

From: [jeff benowitz](#)
To: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Anna Liljedahl](#); [Patrick Terhune](#); [Kailyn Davis](#)
Subject: UA Research "Matching Funds"
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:58:13 PM
Attachments: [Geophysical Insitite Geochronology Facility- Research Education Service.pdf](#)

Dear Senators and Representatives, (see attachment)

Recently there has been a lot of "spread sheet" talk defining instruction/education and research in the UA system as different disciplines.

Research Faculty do perform first class research projects that benefit the State of Alaska and the Citizens of Alaska, but they also have large education component to their careers. With outside of the classroom education occurring in the lab, field, and hallways of the UA system combined with teaching highly technical classes in their field of expertise, Research Education Faculty is a more complete rank.

There is also might be a misunderstanding of how "Matching Funds" works for NSF grants (~\$30 million awarded last year at UAF). Stability of Facilities and Faculty is critical for NSF to in-trust grant funding to a Research Faculty member/Institution. Attached you'll find a short description of one of the UA facilities with an emphasis on student instruction.

Thank you for your continued support.

On our side we can do better on assisting young Research Education Faculty secure external funding. Under the direction of GI director Bob McCoy, we are investigating different programs to increase proposal funding success.

-Jeff B.

The words and attachments here are from me personally and do not necessarily reflect the views, ideas, and stance of the UA system.

Geophysical Institute Geochronology Facility

How State Funding is used by the Geophysical Institute (GI) Geochronology Facility

For over 30 years the GI Geochronology Facility has provided geochronology and mineral separation services in addition to consulting and collaborations with Faculty, Students, Industry, and State and Federal Agencies. We focus our research on tectonic processes and natural hazard mitigation that has direct implications for infrastructure security and, oil and mineral exploration. We secured \$180,000 in contractual fees in 2015-2016. As a **Research** Facility we currently have 3 active National Science Foundation (NSF) grants (\$461,000 total) that provide both financial support for the lab, student lab assistance, and equipment maintenance. Geochronology mass spectrometers are notoriously expensive to purchase (~\$500,000-ours was purchased with assistance from NSF) and to run (~\$30,000 in yearly parts). There are less than 20 of these facilities operational on Earth. State funding allows a base level of maintenance, parts, and faculty salary support to insure facility consistency which allows us to leverage State funds with contractual services provided and allows us to secure external funding from NSF.

*A central mission of the GI Geochronology Facility is to **Educate** students on the basic principles of geochronology and to provide them with research opportunities. These research opportunities in the field and the lab results in a significant component of non-class room education and instruction, directly impacting ~30 students over the last three years. These instructional contact hours has leading to published manuscripts, conference presentations and professional development. We also provide lab and field employment opportunities and subsidize graduate student tuition. *These are some of the Faces of the GI Geochronology Facility:**



Yours sincerely, 

UAF Research Assistant Professor Jeff Benowitz jbenowitz@alaska.edu 907-474-7010



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

"Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health"

ANY CUTS TO ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING SHOULD BE INCREMENTAL AND SIMILAR TO OTHER AGENCY CUTS

Resolution No.: 16-02-03

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to provide health care services under a Compact with the federal government to 58 Tribes on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is facing another challenging budget deficit for fiscal year 2017; and

WHEREAS, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in every facet of State government all across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Public Broadcasting is a statewide essential service supported by the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Public Broadcasting *is the primary source of emergency information for Alaska residents* and provides a wealth of civic, cultural, education, news, and entertainment programming; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Broadcasting budget is facing another round of significant reductions in the legislative process, and at least one budget cut proposal was so massive that Alaska Public Broadcasting would be rendered ineffective; and

WHEREAS, cuts to all segments of government are expected for fiscal year 2017 but the proportion of the reduction to public broadcasting appears disproportionate and will adversely affect rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency, community, statewide and national news and information sharing; and

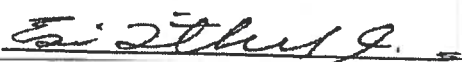
WHEREAS, major losses in federal matching funds for stations will result from additional state cuts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that YKHC respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to Alaska's Public Broadcasting services in the FY2017 budget.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted by a quorum of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Executive Board of Directors at a dully noticed meeting held on 16th day of February, 2016 by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed; and 0 abstaining.

ATTEST:


Esai Twitchell Sr., Chairperson


Patrick Tall, Secretary

From: [Rep. Bob Herron](#)
To: [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting budget cuts - YKHC Resolution 16-02-03
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:24:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[YKHC Resolution 16-02-03.pdf](#)

Attached is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) Resolution No.: 16-02-03 – ANY CUTS TO ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING SHOULD BE INCREMENTAL AND SIMILAR TO OTHER AGENCY CUTS.

Natalia Paul-Brannon

Executive Assistant to President/CEO & Board of Directors

 Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
administration

Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health

Office 907-543-6020 | FAX 907-543-6006 | natalia_paul-brannon@ykhc.org

PO Box 528

Bethel, Alaska 99559

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From: [Julie Matweyou](#)
To: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#)
Cc: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: Please keep our University of Alaska system strong - A unified mission of teaching, research and service
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:41:56 PM

Dear Chair Wilson and Subcommittee Members of the House Finance University of Alaska Subcommittee,

I respectfully request the House Finance University of Alaska Subcommittee approach carefully and with deliberation, the budget reductions to the University of Alaska system. Governor Walker has recommended \$16M cut this next fiscal year, a very different recommendation to the \$62M reduction on the table now. It is important to maintain the strength of our university system during these fiscally challenging times.

I write to you today as an UA alumni, UA faculty and most importantly a resident of our wonderful State of Alaska. I am both a graduate and now an Assistant Professor with the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. I came to Alaska to conduct applied research on marine biotoxins, specifically Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). My research brought me to Kodiak Island in 1999 and have been a member of the Kodiak community since. I commuted between the UAF campus in Fairbanks to attend graduate level classes and Kodiak for field and laboratory work performed at the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (formerly Fisheries Industrial Technology Center). I have many fond memories of excellent instruction and inspiring mentors in the University system. Upon graduation in 2003 with a MS in Biological Oceanography, I remained in Alaska pursuing a career in environmental science, commercial fishing and most recently as Assistant Professor with the UAF SFOS Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program.

I feel privileged to be part of the institution with which I studied. I remain connected to the SFOS while pursuing instruction and outreach in the community of Kodiak. I have specifically dedicated much of my time to my area of expertise and the ongoing problem of PSP in the Kodiak region. I have been involved in applied research and implementation of reduced cost testing for PSP toxins and development towards a safe shellfish harvest program in the Kodiak region.

I partner with tribal organizations, the UAA Kodiak College and UAF faculty, the Kodiak Island Borough School District, the community at large and in-state/out-of-state researchers to inform Alaskan students and residents of the risk of PSP. I recently assisted The Aluttiq Tribe of Old Harbor in securing grant funding to compare toxicity and environmental parameters of two local subsistence shellfish sites to inform harvest, and have a collaborative proposal out to further develop and integrate a new toxin test kit. I have spent the last 3 days at the Kodiak Middle School 8th grade science class bringing age-appropriate hands-on PSP lesson with laboratory, that directly ties students with community, statewide and national research partners. I host another lesson on the undergraduate level that again ties student engagement to larger research priorities.

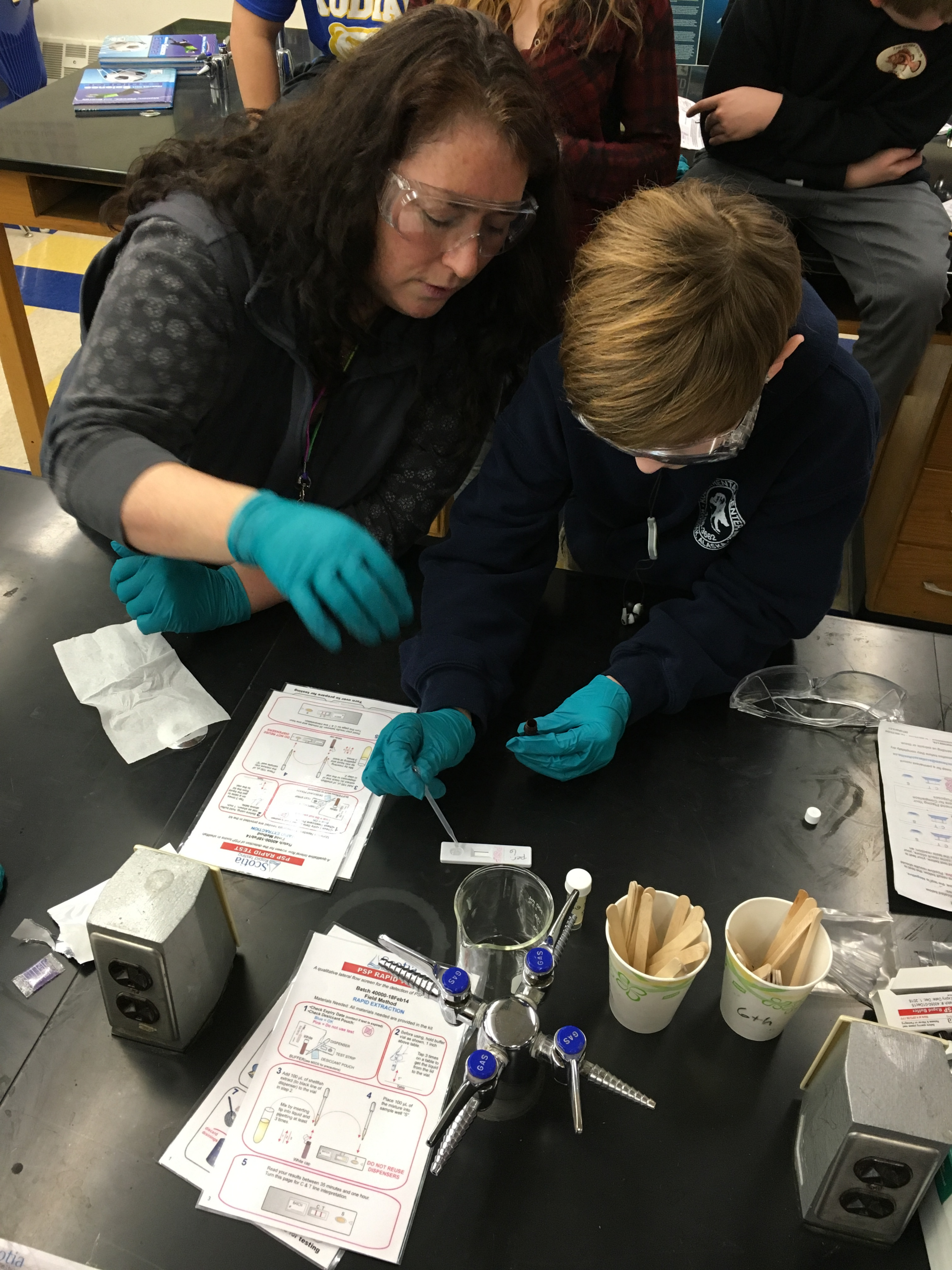
My work with PSP is just one component of a larger outreach and education mission, but these examples demonstrate the University service and the Alaska Sea Grant outreach model, in which research is extended to and derives from the needs of the community. All three tiers,

teaching, research and service are important components of this system. I encourage careful and considerate deliberations as you decide on a budget that will maintain the strength and allow for growth of our University system. It is also very important for the University to maintain presence in our remote and rural communities and maintain a strong unified face amidst our state budget deficit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Julie Matweyou

Please find attached (1) photo of myself working with Kodiak Middle School 8th grade science students.

This lesson alone reached approximately 150 students on an important food safety concern for Kodiak residents. This is the fourth year I have extended the lesson and classroom teacher and I plan to continue this exciting collaboration in the future; (2) photo of PSP rapid test results - Positive for PSP toxins from samples collected December 2015 at a local Kodiak beach. All 6 class periods produced the same positive results.



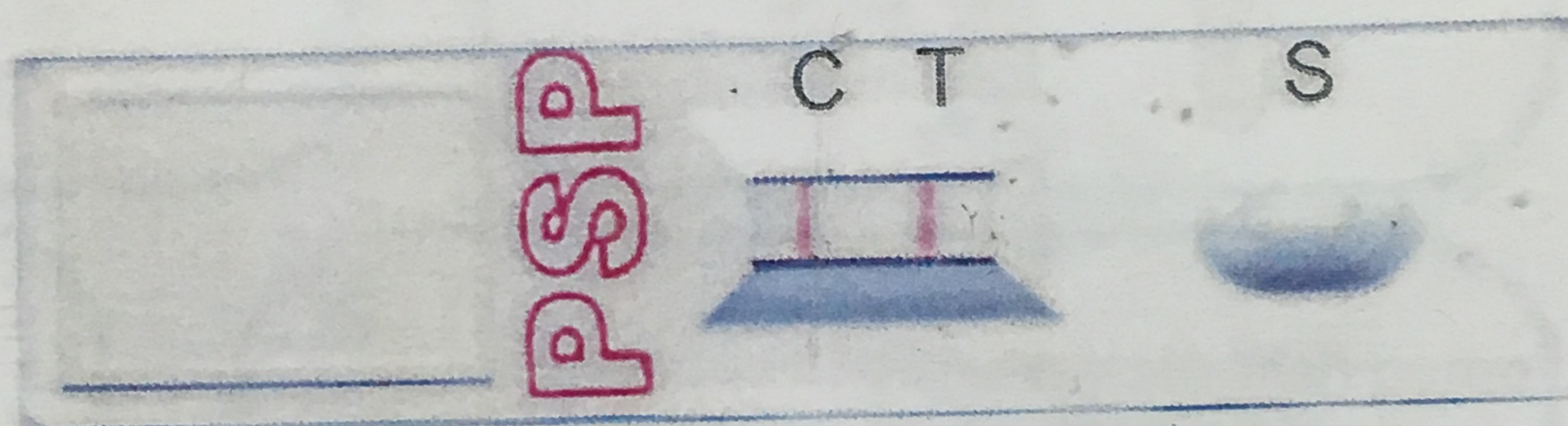
as that the intensity of the T line has reduced to

Test Interpretation

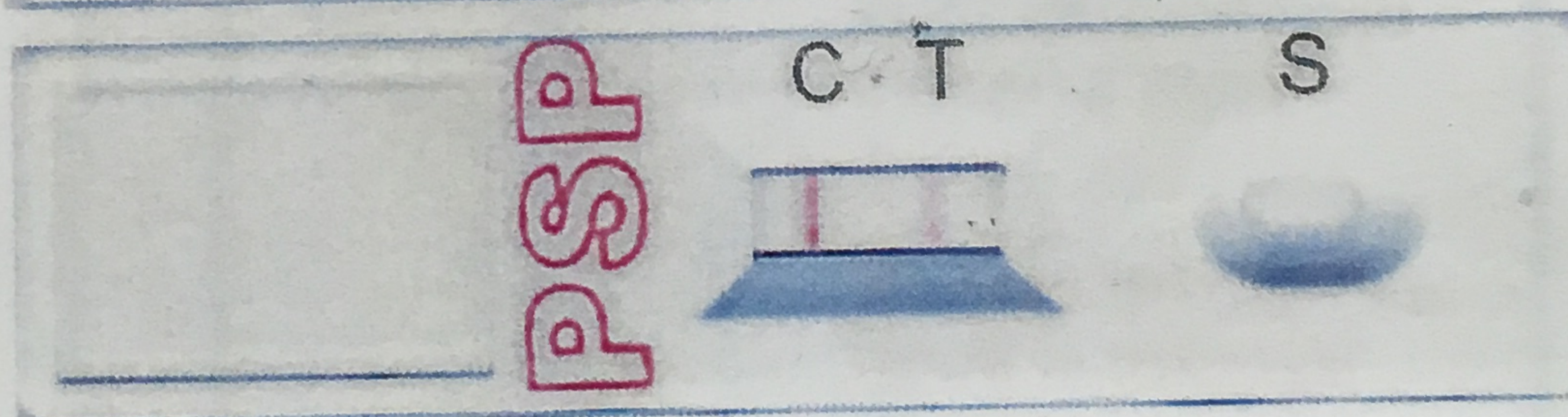
Place your cassette in the blank space indicated below.
Interpret the test result as follows:

- 1) If your T-line is darker than the Positive result below, the test is **Negative**.
- 2) If your T-line is equal to or fainter than the Positive result below, the test is **Positive**. When in doubt, consider the test **Positive**. Positive results should be confirmed with analytical testing
- 3) If your C line is equal to or fainter than the invalid test below, your test is invalid. Repeat the assay with a new test. If the same result occurs, your sample contains an unknown agent that inhibits the tests reaction; an alternative testing method should be used.

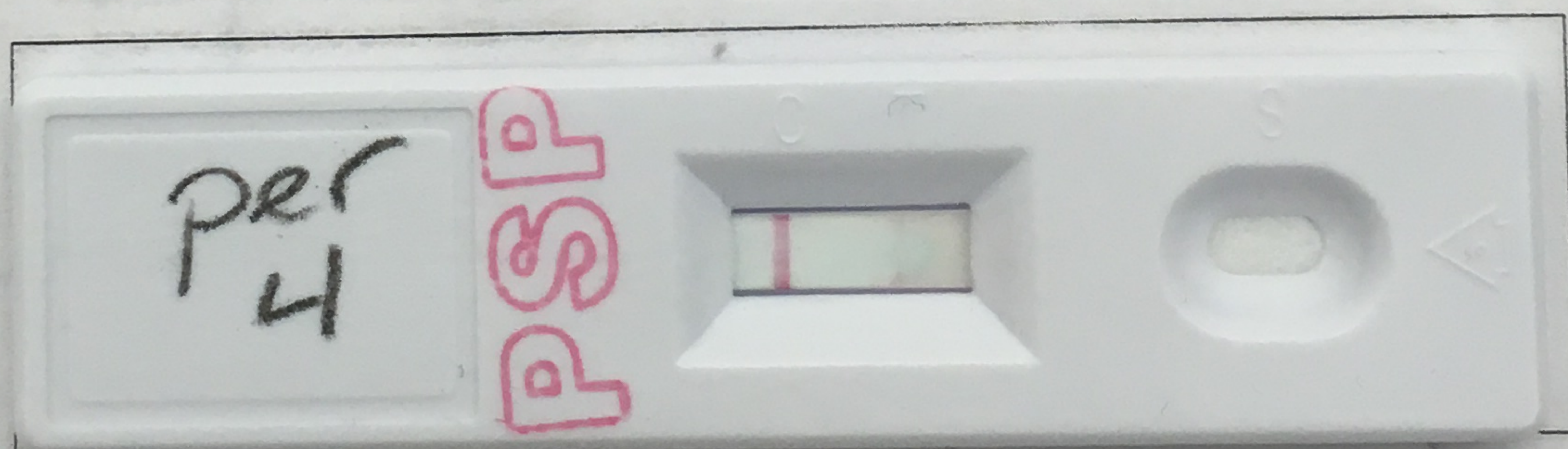
A **Negative** Result



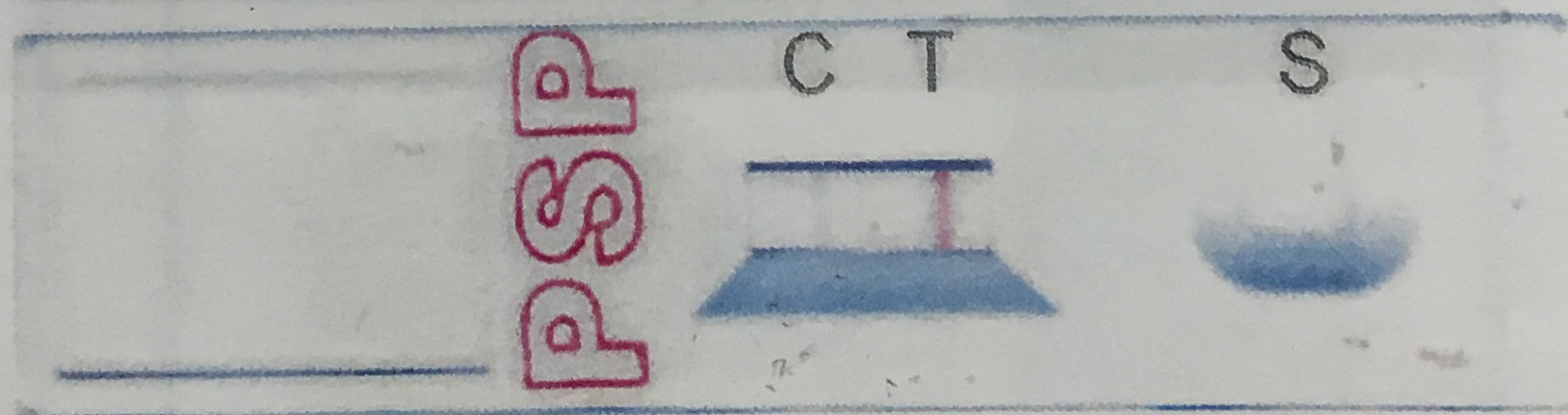
A **Positive** Result



Be Safe!



Invalid Test



Dispose of used test in the trash or keep for a permanent record.

If you need assistance, contact us at techsupp@scotiarapidtesting.ca
Technical Assistance:

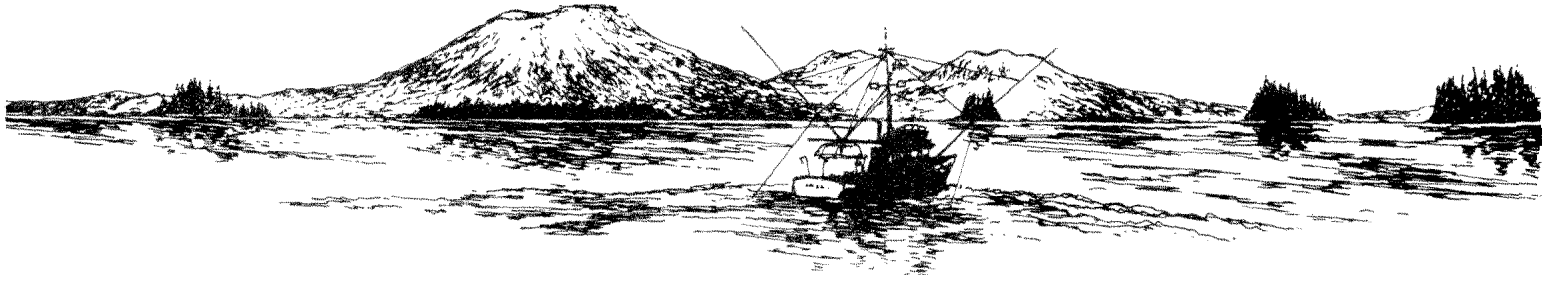
- 1) Scan or photograph your problem cassettes before they completely dry.

1. 5333e5

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.sitkaschools.org

300 Kostrometinoff
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-8622
Fax: (907) 966-1260



DATE: February 16, 2016
TO: State Legislature
FROM: Superintendent Mary Wegner on Behalf of Sitka School Board
RE: Statement regarding Mt. Edgecumbe High School turning into Alaska Native Science Engineering Program (ANSEP)

Dear Members of the Alaska State 29th Legislature:

The Sitka School Board wishes to affirm its support for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the Sitka School District have long been partners working to serve the needs of students – the Sitka School District focusing on students who live in Sitka, and Mt. Edgecumbe High School focusing on students from around the state of Alaska. For example, we have an agreement that allows students to take a class at Sitka High School or Mt. Edgecumbe High School, which allows us to share resources for the benefit of all students involved in either school. The Sitka School Board is concerned that the Alaska Native Science Engineering Program (ANSEP) accelerated high school that would have a predominant focus on engineering would significantly alter the level of interaction between the schools, and consequently limit the options for a well-rounded high school experience for students from around the state.

The Sitka School Board agrees that ANSEP is a viable program for students seeking a short-term introduction to the skills necessary to become an engineer; however The Sitka School Board does not believe it is the right answer for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. We believe that the funding and operation of Mt. Edgecumbe High School is one of the many important public school choices in the state offering a full range of educational opportunities to students from rural Alaska. Specifically, Mt. Edgecumbe High School serves a unique purpose and offers a unique opportunity for Alaska high school students, especially those from distant, remote, rural communities and has done so very successfully for decades. The Sitka School Board supports the belief that Mt. Edgecumbe High School should remain as a comprehensive high school offering the fantastic education that has fostered generations of Alaska Native leaders from around the state since 1947.

One only needs to meet a Mt. Edgecumbe student or graduate to understand the pride that comes with being associated with Mt. Edgecumbe. A change from the current structure to an accelerated engineering-focused program would fundamentally alter the possibility that students from around the state could benefit from attending Mt. Edgecumbe. The Sitka School Board does not support taking away a viable option for students just for the sake of change. If an ANSEP accelerated high school is a worthy option, then why must it happen at the cost of a community based in Alaska Native pride?

“Educating our children to realize their potential and contribute in a connected global society.”

Additionally, the Sitka School District has a history of having teachers work in a public high school who are University of Alaska employees, which is pertinent to the current conversation about the ASNEP accelerated high school replacing the current functioning of Mt. Edgecumbe High School and having the current teachers and staff become University of Alaska employees. Simply speaking, it does not work to have public school teachers operate a public high school from a university setting. Previously, we operated our alternative high school through a partnership with the University of Alaska system; however, there were significant obstacles involved with this process and as a result we brought the alternative high school completely into the operation of the Sitka School District. Specifically, running a public school outside of the structure of a public school district creates too many variables to create a functioning public school given that the University of Alaska system has its own processes and procedures, which we found to be incompatible with the needs to operate a public high school. We are not making any statement regarding the University of Alaska processes or procedures, but rather we are making a statement that they were incompatible with running a public high school. Consequently, the Sitka School Board strongly encourages you to continue the operation of Mt. Edgecumbe High School within the public school domain.

In our experience of running a public high school from within the University of Alaska system, all of the students were associated with one school district, and we found it too difficult to navigate. We can only imagine the exponential challenges the ANSEP accelerated high school would experience working with a multitude of districts from around the state. Running a series of a multi-week intensive programs throughout a school year is not comparable to the magnitude of intricacies needed to operate a year-long public school - let alone a public school that operates as a 24/7 boarding school, as does Mt. Edgecumbe High School. We would be happy to talk with you further about how our experiences in running a public high school through the University of Alaska system created too many distractions from the purpose of a public school, which is student learning.

Please continue to support Mt. Edgecumbe High School as a comprehensive high school. Mt. Edgecumbe has consistently fostered strong leaders around Alaska, and we see no need to change.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Sitka School Board,



Mary Wegner, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Sitka School District

From: [Patricia Miller](#)
To: [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: CES and 4H
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:57:29 AM

·My family and I DO NOT support the House UA Budget Subcommittee budget to eliminate all UA research and outreach state funds
Below are some key points. As a parent of 4H and a leader of 4H in the village of Kenny Lake i

would like you to support CES. the out reach that the CES offices do is outstanding on all levels.

Our state is big and we need each and everyone to help the people of Alaska learn what new ways, safety, and to broaden their out look on life. thise things and more the CES provides us.

o State outreach funds are 49% of the CES budget and would result in an additional 22% in Federal funding to be eliminated. A cut of 71% to the CES budget would result in the near shutdown of CES.

o You may want to point out that 4-H leverages the state investment by bringing in external funding through grants, with approximately \$4M over the last few years.

o Eight full-time equivalent 4-H positions, working with 1200 volunteers, engage over 11,000 youth and their families across the state in developing life skills and skills preparing them for success in higher education and the workforce.

o 4-H youth make things happen. Through an end of the 4-H year survey, *100% *of respondents in grades 4-7 indicated they learned things that helped them make a difference in their community, with *55% *applying their new knowledge and skills in a project that made a difference in their community.

From my family, community and friends to you please support UAF research and Cooperative Extension state funding.

Thank you Patty Miller and Family
4H leader, parent and supporter at all levels

From: [Rebekah Fonkert](#)
To: [Deanna Baier](#)
Cc: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Mara Bacsujlaky](#)
Subject: Re: UA funding cuts
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:46:31 AM

Hello All,

My name is Rebekah Fonkert and I live in Dillingham, Alaska.

My twin seven year old sons are both active in 4H activities here in Dillingham. I can't stress enough how much of an impact 4H has had on our lives and the lives of countless other children in Dillingham. Yesterday, one of my sons and I were cleaning and we found a Thanksgiving craft that he made this year. It was a turkey where each feather of the bird had something he's thankful for in his life. When he found it yesterday and read all of his gratitude, he said "Oh my gosh! I can't believe I didn't put 4H on my turkey"! Both of my sons have sensory issues, and fine and gross motor issues and receive special education services from our local school district. 4H has been "Their Place." It provides a safe, stimulating, accepting, exciting, educational and cultural space for countless children, including my sons with special needs. Deanna Baier and the activities she provides have been a true lifesaver to my boys and my family. The cultural and STEM activities that they receive from Bristol Bay 4H are truly life changing and must be supported. 4H has done so much for our community and its children, and investing in 4H will pay countless dividends later both financially and socially. The more we invest in our children now, the less we, as a State pay later for social services, education, incarceration, etc...

I also serve as a 4H Leader for one of our very popular Lego Clubs. It has been an absolute joy to lead this incredible group. The activities we provide our building STEM, STEM, STEM brain pathways for these young minds. It is essential to continue funding these efforts.

I encourage you to support the Governor's proposed budget. I do not support the House Budget Subcommittee's proposed budget that would eliminate UAA/UAF research and outreach funds.

Please continue investing in Alaska's children.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Rebekah Fonkert
Dillingham, AK



From: [Deanna Baier](#)
To: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Cc: [Deanna Baier](#); [Mara Bacsujlaky](#)
Subject: UA funding cuts
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:47:46 AM

I support the Governor's proposed budget

I do not support the House UA Budget Subcommittee budget to eliminate all UA/UAF research and outreach state funds.

Our 4-H programs and coordinator wages are funded through the Cooperative Extension Center. These cuts would greatly affect our 4-H programs, which are located across the State in: Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Tanana, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, MatSu, Nome, Southeast and Bristol Bay.

I coordinate the Bristol Bay 4-H Club

Without 4-H many youth would not receive the educational and cultural education they are currently receiving. The 16 varieties of Bristol Bay after school clubs and events would be reduced or non existent. Many families would need to seek alternative care for children. The educational activities would not be available.

Last year we had 110 youth members in the 4-H Bristol Bay Club, so far this year we have 106 youth members. Our Bristol Bay program includes four communities with a fifth community to be added within a month.

4-H clubs and activities include:

silhouette program

Native Dance

Ballet (2 CLUBS)

Lego (4 CLUBS)

Science (2 CLUBS)

4-H Friday

Trapping

Summer Youth Culture Camp

Sign Language

Human Library

Collage

Sewing

Birding

After school programs in

Manokotak

Nondalton

Ilimana

The 4-H clubs and activities have become an important part of our communities, families

and children.

Please support our children and families

Please support UAF research and Cooperative Extension state funding.

Deanna Baier

Tribal Educator

Bristol Bay 4-H Coordinator

Mailing Address: PO Box 216

Dillingham, AK. 99576

Telephone: [\(907\) 842-4508](tel:(907)842-4508)

Fax: (907) 842-4510

Email: debaier@alaska.edu



From: [Michael Jeffery](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#)
Subject: House Budget: Preserve Safety Net Services for Vulnerable Alaskans
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:22:24 AM

Greetings from Barrow!

Thank you for the hard work this House committee and the entire Legislature and Administration are accomplishing to address the budget situation. I realize tough choices are necessary. I am a retired judge in Barrow, and I do not represent the Alaska Court System. My experience on the bench demonstrated to me how providing prevention and support services while people are in the community helps stop tragic and violent incidents that cause families to suffer and lead to individuals becoming involved in the criminal justice system and possibly expensive prison beds. Community services help persons remain in their own community, hopefully as contributing members of society.

I strongly support the current justice reform package. Let's use those savings to support continued community services.

Instead of cutting community services, let's expand revenue measures so that individuals contribute more for state government and so do business entities such as oil companies.

Please do not reduce community services beyond the Governor's proposed budget.

Thank you for your time!

Michael I. Jeffery
Barrow

From: [Noah Williams](#)
To: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Subject: Proposed UA finding cuts: A Mess In The Making
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:01:45 PM

Dear Legislators,

I cannot convey the extent to which the proposed funding cuts to University of Alaska schools would be disastrous. As a high school student currently weighing options for higher education, the nearly \$63 million cuts would amount to pulling the rug out from under my feet, not to mention the feet of my friends and their family members. This would begin with the nearly *one thousand* resulting job losses and propagate rapidly to those not in the immediate blast radius.

I ask you: How are we to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity if we abandon the most important building block of independence: education. As a student attending Juneau-Douglas High School I've been grateful for the opportunities I've had to earn UAS credit in multiple classes at my high school for little charge, as have many of my peers. The proposed legislation would eliminate these opportunities, having a catastrophic impact on economically disadvantaged members of our community by removing access to courses where they can learn important and immediately useful job skills. I needn't mention the obvious economic results comparing an Alaska with a qualified, trained, and competent work force to an Alaska without one.

The astronomical cuts would also eliminate the University of Alaska Fairbanks' esteemed [Cooperative Extension Service](#), which provides a wealth of opportunities for Alaskans wishing to further their knowledge of how to take care of and take advantage of their environment. I've attended several 4-H youth camps run by the service, more specifically by its employees, several of whom are my personal friends or their family members. The funding cuts proposed would see their positions terminated, immediately.

I implore you to reconsider these radical and misguided cuts due to the cataclysmic effect they would have on the UA's effectiveness and ability to provide necessary services and opportunities to the citizens of Alaska. During this difficult time, please do not allow the temptation of short term cost reductions to steer the state down a path to nowhere.

Sincerely,

Noah Williams

From: [Paula Cullenberg](#)
To: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#)
Cc: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
Subject: Support for the University of Alaska's outreach and research missions
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:47:43 PM

Dear Chairman Wilson and House Finance Subcommittee members,

I am writing to urge you to support the Governor's budget proposal for UA, a cut of \$16 million, rather than the currently proposed deep cut of \$62.8 million, and to support the important outreach and research that our university carries out.

I am sending this email from home, but my job is the director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program; I have been with the program for about 20 years. I am writing to let you know of the importance of the University of Alaska's outreach work that the Marine Advisory agents do in eight coastal communities. The outreach that they provide in the regions surrounding Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Kodiak, Anchorage, Cordova, Petersburg and Ketchikan is critical to the economic strength of our communities, the health of our marine resources and to the next generation of Alaskans. The Alaska Sea Grant program is a partnership between the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Alaska. Federal funds are leveraged with a 50% state match and those funds are leveraged again with a range of external funds leading to 2 dollars brought into our state for every match dollar.

For example, Marine Advisory agents just hosted the 6th Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit bringing 70 young commercial fishermen and women to Juneau from over 20 communities in Alaska to meet leaders in our state and to learn about business solvency, participating in the public process and understanding fisheries management. Our Marine Advisory agent in Nome is working closely with subsistence marine mammal hunters who are seeing oiled wildlife and new food security concerns from harmful algal blooms, linking science to coastal residents. In Kodiak, Marine Advisory agents are training seafood processors in safety and quality and working with local villages on detection of paralytic shellfish poisoning in the personal harvest of shellfish. In Anchorage, our Marine Advisory agent is working with the Anchorage School District to bring students through curriculum and field work about our local watersheds. And in Unalaska, the Marine Advisory agent is the only University of Alaska presence in the Aleutian chain, working both on community monitoring for invasive species, organizing dockside marine science classes for K-12 students as well as offering online and in person UA courses to the public in the region.

Alaska Sea Grant also funds critical coastal research and trains graduate students in these projects. Fifteen graduate students are working on Alaska Sea Grant projects looking at issues such as invasive species such as Elodea, erosion impacts on coastal communities and fisheries impacts with growing whale populations.

We are a small program, with a clear focus and a 45 year history in the state. We work with municipalities, industry, communities, businesses, tribes, schools, fishermen, and the public on relevant, on-the-ground coastal issues. In my opinion, we offer a big, big, bang for the buck and for the small program that we are.

Research and outreach are critical missions for the University of Alaska. It enables Alaska to understand our problems and provides a means for all Alaskans to share the value of our University. This is critical and far-reaching and is truly the work of UA.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration in these difficult times.

Paula Cullenberg

From: [Ginny Eckert](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: It is time for Alaskans to invest in Alaska
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 6:35:09 PM

In tough economic times, we need to think of new ways to generate revenue and to strengthen the state.

A strong university is key to the economic health of the state. These are the facts:

- The university is an economic driver for the state.
- University research makes a difference for Alaskans every day.
- The research, teaching and service mission of our university isn't something that can simply be separated.
- The university educates students who become professionals in Alaska businesses and communities.

It is time for Alaskans to invest in Alaska, to diversify our revenue stream and use taxes and some of the earnings from the Permanent Fund. Please move forward with plans to generate revenue before considering drastic cuts to any programs, including the university.

Thank you for your service to the state.



Ginny Eckert
10651 Porter Lane
Juneau, Alaska

From: [Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor CVB](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)
Subject: Funding for public media in AK
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 1:34:43 PM

Dear House Finance Committee,

I hope this finds you doing well. It is a trying time for the state in terms of budget and I appreciate all of your hard work toward this very difficult and complex issue. I wish to express my fear for the lack of public media funding in the state for FY17 and the effect it would have on our community of Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor. We are very fortunate to have and dependent upon KUCB 89.7FM as our only source of daily news for the community. KUCB is vital here due to our lack of reliable cellular service and internet as we cannot always access important information without their aid. I listen to the station seven days a week to keep abreast of the happenings within our community. As a Tourism Bureau I refer potential visitors, those seeking employment/relocation here, and local businesses to KUCB as it is the only local source of pertinent information. In addition to the news, KUCB manages our community calendar, posts classifieds, runs public service announcements, aids in promoting local events, and so much more. Please consider the priceless value of public media specifically in smaller Alaskan communities whom are not on the road system when pushing budget cuts. We simply would not have daily local news without the brilliant work of KUCB in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,

Randy Shinn

Executive Director

Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor

Convention and Visitors Bureau

907-581-2612

www.unalaska.info

From: aspasia.y@gmail.com on behalf of [Jason Collins](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Testimony
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 1:31:52 PM

Dear, Representatives—

I am writing to you as a concerned Alaskan voter. I am a graduate of the UA system and father of two daughters in high school and prospective students of the UA system. I am deeply concerned about the Alaska legislature's plan to under fund the State and how that will negatively impact the ability of the University of Alaska to provide our citizens with the education that the coming generations will desperately need.

The State and the UA system have suffered significant cuts for a number of consecutive years now and the infrastructure of the UA system is at a point where further cuts will impact its ability to provide any kind of meaningful education to its students. The current budget crisis in Alaska will continue to require solutions that can only come from educated individuals with the skills to think creatively and critically. The legislature's current plan to reduce the budget of the UA system will directly hinder the formation of such solutions.

I urge you to serve your community by fully funding the UA budget and seeking out other sources of revenue than the unstable oil industry.

Cordially,
Jason Collins

From: [Jill Moody](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 1:17:55 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Jill Moody
PO Box 1733
Girdwood, AK 99587

From: [D Potter](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#)
Subject: Please protect Alaska's community radio stations!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 12:46:10 PM

Esteemed Members of The House of Representatives;

I have lived in Skagway, Alaska for the last 17 years. I moved here from the jungle of Los Angeles, California and never looked back. As we all know, life in rural Alaska is not always easy, but it's our strong sense of community that endures us to places like Skagway.

Community radio is at the heart of this sense. There is no other way in our rural towns to quickly and effectively disseminate information that is vital. Community radio, in our case KHNS, provides our little town with important and possibly life saving alerts on road closures, weather warnings, and seemingly relentless changes to the ferry schedule. There is literally no other way for us to get this kind of critical information. I fully understand the financial crisis the State is facing. Cutting all funding to public radio, will not even be a drop in the bucket. I am willing to pay a state income tax, or see a cap put on the PFD in order to protect the absolutely critical role that community radio and reliable ferry service play in our beloved Alaskan communities. Please also bear in mind, that the state coffers of Washington and Colorado have experienced a windfall of revenue by the legalization of marijuana and though one cannot responsibly "count their chickens before they hatch", there is no rational reason why the State of Alaska will not experience the same.

Once again, I urge you to restore funding to community radio and please protect the ferry system. These are services that rural communities in Alaska cannot live safely without. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Deborah Potter
PO Box 318
Skagway, Ak. 99840
debpottersemail@gmail.com

From: [childers](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 12:38:23 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
childers
1010 College Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: [Clinton R Hodges II](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Input on budget....
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 12:27:35 PM

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I have been watching the GOP debates and in the Texas debates there remains one lone governor, Governor Kasich, (R) Ohio. Gov. Kasich and the State of Ohio was in a deep recession brought on by the financial industry that grew the state government to unsustainable levels; under previous governors. Gov. Kasich has stated repeatedly in debate after debate that the only way out of the fiscal situation was to cut government spending, reduce taxes and grow the economy. It's taken a handful of years but the State of Ohio has recovered from the recession. Taxes were lowered, government was cut to sustainable levels and the economy is growing; it was sound conservative fiscal principles that led the way. Our governor is proposing to do the opposite.

What Governor Walker, McGuire and Hawker are proposing are basically schemes to maintain the current size of the state workforce, maintain spending levels, a university system and social services that grew to unsustainable levels out of the Palin years of 100/bbl oil and the acceptance of federal stimulus funds; one time money and trading on Wall Street which drove up the price of oil. Medicaid expansion is the same way. This wasn't reality it was Alice in Wonderland.

What the Governor's plan and the others propose is to increase taxes, remove 1.6 billion from the state's economy and maintain government spending and its workforce at current levels; these are not sound conservative fiscal principles that will grow our economy and soften the blow of a recession that is on the horizon. I believe it is in our best interest to manage the recession in the same manner as Gov. Kasich, which was to cut government spending, reduce taxes and grow the economy.

Recently, Rep. Wilson has gotten a lot of flack for what is basically proposing a university budget that focuses on instruction. That funding for research and programs not related to instruction should come before the legislature and I agree. In my opinion anyone associated with research and programs not related to instruction should be contractors and not a financial responsibility to the state. If the grant doesn't cover the program and the full costs of the personnel associated with it, we can't afford it.

I have lived in Anchorage for 36 years and I lived through the 80's and I've been through a few recessions and the key isn't to panic and make rash decisions like what is being proposed by the governor and others reliant on unsustainable government spending. The key is to cut

the spending, reduce the workforce and manage the recession by working to grow our economy; less dependent on oil.

In my opinion Gov. Kasich is giving us good guidance out of our fiscal situation. We should cut government spending, cut the workforce to pre-2008 levels; shoot for 4.1 billion in the short term. We need to be working on growing the economy and not sustaining a government that wrecks the economy. I realize at some point we may need to discuss revenue streams but we need to cut government spending first.

Rep. Wilson is correct to question the university budget and the way research and programs increase our budget. We do it with infrastructure projects; where contractors are involved we have no retirement or salary issues. We need to be looking at government like this. If the grant doesn't pay its way 100% we can't afford it.

At the end of the day we need to ask ourselves, do Alaskans work for the government or does the government work for us? If we take 1.6 billion out of the economy like the plans cited above the problem of government spending and its work force is going to grow. Big government is the problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton and Geri Hodges

6930 East 11th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99504

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Krista James](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: University of Alaska Funding
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 12:01:54 PM

Hello,

I appreciate you taking the time to read this. I am writing to you today, not only as UAA faculty but also as the parent of seven children being educated in the Anchorage School District and hopefully moving on to college within the UA system. I am faculty in the Special Education department. Our department is producing teachers for some of the most underserved children in the state. Three of these children are my daughters whom I adopted from the Alaska foster care system and who are diagnosed with FASD.

As you probably already know, Alaska has a shortage of special education teachers statewide. It is largely due to this shortage that our children are not receiving adequate educational services. There are two faculty in my department. The two of us teach the classes, supervise the internships, recruit students, complete research, provide service to the university, complete all administrative tasks, apply for accreditation, advise students, grade comprehensive exams, and much more. This is an enormous load for two people, but we do it because our program is vital to the educational system in Alaska.

The teacher turnover rate in Alaska is at 12% statewide and 24% in the rural school districts (Hirshberg & Hill, 2006), as compared to 15% nationwide (Goldring, Taie, & Riddles, 2014).

The turnover rate in the rural areas is often due to the teachers being recruited from other states, but not having any personal roots in the village. According to Hashberg and Hill, teacher turnover is a real problem for rural schools; struggling school districts are forever filling open positions with new teachers who have not yet developed the skills necessary to support a struggling student population. School districts and state agencies often put an extensive amount of time into training these professionals to work with children with disabilities, only to have them leave the village, or the state, after one to two years in the classroom. This is where our program at UAA needs to be a priority.

We are utilizing technology to train special education teachers statewide. It is vital that we grow our program so that we can reduce the turnover rate in our state. We know that teachers are more likely to stay in the community if they have roots there. We should be focused on building our programs through statewide recruitment efforts so that we can have Alaskan teachers teaching Alaskan students. Alaskan teachers are going to be the ones that understand the diversity and culture of the state. They are the ones who are going to be able to provide culturally relevant education to our students. They are the ones who will be able to connect with Alaskan families. All of these things are what constitutes best practice and should be the focus of the entire UA educational system. The three educational programs in the state should not be in competition with each other, but should be working together in order to produce high quality teachers to educate Alaskan students with exceptional learning needs.

Sincerely,
Krista James
907-444-4527
kjames150@hotmail.com
3431 Amber Bay Loop

Anchorage, AK 99515

From: [Brian Peterson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 11:20:23 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

All new state employee contracts should require them to pay their own health insurance premiums or at the very least 90% of them.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$4 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$600 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Including all grant and aid requests, revenue sharing, matching funds for capital projects along w/the previously mentioned insurance costs.

Under no circumstances should there ever be an income tax while the pfd still exists. Never.

Concerned voter,
Brian Peterson

Thank you,
Brian Peterson
6604 Cutty Sark St
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Micheal Batchelder](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 11:16:45 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Micheal Batchelder
232 Iditarod Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: [Leslie Hiebert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Budget
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 10:59:47 AM

Leslie Hiebert

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

From: "Leslie Hiebert" <lhiebert5@gmail.com>
Date: Feb 26, 2016 10:56 AM
Subject: Budget
To: <lhscfin@ak-leg.gov>
Cc:

I am interested in a sustainable, stable economy in Alaska. I have been here for 33 years and plan on staying here until I die. I urge you to:

1. impose an income tax,
2. change the PFD so it is tied to current oil revenue,
3. reduce spending:
 - a. private prisons must go
 - b. prison terms must be drastically shortened, and restorative justice substituted - a huge savings
 - c. stop providing money to capital projects that go nowhere
4. invest in education, pre-K through college. The returns are staggering.
5. support diversification of the economy - small business loans, start-up help, networking, awards, provide feedback.

I like government. Our government is one of the greatest on earth. I think you are all capable of making our state fiscally sound. It is your job after all. People need to see you doing it.

Thank you for allowing this comment.

Leslie Hiebert
2146 Belair Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Haerle](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 10:48:13 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Haerle
PO Box 574
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Carol Curtis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 10:06:28 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Carol Curtis
50037 Lake Marie Ave
Kenai, AK 99611

From: [K. Heather Sinclair](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please support UA funding
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:52:00 AM

Dear House Finance Committee,

I support the higher education opportunities in this state and ask that you, as my representatives in the House, vote against the proposed budget cuts for University of Alaska.

The University of Alaska has played an important role in my life and remains a critical component to this day.

I am a current UA student, working on my Masters in Arts of Teaching so that I may become a certified teacher to work in rural Alaska. I live and work in Unalakleet, Alaska and take my courses online through UAS. Additionally, I graduated with my undergraduate degree in 2010 from UAF. Finally, I took coursework at Kenai Peninsula College while I was attending high school in Soldotna. I intend to use the education that I have gained through the University of Alaska to give back to Alaskans as a elementary school teacher in the state. I speak fondly of my experiences at UAF and UAS to the those I encounter, including the K-12 students I see everyday while interning at Unalakleet Schools. Additionally, I draw upon the incredible opportunities and experiences I had (and continue to have) as a UA student to perform well at my job and serve my community and family.

Alaska's future is at stake with this vote. Please consider the repercussions of these budget cuts and the effect it will have on higher education, employment, and economic opportunities in this state.

We need to invest in Alaska's future by supporting UA funding. Please vote against the proposed budget cuts.

Sincerely,

Heather Sinclair

--

K. Heather Sinclair, MS
BSSD Intern
Unalakleet Schools

From: [Maureen Knutsen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 256
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:36:29 AM

To House Finance Committee members:

I am a 41-year resident of Naknek who is a listener, supporter and advisory board member of KDLG, the public radio station for Bristol Bay. I cannot stress enough how important KDLG is for our communities and for me personally.

I am totally opposed to a 100% cut for public broadcasting funding from the state's budget. We need to have state support in order to secure support from federal public broadcasting funds, so in essence, the proposed state cut is a double whammy.

I urge you to please reconsider this move and restore some funding for public broadcasting. I understand that cuts need to be made, but I think the path forward needs to involve all options, including thoughtful cuts, new revenues such as sales and income taxes, and capping permanent fund dividends.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Maureen Knutsen
PO Box 134
Naknek, AK 99633
907-246-6675

From: [Kelly Harrell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Opposition to cutting research, outreach and extension services from UA Budget
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:34:22 AM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council is a community-based organization of fishermen, families, small business owners, scientists, and others whose livelihoods are tied to healthy marine resources.

We are seriously concerned and opposed to the proposal to significantly and deeply cut the University of Alaska's budget beyond the cuts recommended in the Governor's budget. We are particularly concerned about proposals to cut funding for scientific research, public service and outreach from the University of Alaska budget. These are functions that are critical to a strong university system that attracts excellent professors and supports a high quality education for students. The State's investment in the University attracts large amounts of external funding, which the University would forfeit if the Legislature withdraws support for these functions. The science, public services and outreach that are in question by the Legislature are very important to responsible management of our natural resources. For example, maintaining sustainable fisheries, which account for the most private sector jobs in Alaska, relies on good science, much of which is conducted at the University of Alaska. Sacrificing these important functions will harm not only the University as a learning institution, but good management of resources that support high value fisheries and other sectors of our state economy. The outreach and extension services of the University including of Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Program are an invaluable resource in supporting food, agricultural and fishing businesses and healthy food systems in Alaska. It is critical we preserve the integrity of these programs or face resounding impacts on our agricultural and fisheries sectors in the state.

We urge the Legislature to retain the research, public services and outreach functions of the University system. University excellence, of which research and extension are a critical component, is very important to the long-term health of Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,

Kelly Harrell

--

Kelly Harrell, Executive Director
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
PO Box 101145 Anchorage, AK 99510
Office: [907.277.5360](tel:907.277.5360) | Cell: [907.903.4163](tel:907.903.4163)

www.akmarine.org

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**Pick.Click.Give. for Alaska's coastal communities by donating a portion of your PFD to the Alaska Marine Conservation Council in 2016. Remember, when you Pick.Click.Give. you are automatically entered to Double your Dividend! [Learn more.](#)*

From: [Martin Hartley](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:33:50 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Martin Hartley
531 Farewell Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: [Shawn Garcia](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 8:23:41 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Shawn Garcia
8302 Rainy Pl
Anchorage, AK 99518

From: [Becky Oberrecht](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: budget
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 7:58:08 AM

At some point you need to stop asking people what they want and decide what needs to be done. There is no such thing as a "right sized" government. We all want services, schools, universities, public broadcasting, fair wages and a low unemployment rate. This senseless cut, cut, cut mentality is short-sighted and is what got us into trouble in the first place. It's time for a long range look at Alaska's economy.

We need additional revenue streams. This has been obvious for many years and yet it seemed to take the legislature by surprise when the one revenue source experienced a down-turn.

Nothing you do will make everyone happy, but I can guarantee that doing nothing, or putting something on the ballot (November!) will make everyone unhappy. But stop the thoughtless, random cuts and concentrate on new revenue. Yes we should cap the PFD, yes we need a state income tax and yes, get the marijuana businesses up and running.

The difficult part comes in maintaining some semblance of economic stability while being fiscally responsible. Putting people out of work, slashing the university down to a joke of an institution does not instill confidence in Alaska's future.

And for God's sake, just take the best offer from the contractor, move into the building and figure out a way to rent out space or the parking lot when you are not there. Stop reneging on contracts--its reflects badly on our reputation as a State. I want to be proud to be an Alaskan. Right now that is hard to do.

From: [Ray Cammisa](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 7:22:33 AM

Recommendations for the Alaska State budge:
Move from the LIO in Anchorage to something affordable.
Stop all funding for Mega Projects Now!
Cut your personal spending, pay and travel budgets.
Institute a State Income Tax.
Tax all property of churches and non-profits.
Raise Royalties on Oil, gas, mineral, timber and fish Resources.
Eliminate all oil and gas substitutes.
Cap the Permanent Fund at \$800.
Eliminate all sole source contracts.

Leave education funding alone.
Pass legislation for Term Limits.
Pass a real Conflict of Interest Law for all lawmakers.
Move all Capital Sessions to Anchorage.
Ray Cammisa
17165 Lacey Dr
99577

From: [Len Fujimoto](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 7:20:05 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Len Fujimoto
12351 Old Glenn Hwy
Anchorage, AK 99577

From: [Michele Trainor](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 7:07:33 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise taxes. It is well documented government will spend and continue to tax. First, no more money studying the natural gas line. That is a black hole and will never come to fruition. Second, cut the summer sides to the Delta AG project. If the farmers are not on their own after 30 years, they never will be. That is a boondoggle project started when the oil money first flowed in. Instead of saving, the state squandered. Last but definitely not least, more government programs. An Integrity Force to 'study'? These study groups always become black holes themselves. I'm sure others from across the state have additional information on how to cut the budget based on what they see in their respective area.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Michele Trainor
PO Box 324
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: [jason.burkhead](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: State Budget Comments
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 6:47:30 AM

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing this email as my testimony on the current budget process, as I will not be able to attend the public meeting next week. I appreciate that you are making efforts to gain public input. It is clearly challenging to move from the substantial state funding of the last several years to the current deficit situation. I am concerned, however, about the process and solutions being offered. It has been made abundantly clear that you will not be able to cut your way to a balanced budget. The approach to "Right Size" government sounds appealing, but seeing it in practice in an area familiar to me, the University of Alaska, has made it clear that the budget cutting is arbitrary and does not consider the social and economic effects of state spending.

As with all public universities, the UA mission is broadly defined as teaching, research and service. All of these are critical components of a functioning state and society. A high quality university is important to accomplish these goals for the state, but the 14.5% proposed cut to the budget on top of the last two years of cuts will damage both the quality of the university in its core mission areas as well as its reputation. The job loss will also have a severe negative impact on the economy. Further, the most capable faculty members, who bring in research grants, publish work, speak publicly and build the quality instruction and reputation of UA will take positions elsewhere, further damaging the university and thus the state of Alaska.

If the arbitrary approach to the UA budget is an example, the consequences to critical services such as public safety and K-12 education are of grave concern. Your constituents know that solutions are available. These include income taxes and the Permanent Fund. It may be political unpalatable to use these tools, but we elected you to do the right thing, not the politically expedient thing.

Thank you,

Jason Burkhead

From: [Wayne Burger](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 6:02:28 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Wayne Burger
5443 W Bromley Dr
Wasilla, AK 99623

From: [Scott Thompson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, February 26, 2016 4:59:49 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Scott Thompson
PO Box 874523
Wasilla, AK 99687

From: [Esteban Hill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:52:10 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Esteban Hill
9499 Brayton Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Rock S](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:38:05 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Rock S
Bering Ln
Brevig Mission, AK 99785

From: [Debbie Joslin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:26:56 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Debbie Joslin
PO Box 691
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: [Sandra Shacklett](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:02:09 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Sandra Shacklett
4311 E Crane Rd
Wasilla, AK 99654

From: [Jill Schaefer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:59:55 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Jill Schaefer
750 Set Net Dr
Kenai, AK 99611

From: [Cheryl Markwood](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:45:57 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Cheryl Markwood
2964 Totem Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Larry Niles](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:44:47 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Larry Niles
PO Box 473
Sutton, AK 99674

From: [Corey Kiser](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:40:18 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Corey Kiser
1849 Hayes Cir
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: [Brian Hakkinen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska State Budget
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:31:25 PM

Cut immediately and totally:

Ambler Road, Susitna Dam, Knik Arm Crossing, Railroad loop to nowhere, Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline project, Road to Juneau, all revenue sharing with municipalities tax credits for oil and gas producers.

Abolish totally Alaska Housing, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, Alaska Energy Authority

Increase production taxes on oil and gas producers

Substantial cuts to University of Alaska

Substantial cuts to Marine Highway System

Bring back the state income tax

Take no money from the permanent fund or it's earnings

Leave the dividend program as is

State education money for education only. Not travel, sports

Any state grants must eventually bring in more revenue than paid out

Brian Hakkinen
24222 Kalifornsky Beach Road
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: [John Kiernan](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:28:40 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
John Kiernan
4032 W 89th Ct
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Erika](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:24:36 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Erika
11400 Doggie Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Gary Moore](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:56:50 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Gary Moore
2050 E Fairview Loop
Wasilla, AK 99654

From: [david.conklin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:44:19 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
david conklin
396 Olnes Loop Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: [Thomas Hendrix](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:42:21 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Thomas Hendrix

Anchorage, AK 99577

From: [Carol Tuynman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please reconsider cuts to Alaska public radio
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:29:25 PM

To the Honorable Mark Neuman, Steve Thompson and House Finance Committee Members:

I understand and appreciate the difficult decisions before your committee for the wellbeing of all Alaskans. Public Radio is very important to the people of Alaska. I respectfully request that you reconsider the proposed cuts to Alaska Public Radio for the following reasons:

1. There are still many people in Alaska who do not have land phones or cell phone access where they live, and public radio is our lifeline. I am one of those people in Haines, Alaska, who lives outside of cell phone service area and relies on our local NPR affiliate, KHNS, to receive important messages and information because I can't get phone service at my home.
2. Public radio in Alaska keeps us connected. Aside from our small weekly newspaper, KHNS provides our only reliable daily source of local, state, native and national news. Public radio provides both in-depth and significant news that we must have to stay informed. There is no state newspaper comparable to public radio to keep us informed and aware of issues related to public health, safety and welfare, including fisheries and hunting information. We need this information source to live healthy lifestyles in Alaska. A significant number of rural Native and non-native people practice subsistence lifestyle and rely on public radio for pertinent information.
3. Public Radio employs hundreds of people across the state who dedicate their efforts to providing us all information we need to effectively participate in the democratic process and promote a healthy economy. We learn about board and commission opportunities through radio, about educational and recreational opportunities and available jobs.
4. Public radio is part of the emergency broadcasting system that we need should there be an earthquake, tsunami or other natural or manmade disaster. Radio staff are trained to participate in the first responder process, a significant investment of manpower and resources that should be kept intact.
5. Commercial broadcasters cannot replace what public radio does in all of the above regards. Many of us cannot get a commercial radio station where we live, even if they could cover all of the services public radio provides.
6. You may be aware that local community businesses and residents in Haines and Skagway are among the largest per capita supporters of local public radio in the nation. We have the highest regard for public radio and for a community area of less than 3,000, the \$95,000 raised in 2015 contributions to support our local public radio station represents an average contribution of \$38.00 per resident. Pick, Click, Give donations this year average \$55-\$65 per contribution.
7. In Haines and Skagway alone, an additional \$58,000 was generated in local business underwriting, basketball underwriting and EPSA underwriting; and \$42,000 in support was raised from Alaska-based foundations and the Skagway Municipality.

8. KHNS plays an important role in our economy and our community. An important part of a sustainable local economy is well-informed citizens and excellent communication and news sources. There is a multiplier effect of the dollars that go to support public radio that filters into the community through jobs, local spending, attracting new residents to live in our vibrant community and sharing with visitors our authentic, Alaskan lifestyle which attracts people from all over the world to come here as tourists or to settle here and start businesses, raise a family or retire

8. Public Radio is a vital part of our State infrastructure. It is appropriate and necessary for our State dollars to match local support to leverage Federal dollars.

Thank you kindly for your serious consideration of this important budgetary decision. The future of Alaska is in your hands. Help us keep the educational and informational services of public radio for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Tuynman
Creative Director
Alaska Arts Confluence
217 Main Street
Haines, Alaska 99827
907-303-0222
<http://www.alaskaartsconfluence.org>
Visit us on Facebook

From: [Sallie Butters](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:20:50 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.
Cut the State operating budget FIRST! Why must the private sector ALWAYS be the one's to pay?

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Sallie Butters

Homer, AK 0

From: [Cecilia Rendon](#)
To: [House Legislators](#); [Senate Legislators](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: I'm a business owner attending UAS, got potential revenue solutions for UAS.
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:50:33 PM

Dear Senators and Legislators,

Thanks for providing business owners and students like me with a forum to voice our learning experiences at UAS, proposed budget solutions and opportunities for revenue.

Like you, I'm a busy entrepreneur enrolled in online Management Information Systems (MIS) course. I find my MIS course challenging and engaging with civil discussions applicable solutions and debate forums.

Previous engagement is a requirement to make weekly grades along with quizzes, essays, etc. Course material is on the most updated industry standards, case problems and examination of relevant and efficient solutions, and best practices in the implementation of software application, development, management and infrastructure.

I would like to reiterate that engaged professors at UAS have ample professional experience in the real world and advanced degrees, are the driving force for quality online courses. And UAS will benefit from marketing such courses to lower 48, neglected, working adults who will gladly pay UAS tuition fees vs. the prospect of having to pay \$10,000 for a certificate course (i.e. at the University of Cincinnati) that falls - way short - in translating "educational" content to real life project management job descriptions that require the knowledge and experience of ERP, HANA, SAP, and other - on demand - applications and programs.

- The UAS School of Management will also benefit introducing more on demand certifications for Project Management, Black Belt, Scrum Master and Agile.
- One more potential solution to increase revenue

Building further on the Innovation Summit, UAS could respond to the need expressed at summit by local small hotel owners, who would like to have an organized, localized initiative or institution put together meaningful and safe excursions with learning experiences to remote areas of beautiful Alaska.

UAS Juneau campus could maximize and capitalize in this market by building a small size hotel at the end of the parking lot. A background check might be required from excursionist if students and remote areas are to be packaged. Also, a vetted and responsible UAS chaperon is to accompany all excursions as well.

Hope previous proposals are feasible among other great ideas and solutions that are being examined. As there are only so many budget cuts UAS should implement before it cannibalizes itself from within.

You have a difficult road ahead, but you have our support and admiration. We know that you and your professional staff, professors and deans will come out triumphant and greatly improved and competitive as a whole.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Rendon

UAS Student # 31167817





From: [Heidi Robichaud](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: support public radio funding!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:47:24 PM

As a 40 year resident and business owner who has long and much appreciated public radio, I will simply echo those who encourage you to do all you can to fund as much as you can for public radio. we all know times are hard and cuts are needed, but not 100% for something with as many and diverse benefits as public radio.

thank you for all you do and for supporting pubic radio.

Most sincerely,

Heidi Robichaud and Scott Carey
PO Box 1674
Haines, AK

From: [Bill Annis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Save Public Radio
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:32:26 PM

Dear Finance Committee: I realize there are tough financial times now, and tough decisions facing the legislature. An equitable cut is the responsible path to take for the continuation of a Public Radio Service that is vital to Alaskans. I depend on my public radio station for many things, Full elimination in state funding will effectively *end* Public Radio in my community, that so many depend on and appreciate daily. The approved cuts of Feb. 23rd would amount to a cut of \$109,000 dollars effective July 1st. This level of cut would push my local station to falling below minimum requirements to qualify for federal grants. This means an added loss of an additional 122.000 dollars effective Oct. 01.

This amount of cuts would eliminate our stations ability to provide *any local* service. Public Radio is so very important to us in Alaska. For many it is their *only* link to family, friends, and to their community. Please do the responsible thing by making an equitable cut for the continuation of a public radio service vital to Alaskans. Thank you. / Bill Annis