

## Daniel George

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**From:** Elizabeth Breuker <ekbreuker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:41 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB 128

Hello,

I am providing written testimony about SB 128.

"Don't. Touch. My. PFD. It is not now, nor ever was, up for grabs. Cut needless State government positions instead. For example, there is no reason to have a DOL Employment Field Tax Officer AND a Wage and Labor officer. Those duties can be combined into one position. Get the government down to bare bones-essentials. Reduce, or better yet, abolish Legislature per-diem allowances. The oil belongs to Alaskans, not the government. New revenue streams is bunk-- I want to see reduced spending and cuts. We cannot spend our way into prosperity. I ask you to research, and implement, the economic ideas of Brad Keithley, Michael Chambers, and James Squyres. These men have extensive and invaluable knowledge in economics and finance, and Alaska will be better off with their Sustainable Budget plans. Don't touch my PFD. It was never yours to begin with."

Sincerely,

Liz Breuker  
Deltana, AK

## Daniel George

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**From:** Angelika Harder <arcticgreyhound@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:46 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Bill in Committee

Dear Sir

As the legislature got underway I have watched with increasing anguish how powerful lobbyists are trying to steal funds from Alaskans to further their own ends. Capping the dividend and turning it over to GCI and the unions seems a very poor use of these funds, that were set up to the benefit of all. The AFL-CIO isn't interested in what's best for the general public. Their interest solely lies in maintaining their power and continuing the union dues at the current level, which means keeping as many state employee with raises as possible.

In my opinion the first thing that needs to happen is to shrink our over-bloated government. The legislature should concentrate on the primary functions of government (police, fire infrastructure) and supporting more oil production. While a gas line is nice, I am sure we should concentrate on putting more oil in the pipeline, so it does not shut down.

Cut education since the NEA's motto seems to be "more". It is high time that all communities contribute to education not just the big population hubs. Alaska already spends the most on education and we rank at the bottom of list!

The other elephant in the room is Medicaid. Medicaid was establish as a temporary means to assist individuals with their healthcare. This seems to have become a life-time entitlement and individuals are not motivated to improve their situation. Maybe we should consider capping Medicaid eligibility for able-bodied childless individuals to 18 months to 2 years. This would allow them to find improved circumstances, but not simply let them assume that the state will provide indefinitely. To my knowledge Arizona has instituted this rule.

In closing I would like to convey that adjusting the budget to the needs not the wants should be the first order of business before allocating the permanent fund and raising taxes to maintain an unsustainably large government. Just say "NO" to the governor's plan to re-appropriate the people's money for his buddies and supporters.

Respectfully  
Angelika Harder  
Eagle River

## Daniel George

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**From:** Douglass Gerke <douglassgerke@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:37 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Annual budget

Before any consideration is given to new taxes or fees, modification of the permanent fund or ANY new projects or programs, serious evaluation of the appropriateness and need of the existing projects and programs must be done.

Any project or program, etc. that involves grants, subsidies and so forth, that does not directly benefit the State at no additional cost to the State must be eliminated. The State cannot afford to fund feel good programs. In addition, the continual funding of programs and projects that have no likelihood of completion and/or have no economic return to the State must be defunded immediately.

Bottom line: if it's not essential under the Constitution, it needs to be eliminated.  
The Budget must be substantially reduced again and no new spending items should be included in the budget.

Thank you

## Daniel George

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**From:** frank kelty <fvkelty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:40 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB 128

Chairman Stoltz

I'm writhing on behalf of myself today, I accidentally sent my previous e-mail before I finished my thoughts, we have major needs in Unalaska the local ADF&G office doesn't have any sportfish or commercial salmon biologists, to monitor and survey the salmon streams of this area , there is no enforcement as well, hell this summer we had folks fishing for Reds right in the mouth of a local salmon stream on the road system. The local school district is facing a deficit of \$600,000 this year as you are aware 80% of a school districts budget is teachers and benefits we will either not replace of layoff teachers this year **WE DO NOT NEED FURTHER CUTS! WE NEED TO RAISE REVENUES NOW !** Once again we need to use SB 128 or SB 114 and move forward with and income tax, sales taxes and reduce to the oil tax credit program.

Thank you

Frank Kelty

45 year resident of Unalaska

City Council Member

School Board Member

Former Mayor of Unalaska

## Daniel George

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**From:** Jared of Kasilof <cellardoortoantietam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:03 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Re: PFD Garnishment Comment

I would like to follow up on my previous email:

3. Increase taxes on Fisheries, Tourism and Mining.
4. Reduce education and social service grants

A family of 4 would lose \$8,000 if they lose their PFD based on the Governor's plan. How about letting a family of 4 keep their PFDs and create a income tax that captures the income of all workers, even non residents, and letting Alaskan families keep their PFD.

5. Any community that asks for capital projects from the State must prove they have expended all their own resources first. Ex: Kenai wants a free upgrade to their city water system. Kenai also has their own PFD, minimal property taxes and no fisheries tax. Deny their request until they, and every community funds their own projects.
6. Eliminate Sustina Dam, knik arm crossing, rocket launches in Kodiak, road to Ambler.
7. Once all this is done, than see how much is left to raise for funds and hold a hearing on the PFD.

Thank you!

Jared Hakkinen,USA  
(907) 929-2414

On Thu, Feb 4, 2016 at 5:56 PM, Jared of Kasilof <[cellardoortoantietam@gmail.com](mailto:cellardoortoantietam@gmail.com)> wrote:

I would like to express my discouragement from going after my PFD.

As you know, 20% of the workforce are out of State. Why go after every Alaskan's PFD and not first and foremost make things fair in terms of paying State Services?

I think the focus should be on the following:

1. Income tax.
2. Increase the base tax rate on oil companies when oil prices are low

## Daniel George

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**From:** johnjune@horizonsatellite.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** governor Woalkers budget plan

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Bill in Committee

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I listened to the governor's speech to Alaska, and read and heard of the his budget plan. I can't agree with his proposal on how he want's to handle the permanent dividend fund or having income tax. After looking at how much the states budget and has increased in the last ten years, especially education and health and human services. I believe your budget needs to be cut first, and I think you need to take this one year at a time.

Alaska goverment is way out spending most other states, in many areas, and surely for those people that has been in the legislature the last several years surely new that their spending was unsustainable.

My family has to budget according to our means..so do you.

Thank you

Lois J Leto

## Daniel George

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**From:** Luana Stovel <luanastovel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:17 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Budget - Three words

Hello,

I do not oppose using Permanent Fund earnings if, and only if, you institute a STATE INCOME TAX. It is the only truly fair way to levy all people working in Alaska. I would gladly pay 15% of my Federal taxes to help offset the deficit we face. It would capture revenue from non-Alaskans who make their livings here but choose to reside elsewhere. A state sales tax would hurt the less advantaged in our state population. Please consider a state income tax. Just using Permanent Fund earnings is not the best approach though it appears to be the easiest. Does our state need \$3,000,000,000 in funding per year? Time to cut back.

Thank you,  
Luana Stovel  
4255 Pleasant Way  
Homer, AK. 99603.

A proud Alaska resident since 1977

## Daniel George

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**From:** Lynette Clark <dclark@acsalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:01 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** sb128

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Bill in Committee

Please do not pass this...it is a knee jerk reaction to what is a large problem but also an economic punishment on Alaskans before both houses can work on making cuts to the budget to alleviate the deficit Alaska is facing. I also believe there should be more in-depth contact for Alaskans to have a fuller understanding and input on the subject than what we are getting. I want a vote on this since it will be changing the structure of the 1979 vote of the people to put the formula in place for the dividends. The PFD is our corporation and any changes to be done to it needs to be a vote of the people, not the back door run in the form of SB128 this Governor is pushing. I want both houses to put aside their politics and party's' and represent what will be best for the population of this state while complying with our Constitution.

This debt is fixable without SB128! There are solutions without taking from the citizens over and over again...build a better plain, give it time to develop, then bring it to the people. Use that Reserve, that's what it's for, and wipe out the debt, then tighten the budget belt with reasonable cuts. But this, SB128, is a bums rush and poorly planned.

Thank you and please reply.

Lynette Clark, Chairman  
Alaskan Independence Party

## Daniel George

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**From:** Mark D <markdundore@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:23 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB 128 PERM. FUND:DEPOSITS;DIVIDEND;EARNINGS

Regarding the appropriation of PFD funds to rectify budget deficits:

"The fund was created because the legislature spent all \$900 million of that initial (oil) lease money within a few years" (and) Alaskans ... "wished to better safeguard the robust income forthcoming from the pipeline" (i.e. from government spending). <http://www.apfc.org/home/Content/aboutFund/fundFAQ.cfm#create>

It's been my experience that many government entities create their budgets based upon the previous year's budget rather than actual need; and there tends to be a culture of excess often built into discretionary spending. Additionally, when a government or organization expands the means of income to include a new type of revenue stream, unless there is a specific allocation for that revenue it is subject to become discretionary spending (and inherent excesses). In my opinion, this what the creators of the permanent fund were intending to prevent.

Another item of concern to me is that there is no language about the draw from the fund being temporary in nature, which implies a permanence of the proposal.

As the bill stands- with no termination date or specific allocations, I cannot support it.

Best regards,  
Mark Dundore  
Juneau

## Daniel George

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**From:** The Sutton Clan <thesuttonclan1997@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:19 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB128 opposition

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello,

I believe we should have an income tax ,sales tax, and lower spending before we reduce the Permanent Fund. If you do decide to go after the PFD let's get our dividends spent back in our state.

Under AS 43.23.008. (Allowable absences) individuals still receive dividends and are spending them outside of our state. The list in fact is long and after starting to type them I gave up because I didn't want to labor you in reading them all. The 17 exceptions can be found

at: <https://pfd.alaska.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VZb4QEzdRuA%3D&portalid=6>

I don't want to argue with any of the allowable absences. There are circumstances outside of our control or applicants who serve our State and Nation that require them to reside at an address outside of Alaska. What I am proposing is that when an individual is approved for a dividend with an allowable absence the state will hold that dividend in escrow until the individual returns. For example: An individual with dependents on Active Duty is stationed in Alaska for 4 years and stationed somewhere else for the next 5 yrs. Providing that the individual and dependents meet all the requirements they are approved for dividends but will not receive their first absent dividends until they reside in the state. Instead of receiving a lump sum of dividends when the person(s) returns I am proposing the first absent dividend is dispersed in addition to the current year they are applying for. Essentially they will get two dividends per year upon their return until they catch up.

I believe if a law is introduced/passed to escrow allowable absence dividends we will see potentially three things happen:

1. The assets of the Permanent Fund Dividend will grow.
2. Economic advantage within the State of Alaska.
3. Larger future dividend amounts.

As you read this it should be noted that individuals come and go with no intentions to be lifelong Alaskans but they fit in one of these exceptions and pull down our dividend amount in return. Let's take back our future and

ensure allowed absences are legitimate and ensure these folks come home to receive dividends. I encourage you to discuss this among your cabinet members,

Thank you and God Bless,

Matthew Sutton

North Pole

## Daniel George

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**From:** Nancy Kimball <nkimball227@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:32 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** PFD

You need my PFD. Fine, it's all yours. Take the whole damn thing.

As long as this state continues to write checks to babies crawling around in Pampers, the PFD is simply a reward for having kids. I'm single so at worst I'm out a grand or so. No big deal.

Your gripes will come from those parents used to getting THOUSANDS of dollars dumped ion their laps. It is about time that stops!

(and don't tell me it goes to the kids. I'm a 30 year retired elementary teacher.....and I know better!)

## Daniel George

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**From:** Newton Bingham <newt@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:38 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mike Chenault; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Suggested changes to reduce government costs and increase revenue  
**Attachments:** Suggestions to cut State costs 2016.pdf

Legislators and Senators,

I have attached my suggestions that will reduce government expenses, utilize Alaska's resources; and some acceptable revenue enhancement methods. I adamantly will oppose any legislation to change the permanent fund distribution; however, will support voter approved withdrawals from the permanent fund principal if there is a reduction of government expenses and accountability imposed on each branch.

Your work is appreciated but normally it is done without thanks, so I say

Thank you,

Newton Bingham

17950 E Purser Pl

Palmer AK 99645

newt@mtaonline.net

February 4, 2016

Dear Senators and Legislators,

As a senior working Alaskan resident who wants reduced government costs, I ask you to critically evaluate **each** function of State government with the question, "why should all Alaskans pay for this...what benefit do all Alaskans get from it"? What **accountability** does each Department have for the assets they are entrusted (land, resources, funding, etc.)?

Note that there are only three functions **required** of State government; they are to;

1. Provide education (K-12),
2. Provide for Public Safety and
3. Provide for safe transportation.

**Budget Reduction suggestions:**

1. Eliminate all of the State Departments and Divisions that have a questionable function.
2. **University of Alaska** – is a land grant college which means it was given ownership of state land to support itself (totally), are they doing this? (no)
  - a. This is not a mandated educational function of government that taxpayers are required to pay over \$360 million a year when students can go to another state for a college education.
  - b. UA employs more staff (4849 positions) at taxpayer's expense than any other Department in State government (HSS-3623, DOT-3791). This is not an acceptable budget cost.
  - c. The University trains students in business management, surely UA should be able to easily invest its assets and get a return of 6% per annum. You should require UA to sell the land they control if they cannot realize investment income to pay for their all their expenses. This land will increase the borough tax bases in Fairbanks and Mat-Su (APU is doing this, but not UA).
  - d. UA should be able to demonstrate that >90% of the graduates get job offers in each degree program or state funding for that specific program should be eliminated and not supported by Alaskan tax payers.
3. **Mental Health Trust Land** -DNR & HSS are tasked to manage the land to pay for mental health services and costs. They need to sell the land or develop it to create funding for the intended purpose without requiring additional state funding from taxpayers.
4. **Department of Agriculture** – Land under its purview should be sold more rapidly to pay for this function, e.g. Point McKenzie "farm land" sold to the private sector would grow into a suburb of Anchorage, increase the tax base for the Mat-Su, and possibly justify the KABATA bridge project.
5. **Department of Natural Resources and Parks** –
  - a. They should manage the resources entrusted to them to pay for their operational cost as you would manage a forest for a sustained yield. If they cannot, what acceptable criteria should be used to justify their need for annual taxpayer funding?
  - b. This Department has a staff of 1060 and has realized minimal budget cuts, this Department should be required to manage the vast resources of Alaska at no net cost to taxpayers
6. **Department of Labor** –
  - a. Give back to the federal government the functions that the State assumed to reduce costs i.e. OSHA
  - b. Should work with the Department of Education to provide optional technical vocational training for students as part of high school curricula to change the high school graduation rate from 76% to over 95% and providing graduates good employment skills. This has the potential of reducing unemployment, welfare and crime.
7. **Department of Environmental Conservation** - give back to the federal government (EPA) the functions that the State assumed thereby reducing the Department's expenses.

8. **Health & Social Services** –
  - a. Welfare should not be offered to able body people, there should be a welfare-to- work program where the state would subsidize industry and business to hire and train / work people on a 4 year “apprentice training plan” with the state paying 75% of the wage the first year and decreasing the subsidy by 25% per year. Note that welfare payments are tax free and payments are much higher than to an individual paying taxes and working for wages wage, so make the plan “no willingness to work= no welfare, no food stamps, no free lunch”. This was a requirement in the Knowles Administration and it worked.
  - b. Industry will then manage the cost of employee health insurance, indirectly paid by the State to the employer and the workers will pay their own way.
9. **The Division of Elections**
  - a. should set up electronic voting similar to signing up for the PFD, Currently only electronic absentee voting can be done in a very tedious manner unlike signing up for the PFD. Electronic voting is currently offered by many utility companies
  - b. Provide a language translation on the web to native Alaskans in their native language in lieu of paying the expense of translators in the villages. My family does this with my 100 year old mother who wants to continue voting.
10. Set up a **website managed by the legislature** where Alaskans could make suggestions how to cut government costs without giving their names or addresses so there would be no repercussions if they work within state government. This cannot now occur within the Governor’s chain of command e.g. the DOA requires all travel by state employees be processed through a travel agency that DOA contracted at a surcharge of about \$14 per airline ticket or car rental. Is this cost effective?

**REVENUE:**

**Only** after the all the **spending cuts** noted above are made and maintained, will I then support implementing any taxes or use of the Permanent Funds. Currently Alaskan voters do not believe that the legislature or Governor is managing state business cost effectively.

**Do not change the permanent fund plan or its calculations in any manner as this distribution to Alaskans greatly supports Alaska’s economy.**

**Suggestions:**

- **Permanent Fund** – If the price of crude oil is less than \$50/bbl (average during the fiscal year) and only during an election year (every other year), allow Alaskans to vote on a referendum to allow the legislature to withdraw from the principle in the Permanent fund only enough money to make up any actual deficiency in the Budget Reserve Fund but not to exceed \$3 billion. This could be repeated only during every election year in the future, never borrowing for anticipated future expenses. This can be initiated in November 2016.
- **Income Tax** - I would only support a **capped income tax** per person equal the PFD dividend of the same year as proposed by former governor Jay Hammond. Thus the PFD dividend would negate the income tax for Alaskans but generate taxes from nonresidents earning wages in Alaska i.e. slope workers, fishermen, construction workers.
  - Note there would be additional **administrative costs** to set up a **IRS type function in the Dept. of Revenue** which to me is very undesirable.
- **Sales Tax** – A seasonal sales tax would be acceptable during the tourist season to pay for the additional cost imposed on Public Safety and Transportation.
  - Also I request that a **dedicated State sales tax** be levied on **gasoline** that is dedicated only to transportation and public safety since DOT/PF construction contracts provide major support and employment to all areas of the state. If this tax revenue goes into the general fund and is redistributed to Departments in the current prorated manner, then only 4% will be returned to fund the transportation industry.

Sincerely,  
 Newton Bingham  
 17950 E Purser PL  
 Palmer, AK  
 newt@matonline.net

## Daniel George

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**From:** pstark@mosquitonet.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:22 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB128

I fully support SB128 and the Governor's Alaska Permanent Fund Protection Act. Alaskans have been paid to live in the state since the oil pipeline began. The permanent fund was not created as an entitlement It was for a rainy day when oil prices or reserves declined. Now is the time and Alaskans must step up to the plate and approve this bill. We cannot afford to ruin our schools and university because we want a large dividend. I would support taking all the dividend money and supporting education, social services, all infrastructure ..... Please pass this bill.

Patricia Stark  
P.O. Box 82525  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

## Daniel George

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**From:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:16 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** FW: Governor Walkers budget proposals

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**From:** Paul Winkel [mailto:pdwinkel@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:40 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze <Sen.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Governor Walkers budget proposals

I won't be able to attend the hearing on Governor Walker's budget proposals. I did want to contribute my views on our current budget crisis.

I know there are many budget cuts being proposed. I hope any cuts being made would be of capital projects. We don't need any more cuts in services and education. The main focus should be additional sources of revenue. As Jay Hammond said, it was a mistake to eliminate a state income tax. People got an entitlement mind-set of expecting a PFD check every year, and having no responsibility toward paying their way for our state services or infrastructure.

I would like to see the pain spread around equally as much as possible. Everyone should feel the pinch, but no one should be disabled. I am in favor of a more or less even revenue split between the Permanent Fund (capping the PFD at \$800 or so), a state income tax and a state sales tax to close the budget gap. Taxes can and should be structured to weigh more heavily on out of state travelers and workers. Resource consumption, extraction industries (timber, mining, fishing) should pay a fee for use of something all residents own in common. Taxes paid should be deductible on federal taxes.

Programs should pay their own way as much as possible. Gas taxes should pay for road clearing and repair, with additional taxes levied against those who choose to use studded tires. Tobacco taxes should pay for smoker's health care, alcohol taxes should pay for treatment programs.

I have painted my views with a broad brush. The rest is up to the Legislature. Thank you for inviting public comment on this critical subject.

Paul Winkel  
18514 Olivia Drive  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
[pdwinkel@yahoo.com](mailto:pdwinkel@yahoo.com)

## Daniel George

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**From:** frank kelty <fvkelty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:19 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB 128 and SB114

Chairman Stoltze,

I'm writing in support SB126 and Senator McGuire bill SB114 I believe it is time to use a portion of the Permanent Fund Dividend to fund our government. I also support a state Income tax, a state sale tax in 3% range and I believe the oil tax credit program needs to be amended to reduce the amount of funding going to some of the worlds wealthiest corporations. I believe all of the state mega projects should be mothballed at this time including road out of Juneau, Knik Bridge and other large projects. I can't say strongly enough that we can't cut our way out of situation in rural Alaska communities we have already been cut to the bone; in Unalaska we have seen reductions in Public Safety, PV Stimson removed last year along with the troopers, the number #1 fishing port in the nation has 1 brown shirt left, ADEC has only one seafood inspector to cover large shoreside groundfish plants, plus the offshore catch processors that do offloads in Unalaska.

## Daniel George

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**From:** Sandy Dauenhauer <ravensandyd@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:14 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Cc:** Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. John Coghill

I ask the legislature to adopt Governor Walker's proposed budget with minimal changes. I think all of its elements taken together make sense and get us very close to avoid falling into a fiscal abyss, at the same time stabilizing the Permanent Fund and its dividend. The legislature must not duck this issue. Without action this term, the state faces the prospect of real financial ruin that will be linked for decades to the names of those in office at the time. The deficit cannot be erased by cuts alone, as has been pointed out by several reports, including that by the legislature's staff.

Unless we pay for the services we receive, we essentially have no influence on our own state government. Many are most concerned, of course, at the prospect of changing the dividend program and re-instituting an income tax. Constituent education is required for those who moved here after or were born after the start of the dividend program and the ending of state income and school tax, and individual legislators should be speaking honestly to residents about the realities of our responsibilities as citizens to pay for our government ourselves, and not leave it to giant corporations in a global industry. Many complain of how expensive these services are, yet very few of the services provided by statewide government are funded by residents at all. The state collects only a pittance of minor taxes that do not come close to the amounts needed for, say, highway and airport maintenance. As far as I know, I pay nothing for state troopers, state firefighters, the elections division, the legislature itself, etc. and yet I expect them to be there doing their jobs. Someone must pay those bills, and in a democracy, we residents must be mature enough to accept at least part of that responsibility.

I have lived in Alaska for 46 years, having arrived in Anchorage a few weeks before the \$900,000,000 oil lease sale in 1969. I paid income tax and school tax throughout the 1970's, as well as local property taxes, and I clearly remember the discussions that created the Permanent Fund. At its inception, the dividend was to be \$50 per year of residency up to a ceiling of 20 years, to top out at \$1,000 maximum per year. This was to encourage people to stay in Alaska for the long haul, rather than live in the state for a few years, collect the dividend, and go back "home". It would also have reduced the fraud that is all too familiar by lowering the payoff for short-term "residents", such as our recent reality TV actors. Unfortunately, two newly-arrived attorneys – Ron and Penny Zobel – didn't want to put in their time, took the state to court, and this system was declared illegal and the present system was initiated.

Because it depends on a volatile market, the dividend swings widely from year to year. If we do nothing to increase revenues, the dividend is projected to disappear entirely by 2020. The governor's plan, by decoupling the fund and the dividend from the vagaries of the oil market, would stabilize the payout from year to year, making family financial planning more realistic and dependable. If we are to keep the dividend at all, we must reorganize the entire fund. Stabilizing the state treasury through the creation of the governor's Sovereign Wealth Fund is the best idea to come along in decades.

The vital element is time. We do not have time to wait for oil prices to go up, for the gas line to go into construction, for the realities of the global market, distance and climate to be worked out in our favor, or for the next election. We have to do something NOW. Please vote to pass the governor's plan

Sandra Dauenhauer PO Box 418 Ester, Alaska 99725 (930 Richards Avenue Fairbanks 99709)

## Daniel George

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**From:** Tim Buckman <mini14kid@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:24 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze; tim; Tim Buckman; esther buckman  
**Subject:** Re: Email Address

Use of the PFD

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**From:** Sen. Bill Stoltze <Sen.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016 3:30 PM  
**To:** 'mini14kid@hotmail.com'  
**Subject:** Email Address

Hello Sen.

I know your time is important so I'll keep this brief, first would like to compliment you on your integrity in thinking of the people first

I have been following the proceedings on 360 N. , for your knowledge yesterday there was a small press conference talking about

the food banks in Alaska there are 105,000 Alaskan families eating out of the food banks

The PFT is sustaining the vast majority of low income Alaskans my family included we have been reduced to food bank and

eat mainly rice and noodles like many other Alaskan families, the governor's plan is simply to oppressive

I realized the need to use some of the PFT money , but there are other ways,, There is the inflation proofing aspect could be used 1.3 billion there

the extra amount that would normally go back into the fund could be drawn upon for a period of time of need

Also perhaps the PFB should be preserved for lower income Alaskans may be a On the qualification as if you may \$80,000 a year

you don't need the permanent fund dividend that could be a possible solution, just so you know I talk to many Alaskans

When I'm out and about the vast majority of those I have spoken to are opposed to using the permanent fund dividend

to support government spending

You might have heard me on a.m. 650 radio again my name is Tim ,, there are 640 charitable organizations depend on the pic click and give

the PFD is interwoven into the fabric of Alaska , is a beautiful place but a very difficult place to live, from the cold weather

Bugs , road conditions long dark winter nights many people look forward to the one time a year will go get a little extra help

for some it is the only help they receive , Studies have shown the PFD contributes \$1.4 billion dollars into the economy of Alaska

Removing this source of revenue will cause many smaller businesses to fail which will in turn cost jobs to Alaskans

Most individuals that are not invested in Gov. Walker's plan when they look at the benefit of the PFD openly will and can confirm it has nothing but positive economic benefit to the state of Alaska as a whole and its residents

Please bill maintain your integrity stand against any pressure to bring down this Alaskan heritage that has benefited so many Alaskans and the state

There are others on your committees that know this please support them so they can also stand firm to protect the PFD

Oil will begin to rebound back up Maybe to \$50 a barrel, I know the throughput in the pipeline is low but if there is a balanced approach

And not a hurried judgment call Alaska will benefit, I know this is a difficult position in some ways for you to maintain but know every Alaskan

I have spoken with supports keeping the PFD in its current state perhaps they would support a 10 to 25% reduction during times of economic

difficulty for the state with the idea being if oil comes back up to balance the budget,, then the 10 to 25% reduction would be reinstated back onto the dividend

There are better ideas for the dividend other than to just consume it completely for government I would be willing to work on some of these other ideas

Anyway I have gone longer than I wanted To inflict your time with.

Sincerely

tim buckman

## Daniel George

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**From:** Vanessa Reinhardt <nessraerein@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:46 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Public Testimony Permanent Fund Use

Good evening Legislators,

I am writing to offer my point of view on our current budget situation, as well as using our permanent fund, to fill in the debt gap.

It makes good sense that when one is unable to pay the bills, they first see where they should tighten their belts. It is a frustrating and embarrassing situation, but it is the mature thing to do. While pursuing the cutting of extras, outside of basic needs, we then seek new and sustainable income. On a personal level, that means taking on an extra couple jobs. On a government level, that means tapping into an annuity account (not a savings account) and developing natural resource/other opportunities.

Lastly, there are a number of well-organized entities who make it their business to be the squeaky wheel. They are well-versed in playing heart strings to their own benefit, but do not represent all Alaskans, or even the majority. I beg you to view the testimonies of these organizations through that filter.

I appreciate the sticky situation you all are in, and that politics gets in the way of making hard decisions. Thank you for taking a moment of your time to look over this lifelong Alaskan's thoughts.

Warm regards,

Vanessa Reinhardt  
Wasilla, Alaska  
907-414-9331

**WRITTEN TESTIMONEY FOR;**

**COMMITTEE:** STATE AFFAIRS;

**Chair,** Sen. Stoltz, & all Committee Members

**BILL:** SB 128

**SPONSER:** Senate Rules Committee by Request of the Governor

**DATE & TIME:** 02/04/2016 @ 5:30 PM

My name is DENNY KAY WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I **OPPOSE** SB 128. Since the conception of “The Permanent Fund Dividend Program” (PFD) it has been a target for the Governor and Legislators any time they perceive an economic downturn.

Other than Sen. Coghill the rest of you on this Committee were not in the Legislature in 1999 when the same thing happened. Government **OVERSPENDING** and oil prices **PLUNGED** to **\$9** per barrel and Consultant Daniel Yergin was forecasting low prices for the foreseeable future. The State put out an advisory vote before Alaskans, asking if government could spend part of the Permanent Fund earnings for government purposes. The Governor, Lt. Governor and other elected officials urged a “yes” vote. **Campaign spending** greatly favored the “yes” side but the public voted “no” by **nearly 84%** and oil prices rose once again.

The State of Alaska’s economic problems are not caused by oil prices it is caused by the State of Alaska’s **OVERSPENDING!** The State of Alaska must start cutting their spending instead of looking for more money at the expense of the people of Alaska. Thank you for your time. Any questions call me at 907-253-3745 or email me at [alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com](mailto:alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com)

DENNY KAY WEATHERS

c/o PO Box 1791

Cordova, Alaska

To Senate State Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my concern of the state of Alaska taking the permanent fund.

Let it be known that we the people live within our means. If not, we have property and wealth taken away from us. Now, you who have not lived within your means are trying to take away from us. Once again, the government feels it can manage and spend our money more wisely than us.

You have not done enough to cut spending to justify taking more from us. It used to be where \$28 per barrel oil was more than enough to run this state. WE have had over \$100 dollars per barrel oil and you have done nothing to save. If the state has not cut all bonus' raises, advertising, grants and a minimum of 10% of all social programs than don't ask for more.

It is your job to find the wasteful cuts and I have only named a few. Cut the costly subsidies for these villages. I burn wood to save and cut my own. I am sixty-three, have a handicapped spouse, travel 225 miles for supplies and take no state funds.

Years ago another state agency was started that controlled the DOT equipment. Now each camp must rent equipment the state owns. If that is still the case get rid of that excess department.

Tighten your belt not mine!

Thank you,

Sheila Hoffman  
HC60 Box 153  
Copper Center, AK 99573

## Public Opinion Message

Received Thursday, February 04, 2016

Taken By: Daniel George – Office of Sen. Stoltze

Name: Andrea Staniforth

Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Address: Anchorage, AK

Message: “I’ve lived here since 1972. I believe that spending has gotten out of hand and they should look to other avenues besides the PFD to get their money from. I also believe they should put it up for a vote to take the money. I also don’t believe it is legal for him to take it. I believe it is wrong. There’s lots of other avenues they haven’t explored yet.”

## Public Opinion Message

Received Thursday, February 04, 2016

Taken By: Daniel George – Staff to Sen. Stoltze

Name: Charles Wheaton

Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Address: Juneau, AK

Message: “I’ve been homeless for 9 years. I was born in Alaska. I think the Governor, he has taken a tough position. I think he is doing a good job. I totally agree with using a PORTION of the Permanent Fund to balance the budget. It would benefit the government and citizens of Alaska. It’s a tough call. Being without for 9 years, I think it’s a proper thing to do. I think we can do with a little pinch in helping out with our state government. It’s a little price to pay instead of going into a fiscal crisis.”

## Public Opinion Message

Received Thursday, February 04, 2016

Taken By: Daniel George – Staff to Chair Stoltze, SSTA

Name: Craig Sorenson

Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Address: Anchorage, AK

Message: “I really think you guys need to find about 15-20% to cut before you dig into the Permanent Fund. You need to make it work without taking more from the people. Smaller government is going to be more of an answer to our problems than just throwing more money at it from the people. There is too much waste going on.”

## Public Opinion Message

Received Thursday, February 04, 2016

Taken By: Daniel George – Office of Sen. Stoltze

Name: Joan Truett

Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Address: Big Lake, AK

Message: I think the Governor is wrong by using PFD money. That money belongs to the people. I needs to be voted on by the people. There are a lot of senior citizens that rely on that money every year. Start from the Governor and work their way down and cut wages 10%.

## Daniel George

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**From:** POMS@akleg.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:41 PM  
**To:** Daniel George  
**Subject:** New Pom:Budget

Ronald Benkert  
670 N Tiffany Dr

Palmer 99645,  
rbenkert@gci.net  
317-7845  
317-7845

Hi, I am writing to express my support of Governor walkers plan to balance our budget. I was born here and support restructuring the Permanent Fund, instituting an income and sales taxes and getting us out of this mess.