumpage receipts for Mental Health beneficiary programs.

The University, Trust and Forestry has entered in to a Statement of Intent (attached). The Statement of Intent (SOI) was entered into by and between the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF), The Alaska Mental Health Trust (TLO) and the University of Alaska (UA). The purpose of this SOI is to document the parties intention to further their separate missions concerning timber resources. The parties to this SOI expressed their intent to establish a reciprocal relationship to share facilities that support timber resource management...

This collaborative effort is an attempt to also utilize the joint assets of the State to help provide a sufficient timber base to stabilize the industry, and maintain the required infrastructure.

The Trust and University have joined together to work with Forestry to:

1. Preserve the SE Alaska Forest Products Industry to maintain and increase the value of Trust and University Assets. Without a competitive market our assets lose value.
2. Provide maximum return to the land owner by combining infrastructure and utilizing mutual developed roads systems, camps, and log transfer facilities.
3. Increase revenue to the University and Trust by sharing personnel through Reimbursable Service Agreements (RSA) with the Division of Forestry. Currently the Trust and University aid in funding forestry positions on as needed basis.

The current budget proposal could undermine the goals of the University, state Forestry and the Trust to advance our separate but similar missions of generating revenue from our timber resources in Southeast AK. We understand the need to restructure the organization to make it as efficient as possible. We, the Trust and University would ask that a means of funding one position within SE Forestry which is identified in the Statement of Intent between these parties be retained and an assistant which could also do Forest Practices be retained in SE.

STATEMENT OF INTENT
among
THE STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF FORESTRY,
and
THE ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND OFFICE,
and
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

This Statement of Intent (SOI) is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF), the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (TLO) and the University of Alaska (UA).

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOI is to document the parties' intention to cooperate in order to further their separate missions concerning their timber resources. The parties to this SOI hereby express their intent to establish a reciprocal relationship to share facilities that support timber resource management and to waive the collection of use fees that any party to this SOI could charge to any other party for land use, for access across another party's land, or for any associated use fees in connection with land and timber resource management by any of the parties, to the extent permitted by law. Examples of such cooperation include, without limitations, those items and activities listed in Exhibit 1, attached hereto.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS

DOF, TLO and UA have comparable and complementary missions concerning timber resources, and each professionally manages extensive lands bordering on or in proximity to the other parties' lands. In carrying out their separate missions, DOF, TLO and UA may often need to use another party's real property or services for access, staging, communications, or similar temporary activities, for which each affected party might normally charge a fee. The fees for which DOF, TLO and UA could charge each other are acknowledged to be of similar magnitude, but assessing and collecting these fees from each of the other parties would require significant administrative work and costs by the affected parties.

DOF, TLO and UA agree that it will be mutually beneficial, and in each party's own best interests and, in the case of the TLO, in the interests of the beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and in the case of UA, to the benefit of the Land Grant Trust Fund (LGTF), to waive the collection of these fees in order to avoid the administrative costs, to save employee time for more productive activity, and to better facilitate their separate but complementary missions. Further, this SOI reflects the collaborative working relationship desired by DOF, TLO and UA.

III. PUBLIC PROCESS REQUIREMENT

DOF, TLO and UA agree that each party will execute and comply with its own internal requirements and regulations for public process necessary before any waiver of fees or sharing of facilities is allowed.

IV. DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

DOF, TLO and UA agree that each party will write its own decisional document related to this SOI, and will publish it for public review. The decisional document written by each party will address the rationale used to decide that the sharing of facilities and waiving of fees among DOF, TLO and UA is in the best interest of that individual party.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

- A. **LAWS or REGULATIONS.** Nothing in this SOI obligates any party to take or excuse any action that may be contrary to Federal or State of Alaska laws or regulations.
- B. **LAND OWNERSHIP.** Nothing in this SOI affects, alters or burdens the ownership of or title to any parcel or tract of land, or of any fixture to or item of property on any parcel or tract of land.
- C. **PARTICIPATION in ACTIVITIES WITH OTHERS.** This SOI in no way restricts DOF, TLO or UA from participating in similar activities and memoranda of agreement with any other landowner that is not a party to this SOI.
- D. **NON-BINDING AGREEMENT.** This SOI creates no right, benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by or on behalf of any of the parties to it. This SOI does not prevent each party from managing its lands, resources, and activities based on each party's individual legal or trust responsibilities. Nothing in this SOI authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among any two or more of the parties shall require the execution of separate agreements. The negotiation, execution and administration of all such agreements shall comply with all applicable laws. Nothing in this SOI shall alter, limit, or expand the parties' statutory, trust or regulatory authorities or obligations.
- E. **TERMINATION.** Any party, in writing, may revoke this SOI in whole or in part as to that party.

F. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.** By signature below, each party certifies its acceptance of this SOI, and certifies that the signer for each agency in this document is the authorized representative of that party, and who is authorized to act in matters related to, and within the scope of, this SOI.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this SOI as of the last date written below, which shall be the effective date of this SOI.

**STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF FORESTRY (DOF)**



John "Chris" Maisch
DIRECTOR

10/21/14

DATE

3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

ADDRESS

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND OFFICE (TLO)



Marcie Menefee
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

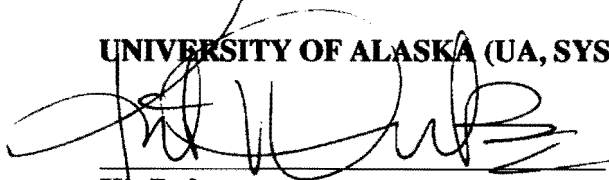
10.21.14

DATE

2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503

ADDRESS

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA (UA, SYSTEM OFFICE)



Kit Duke
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

10.21.14

DATE

1815 Bragaw Street, Suite 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3438

ADDRESS

EXHIBIT 1
to
Statement of Intent

The following is a non-exclusive list of improvements that are related to forest management and use only, and which are within the coverage of the Statement of Intent between the parties:

- Log transfer facilities
- Bark disposal areas (on uplands)
- Rafting grounds
- Barge and ship loading facilities and moorage
- Short-term moorage
- Docks
- Wood waste disposal sites
- Work camps and associated facilities and infrastructure
- Material sites related to forest management
- Temporary communications sites and facilities related to forest management
- Sort yards and related roads
- Seasonal roads
- Temporary roads
- Non-exclusive easements

Alaska Forest Management Cooperative Forester

January, 2015

JOB DESCRIPTION

Under general direction of the State Forester this position is responsible for providing advice on (overseeing and implementing) the forest management program(s) of the membership of the Alaska Forest Management Cooperative (AFMC) on a southeast-wide/region-wide/state-wide basis and for leading special projects with region-wide or state-wide significance. Provide technical assistance to partners on forest resource planning and ensure compliance with state statutes.

SKILLS

- Expertise in timber sale design, layout, and administration
- Working knowledge of various logging systems and construction methods
- Must have good analytical skills
- Must be able to respond appropriately to demanding questions from partners
- Must be well versed in forestry and environmental topics
- Possess an ability to find effective solutions to complex problems
- Ability to work independently and set priorities
- Ability to work effectively with the public and agencies
- Know, support and articulate statewide program perspectives

FOREST MANAGEMENT DUTIES:

- ⌘ Promote an active timber sale program
- ⌘ Ensure coordinated implementation of forest management programs region-wide/statewide, including timber sale design, layout, and administration; reforestation; and public and interagency review
- ⌘ Coordinate forest management actions of partners through development of a consolidated five year schedule of timber sales
- ⌘ Inform and provide advice to partners on actions necessary to ensure compliance with the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act (AFRPA) and forest practices regulations for operations on lands owned or managed by the partnership
- ⌘ Assess demand for forest resources within the areas that comprise the region/state. Manage, plan, coordinate, develop and implement joint plans to meet management objectives of the partners

- ⌘ Research current forestry issues; prepare and present briefings on forestry issues to the Cooperative. Identify, investigate and inform stakeholders, agencies and partners of pertinent developments and their implications relative to forestry issues
- ⌘ Participate and/or lead region-wide/state-wide forest management planning efforts; participate in strategy sessions regarding planning priorities and coordination of planning responsibilities
- ⌘ Advise methods to ensure sustainability of forest resources: protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation and scenic resources
- ⌘ Lead and/or oversee projects to develop, analyze and update regional inventory data. Ensure that inventory and forest management records are developed and updated
- ⌘ Advise and develop forest management and technical procurement activities that are outside the scope of normal operations such as professional engineering, forestry services, GIS development projects and inventory and data procurement
- ⌘ Coordination of regional and statewide inventory projects, and design and development of statewide reporting systems for forest management
- ⌘ Research and advise on silvicultural activities including reforestation, pre-commercial thinning, pruning and rotational length; implement programs for forest management and timber stand improvement

OTHER ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Coordination with/between Mental Health and University of Alaska Land Trusts, the Division of Forestry and US Forest Service
- Develop Reimbursable Service Accounts (RSA) for services provide to and from other State agencies
- Identify forest resources grant opportunities
- Manage grants, CIPs and RSAs
- Interacting with local agencies and the public regarding resource and forest management programs
- Represent the Cooperative on statewide and national forestry organization committees
- Maintain strong public and interagency working relationships
- Review and inform Cooperative members on other agency and private industry plans of regional significance that affect use of state forested lands
- Provide assistance and technical expertise on land exchanges
- Conduct special projects of regional or statewide significance

Ayanna Blair 3/3/15

TO: how it may consrn,

Third graders need halth snacks.
Halth snacks have lots of vitamins.
Halth fruit can give us energy.
Snacks with energy pack us up.
Brain food helps us work harder.
We need brain food because we
use our brain in school.

We also like halth snacks
because they taste good.

Ayanna Blair

to: Reader

Don't Get rid of Fruit Because we need Fruit in the
morning so we're not HUNGRY and I need Fruit for
Fuel so Don't take away the health and Wellness
Program so I can keep going

From: Parker

3-3-15

To Whom it may concern,

All of the Healthy food
is going away. Healthy
food is good for you!

All the kids need to stay
Healthy and Strong. Hought
aling has good food and Houghtaling
is a good school. Stay Strong kids

from

Bryce

March 3, 2015

To: it may concern,

Our School needs fruit! Its healthy and
delicious. Like a kiwi, kiwi is delicious.

It has lots of vitamins. We need fruits
because it makes us grow! Some people can't
eat them at home because its too much
money! fruit gives us energy. And we need
in the morning. And we need energy in
the morning. We love fruit Kids love fruit!
Everyone loves fruit!

Sincerely:

Hanna plaza♥

March 3, 2015

To whom it may concern,
I think you should not get
rid of the Health & Wellness
program! Because some people
don't get fruit at home. Also
because fruit is delicious and
juicy. Also fruit is very expensive.
There is lots of vitamins and
nutrients that our bodies need.
It helps us have more healthy
choices. Think about it!!


from

Samuel

March 3, 2015

Dear Houtling

We need healthy snacks in the morning. Healthy snacks will make smarter and make us grow more smoothly. They give us the energy to run and play or have fun in the wilderness. People can't do any of those things without energy.

Houtling elementary just isn't complete without what you give us. 

from

myra.M

March 3, 2015

To:

Whom it may
concern,

Our School needs healthy sn-
acks program! Because some some of
us don't get fruit at home, or not
a lot of it. So, you can't take
away one of our more healthy
choices! And I am a member
of the girls on the run program &
I need that snack! We need
that snack for every thing in our
little lives; plus, it gives us vitamins &
nutrients! please don't stop the program!

From:

Hadley Thoin

March 3. 2015

To whom it may concern.

We want to have brain food! It's
delicious. We Love the exotic fruit they're
great and healthy food. And
way whoud you take fruit away!

And for hot feat's Like's are new Jump' ropes
We Love to jump rope. Also, the
health and wellness program bought hot
Feat's Jump' ropes! We Love to jump rope
and we are happy we get new ones. We
kids need exercise and healthy Snacks So please
don't get rid of the health and wellness program.

f. from

Alana

3\3\2015

To Whom may concern,
Don't get rid of fruit
here on our school!
Because some people
don't get fruit at
home. It even taste great!
And it's a healthy choice.
You know you can just grow
them! Also we can get sick.
And I have hot feet.
~~funny game~~ That's why, I think we
should still have fruit. Think it!

From _____

Vianca Zulueta

March 3, 2015

Dear Reader,

Don't get rid of the fruit!

I don't get fruit at home. Fruit
is delicious and healthy and
I like to make healthy c-
hoices

- brain food

- energy

- nutrients

from

Kash

March 3, 2015

To whom it may concern,

We need HEALTHY Snacks! please
don't take away the Snack program.
If you do we won't get the vitamins
or energy we need to grow. We love
healthy Snacks here at Houghtaling. It is a
healthy choice! Help please!

yours truly,

Makyla Harris

P.S. think about it!

March 3rd, 2015 / 3/3/15

To whom It my concern,

I can't believe that you are
getting rid of the fruit. Some people
can't even buy fruit at home! Also, the
fruit is so so so so! healthy. I just
can't believe that you are getting rid of
fruit that is just so wrong! If you
get rid of the fruit I'll be so so so
so so so so! Mad-💢

that is what I think. P.S. Just
think about it!

From!

arid ✨

3-3-15

Dear reader,

I am going to tell you why
you should keep healthy snacks
you should keep healthy snacks
because it gives you energy.
Also, it gives us brain food. And
it's really juicy. Think about
it real good

from

Kainoa Paiva

3-3-15

To whom it may concern

Our school needs healthy
snacks! I don't get alot of fruit
at home. They are so YAMMY. They
are super healthy. They give me so
many vitamins. They give me the energy
that I need for school. Please
don't take away the healthy snacks!

From

Nevaeh

3-3-19

To whom it may concern,

We kids need fruit! We need it to get smarter,

and it gives us energy to play. It also

gives us nutrients. It's juicy and yummy!

They're healthy choices and it makes us

smarter. And that's why i choose to eat
fruit.

from

Riley

Sis enny March 3, 2015

To Whom it may concern,

Kids need healthy snacks and we need food
in the morning to have energy and exercise for
girls on the run. Please don't take away
girls on the run because it is
exercise for us and it helps us. We
need that exercise for all the kids
please don't get rid of food after
SEhood programs! They help us
get exercise!

From

Sis enny

to main concern

We need fruit be-

cause it is healthy! And

it gives us energy to

jump rope ~~it~~ has a lot of

vitamins and it is delicious

three times before we

get rid of the health

and wellness program

from

Chwone

Testimony in Support of
Parents As Teachers / Best Beginnings / One-Time School Funding
HFIN, March 3, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairmen, members of the committee.

My name is Aurah Landau, and I live at 626 W. 11th St here in Juneau.

Thank you so much for sitting here, taking public testimony. You have such a hard job in tough times, and I'm grateful for your service and that of your staffers.

I'm here testifying as a parent who was in the Parents As Teachers program for about 2 years.

While Parents As Teachers has been shown to help children be better prepared for school and healthy parental interaction helps reduce high cost criminal, health and other interventions down the road, this is my very personal story about what Parents As Teachers meant to my family beyond all that.

From the time my son was born until he was over a year old, my son didn't sleep for more than 45 minutes at a time. That meant that I didn't get a stretch of sleep longer than 30 minutes for months at a time. I was so exhausted that I lived in a total fog.

I thought I knew how to be a good parent and could handle sleeplessness. I had taught kindergarten, knew quite a bit about early childhood development, run weekend programs for youth during religious services, and taken care of lots of younger siblings.

But, this kind of sleep deprivation was a beast. There were times when I could not form a full sentence because I was too tired to remember words. I also grew up with really bad modeling on how to parent. This meant I had a surprising lack of parenting skills that, combined with my exhaustion, made for a dangerous mix.

I was, in effect, a special needs parent. My husband didn't know how to help, our pediatrician didn't have any resources for our specific needs, and I couldn't help myself. My family and I didn't fit into any other programs, and we had no one to turn to.

Our Parents As Teachers coordinator helped me learn healthier ways to deal with my son. What specifically helped me was that she guided us in developing problem-solving strategies tailored to our unique needs, and she suggested that we look at tools used with autistic children to help my son sleep. We did, I got better at coping and my son began to sleep better.

Slowly, we got back to a healthier place as a family. My son has aged out of Parents As Teachers, and we're doing just fine. It wouldn't have happened without the parenting support we got from Parents As Teachers.

I can tell you with 100% certainty that Parents As Teachers helped make my parenting and our home safe for my little boy. Things were so bad, that I do think Parents As Teachers support kept us from needing dramatic and costly interventions for child abuse and neglect. In my family's case, Parents As Teachers was the key to breaking the cycle of generations of violence and abuse.

I just want to note too, that the cost savings to the state, for us, were immediate – not 10, 20, or 30 years out.

Please fund Parents As Teachers and Best Beginnings. There is nothing else available for so many of us who need to learn how to parent in healthy ways.

But early learning is so much bigger an issue for Alaska than just my little story. Our state has horrifically high rates of alcoholism, sexual abuse, and other costly social and health problems. There are extremely high costs in corrections, health care, education and more that in part can be mitigated by investing in healthy parents and healthy families. This is even more true as our state faces severe economic challenges that will increase the financial and social pressures that many parents face.

The science and economic research is conclusive that spending a little on early learning cuts costs enormously in future years. Parents As Teachers is one place to keep funding.

For a very small price in the first few years of a child's life, you can create a legacy of strength in families – in community health and achievement – that will make your record shine.

I also want to ask you to restore the one-time funds for our schools. I value schooling that fosters academic skills, creativity, entrepreneurship, and resiliency for our kids who are going to have to find their way in a fast-paced and challenging global economy.

But, as I look forward to my son moving into the school system, I see teachers struggling with large class sizes where crowd and behavioral control sometimes swallows up time available for learning. We have to keep class sizes small and good teachers around in order to provide the kind of education that will ensure that our kids – and ultimately Alaska as a whole – will succeed.

So please, fund Parents As Teachers and restore the one-time school funding. You will be such heroes to parents across Alaska, and such visionaries for our state – you'll be saving money overall, both immediately and for future years.

Thank you again for your service and for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Aurah Landau

Aurah99@hotmail.com
626 W. 11th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

From: popmusic@acsalaska.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: public radio cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:48:19 AM

PLEASE don't cut public radio at this proposed rate. KBBI radio is the reliable source of information and emergency alerts on the Kenai Penninsuls. Yes we need to lower the state budget but the radio station will not survive with this level of cuts.

Pat Osborne
Lifelong Alaskan

From: [Anna](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Reduce spending cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:08:28 PM

Hello,

I am a proud member of KBBI AM 890 in Homer, Alaska. This radio station is the heart of our community connection. KBBI operation would be seriously affected by the proposed spending cut. I ask that you reduce the percentage being cut as the value of having multiple hometown radio stations in a community cannot be assessed fully considering the diversity of Homer, and numerous other fine Alaskan communities. The people of a rural village like Homer depend on multiple radio stations being available to inform us on events, news, and national shows which impact our lives. Please continue to support local radio stations by doing your part and continue to fund more than 60% of the fees necessary for the organizations like KBBI to stay functioning.

Thank you,
Anna Meredith
Homer citizen and KBBI member

From: [Anne Wieland](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:21:12 PM

My name is Anne Wieland. I've lived in Alaska since 1961 when my former husband and I returned with the military after having worked for the Territory in summer 1957. I moved to Homer in 1993 after retirement from the Anchorage School District. I was in Anchorage during the steep decline in the economy in 1988 which hit me hard as I was trying to sell a house at the time. We pulled through then and I have hopes that we will do so again. As before, the difficult times once again call for belt tightening, perhaps to an extent that we have not seen before.

Since moving here I have volunteered for a number of Federal (USFWS, NPS) State, (Kachemak Bay State Park) and numerous local organizations including KBBI which is the number one organization I rely on day and night, here in Homer or when in remote parts of the Bay where there is no cell phone reception. When Outside recently, I listened on line to KBBI daily, the best way to stay in touch with all that is going here in the community. As someone who has many relatives in Europe and daughters in NC and FL, a sister in Canada, it is essential to me to have an immediate means of getting news from those parts of the world. Public Radio provides that information.

For all the years since it went on air, KBBI has been the link that supplied me with not only the international, national and local news, but also informed me when we are boating of marine weather and possible hazards. When there have been fires in and around Homer and the peninsula, KBBI has kept me up to date on conditions. In short, KBBI has been a vital source of information for me. I can understand the need to make cuts where possible, but ask that you cut public radio less drastically. I wonder if Uncle Ted were still with us whether he would put on his Incredible Hunk necktie and once again go to bat for all of APRN as he understood the great reliance we have across the state in our Public Radio Stations.

Please reduce the cuts for APRN. It is a vital essential source of information for us that no other network can provide.

Thank you for your time,

Anne Wieland
Homer

From: [Beverley Nikora](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed 59% Cut to Alaska Public Broadcasting System
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:57:35 PM

Dear Legislators:

My name is Beverley Nikora. I am a summer and partial winter resident of Homer, AK. I am quite alarmed at the proposed cuts to state funding of Alaska public broadcasting, and specifically to our local public broadcasting station, KBBI.

Though I understand the tough choices the legislature has to make in the wake of decreased oil revenues, I believe the proposed cuts in public broadcasting funding are way too much. I listen to KBBI every day. In a small community with only weekly newspapers, I depend on Kbbi to keep me informed of community events, as well as of national and international news. During the Funny River fires last year, we were all depending on KBBI to keep us informed of which roads were cut off, which camp grounds were closed, and also to reassure us when the smoke blew down this way.

I have purchased a battery powered radio, specifically because I know that KBBI will keep me informed and connected to the rest of the world in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster.

People in the surrounding off-grid areas depend on the Bushline to keep in touch. We all keep informed of community events AND cancellations through the Community Calendar. School and community event cancellations are particularly important to us in the winter.

The proposed cuts would mean cuts in an already tiny staff, and probably in national and international news programs. It would be a tremendous blow to this community, where most of us give money every year to help support this station, but where we're also not enough to support it on our own.

Commercial radio stations are fine for music, but they just have a tape running all day, and aren't on top of events happening now.

Please, please consider the importance of public radio to small communities such as ours. Our lives may depend on them in emergencies.

I do appreciate your service in the legislature, and I'm optimistic that you'll make the right decisions in this matter.

Yours,

Beverley Nikora

926 Quiet Creek Drive

Homer, AK 99603

907-226-3630

From: Saltydawg@yahoo.com
To: [House Finance](#); [Dave Anderson](#)
Subject: Public Radio Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:14:14 AM

Please reconsider your funding cuts to Public Radio. Public radio provides a vital service to many communities in Alaska and is a vital information source to many who have no other means.

Respectfully,

Capt. Brad S. Somers

Capt. Brad S. Somers

Raven & Orca Trading Company Inc.

4720 Pine View rd.

Homer, AK 99603

(907) 299-0925

capain58@yahoo.com

From: [Catherine Stingley](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: cuts to public radio
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:16:17 PM

My name is Cathy Stingley. I own a business in Homer and live outside the city limits. I awaken to public radio every morning. It keeps me informed about local, state and national news and events. This is an invaluable service to me. I have also connected with KBBI in times of crisis. It has been my source of information and direction for emergency response. I understand the difficulty that faces the legislature when the funds have been drastically reduced. I ask that the cut to public radio and TV be a bit more balanced with other cuts. In gratitude.
Cathy Stingley

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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0317969>

Cathy Stingley
HANDLE Practitioner, EFT Practitioner, TLP Provider

From: [colleen.powers](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Don't cut KBBI/Public Radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:27:44 AM

KBBI, and other local public radio stations provide a lifeline to residents in the community via the Bush Lines to people without phones, the marine and local weather, the news that connects us and has been life saving in emergencies. I have lived in Homer 28 years and when originally considering a move to Homer, my first question was: "Is there public radio?" Because then I knew I would be informed, connected, and I would be introduced to ideas and music and people, that I would not otherwise become aware of. Public radio broadens the mind as well as provides a level of safety to communities.

During these tough economic times, everyone needs to share the burden of a decline in revenues by taking small, reasonable cuts. 59% of the KBBI budget is HUGE and unfair. Everyone needs a transition and moving to leaner operations over incremental steps is a much better way. It ensures survival of vital services.

But while cuts are being made in the short term, the longterm solution is to tax the oil again and diversify into renewable energy industries. Tax revenues from the not-too-distant-future Alaskan enterprises may boost the economy by filling in the gaps left by the fossil fuel extractors.

So don't cut so much so soon!

Colleen Powers
PO Box 1077
Homer, AK 99603

907.235.2558

From: [Dan Rowles](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Radio Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:04:07 AM

To Whomever it may concern:

I'm writing to ask that you leave all of the current funding for Alaska Public Radio in place.

When I lived in Homer and worked at KBBI public radio as news and program director, I realized how vital and essential the Alaska Public Radio Network is to the quality of life in Homer, and the state of Alaska. Residents and listeners depend on public broadcasting for news, information, entertainment, companionship and intelligent conversation.

Most network stations cover local events and offer their airwaves to concerned citizens, politicians and community leaders, as well as artists and educators. Cutting their funding would severely affect the quality of life in Alaska.

My years at KBBI (1980-1984) prepared me for the job I currently have as director of one of the world's most popular and prestigious radio programs, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. Public radio is also a place where dreams come true.

I live in Minnesota and am a constituent only in that I am a proud member of KBBI Public radio.

Best,

Dan Rowles

From: [Don McConachie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:26:42 AM

My name is Don McConachie I live in Wrangell Alaska and listen to KSTK our local Public Radio. This has been a daily activity of mine since I arrived here in 1984. I am evolved in our local community and this is one of the ways I keep myself informed I am fully aware of the financial stress that is happening in the State of Alaska the hard decisions the you will face. All that I will ask that you look at the very high value all Alaskans receive from Public Radio and treat it as such. Cuts in funding will happen this year and all areas will need to make adjustments. Please consider Public radio as an important part of this community and All communities thru out the State and keep the reduction as low as possible. Thank You
Don McConachie
Wrangell Alaska.



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From: [Elise and Jay Boyer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please preserve public radio funding!
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:18:38 PM

I am a long-time Alaskan resident and I have always depended on public radio for information and entertainment. I count on KBBI to give me in-depth news that is important to me on the local, state, and national levels. I cannot tell you how many Coffee Table programs I have listened to that have helped me be an informed citizen of my community. Commercial radio in Homer simply does not provide the same service and our communities will be significantly harmed by the loss of public radio.

I know things are tough, but we cannot have a healthy democracy without healthy non-commercial radio.

Thank you -

Elise Boyer
935 S Larkspur Cir
Homer, AK

From: [Gerald Brookman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting funds in state operating budget
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:55:05 PM

Gentlemen (and Ladies):

I am well aware of the financial situation the state finds itself in at this time, and that many items will have to be reduced or cut entirely from then state budget.

I do want to point out to you that public broadcasting is a great asset within our state, and I hope that you will continue to fund it to the maximum extent possible. I have even read that the Legislature has cut its own operating budget, but not by very much. I would hope that ALL Alaskans, including legislators, will share any pain resulting from budget reductions equally, and that you will keep my comments in mind as you go through the process of coming up with the operating budget.

Gerald R. Brookman
715 Muir Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611-8816
(907) 283-9329

From: [Gretchen Clarke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: support public radio
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:07:55 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today as a proud supporter and user of public radio and television. Throughout my life, but especially during my years in Bethel and Sitka, I have relied upon public radio to keep me up to date regarding local, regional and state news and events, weather reports, emergencies, and national and international affairs. Public radio is a lifeline within Alaskan communities--it's what keeps us informed and even entertained. Even in regions of the state where commercial stations are available, public radio is unique in its commitment to unbiased reporting and keeping community members abreast of issues of local/regional/state/national/international importance.

I appreciate that as a whole, Alaska is in the midst of a difficult financial situation. However, 59% cut to public radio is disproportionate and excessive. It will mean workforce reductions and significant cutbacks in local service--service that keeps Alaskans connected to one another. While a 59% cut would save the state \$2.5 million in the short run, the effect would be devastating on individual stations, would further weaken our economy with loss of jobs and service, and would likely decrease matching dollars from federal and local sources.

Thank you for your service. Regards,

Gretchen Clarke
Sitka, Alaska

--

Gretchen S. Clarke, MPH
gretchensclarke@gmail.com

From: [Holly Van Pelt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for public radio and/or television
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:09:49 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to see the budget provide as much funding as possible for public broadcasting in Alaska. I have been a ardent supporter and a 30+ year contributor to this cause. I am very willing to increase my level of contributions to my local tv and radio stations, but ask that the SOA do everything possible to minimize the cuts needed.

I rely on KBBI for quality weather and marine reports as well as thoughtful and balanced reporting. When I travel, I stream KBBI for 2-3 hours every morning to stay current with state and local issues. I also rely on KBBI for city council meetings.

Thank you for your consideration

Holly Van Pelt
PO Box 3309
Homer, AK
907-299-0695

Sent from my iPad

From: [James Sutton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fund KBBI in Homer
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:21:55 AM

KBBI is a critical element in the fabric of Homer and it is very important that full funding be sustained

Thank You

Jamie Sutton

Owner of the Homer Theatre

From: [John M. Kennish](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: No cuts to rural public radio
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:10:54 PM

Sent from Windows Mail

Cutting the support to rural public radio would be a real disaster. People in those communities really need access to information and emergency reports on public health and safety.

From: [Smith Maynard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:09:41 PM

I am a Homer resident and a long-time supporter of public radio and television. I have served on our local KBBI Community Advisory Board for 7 years and have an understanding of the adverse effect the 59% cuts proposed for public broadcasting would have not just on our radio station, but on our entire community.

Homer relies on KBBI radio for important and accurate information in the event of disasters such as volcanic eruptions, tsunami warnings, fires, floods, and fierce storms both on land and at sea. KBBI is the local and regional voice for emergency response.

Severe cuts to public broadcasting will weaken KBBI's ability to access annual state and other grants, and lessen its financial ability to afford quality national programming.

KBBI is not alone in its mission. The entire state of Alaska is served by small public radio stations which rely on each other for services and support. A 59% cut will greatly damage all these stations.

I know that the state is facing difficult financial choices, but services provided by public radio cannot be replaced by commercial broadcasting systems, who often operate in multiple markets at the same time, and do not offer local and community support.

As your constituent, I ask that you not support the deep cuts to public broadcasting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Smith
PO BOX 3099
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Ted Howard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Radio Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:27:13 PM

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed cuts in funding to Public Radio in Alaska. I realize that we are in a financial crunch in our state and that cuts need to be made. However, the proposed cut of more than 50% will mean loss of jobs and reduction of services for Raven Radio here in Sitka. Perhaps you are not aware that Raven Radio serves the communities of Port Alexander, Pelican and Elfin Cove, Yakutat, Angoon, Hoonah and Tenakee Springs, providing news, weather and emergency notifications as well as entertainment. Please do not make it impossible to maintain the current level of service to these communities.

Thank you,

Ted Howard
319 Peterson Ave.
Sitka, Alaska

From: ak.roadster@att.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:27:21 AM

Dear Sir,

I am a retired Alaskan who lives in Anchorage; my wife and I also have a small cabin on Kachemak Bay. We are strong supporters of public broadcasting in Alaska; public radio and television are great sources for news, education, and entertainment. We stretch our retirement income to include support for public broadcasting as sustaining members of KAKM, KSKA, KNBA, and KBBI. Listeners and viewers provide much of the financial support for public broadcasting, but State support is still critical.

I recognize the state faces big financial challenges now and in the future, but a 59% cut to Public Broadcasting is disproportionate compared to other budgets. This kind of cut would be devastating to a small community station like KBBI in Homer. KBBI is an important community resource for getting news to the Kachemak Bay community during fires, floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, extreme weather events, and other disasters or potential disasters.

I hope the Legislature will consider a smaller cut to Public Broadcasting. There surely must be other sources of saving that would have a lesser impact on small communities like Homer and Kachemak Bay. Perhaps it's time we quit spending money on some less-needed mega-projects and invest the saving in our communities.

Thank you.

Kenneth V. Morton

From: [Laramie Dean](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: re: public broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:21:18 AM

I want to use my voice to express myself in support of a more reasonable cut to public broadcasting funding.

I am a mental health therapist within the Homer community. I do understand the difficult financial circumstances and decisions facing the legislature. A 59% cut in funding to KBBI. KBBI has a vital source of accurate and up to the minute information during disaster events such as: Redoubt volcano eruptions, Tsunami warnings and flood events, extreme weather events and school/but closures. Thank you for your time. I want my voice to count.

Laramie Dean, PhD, MA, LPC

From: [Richard Laura Inglima](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: PLEASE DON'T CUT FUNDS TO KBBI!
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:12:17 PM

I am Laura Inglima and I have lived in Homer Alaska for 40 years. I was one of KBBI's first volunteers when the station started up. Over the years I continued volunteering in many ways, on-air and behind the scenes. KBBI is the only radio I listen to. In times of severe weather, bad road conditions, school closures, wildfires, volcano eruptions, national emergencies, as well as daily weather and community information, KBBI is the radio station I always turn to. For many years their important community service "Bushlines" was the only way of communicating with friends and neighbors, and it currently remains very important for many people isolated in remote locations, and fish and work camps.

A cut of 59% in funding is too drastic a cut for KBBI, or any business, to accommodate without severe, negative results. They already do remarkable work with the very small staff they currently employ. They are very responsible in their spending and modest in acquisitions necessary to do their jobs. This is a plea for one small station, but all Public Radio stations are interdependent and rely on one another for services and support. A 59% cut to funding for all Alaskan Public Radio stations is far too drastic!

I would respectfully like to know where you stand on this very important issue. I also request that you consider a smaller, more reasonable, more manageable cut. Please, support Public Radio now and in the future!

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Laura Inglima
60210 Bear Creek Dr
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Laura Norton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed funding cuts to public radio stations
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:25:13 PM

Dear legislature,

My name is Laura Norton and I have lived in Homer for the last 34 years. During that time KBBI, our local public radio station, has had a many and varied impact on our lives. My family has relied on KBBI for local news, community announcements and emergency information as well as national and international news. I am reminded daily of the influence of KBBI on my children since my son, having listened to news on the way to school of the bombing of Iraq during the first war, chose that as his subject to paint in kindergarten. We have never had TV in the house so what he heard and imagined created the image on my wall.

As production manager of Pier One Theatre and erstwhile manager of the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra I have relied on KBBI and KDLL to inform the communities on the Kenai Peninsula of our many shows and concerts.

I appreciate that you have to make difficult budget cuts at this time, however I would like you to reconsider and reduce the size of the proposed cut to public radio.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Norton

From: [Leslie Garrison](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Radio
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:14:01 PM

As a supporter and listener to public radio in Alaska since the 1980's, I strongly urge continued funding and support of public radio in Alaska. It is in the best interest of our state to have a non-commercial, statewide station that links all Alaskans together as well as to the rest of the country and world. Please continue support of this vital resource.

Leslie Garrison
Member KBBI



CITY OF HOMER

POLICE DEPARTMENT

4060 HEATH STREET HOMER, AK 99603-7609

EMERGENCY 911
TELEPHONE (907) 235-3150
TELECOPIER (907)

In the event that I am not able to get all of my comments into the record, I offer this statement.

Good afternoon. My name is Mark Robl; I am the Chief of Police in Homer. I've been a Homer police officer for thirty years. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to testify. I know you have an extra hard job this year and I don't envy you one bit.

I request your consideration in restoring full funding to the community jails program and the ALMR system.

First, I want to point out that community jails are state jails run by local communities. State statute requires the department of public safety to provide for all prisoner care costs including incarceration and transportation. When a municipal police officer makes an arrest in an area near a state jail, that officer takes his arrestee to the state facility and does not need to handle the individual again. Communities near state facilities pay nothing for prisoner care. Our employees process the prisoners in, watch over them, feed them, take them to the court for arraignment, transport them to the state facility in Kenai when we're overcrowded and process their bail and release paperwork. For many years, the City of Homer paid nearly half of the costs associated with running the jail. About twelve years ago, the chiefs of the community jails lobbied hard to get the amount of our contracts increased. We slowly made progress and are just now funded at a sustainable level.

The City of Homer cannot afford to contribute anymore funding to

the operation of the jail. Cutting our contract by 30% will result in a significant reduction of the level of jail service we will be able to provide. It will force us to transfer more prisoners with short sentences to Wildwood Pre-Trial in Kenai. It will result in less direct supervision of inmates which will reduce safety for prisoners and staff combined. The biggest impact will be felt by our local troopers. We will no longer be able to accept their arrestees after 6pm. This would result in the trooper having to drive to Wildwood, a round trip of over 160 miles, to drop the individual off. Many nights this will take the only trooper on duty south of Clam Gulch out of his assigned area for over three hours. Other troopers would have to be called in on overtime to respond to emergency calls. In summation, cutting Homer's community jail contract will have a negative ripple effect on public safety extending to all citizens on the Kenai Peninsula south of Clam Gulch and will shift more costs back to the state.

Reducing the budget for the ALMR system to the point where we would be required to pay some type of user fee to stay on the system will also have significant negative consequences for our area. Again, due to very tight budget conditions in the City of Homer, we will not be able to pay user fees. We would have to revert to utilizing our existing legacy radio system for communications and pull out of ALMR. By doing so, the goal of interoperability with all emergency responders in the state that we achieved with ALMR will be lost. When our local troopers call for emergency aide, we will not hear them and they will not hear us. The mutual emergency back-up we now enjoy will cease. Trying to coordinate a mutual response of state and local agencies to a major disaster or emergency scene will be a nightmare and people could very well suffer as a result. State agencies do not have the

ability to switch off of ALMR and onto our legacy system. When the concept of ALMR came along, local agencies were strongly encouraged by the state and DOD to get on-board. Federal grant funding for new systems flowed freely to all of us. We were assured that the state and DOD would provide maintenance and operational funding for the system. Homer was happy to participate in a new communications platform that promised interoperability and enhanced communications for all. Many of us were a little leery about the future and decided to maintain our old systems. I'm sure you're going to hear from someone that we were never promised anything. I beg to differ with whoever that is. I assure you we were.

I urge you to support continued full funding for our jails and the ALMR system. Thank you.

From: [Megan Anderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: More Reasonable Cut to Public Broadcasting Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:15:26 PM

To whom it May Concern:

My name is Megan Anderson. I have been a member of the Homer community for nearly 26 years, and was born and raised in this beautiful little town. I currently work in the legal field here in Homer. My father, Dave Anderson, is the general manager of KBBI in Homer. I write this letter not because of that, but because I support local non-profits and public broadcasting on many levels.

I am writing in support of a more reasonable cut to public broadcasting funding. KBBI in Homer has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Some of my earliest memories involve trips to Homer from our home in Anchor Point in the wee hours of the morning to correct off-air issues. The dedication my father, in particular, has shown to public broadcasting in Alaska is staggering. This proposed budget cut, if passed, will be catastrophic to the public broadcast community in Alaska as a whole, on many levels.

I understand the State of Alaska is facing many difficult budgeting issues, but the disproportionate cut proposed here will harm our little communities more than you can possibly foresee. Please consider a more reasonable cut to public broadcasting funding, as the current proposed budget cut of 59% will be devastating for many.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Megan Anderson
P.O. Box 1539
Homer, Alaska 99603

907-399-4780

From: [Mildred Martin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Public Radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:17:01 AM

Dear Representatives Neuman and Thompson, Co Chairs and Representative Saddler, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

It has come to my attention that the committee is considering a substantial cut to funding for public radio in those communities where commercial radio is available. I certainly understand the need to cut the budget in this year of substantial shortfall.

However, I am deeply concerned what this will mean for the Kenai Peninsula. As a member of the Kachemak Emergency Service area Board I especially appreciated the services rendered last year during the devastating Funny River fire. Those services were provided by our public radio. Can I depend on someone else to do that? I don't think so, and therefore I feel these cuts could have a very negative impact to the entire Peninsula. (I do not speak for the KESA Board, but for myself.)

I respectfully request you reconsider the drastic cuts to public radio. It is a service, a public service, so badly needed.

Thank you.

Milli Martin
PO Box 2652
Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-6652

From: [Nina Faust](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:17:51 AM

P.O. Box 2994
Homer, AK 99603

Public Broadcasting funding is essential to keep our widely spread populace educated and informed about state and local issues. Rural communities especially need public radio news and television to stay up to date. We had this discussion as a state years ago when the legislature proposed a significant cut that would have gutted public broadcasting to continue providing the commercial free, quality programming that is so important for our state.

The other aspect that needs consideration is that public television provides commercial free educational programming for children as well as their award winning science, nature, drama, history and other programming.

I know that as a KBBI listener here in Homer, I stay up to date and informed about all aspects of our community through their daily news, community calendar, critter line, bush line, the weekly Coffee Table talk show that features important issues and speakers from the community. Loss of local programming would be devastating for community involvement and education. So many small local broadcasting options around the country have been lost through the monopolies in broadcasting that have cut all local news and local programming. Public Broadcasting fills this void well because the community is involved in the running of the station and helps with programming and funding.

Please do not cut the funding of Public Broadcasting. Education, communication, and information are all elements for an informed populace--this is what KBBI and public broadcasting brings to Alaskans.

Thanks for your time,
Nina Faust

From: [Perry Edwards](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public radio funding levels from the state of Alaska
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:00:24 PM

House Finance Committee:

My name is Perry Edwards and I am a resident of Sitka, Alaska and the chair of the board for Raven Radio KCAW FM.

I understand the difficult financial circumstances and decisions the legislature will have to make due to the budget for the State of Alaska. I realize many people, organizations and communities will have to adjust due to the financial crisis. I do believe that 59% cuts to public radio are disproportionate and excessive and would mean workforce reductions and significant cutbacks in local service. In many cases, service would be removed that isn't available elsewhere in our communities. For instance marine weather forecasts would not be available by am/fm radio in most of the communities of Southeast Alaska that Raven Radio serves including translator communities such as Angoon, Tenakee Springs, Port Alexander, Kake and Yakutat. I understand these cuts would save the state \$2.5 million dollars, but the effect of this loss in funding would be devastating on individual stations and likely decrease matching dollars from federal and local sources, further eroding local service across Southeast and the rest of Alaska.

Please consider this information in your decision.

Thank you for taking my testimony in this matter.

Perry Edwards

From: [Ryjil Christianson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support public broadcasting funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:37:40 PM

Greetings from Homer, AK

My name is Ryjil Christianson. I was born and raised in Alaska. I work at the Pratt Museum and volunteer for several community organizations in Homer. I understand the state is facing difficult financial times. That being said, a 59% cut to Alaska public broadcasting is to much. I rely on my local public radio station news, weather, and updates. This is the main way I stay connected with my community. My public radio station is as important to me as roads and public law enforcement. Public radio is an essential part of my life.

Please preserve funding for Alaska's public broadcasting stations.

Thank you for your time,

Ryjil Christianson
Homer, Alaska

From: [Sandy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:42:36 PM

Yes, we need to cut the budget, but the legislature should begin with its own budget and find a great deal more savings there than the 0.8% I have seen reported. Reading about massive cuts to public broadcasting and respite care while a contingent of legislators makes the annual junket to the energy conference in Washington, D.C. is maddening. Start with eliminating travel funds, and then move on to reducing per diem. Otherwise, the legislature looks like a collection of Marie Antoinettes or, worse, the pigs in "Animal Farm", especially in light of the inexcusably elaborate office building remodel in Anchorage.

With regard to public broadcasting, I was dismayed at Rep. Gattis' comments that public broadcasting is unnecessary in communities with commercial radio and TV stations. I disagree completely. I depend on KUAC here in the Fairbanks area for news and informational features that simply have NO equivalent among the other stations, and that includes statewide shows like the National Weather Service evening show, Gavel to Gavel, and Talk of Alaska. Is it not important for me to have access to that information just because Fox and CBS are on the air? They have nothing equivalent to the quality of public broadcasting and no statewide Alaska programming. And, yes, I support KUAC with my money, and have done so for over 30 years.

With regard to cutting respite care for families who are trying to keep elderly relatives out of expensive nursing homes, this is false cost-cutting, since the nursing home alternative is massively more expensive. Caregivers cannot be awake and alert 24 hours a day, or hold down a job at the same time they are responsible for a disabled individual in the home. What do you suggest they do?

So, let's see some real cuts to the benefits and perks of the legislature FIRST. Then justify these harmful and counterproductive knee-jerk cuts to your constituents.

And it would be welcome news if the majority stopped harassing Gov. Walker and tried working with him instead of protecting turf and projecting disapproval of every idea that he puts forth. Please remember that he was elected to statewide office, not from safe gerrymandered districts. He, and the voters who chose him, deserve better.

Sandra Dauenhauer PO Box 418 Ester, AK 99725 479-0042

From: [ACS email](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cuts to Public Broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:43:27 AM

Good afternoon.

We (Harry and Shirley Forquer) have lived in Homer since 1973. As soon as KBBI was formed, we became ardent listeners. We truly believe that the 59% cut in budget for KBBI is excessive and that it will cause a decrease in the “livability” of Homer and its surrounding area. This extends from the head of Kachemak Bay to Cooper Landing area where the signal is lost.

Having this reception gives us up to the minute info on emergencies and weather.

We love the programing that KBBI provides on nationwide news and programs as well our local news.

Please do not make such a drastic cut to this station.

Sincerely,

Shirley Forquer

TESTIMONY to HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
by Sioux Douglas
3014 Foster Avenue, Juneau, Alaska 99801
sioux@gci.net

March 3, 2015

RE: HB72, Operating Budget – *Public Broadcasting*

Thank you for doing whatever you can to restore Public Broadcasting funding to a reasonable, realistic level and not at a 60% reduction.

As a 38-year resident of Juneau (with a 6-year break in Skagway where I owned a business), I have been a long-time public broadcasting advocate, former KTOO board member, and a station employee. During all that time I've also been the beneficiary of the services and community support public broadcasting provides. I currently serve as Chair of the KTOO Legacy Foundation, which exemplifies my commitment to the long-term existence of public broadcasting. As such, I believe I have a good understanding and appreciation for what public broadcasting means to Alaskans.

Alaska has been through hard financial times before – and this is among the worst. I don't envy any of you as you face this challenge—but I'm confident you can do it and do it right – and as the good stewards you've been elected to be.

It is my hope that both branches of our government will pull together to resolve state budget problems in fair and equitable ways that benefits the most across our state.

Public Broadcasting provides statewide services that are vital and deeply imbedded in Alaska's infrastructure and culture.

To underfund by 60% would effectively destroy a network that:

- keeps Alaskan connected—which is imperative in this vast land of many separate regions & cultures
- provides educational programming to children who would otherwise see nothing like this high caliber of programming. Elimination of it would be a disaster to many and undermine our efforts to provide the best education possible to our children.
- keeps Alaskans informed about critical issues across the state—including Gavel to Gavel so citizens will know and connect with the legislature and what's happening in the Capital.

When I lived in Skagway I served as its Mayor -- in a community that had 800 residents in the winter and up to a million in the summer due to tourism. Needless to say, I learned a great deal. Most important to me was understanding that in Southeast we live in a dynamic *economic corridor of commerce*—from Whitehorse to Prince Rupert and everything in between. The services provided by public radio and television help to keep this corridor connected and vibrant—it is an essential part of how we do business together and how we support one another.

Please do all you can to restore funding in the public broadcasting budget component-- that is reasonable and keeps the service intact, even if at a reduced level. To not do this will be a disservice to our entire state, and the cost to re-build it later will be more than you'll want to face in the future. *Let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater.* Thank you.

From: [Stuart Schmutzler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting Cut
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:11:02 PM

My name is Stuart Schmutzler. I have been an active member and volunteer of Homer's local radio station KBBI for over 33 years.

I realize the financial difficulties facing our state in the months ahead, but I find such a severe cutback to the public broadcasting system within the state to be extremely problematic. Public radio has been the backbone of communication across Alaska. It is part of what defines us as living in Alaska and being Alaskan. Public radio stations provide local and regional information to the people of their respective communities.

Commercial radio certainly does not, and can not, provide for that local, immediate service. Emergency communication is absolutely vital in times of disasters, both large and small, because of the local staff and facilities that have "boots on the ground". Even though cell phone usage has become so popular and widespread, there are many, many areas where

people live or play, that are out of the service area of these devices and radio broadcasting is still the only communication link to information.

I can not begin to tell you how many lost pets or livestock have been recovered, do to public broadcasting announcements to the community at large,

Or,

What is that plume of smoke I see,

Or,

How close is the Funny River Fire to my house,

Or,

Which roads are closed today?

Please know that each of these stations is staffed by local Alaskans. This financial cut will put many, many people out of work in their community, which will certainly not help Alaska's overall economy. As state funded programs are reviewed for financial reductions, please try to avoid putting people

out of work. I do not envy you the task ahead,
and I certainly wish you well, but please,
please, please:

Reconsider this extreme cut back to the
backbone of Alaskan communication and
overall economy.

Stuart Schmutzler
alpinestu@gmail.com

From: [Matt Smith](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: KBBI
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:38:46 PM

Hello. My wife and I live in Homer. We are strongly oppose excessive funding cuts to KBBI, our public radio station. A proposed 59% funding reduction is simply unreasonable. We have been members for over 20 years, KBBI plays a critical role in the community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For emergency communication, recent wildfires, volcanic eruptions, possible tsunamis, severe weather, news, entertainment, simple AM radio is a way to reach the lower peninsula, on land, in remote communities, or while on the water.

We respectfully ask you to sustain funding so KBBI can retain it's high quality of community service.

Sincerely,
Matt Smith and Alison Cooke

From: [Lindianne Sarno](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please do not cut public radio funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:35:49 PM

My name is Lindianne Sarno. I am a music educator and composer. I formerly chaired Homer's Economic Development Commission, and served on Homer's Kachemak Drive Bike Path Committee. Currently I administer projects of the Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society and Homer Area Trails.

I appreciate the need to conserve funds this year because of the drop in oil prices.

But to cut 59% from public radio is a false economy. KBBI is our local LIVE radio station. When the tsunami warning sounds, KBBI is where we turn our dial in the name of public safety to find out what's happening. We rely on KBBI to have live people at the station.

We rely on KBBI for local news, city council meetings, borough assembly meetings, local talk shows and Talk of Alaska. KBBI is the glue that holds our community together. The people of Kachemak Bay tune all day to KBBI.

Alaskan legislators would never again need to slash budgets if, united, the legislature passes the Alaska Plan: consolidate all Alaska's funds, \$65 billion, and operate Alaska's government from funds generated by investment, 7% of \$65 billion, plus income from natural resources of the owner state.

Lindianne Sarno
Homer, Alaska

From: [Lori Jenkins](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: In Support of Public Radio
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:22:11 PM

Please reconsider the excessive cuts to local Alaska radio. As a business owner, I rely on the networking that our local radio provides. To be brief, KBBI needs AK state dollars to operate. They work great on a shoestring budget already, these severe cuts hurt our community to much. PLEASE RECONSIDER and refund KBBI Public radio.
THANKS, please understand the Alaska climate and how radio is a vital part of part economy.

--

Lori A Jenkins, SYNERGY GARDENS
Homer Farmers Market Vendor, Founder of Alaska Garlic Project
Organic Farmer/Garden Chef/Artist/Art Teacher
54329 Wilderness Lane
Homer, Alaska 99603 706.273.0077

**"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."
Albert Einstein**

March 3, 2015

Representative Mark Neuman & Representative Steve Thompson
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

On behalf of AARP Alaska's 86,000 members I am writing to express concern regarding two budget cuts that directly affect our state's most vulnerable older adults.

First, Gov. Walker's budget proposes to cut the benefits to the top two tiers of eligibility for the Senior Benefits Program. The Senior Benefits Program provides a modest monthly cash support for approximately 11,000 low income elderly persons in Alaska, based on a three-tiered eligibility schedule. The lowest level (at 75% of the Federal Poverty Level or \$920/mo) receives the largest supplemental payment of \$250/month. The next two levels at 100% FPL (\$1,227/mo) and 175% FPL (\$2,146/mo) currently receive \$175/mo and \$125/mo respectively, and these two benefit amounts are proposed to be reduced by 20%, or \$35 and \$25 respectively. The way these reductions are calculated imposes a greater percentage of loss of income for a senior at 100% FPL (2.5%) than for a person at a higher income of 175% FPL (1.1% loss). These amounts are not insignificant to a person trying to live on a very low fixed income. These seniors, by definition, have little on which to live, and are not typically able to find employment or other ways to supplement their meager incomes. We support finding cuts, even to programs that serve seniors, but not inordinately to the least able to afford them.

Secondly, we are very concerned about the proposed \$500,000 reduction in funding for adult day programs, which represents nearly a third of all state grant funding for these crucial services. Adult day programs are among the most effective in helping to maintain frail elders and persons with dementia (e.g. Alzheimer's disease) in their own communities with family, preventing or delaying much more expensive nursing home care. The funding that is being reduced allows persons who cannot afford the full cost of adult day services to attend at a sliding fee. By definition they have lesser incomes, and are most likely to be institutionalized at state expense. This does not seem fiscally prudent, and could easily end up costing the state much more by trying to make this cut. Again, we support finding cuts, but this one may very well be pennywise and pound foolish.

An option to consider for reduction is the amount paid through the Medicaid waiver for persons residing in an assisted living home to attend an adult day program. While attendance is a good thing for the senior, assisted living homes should not be paid to provide care and then ship a person out for a significant portion of the day into care provided by another program at state expense. We support an effort for assisted living homes that send their residents to adult day programs to pay for the service out of their board and care payment. They are, after all, receiving respite services for the time their resident is away.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We're happy to elaborate our position as you wish.

Respectfully,



Ken Helander
Advocacy Director
AARP Alaska

khelander@aarp.org

907-762-3314

Cc: Members of the House Finance Committee

- Vice Chair: Representative Dan Saddler
- Representative Bryce Edgmon
- Representative Lynn Gattis
- Representative Cathy Muñoz
- Representative Lance Pruitt
- Representative Tammie Wilson
- Representative Les Gara
- Representative David Guttenberg
- Representative Scott Kawasaki

From: [Cathy Brenner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 73 Mental Health Budget Adult Day funding cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:21:47 AM
Attachments: [Serendipity testimonials 3-4-15.pdf](#)

3/3/2015

Re: Operating and Mental Health Budgets

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your support of seniors in Alaska. While Alaska has 115,000 persons over the age of 60, only a small portion receive and support or services. While we understand the need for funding cuts, we are concerned that HB 73 (Mental Health Budget) proposed cut of \$500,000 in the adult day programs will adversely affect our most vulnerable Alaskans. This reduction amounts to almost one-third of the total program funding and will result in the reduction of adult day programs, hours and days of services, staffing and activities offered. Our consumer population is Alaskan seniors with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), traumatic brain injuries and other disabilities. These safe, engaging therapeutic programs address the multiple needs and improve the quality of life for these Alaskans and their caregivers allowing them to live in the least restrictive, most cost effective and most appropriate care setting possible, preferably with their natural family. Adult day programs keep these individuals in the community and out of expensive long term care facilities.

These programs not only offer needed respite for families caring for loved ones but also provides caregivers the opportunity to maintain full-time employment, keep their health insurance and build retirement. Studies demonstrate increased well-being and decreased problem behaviors for adult day participants easing the burdens of caregiving. In addition, there is direct correlation with caregiver health and well-being with adult day attendance.

Serendipity and the community we serve will be negatively affected by this cut. Funding for our program is mostly through Medicaid Waiver and private pay reimbursements. With these funds, we are able to offer sliding fee discounts to our private pay consumers based on federal poverty income levels. Most qualify for our maximum 75% discount and attendance would not be possible without this. Currently, 26% of our consumers are private pay.

I wish more caregivers could give direct testimony about the benefits adult day has had on their lives and the lives of those they care for but they're busy caregiving; trying to hold their lives together. Part of what they expect from Serendipity is for us to be an effective advocate for them. I can only hope we meet their needs. I've included and attached caregiver testimonials with this email. These do not specifically address this proposed funding cut but simply and eloquently state how Serendipity benefits their families. They are very moving.

On behalf of Serendipity, our participants and their caregivers please reconsider these funding cuts. It will make a difference in the lives Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Cathy Brenner, Program Director
The Salvation Army Serendipity Adult Day Services

Cathy Brenner, Program Director

Serendipity Adult Day Services, PIN: 1005116
3550 E 20th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 907-279-0501 Fax: 907-279-0502
cathy.brenner@usw.salvationarmy.org

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March 3, 2015

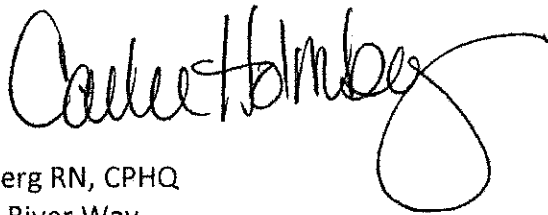
Re: Operating and Mental Health Budgets

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I understand the need for funding cuts, yet am extremely concerned that HB 73 (Mental Health Budget) proposed cut of \$500,000 in the adult day programs will adversely affect our most vulnerable Alaskans. The resultant reduction of adult day programs, hours and days of services, staffing and activities offered will have a profoundly negative affect to Alaskan seniors with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), traumatic brain injuries and other disabilities. Adult day programs address multiple needs and improve the quality of life for these Alaskans and their caregivers allowing them to live in the least restrictive, most cost effective and most appropriate care setting possible. Adult day programs keep these individuals in the community and out of expensive long term care facilities.

Often caregivers need to maintain full-time employment, keep their health insurance and build retirement. Adult day programs ease the burdens of caregiving. Caregiver's health and well-being improve when they can have these brief periods of respite provided by adult day programs. Ultimately, this prevents premature institutionalization.

On behalf of Alaskan Seniors and their caregivers please carefully reconsider these funding cuts. It will make a world of difference in the lives Alaskans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlie Holmberg', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Sincerely,
Carlie Holmberg RN, CPHQ
11277 Wood River Way
Eagle River AK, 99577
1-907-360-2436

March 3, 2015

Attention:

HFIN

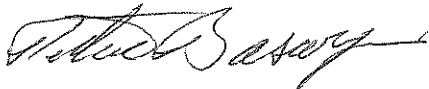
RE: State of Alaska Independent Living Budget cut

Hello, my name is Peter Basargin. I live in Wasilla, Alaska. I am writing to express my concern about the cuts to the Independent Living budget. I have been a consumer with Access Alaska (Independent Living Center) for 2 years. Access Alaska has helped me in many ways with my independence. Now, I have a job, my property was saved from foreclosure, I am getting dental work complete, and I have an advocate to assist me to maintain my independence.

It is important for these programs to keep their funding because of the impact that agencies such as Access Alaska has had on people like me who have disabilities. The support and services available has increased my independence and will prevent me from losing housing, benefits, employment, and much more.

Please consider keeping Independent living Centers fully funded for our community!

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Basargin".

Peter Basargin

*2920 Singing Woods Dr.
99623*

From: [Brenda Jones](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Southeast Alaska Timber Industry
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:29:42 PM
Attachments: [HBSD Enrollment 1955-2015.pdf](#)

House Finance Committee:

I am sending you this note as a concerned full-time resident of Haines, Alaska. I am also the parent of a child that will be entering the job market in the next few years. Quality of life means that we have the opportunity to live in our communities with our children, grandchildren and other loved ones around us. It is unfortunate that our young families are continuing to leave our community due to lack of employment opportunities. Additionally, our utility costs are onerous.

It is with shock and disappointment that I have learned of the proposal to cut all DNR Forestry positions in Southeast Alaska. I think that it is important that we are all reminded that the Haines State Forest is 286,000 acres in the Haines Borough. The State has a responsibility to the community to actively manage this resource. Closing timber sales in the Haines State Forest will result in the layoff of two foresters, with combined years of experience as Foresters for the Haines State Forest of 50 years. However, the impacts to the community are much larger. The closing of timber sales in Haines will result in the direct loss of a livelihood for eight families that I know personally. Additionally, there are others that will be impacted that serve in support roles in our little community.

My perspective of the deep impacts this will have to the community comes not only as a full time resident, but also as a former Board Member and past President of the Haines Chamber of Commerce, and as a former Haines Borough School District Board Member in which I served as both President and Treasurer.

In Haines we value all industries that provide support for our families. However, the real economic force that has allowed our community to thrive has been through the timber industry. The Haines Borough School District (HBSD) is suffering due to a loss of enrollment. Attached is a graph that reflects the enrollment of HBSD from 1955 to current date. The high point of enrollment of 596 students was during active logging in the 1960's and 1970's. After the timber industry suffered severe losses enrollment dropped in the 1980's

to a low of 320 students. Then an increase in the timber industry helped the Haines community again and enrollment increased in the 1990's and leveled out with enrollment in the low 400's. After another decline in the timber industry starting in 2000 enrollment has been on a steady decline. The current enrollment is 268 students with a projected enrollment for next year at 243. The promise of the pending Baby Brown Timber Sale in the Haines State Forest had the community hopeful that we would once again see an increasing economy for our community that is capable of supporting young families. The proposal to cut support for timber sales in southeast diminishes any hope of a recovery for our community.

Here's a thought about budget reductions. I would like to suggest that the State save two Forester positions in Southeast and cut the two engineers that DNR Division of Forestry has on staff. I have yet to meet a staff engineer who is not capable of exponentially increasing the cost of any project. Also, since the Division of Forestry is about forest management, it seems to make sense that they would maintain positions for Foresters and cut the overhead expense of the engineers. We need boots on the ground in the communities, not overhead in central planning positions.

I am supportive of all forms of economy in our area. We need a vibrant economy that is based on responsible and sustainable resource development. We also need a reliable source of energy to service the long term needs of our community. We need the necessities of the community to be put first, instead of the desires of outside special interest groups. We need the ability to allow an opportunity for hard working Alaskans to support their families in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Jones Josephson, MBA, EA

P.O. Box 51, Haines, AK 99827

Telephone: (907) 766-2170

Email: brendajones57@gmail.com

From: [Alana Burke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:37:21 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Alana Burke
13892 W Holly Loop
Wasilla, AK 99652

From: [Ali Lee](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:39:42 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,
Ali Lee

Ali Lee
22703 S Terminal Ave
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Bill Watkins](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:37:50 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

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Sincerely,

Bill Watkins
PO. Box 147
Denali Park, AK 99755

From: [Bryan Gearry](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:36:06 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Bryan Gearry
1551 Tattler Dr
Kroto slough/deshka river, AK 99654

From: [Cathy Gillis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:31:35 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Respectfully, please be aware that I am one of the many Alaskans opposed to spending money on the Susitna Dam. The letter below echoes my feelings - but in my own words, I will say this: We need the money for more important and critical issues - most notably education. Please do not squander the \$30 million that is being held by AEA. Take it back, and put it to use in a valuable manner.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gillis
3900 E 67th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Cathy Teich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:57:37 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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AEA's continued promotion of the proposed Susitna dam is in direct conflict with the Governor's halting of the proposed mega projects in this state. We have so many needs with so little funds that it doesn't make sense to keep throwing money into a bottomless pit. Most projects of that magnitude actually end up costing TWICE as much as projected.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Cathy Teich
733-2155
cathyt@mtaonline.net

Cathy Teich
Box 155
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Christine Niemi](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:04:23 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

Christine Niemi
616 Alta Ct.
Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Denise Roselle](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:37:03 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank.

With so many Alaskans against this debacle of a proposed Susitna dam, how can the legislature continue to cut education, oils spill response, infrastructure repairs and the Alaska Marine Highway System and expect to approve funding for a dam that most Alaskans do not want- we can no longer afford this speculation. NO SUSITNA DAM- KI SUSITNA DAM SOENDIN OF ANY KIND- Thank you.

Sincerely, Denise Roselle, Anchorage

Denise Roselle
4300 Northwood
Anchorage, AK 99524

From: [Elizabeth Russo](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:27:52 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ellis

Elizabeth Russo
2041 Campbell Place
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Gael Irvine](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:49:47 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Gael Irvine
8220 E Wdgeron-Parks Rd
Hatcher Pass, AK 99645

From: [Greta Artman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:27:45 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Greta Artman
3203 Woodland Park Dr
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Gurubandhu Khalja](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:59:12 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Gurubandhu Khalja
6960 frontier
Wasilla, AK 99623

From: [Iris Vandenharm](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:38:05 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,
Iris

Iris Vandenharm
PO Box 664
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Ivan Chikigak-Steadman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:08:48 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Ivan Chikigak-Steadman

Ivan Chikigak-Steadman
3309 Starlite Cir
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Jackie Smallwood](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:33:48 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Jackie Smallwood
4300 Arctic Blvd Spc 25
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Jenny Lynes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:22:43 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Jenny Lynes
1565 Sunrise Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [LeAnn Jaeger](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:51:21 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

LeAnn Jaeger
13904 Arboretum St
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Lynn Mickleson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:46:18 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Lynn Mickleson
POB 2863
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Mark Wildermuth](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:32:22 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,
Laura Caillet

Mark Wildermuth
P O Box 221
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Mary Gunderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:15:33 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Mary Gunderson
hc 89 box 621
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [mike leslie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:48:09 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

mike leslie
pob 100513
Anchorage, AK 99510

From: [Mike Stoltz](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:26:30 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Mike Stoltz
14677 E Cabin Spike
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Mollie Foster](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:39:12 AM

Dear Committee Members,

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Sincerely,

Mollie Foster
4021 Romanzof Cir
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Nicholas Dalessio](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:10:20 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

Nicholas Dalessio
161 Juniper Dr. Girdwood, AK 99587
Girdwood, AK 99587

From: [River Bean](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:57:48 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

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Sincerely,

River Bean
1305 N. Smith Rd.
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Ryan Astalos](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:52:16 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Even if we had the funding to build this dam, it would still be a stupid idea. We need to learn from the mistakes of the lower 48, their salmon runs used to be as great as ours and unfortunately depleted their resources by building multiple dams on the rivers. We do not need to take this same risk especially when estimates are between \$7-11 billion dollars cost to state when all is said and done. If we distribute the money AEA has right now and if the stop work order from the governor was actually worth anything. Then we could use that money to fund 3 years of oil spill response or fund annual salary of over 550 pipeline techs for AK LNG pipeline or fund 4 years of chinook salmon recovery program. I ask that you distribute the wealth among the state departments that need it most like teachers, police, fire and infrastructure not a mega dam.

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Ryan Astalos
2900 W. Northern Lights #3
Apt 3
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Sam Snyder](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:26:21 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

Sam Snyder
6608 Mink Ave
Anchorage, AK 0

From: [Shana Jerde](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:44:38 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

Shana Jerde
3601 Oregon Dr. #3
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Shawn Woodhead](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:41:05 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Shawn Woodhead
Rue de la paix loop
Wasilla, AK 99687

From: [Stephanie Schmidt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:39:51 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on an ill-conceived and irresponsible mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that should never be built. The rest of the country has realized the error in their ways and is removing dams, not building them. The state of Alaska should take note and should put an end to this irresponsible project and should spend no more money pursuing it.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Schmidt
739 W. 15th Ave
Apt B
Anchorage, AK 99501

From: [Steven Peterson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:56:18 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

Steven Peterson
725 Grizzly Bear Loop Ste C
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [dr susan m whitefeather](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:27:52 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

dr susan m whitefeather
p.o.b. 3428
palmer, AK 99645

From: [Vanessa Derendoff](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:31:58 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

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Sincerely,

Vanessa Derendoff
96 Front St
PO Box 96
Huslia, AK 99746

From: [Jim Tuttle](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Operating Budget comments
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:21:07 AM

To Whom It May Concern: My name is Jim Tuttle and I'm the Field Operations Manager for Sealaska Timber Corporation which is based in Ketchikan. I would like to comment on the proposed Operating Budget on the part of STC as it pertains specifically to the ADNR, Division of Forestry in Southeast. It is my understanding that all but one position (5 out of 6) is to be defunded in the Ketchikan office, and the only position in Juneau is also eliminated as well as the only two in Haines. The one position left in Ketchikan involves a staff member that is now designated primarily for road engineering type work in conjunction with the DOT, as I understand it. And the only position in the Southeast Timber Sale Program is also slated to be eliminated. STC has some very real concerns in regards to how this level of personnel cutbacks will affect our ongoing timber harvest operations in this area.

- 1) Review of our Detailed Plan of Operations (DPO) will be severely affected. These are required to be submitted to the DOF for a 30-day review for all commercial timber harvest and road activities on private lands. The DOF has up to 30 days to review and secure all necessary agency comments in regards to our activities, and then issue their comments. I don't see any way that the down-sized DOF will be able to meet this timeline, since in all likelihood the DPO's will have to be submitted to the Kenai or Soldotna office.
- 2) As part of the Forest Practices Act, which is administered by the DOF, operators are allowed to select certain merchantable trees from within stream riparian areas for harvest. This is a rather involved process that requires on site inspection by the operator, Fish & Game, and the DOF, but it is a very important part of any timber operator's program. No doubt a lack of available and qualified DOF personnel will have a significant impact on this aspect of our operations.
- 3) What is to become of the State's southeast Alaska timber sale program? This program contributes significant volumes to this region's timber supply but the primary coordinator it is now headed for the chopping block. This move is, without a doubt, a very shortsighted maneuver by the State and one that the timber industry cannot support.
- 4) The DOF is responsible for Forest Practices compliance in the state. Who is to administer these regulations in this region? STC enjoys a solid relationship now with the DOF and sees no benefit to having someone from outside the southeast region, who has no field experience here to understand the challenges of operating under our conditions, be responsible in a timely manner to address field concerns that either party may have.
- 5) During the normal course of timber operations, and especially of the magnitude that STC is engaged in, it is common to have questions and issues arise regarding a myriad of details around them. The Ketchikan DOF office provides a vital service in

addressing these issues in a timely manner. Without that ability, unnecessary and costly delays in our operations will result without a doubt. STC strongly urges a review of the proposed DOF defunding and a reversal of many, if not all, of the personnel cuts involved.

Respectfully;

Jim Tuttle

Field Operations Manager

From: [Bruce Johnson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72, SE Timber Management
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:52:45 PM

Honorable Members of the House Finance Sub-Committee

Background - 30 years doing forestry work in SE Alaska including 24 with State Forestry.

The current work-up of this bill has elimination of the SE Timber Management component in the Division of Forestry , Department of Natural Resources.

This program makes timber available to the remaining timber industry in SE Alaska.

The state has been working for many years to reestablish a viable timber industry that can provide year round employment to small towns and villages in the region.

There are a number of state led efforts currently underway to seeking to accomplish this.

The division's management of state owned forest lands has proven to be the only dependable and timely source of timber to the regions mills.

Elimination of the SE Timber component to the Division of Forestry's budget would compromise all the past and current efforts expended by the state in recent years to maintain and improve the timber economy in SE Alaska, provide jobs and diversify business opportunities.

The SE component also generates adequate revenue to not only pay for it's self but also the division's timber management program around the rest of the state.

Elimination of the SE Timber Management program will result in a net increase in costs to the state for providing the benefits derived from this program to it's citizens since revenues from SE will no longer be available to offset the costs of running the program else where in Alaska.

The Constitution directs the state to manage it's resources for the benefit of it's citizens. It flies in the face of common sense to eliminate a program that accomplishes this at no net cost to the state.

The SE Timber Component also provides the majority of the personnel for implementing and administrating the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act.

The FPRA is the state's non-point source pollution water quality program for forestry operations in Alaska.

The program requires certification from the EPA to perform this role. The performance requirements for accomplishing this are contained in a contract between the state (thru DEC) and EPA which specify certain

items/conditions for the state to achieve.

Elimination of the Timber Component in SE would make it very difficult for the state to comply with the terms of this contract and provide cause for the EPA to de-certify the program and take over management of forestry non-point source pollution in Alaska.

This will likely result in additional restrictive requirements or some form of permit which would be subject to reviews, appeals and litigation as experience whenever the federal government becomes involve . The resulting delays, burdensome requirements and costs to go through any federal action will likely signal the end of any timber harvest activity on state and privately owned land as the remaining small operators would not have the resources available to comply with them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Bruce Johnson

From: [Patw](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Cut Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:14:06 PM

There are proposals to cut some human services and things like public safety. I see that UAA got only a 10% cut. That's outrageous! I see new buildings going up, the Anchorage campus is opulent. Within that square mile of universities and hospitals are elaborate facilities that flaunt their wealth under the noses of us regular people. They get only a 10% cut and they have the audacity to kick out a vital business that takes care of the children of the UAA folks.

Please don't cut anything in K-12 education, services for Native Alaskans, or public safety. To cut funding will actually cost more in damage control than being the effective cut it was hoped to be. I think the Governor was right to make cuts but he should have just cut everything across the board by 10%. I have a hunch if you added up 10% of all departments, we would have sufficient funds and no toes would have been stepped on!

Pat Wendt
Soldotna, Alaska

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jennifer Lynn Scott](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: University Budget and Kenai Peninsula College
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:37:03 PM

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a resident of the Kenai Peninsula, I'd like to express my concern as it pertains to this year's State budget; particularly as it pertains to Kenai Peninsula College.

As you know, KPC is very influential in training qualified personnel for our increasingly active oil and gas industry here on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as other occupations and career fields. I teach English 111 at KPC, and I see first-hand the importance of keeping our young people motivated and empowered to improve their employment options here in Alaska.

Many of my first year composition students are working towards their Process Tech or Instrumentation certifications. The continuation of this program is vital to the success and future of Alaskan oil and gas ventures, while also keeping the young men and women of Alaska in our wonderful state by providing excellent job opportunities in this and other industries.

Our college offers so many opportunities for young people to live close to home while providing excellent training and experience in the medical field with the Nursing and CNA program, Paramedic and EMT training, as well as advanced Welding certifications and Teaching / Education credentials for K-12 positions.

A budget shortfall would significantly impact the ability of KPC to continue offering these very impactful and growing industries with qualified personnel. Our Director, Mr. Gary Turner, has been instrumental in meeting the needs of students, while also keeping the costs associated with these programs and running the college at reasonable levels, but he cannot work miracles.

I respectfully ask that you please consider the impact of a budget shortfall on the ability of KPC to maintain these programs and the standards industry leaders and local communities have come to expect. The affordable training we provide here at KPC is unique and innovative, and thereby important to Alaskan jobs and industries. My hope is that opportunities for our young people won't be shortchanged in the end.

Thank you for your time and continued support of Kenai Peninsula College.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Scott

PO Box 2978

Soldotna, AK 99669

[\(907\) 599-0116](tel:(907)599-0116)

From: [Toni Bocci](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: House Finance Committee written testimony for today 04MAR15
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:24:42 AM

04 March 2015

Honorable Legislators

I have 24 years of service to the State of Alaska and am presently still employed. As a State employee I've been asked to spend excess yearend budget money

every one of those 24 years.

I've often wondered why this happens and why the excess could not be rolled over to the next budget cycle. This partial article (using federal government studies...but applicable to state government) addresses the pros and cons of the of year end budget spending and I hope you will read it and consider my reasons for being in favor of a budget excess rollover:

- 1. Yearend moneys are often spent on items that are not necessary, liken it to the kid in the candy store who wants to spend every last penny.**
- 2. Some years there are more warranted expenses than other years and a rollover could cover those unexpected expenses.**
- 3. Rollover moneys could also be shared between agencies.**
- 4. Gives agencies an incentive to spend wisely knowing there may be a surplus that they can use in the next year.**
- 5. During times of budget deficits..... like next year, these moneys could be the difference between a budget cut or the same budget as the year before due to the rollover.**
- 6. As stated in this article, the rollover of budget excess leads to a higher quality of spending.**
- 7. Moreover, the use-it-or-lose it features of appropriated funds may push projects out the door that would otherwise languish due to bureaucratic delays.**

Do Expiring Budgets Lead to Wasteful Year-End Spending?

Evidence from Federal Procurement_

Jeffrey B. Liebman and Neale Mahoney

November 19, 2010

Many organizations fund their spending out of a fixed budget that expires at year's end.

Faced with uncertainty over future spending demands, these organizations have an incentive to build a buffer stock of funds over the front end of the budget cycle. When demand does not materialize, they then rush to spend these funds on lower quality projects at the end of the year.

We test these predictions using data on procurement spending by the U.S. federal government. Using data on all federal contracts from 2004 through 2009, we document that spending spikes in all major federal agencies during the 52nd week of the year as the agencies rush to exhaust expiring budget authority. Spending in the last week of the year is 4.9 times higher than the rest-of-the-year weekly average. We examine the relative quality of year-end spending using a newly available dataset that tracks the quality of \$130 billion in information technology (I.T.) projects made by federal agencies. Consistent with the model, average project quality falls at the end of the year. Quality scores in the last week of the year are 2.2 to 5.6 times more likely to

be below the central value. To explore the impact of allowing agencies to roll unused spending over into subsequent fiscal years, we study the I.T. contracts of an agency with special authority

to roll over unused funding. We show that there is only a small end-of-year I.T. spending spike

in this agency and that the one major I.T. contract this agency issued in the 52nd week of the year has a quality rating that is well above average.

Rollover Budget Authority

The inefficiency from wasteful year-end spending raises the question of whether anything can be done to reduce it. Reducing uncertainty would be helpful, but is infeasible in practice for many organizations due to the inherently unpredictable nature of some types of shocks. Another way to potentially increase efficiency would be to allow organizations to roll over budget authority across fiscal years. Under such a system, budgeting would still occur on an annual basis, but rather than expiring at year's end, unused funds would be added to the newly granted budget authority in the next year.

The idea that budget authority should last for longer than one year is not new. As McPherson (2007) has pointed out, granting Congress the power to collect taxes, Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution gave Congress the power of taxation, “To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for longer term than two years.” Not only does this suggest that the Founding Fathers thought that two-year limits were reasonable in some instances, but by failing to attach this clause to other forms of federal expenditure, they implied by omission that periods longer than two years were potentially desirable in a broad range of circumstances.

More recently, Jones (2005) has argued for extending U.S. federal government’s obligation period from 12 to 24 months, and McPherson (2007) has recommended that agencies be allowed to carry over unused budget authority for one-time or emergency use for an additional year. The federal government of Canada has, in fact, adopted a version of rollover, allowing agencies to carry over up to 5 percent of their budget authority across years. In response to concerns over wasteful year-end spending, the states of Oklahoma and Washington also allow state agencies to roll over their budget authority to some extent.⁴ Finally, within the U.S. federal government, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has obtained special authority to transfer unused budget authority to an account which can be used for capital and other similar expenditure in future years.

Conclusion

Our model of an organization facing a fixed period in which it must spend its budget resources made three predictions. We have confirmed all three of them using data on U.S. federal contracting. First, there is a surge of spending at the end of the year. Second, end of year spending is of lower quality. Third, permitting the rollover of spending into subsequent periods leads to higher quality.

Because we cannot identify the exact mechanism producing the decline in spending quality at the end of the year, it is difficult to draw firm policy conclusions from the result. If the low spending quality comes from agencies squandering end of year resources on low priority projects, possibly compounded by insufficient management attention during the end of year spending rush, then allowing for rollover of unused balances or switching to two-year budgeting might improve spending quality. But as long as future agency budgets are based in part on whether agencies exhausted their resources in the current period, there will still be an incentive for year-end spending surges. And unless the rollover balances stay with the same part of the organization that managed to save them, agency subcomponents will still have an incentive to use up their allocations.

An alternative approach would be to apply greater scrutiny to end-of-the-year spending with the presumption that any spending above levels occurring earlier in the year was unwarranted.

This latter approach could also be the proper management prescription if low quality end-of-year spending results from a correlation between acquisition officer skill and a tendency to procrastinate—agencies would want to give greater attention to end of year contracts because the acquisition officials responsible for them need more oversight.

In evaluating possible policy reforms one should not lose sight of the potential benefits of one-year budget periods. The annual appropriations cycle may provide benefits from greater Congressional control over executive branch operations. Moreover, the use-it-or-lose it feature of appropriated funds may push projects out the door that would otherwise languish due to bureaucratic delays.

This entire study can be found at
<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/jeffreyliebman/LiebmanMahoneyExpiringBudgets.pdf>

Respectfully

Toni I Bocci

Cordova Alaska resident since 1973

From: [cora.spaulding](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RESTORE YOUTH COURT FUNDING
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:01:25 AM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

As a parent of a former Anchorage Youth Court (AYC) volunteer, I am writing to ask you to restore funding for Alaska Youth Courts. Of course, we know that these programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently and effectively than other government agencies.

I hope that you also consider how these programs dramatically impact the lives of all of the individual student participants. As an AYC lawyer, my son gained self-confidence, as well as an understanding of Alaska law and the importance of civic participation that will help him to successfully navigate adulthood. He also learned in discussions with many of the defendants and their families, the importance of a second chance, and their gratitude for the possibility of rehabilitation without a criminal record.

For many students, Alaska Youth Courts has made it possible to change the trajectory of their lives for the better. When I mentioned to a housepainter that my son had participated in AYC, he volunteered that his son had participated as well, as a defendant. He told me that his son was required to do community service, and that he reluctantly went to work at a community center. However, at some point during the course of his work, he began to enjoy it, and even continued after the recommended time of service had ended. He had found something meaningful and important in his life, and abandoned the activities that had previously led him into trouble. His father was eternally grateful for the opportunity that AYC had given him for a course correction, and was confident that his son was taking a much more desirable path in life.

I am certain behind all of the statistics, there are many more stories like this. Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike. In addition, Alaska Youth Courts give all of our children, those who offend and those who defend, an important opportunity to learn about the Alaska legal system and to become better citizens of our community.

Please reconsider your decision to eliminate funding for Alaska Youth Courts. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Sincerely,

Cora Spaulding, MD

From: [DONNA CAROLLO](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:21:25 PM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I am writing to request your continued support of the Youth Court and to restore full funding for the 11 programs throughout the state. Youth Court saves the state money. Allowing youth a chance to be heard by their peers, charged and sentenced by their peers allows those youth a connection to the process. The data indicate that the recidivism rate is half that of a traditional court system. As a community we are challenged with the job of improving the lives of the members we serve. Youth Court is doing that.

Please continue to support productive programs that are beneficial to all involved.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Donna Carollo

AP Biology Teacher

MAt Su Career Tech High School

Disclaimer Notice: This email and any attachments to it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the **Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**. If you are not an intended recipient for this email, you are hereby notified that this is not a waiver of confidentiality and that you must not take any action based upon its contents, and any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this information is strictly prohibited.

If you believe you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email and immediately delete this message from your system.

From: [Darlene and Gary](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:36:01 AM

Dear members of the house Finance committee.

I know you have received all the facts on Youth Court. I just want to add our personal experience.

Our daughter volunteered for Youth Court as a 7th grader and continued through high school. The training she received was invaluable. It taught her speaking skills, judgement and she saw first hand what happens when kids have time on their hands.

She would often comment when we to the mall that the kids just hanging out would be the ones in Youth Court and she was right.

The promotion system from being a clerk to judge gave her goals to work for and she worked much harder there than she did in school.

The facts are there. It is good for the thousands of kids that volunteer throughout the years. Additionally it gives offenders a chance that the Juvenile System in court would not. The cost for Youth Court is much less than clogging our already over loaded court system.

Thank you

Gary Hoff

Formerly of Anchorage for many years but now living in Coronado, Ca.

From: [Ian Rohler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:50:12 PM

To lhscfin@akleg.gov

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I have participated in youth court for the last three and a half years. I am a presiding judge who helps my Co judges determine a sentence for the defendant. We do not just give them community work service hours, we ask that they fix/repair something they may have damaged, all of the defendants I have seen come through youth court have all completed the sentence and have yet to yet to reoffend Youth court isn't only about helping the defendants, my fellow members and I help in fundraising events to donate money to certain organizations such as the teen homeless shelter my house. Taking away youth courts grants would be bad for our state as a whole not only would there be more cases for the court system, it would take a great program away from the great teen that participate in youth court.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ian Rohler

From: [Katrina Nilson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth court
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:24:18 PM

Youth court is a very good opportunity for youth in the state of Alaska. It is a second chance for many youth and a great opportunity for those teenagers in the state interested in law. Many of us teens believe that cutting the program would result in a rise of juvenile crime. This program has become an essential part of the community. Thank you for taking time to reconsider cutting funding for the program.

BreAnna Deen

From: [Kylie Hamilton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth court
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:53:08 PM

I joined youth court this year and am really enjoying it and think it will really help me in the future. I would really like to UYo keep it because it really does help teens see their mistakes. & it helps them rethink their crime, and changed their perspective on things. I know people who are planning on joining and will be very disappointed if it is canceled. Thank you for your time

~Kylie Hamilton youth court member

From: [Martin H](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: youth court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:28:36 AM

The youth needs to stay. It is good for the kids and points them in the right direction .

From: [Emm Cee](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:41:05 AM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

It seems as though cutting funding for Youth Courts would be an easy choice but in the end it will cost this State so much more. Alaska finally has something to help stem the tide of crime with our youth but our government - you specifically - have blindly cut the program without regards to the savings it provides for Alaska.

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Cabo

From: [michal](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:40:49 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

As a prosecutor, I'm aware of the costs to society of crimes committed by adults. I think it is shortsighted to cut funding for youth court. It might save a few dollars now, but it will cost much more in the future.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michal Stryszak

From: [Morelle Kinne](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please restore youth court funds.
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:25:05 PM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

As a youth court member, I've seen the positive affects of youth court firsthand. Defendants learn about how their actions can hurt the community and about the court system. They really connect with the youth court members because we're the same age and understand each other. Additionally, the second chance youth court offers is enough for most defendants to correct their behavior and not offend again (which will save the state money).

Furthermore, youth court is great for youth who want to pursue a career in law. I want to be a lawyer and youth court has helped me with public speaking and writing skills. It also allows me to meet other kids from around the valley. I really enjoy youth court and its a powerful program that reaches out to many troubled youth. Please fully restore the funding for all youth courts. It's definitely worth the investment.

Thank you.

Morelle Kinne

From: [Nyla Kinne](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please restore youth court funding.
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:58:15 PM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

As a parent of a Mat-Su youth court member, I've witnessed the many positive affects youth court has on my child. Her writing and public speaking skills have greatly improved. She's more outgoing and confident. She's met many youth across the valley and has more friends. My daughter wants to be a lawyer one day and youth court has given her helpful skills.

Not only is youth court good for the members. It's also great for the defendants. It gives troubled teens the chance to correct their behavior without serious consequences. Having youth be the attorneys and lawyers helps make youth court a more powerful experience because they're the same age and understand each other. Youth court deters teens to the right path and many defendants don't offend again which saves the state money. Youth court has an everlasting affect in which it educates teens of the court system and laws. Additionally, teens develope respect for the system. This in turn will give us a better future because the youth are our future. By helping them we help the whole community. So please make the community a better place by fully restoring youth court funding.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Nyla Kinne

Mother of youth court member

From: [paul gavenus](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:09:07 PM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. A low cost alternative to more intensive intervention in the juvenile justice system, Youth Court has proven to be effective as evidenced by the recidivism rate of offenders going through youth court being half that of similar cases handled through the traditional juvenile justice system. Each future crime prevented saves both the public and the State real dollars. On top of the direct monetary savings, Youth Court allows the courts, law enforcement, probation officers and related staff to concentrate their efforts on more serious offenses. According to the DJJ State of Alaska Youth Court Summary the number of cases handled from FY07-FY09 was 2,418. This additional load being passed on to an already stressed system will surely reduce efficiency and effectiveness. \$580,000 (more than the total funding Youth Court receives) this is the amount saved if only four youths per year going through Youth Court are diverted from ever having a criminal record. (McDowell Study, 9/14)

We do need to address the budget deficit but removing the funding for Youth Court will not do this. In fact, I would argue it will cost the State more to take on the additional load and recidivism will be greater resulting in further costs in the future.

Sincerely,

Paul Gavenus

From: [Sarah Heintzman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:58:13 AM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

My daughter, Monica Heintzman, has been a member of the Mat-Su Youth Court since August 2012. She quickly went from 2nd chair prosecutor and defense, to 1st chair, and then became a judge in less than a year. Monica has been involved in numerous cases as a lawyer and a judge. She has been asked for by name to be defense for some teens. Because of her experience in Mat-Su Youth Court, Monica has become a member of the governor's Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

Monica has been recruited to work for a law firm in Anchorage because of her excellent experience through the Mat-Su Youth Court.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heintzman

Submitted by Virginia Espeashade
House Finance Committee Meeting 3/3/15 HB 72



Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Division of Juvenile Justice

State of Alaska Youth Court Summary

The State of Alaska Youth Court (YC) Program:

- Is a diversion program for low-risk juvenile offenders;
- An evidence-based program that is effective and reduces the likelihood of re-offending;
- A low-cost alternative to more intensive intervention in the juvenile delinquency system (FY14 = \$3.55 per day);
- A total of 409 youth went through YC in FY2014

Statewide there are 11 Youth Courts:

- Anchorage
- Southeast Region (Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell)
- South Central Region (Kodiak, Mat-Su, Valdez, Kenai)
- Northern Region (Nome, North Star Borough)

Youth Courts:

- Providing a low-cost alternative to potentially more costly interventions;
- Offer a wide range of classes and services to low-risk juvenile offenders which include restorative justice practices, community work service, skill building, dissuasion from committing offense, and legal education;
- Offer the youth volunteers education and training in criminal justice (such as in the roles of attorneys, judges, bailiffs, clerks, and jurors) while holding their peers accountable for their actions

Youth Court cases handled FY07 through FY09

- 2,418 cases statewide;
- 3% re-offended within 6 months;
- 16% re-offended within 24 months

Youth Courts in Alaska are supported by these Statutes & Regulations:

- AS 47.12.400, specifically entrusts Youth Courts with adjudicatory as well as dispositional authority (Alaska was identified in a national study as the one state with the most comprehensive Youth Court legislation)
- AS 4.16.050, entrusts Youth Courts with the authority to handle first time minor consuming alcohol violations
- With the passage of SB 30 (marijuana laws), it is anticipated Youth Courts will take referrals from District Courts for youth under age 18 charged with Misconduct Involving Marijuana in the 3rd Degree (i.e. possession)

From: [Sierra Hamilton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 6:35:05 PM

Hello, I am Sierra Hamilton, an active member of Mat-Su Youth Court.

Youth Court is an amazing opportunity for the ones who join and the ones who have the option of going to it rather than going to an adult court.

It allows volunteer hours to grow and has the youth getting to know community more. Youth Court changes kids for the better, having some join after going through and joying how everything was handled.

Please rethink taking away all the money you have pervious offered us, as it will eventually lead to us shutting down due to the lack of money we, ourselves, can provide.

Thank you for your time.

March 4, 2015

Erika Gavenus
7638 Hollister Ave, Unit 363
Goleta, CA 93117
erika.gavenus@cal.berkeley.edu
907.299.2369

House Finance Committee
The Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801
lhscfin@akleg.gov

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to request the reinstatement of state funding for the Alaska Youth Courts located around the state. My name is Erika Gavenus and I was a member of the Kenai Peninsula Youth Court in Homer for six years.

There are people better suited to outline the numbers and financial details of this decision to you. I would like to instead provide my personal statement as to how my experiences with Youth Court have shaped and enriched how I interact with the law and my community.

I never had any intention of pursuing law as a career. I joined Youth Court primarily as a way to give back to the community that had given so much to me. At the time, I considered the civics education I received as something necessary to serve my community. It was not until I left Youth Court that I recognized how unique and crucial this education was to me, no matter what field of study or sector of the economy I found myself in.

For my undergraduate studies I attended Georgetown University in Washington, DC. In a city that revolves around politics and law, I was studying public health. A field I soon came to realize overlapped much more with politics and law than I had initially thought. My hard-science, biology-loving brain tried to fight this reality, yet I kept finding myself in courses on pharmaceutical patent laws or how policies shape epidemics. Even more surprising to me was that I understood, enjoyed and excelled in these courses. I was able to apply the skills that I gained through Youth Court to a subject area I was passionate about.

I then moved on to pursue my MS in Environmental Health Sciences through UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. In a field even more deeply entrenched in policies such as the Clean Water Act and questions of who enforces them, I again leaned on the lessons I was lucky enough to have gained through Youth Court. In my own research in the area of subsistence fisheries and community health I repeatedly found myself navigating through Alaska's natural resource laws and ANILCA. I recognized that policy was not something to be

avoided and Youth Court provided me with the confidence to use it as a tool in promoting public health.

Even so, the benefits of Youth Court on my academic pursuits are far outweighed by how my experiences in Youth Court have made me a more informed and engaged citizen. I can read the news with the knowledge of how a grand jury operates and what a failed indictment actually means; with the understanding of the relationship between State Supreme Courts and U.S. District Courts; and with an appreciation for the checks-and-balances built into our government.

All of this is not to say that I am an expert in law, politics, or civics. Rather it is an attempt to demonstrate how the six years I spent in Youth Court provided me with lessons that I have carried and used ever since. Members of Youth Court learn our rights and responsibilities as citizens at a pivotal point in our development as individuals and members of our communities. As you are considering the budget proposal, please keep in mind the incredible life-long lessons that are being taught to the students who partake in the classes and in representing their peers.

Youth Court was truly an amazingly experience, one that I was lucky enough to participate in because of the funding from the State of Alaska, and one that I hope future students will continue to have to opportunity to experience –both for the sake of the State and their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Gavenus', written in a cursive style.

Erika Gavenus

MS Environmental Health Sciences
erika.gavenus@cal.berkeley.edu
907.299.2369

From: jsdahlgren97@gmail.com on behalf of [Justin Dahlgren](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:04:34 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I have been a part of the Kenai Peninsula Youth Court for nearly 6 years. Over this time I have had the chance to work with hundreds of my peers and see the difference youth court makes. I interact with past offenders on a daily basis and I have witnessed firsthand the positive changes that have occurred in the lives of the defendants who come through our court. Often they get new friend groups to have a more positive influence on their lives and focus on healthier activities than what they were doing to get in trouble with the law. Youth court helps juvenile offenders take responsibility for their actions while also being a restorative process at the same time. It holds them accountable for damage they have done to their community and even to their own families as a result of their offense. In addition the youth court program saves the state money and time by handling the cases. This allows the state to allocate their resources to other pressing matters. Politicians often say they want to help the youth of the communities they serve, but cutting funding to youth court will have the opposite affect. I ask that you please reconsider your decision and choose to help the youth of your state.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Dahlgren

From: [Morelle Kinne](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 2:55:34 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

As a youth court member, I've seen the positive affects of youth court firsthand. Defendants learn about how their actions can hurt the community and about the court system. They really connect with the youth court members because we're the same age and understand each other. Additionally, the second chance youth court offers is enough for most defendants to correct their behavior and not offend again (which will save the state money).

Furthermore, youth court is great for youth who want to pursue a career in law. I want to be a lawyer and youth court has helped me with public speaking and writing skills. It also allows me to meet other kids from around the valley. I really enjoy youth court and its a powerful program that reaches out to many troubled youth. Please fully restore the funding for all youth courts. It's definitely worth the investment.

Sincerely,

Morelle Kinne

Mat-Su Youth Court member

From: [Laurie Clark](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SAVE Youth Court Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:07:24 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please consider reinstating funding for youth courts around the state.

1. Youth Courts save the state money by saving time of Probation Officers, District Court Judges, Magistrates, Staff and Law Enforcement.
2. Youth Courts save the private sector losses associated with juvenile crime such as theft, vandalism and trespass.
3. Youth Courts WORK! We know this because of the low re-offending rate.
4. Youth Court has been training our young people (like my son) to learn the system and how they can make a difference, thus making better adults in the long run.

If you want to raise state costs and increase damages to the private sector--keep this cut. If you want to SAVE the state money and reduce juvenile crime--REINSTATE the Youth Court funding.

Sincerely,

Laurie Clark a mother of a youth court member