

Comments to the Legislature on HB 256

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill affecting Alaska's future. I will address a few topics by subject, for ease of reading.

Public Broadcasting Funding

Public radio is a source of local AND statewide news, producing in depth stories about issues and events that touch all of us. It is of particular value to small communities not connected to road systems or to one another, for a variety of reasons. Community service announcements, the ability of businesses to advertise, exposure to the elements of broadcasting for student volunteers, marine and local weather announcements and access to the Emergency Broadcast System will all be affected, not to mention the loss of local employment. Funding for public broadcasting is a bargain, and has remained essentially flat since 1999. Cuts this deep could jeopardize federal funding, meaning public radio would be hit with a double whammy. In our community, it could affect the viability of our radio station which not only reaches remote communities in our region, but keeps an international listening audience informed. Yes--it is not only Alaskans in Alaska who listen to our broadcasting--an additional marketing value not calculated in your bottom line.

In this critical time, KFSK and other public radio stations should be providing important information about the intended, unintended and cumulative impacts of the legislature's actions, to keep the public informed and involved. The public needs access to this vital information. Now is not the time to cut these funds.

Community Development Disability Grant Cuts

What is the thinking here? Not only is this not a big enough piece of the pie to be significant, why are we targeting vulnerable populations? We want Alaska to be livable, not lamentable.

Education

I listened to Senator McKinnon's presentation regarding the State fiscal situation at Alaska Municipal League's recent gathering in Juneau. Her premise seemed to be "education is expensive so we need to cut it". My take would be, "How do we make those funds go farther and do more?" Until Alaska students are in the top achievement percentiles in the nation, I think we are taking the wrong approach. As cumulative budget cuts start affecting communities and families, we need to take particular caution that the consequences of budget cuts are not felt disproportionately by the young, the poor, or the majority of residents living outside of urban centers.

Preschool and kindergarten have been shown to be valuable especially for disadvantaged children, however children across the economic spectrum see long-term gains (see <http://nieer.org/resources/research/PreschoolLastingEffects.pdf> as an example of but one study analyzing these programs).

Addiction Treatment Programs

Given Alaska's rather dismal record of alcohol and other substance abuse, cutting these programs is extremely short-sighted. Compound that with cuts in law enforcement, especially affecting rural areas, and you have set the stage for tragedy. Doing nothing is not a reasonable option. These are not problems that are going away.

Transportation

I, like many others in Alaska, have respect for the knowledge and expertise found in our Dept. of Transportation, but also a complete frustration at the unresponsiveness to the public in developing projects and priorities. We cannot afford to keep putting forward and spending money on the endless planning for projects like the Knik Arm Bridge (est. \$1.7 billion), the Susitna Dam (estimated at \$6 billion), and the Juneau Access Road (\$600 million, not including the lives likely to be lost building, driving and maintaining it). Likewise the Kake-Petersburg Road (\$40 million), which remains a project whose supposed purpose has been shown by agency analysis--at the cost of thousands, if not millions of dollars--to be unwanted and unnecessary. The cumulative savings of putting these projects on hold or dropping them entirely is nearly a staggering \$9 BILLION dollars. Do it now. We simply can't afford them, least of all at this time.

At the same time, the ferry system is a critical transportation link to non-road system communities, but we feel as if we're being held hostage by an intractable agency that refuses to manage that system well and in concert with statewide transportation goals (see the "Purpose" section under the DOT&PF Strategic Plan at http://dot.alaska.gov/comm/strategic_plan.shtml).

Anchorage Legislative Office

This should never have happened. Get out of it as quickly as possible, recovering as much financially as you can.

Options for Revenue Generation

I am in favor of a statewide income tax, especially to capture income that leaves the state and to gain contributions from our seasonal workforce.

Though not in favor of a sales tax, if implemented it should either exempt communities that already collect a sales tax, or exclude communities without one in any revenue

sharing opportunities.

Having heard Senator Lesil McGuire's presentation on her budget plan, I believe the projections for earnings on the reserve are too optimistic. I do, however, agree that a capped dividend system with a designated contribution to the education system has some merit. Although I'm not as tied to my dividend as many others--most of it is donated to non-profits through Pick, Click, Give--I understand its value in small communities and to those of lower income. My recommendation would be to drop the dividend below \$1,000 but that doesn't seem to be a popular position.

Beware the impact of multiple fish taxes.

It is worth stating that I neither expect nor wish for a 100% solution to our budget situation this year. It is very likely that there will be unintended cumulative effects of the legislature's actions. There isn't a single one of us with a clear crystal ball at this point. With that in mind, the goal is a sustainable budget AND sustainable communities with a quality of life that retains and attracts new residents.

To throw in another metaphor, this budget cycle is a bit like a game of Jenga. You can keep pulling out pieces, but if you go too far, you may have all the disconnected parts without keeping a functioning whole. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, encourage you to keep an open mind and good humor, and hopefully not have to weather too many sleepless nights.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Lagoudakis
Petersburg, AK 99833

From: laureneburnham@gmail.com on behalf of [Lauren Burnham](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written testimony for budget hearing 3-2-2016
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:39:37 PM

I understand that the budget needs to be balanced. I think that the only way this can happen is if you, the legislature, do a combination of the following:

1. cut back on spending
2. Cap PFD payment
3. Institute income tax
4. Create a statewide sales tax
5. reduce by half the amount put into inflation proof the PFD.

The PFD is the largest sacred cow in our state. But the PFD was not meant to create a generation dependent on oil revenue to make it through the winter. It was meant to share the oil revenue the state brought in with all Alaskan residents. Well, the state isn't bringing in oil revenue anymore, and it is time to spend the money to provide the services we need.

I know that more has to be cut, but shutting state offices and centralizing services is doing a great disservice to the rural areas. AS is cutting funding to mental health and the justice system. Those are problems that do not decrease simply because there is a fiscal downturn. More often mental issues and crime increases.

It wouldn't be beneficial to cut off the PFD completely. People have come to depend on that money. We need to be weaned off of it. Setting a cap on the dividend payout would provide people with a PFD, but would also balance the budget.

Continually inflation proofing the PFD is great to make it "permanent" but what is the point of a fund that cannot support itself. The money we use to inflation proof the dividend should be used in part to ease the debt of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Lauren E Burnham
PO Box 872
Discovery Lane
Tok, AK 99780

From: [Chuck Berray](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#)
Subject: State Budget testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:22:04 PM

I am sorry I am not able to testify in person, so here are my thoughts on the Alaska budget.

I support cutting the Permanent Fund dividend in half--with a caveat. Let's make it for 4 years and then revisit and vote to continue or return to full share depending on our economic health then. Everyone in this state needs to have skin in the game. Yes, I realize cutting the dividend will impact lower income residents to a greater degree, but this method treats every single Alaskan as an absolute equal.

Impose an income tax. This will not affect lower income residents as much.

Impose a State sales tax. Make grocery and drug purchases exempt.

You cannot cut our way out of this fiscal crisis. You all know the figures--lay off every single State employee and it still won't be enough, but you will drive this State into a recession the likes of which it has never seen.

Let's all give up a little, instead of some (mainly State Employees) giving up everything, to make it through these trying times.

Sincerely,

Charles Berray
17015 Nickleen St.
Anchorage, AK. 99516

From: [Bob and Carol Thompson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#)
Subject: Public Testimony on the State Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:19:14 PM

I understand the difficult situation the State of Alaska has found itself with the drop in oil production and prices. I am a non-partisan voter that votes in every election and am a fiscal conservative. I also believe in the power of government to make citizens' lives better and support the important work done by the state. It is time, however, to look at programs and support in a new way. We do not have unlimited resources, but we are fortunate that we do have sufficient resources.

To keep this message succinct, I have added bullets below that outline my positions and desires for legislative budgeting this year.

- Enhanced revenues are a must this year, not just cuts and use of the CBR to balance the budget. Ratings agencies will make us pay the price if we do not act this year.
- My first choice for enhanced revenue is use of permanent fund earnings. There are many options as to just how this can be done. Creating an endowment, as suggested by the governor, is an intriguing option. This is a hard political decision and I will support any member of the legislature that votes to use permanent fund earnings, although it will reduce future dividends.
- My second choice is either a sales tax or income tax. I believe a sales tax is more palatable to the people of Alaska, but it must have features to make it less regressive. We will never balance our budgets on the backs of the poorest members of our society.
- It is obvious that reductions in our budget are also necessary, and I support efforts to do so. However, we cannot cut our way to a balanced budget. So, the decisions are about what Alaskans are willing to pay for. The outcry from some Alaskans to devastate the state budget and not pay taxes, while loud and intense, represents a vocal minority, and it is an unworkable solution.
- Budget reductions this year, coming on the heels of a \$400 million reduction last year, should be in the \$300-\$400 million range. Cutting beyond that risks throwing the state into a long-term recession that will further complicate matters.
- First and foremost on my budget cutting list is reducing credits to oil companies. This program to encourage exploration and development is needed, but it is unaffordable in its current form. Just three or four years hence we could easily be paying oil companies more than we are taking in. This makes no sense. Please adjust this program.
- I do not believe cuts to public safety, transportation, health and human services, and education are in the public interest. These agencies sustained cuts last year and further cuts will adversely affect Alaskans. If revenue enhancements are utilized, cuts to these agencies are not necessary. I realize that this does not leave much to cut, but realistically, there is not much left to cut in the budget without affecting the lives of people that depend on the state for their wellbeing.
- Finally, it is important for legislators to be honest, courageous and informative with the Alaskan public on these issues. To go along with ideas that we can cut our budget and not enhance revenues this year is being disingenuous. When responding to comments, it is important for constituents to hear from legislators that a solution to the problem requires enhanced revenue. Frankly, I do not hear that a lot and believe that only makes your job harder in the end. Honestly prepare the public for what is coming and it will be

easier for everyone.

Thank you.

Bob Thompson
9757 N Waldo Reed Rd
Palmer, Alaska

From: Fillymcc@aol.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: bill.walker@alaska.gov; pat.pitney@alaska.gov; cnmclaughlin@jeffnet.org; dschenk@pfpalaska.org; ave2cg@gmail.com; randall.burns@alaska.gov
Subject: Testimony supporting inclusion o Partners Reentry Center in the Operating Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:21:29 PM

Cochairmen and Members of House Finance Committee:

Operating Partners Reentry Center in FY17 will require \$685,000 from DHSS. With this, we are assisting up to 70 people a day. The program has been operating since FY14 and has been successfully closing the revolving door of recidivism, and saving the state far more than it costs.

We believe DHSS is an appropriate source for the funding, because recidivism reduction is as much a matter of behavioral health as it is of corrections.

Using a private non-profit to provide necessary public services is a good way for the State to do more with less.

Unlike a state agency, Partners Reentry Center can move nimbly and swiftly to address immediate needs. The Center's use of Medically Assisted Treatment for heroin addicts, together with treatment to correct criminal thinking errors, is just one example.

Respectfully,

Partners for Progress Board of Directors

*Janet McCabe, Community Planner, **Chair***

*Mary Hilcoske, Organizational Management Specialist, **Vice-Chair***

*Mark Schneider, CPA, **Treasurer***

*Cristy Willer, Operations Director, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, **Secretary***

Troy Buckner, Reentry Housing Provider

Rev. Jim Duncan, Statewide Chaplaincy Coordinator

Billy Houser, Electronic Monitoring Specialist

James Wanamaker, Retired District Court Judge

Ron Wilson, Alaska Therapeutic Court Alumni Group

Megan Zlatos, Writer/Media Specialist

From: Vendettis@aol.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Testimony from Anchorage
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:13:32 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am hoping this email is read into the record. I have really lost my voice due to pneumonia and no one can hear me.

I am asking that the drastic cuts proposed that will affect our seniors, our disabled and behavioral health not happen. The recommended budget cuts from the Governor, while painful, did not completely attack a vulnerable group of Alaskans. The recommendations being proposed by the Legislature are completely insane.

I am asking that you make decisions that benefit our vulnerable population rather than hurt them further. I ask that you look at revenue options rather than cut to the bone. Many of the projects on the table aren't a trade off for people. The Knik bridge, the Juneau road, etc....

The LIO is a great example. How can you support this expenditure while also supporting cuts that will deny food and medicine to seniors, treatment for many suffering with mental health issues, and impact our disabled communities?

Please provide for our people, not for "things". Please vote with integrity and honesty. Look in your hearts and "do the right thing". Vote in a way that you can tell your children and grandchildren about proudly; in a way your own parents would have applauded.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
8411 Berry Patch Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [David miller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:10:46 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 miller
2566 Meadow Ln
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Sharon Winner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget shortfall
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:03:05 PM

I am in favor of a balance of cuts (but NOT to education!) and new revenues. The new taxes should not be regressive. So no state sales tax. I prefer an income tax based on a percentage of the federal income tax. I also support cutting the PFD checks somewhat, so that more money can be reinvested, providing an endowment for funding state government together with tax revenues. Also, please STOP spending money on futile lawsuits, unneeded legislator travel & per diem, studies on the LIO, and oil tax credits to companies who end up paying nothing in taxes to our supposed "owner state."

Finally, PLEASE, DO IT THIS YEAR!!!

Sharon M. Winner
Winner & Associates, P.C.
[900 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 700](#)
[Anchorage, AK 99501-2044](#)
Phone: [907-277-9522](#)
Fax: [907-277-4510](#)
swinner@winnerlaw.com
<http://www.winnerlaw.com>

From: [Irena Adams](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Plead to restore OWL funding that vital for Unalaska community
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:08:00 PM

To Whom It might Concern

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am school librarian from the most wonderful school district UCSD, that for years remains one of the top school in the State of Alaska and across USA.

We are located on isolated tiny island located 900 miles from nearest city. Yet our students prevails. they earn gold medals in the language competitions, they win poetry and art contests, striving above state average. It would not be possible if we did not had sufficient internet connection on the island.

This is why I add my voice to plead against cuts for library internet funding.

OWL (Online With Libraries) funding, which was included in the Alaska Governor's budget but was cut entirely by the finance education subcommittee, should be restored. Without this funding, it would cost us \$40,000 to keep our internet connection in Unalaska, which would increase the library's internet budget by more than 700%!

- Our internet connection, which we share with the school to save money, costs \$159,492 per year.

- o Federal e-rate funds pay \$79,746 of this cost. OWL pays \$35,074.

- o If we lose OWL funding and are unable to make up the difference with city funds, we will lose much of this \$79,746 in federal funding.

- o If we start charging patrons for internet use, we will lose all of the federal funding.

- Internet is tremendously expensive on the island, and many residents do not have home internet. They need this connection to apply for jobs, do their income taxes, apply for the PFD, continue their education, pay their bills, and connect with their families and the outside world.

- The library is the only source of free internet, open to all, on the island.

Samples of programs and services that were made possible by OWL:

- Unalaska City School students were able to take a virtual tour of the UAF campus and ask questions about college life.

- Elementary students were able to talk with NASA scientists and take a tour of the space capsule.

- Students at UAF, UAA, and UAS are able to take online classes at the library.

- Several patrons have mentioned to me that they are using the library internet to operate small

businesses.

- A dad reads children's books to his kids via Skype in the library's children's room.
- Patrons have job interviews via Skype.
- We are hoping to offer an SAT class through an Anchorage instructor this year, but it will not be possible without high-speed internet and videoconferencing capability.

Please keep OWL alive!

Irena Adams
Unalaska City School
Library coordinator
iadams@ucsd.net

[\(907\)581-1222](tel:(907)581-1222)

John D. Stelling Jr.

PO Box 518

Dillingham, Alaska

99576

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My Suggestions:

- Change laws requiring non-violent Drug/Alcohol offenders to complete a rehab program in lieu of jail time [Insurance will often cover costs of rehab clinics/people do not learn in jail.]
- Please tear down prisons and build education to invest in our future.
- Propose an income tax with a residential tax credit of (approximate/actual) amount of PFD value.

John Stelling

From: [LIO Petersburg](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Psg Public Testimony HB256 & HB257
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:02:42 PM
Attachments: [PSG PublicTestimony HB256-HB257.pdf](#)

Please provide to Committee Members and enter into the written record.

Legislative Information & Teleconferencing

11B Gjoa St

PO Box 1470

Petersburg, AK 99833

907.772.3741/Fax 772.3779

petersburg.lio@akleg.gov

In regards to House Bill 256: Operating Budget

I respectfully request the consideration of the Finance Committee on the topic of state funding for Public Radio. I understand that the State of Alaska faces a budget crisis. Yet I believe that eliminating funding for Public Radio will destroy an essential communications network here in rural Alaska.

I live in the island community of Petersburg, where the radio station provides many services, in terms of local, statewide, national and international news, community announcements and the airing of public meetings. KFSK is designated our local Emergency Broadcasting station for natural disasters and Amber Alerts.

A few weeks ago, the importance of KFSK's role in emergency broadcasting became very real when an inmate escaped from the downtown jail on a weekday morning, and remained at large as police pursued him through town. He remained at large for five hours. During that time the hospital and the school were both locked down.

I would not have wanted to wait for Channel 2 Evening news in Anchorage to report on the story. Nor would I want to wait 6 days for the weekly paper to tell me what was happening.

This is not the first lockdown here in town. I still remember the looks on the faces of the women I worked with when the school was locked down for the first time. It was good we had KFSK announcing the children were safe, and what was happening as police pursued another potentially dangerous individual.

KFSK also was instrumental in keeping the community and outlying areas informed when we had a tsunami warning in effect a few years ago.

In some places like Anchorage, there are other radio stations that can act as emergency broadcasters. That is not available here in many rural parts of the State. Public radio provides a literal lifeline in these places.

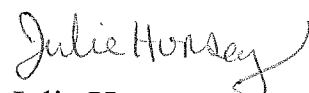
Some legislators have asked "what about cellphones and Smartphones and computers?"

I work at the local Clinic, and at the Courthouse. I have also worked at the Public Library. In my experience, there is a large percentage of people in our town and the outlying areas who cannot afford regular cellphone service, or a computer, or cable service. Often people have shared phones, short-term prepaid phones or use the computer at the Public Library. This does not afford ready access to information when there is an emergency.

I am asking you not to severely cut the funds to Public Broadcasting. Eliminating funding will cause public radio stations like KFSK to lose federal funding, and our budgets cannot sustain this hit. Public radio stations would close and an essential rural communication service would be lost.

I recognize the dire situation you face trying to come up with a state budget. I work three jobs trying to meet my budget. These are tough economic times. I do support a percentage income tax based on the amount of federal income tax a person pays. I also believe that perhaps receiving permanent fund could be based on income level as well. There are people in rural areas that have few other sources of income at all.

Thank you for your consideration.


Julie Hursey

PO Box 213

Petersburg, Alaska

Copies TO House Finance
Senate Finance

also: Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins
Senator Stedman

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: petersburg.lio@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
(Please Write Clearly and Legibly)

YOUR FULL NAME: Sharon Hunter Circle one: Support Opposed

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): self

BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Removal of all funding for public radio

COMMITTEE NAME: House finance HEARING DATE: _____

It is of utmost importance that the decision to zero fund public radio be considered. Here in our rural southeast Alaska setting it is our only source of daily news, we have no other local (or other) radio and no daily printed news to access. When we have urgent need for current ongoing news, it is our only source & serve a vital function in our community safety. Two examples come immediately to mind. The first was in January 2013 when we experienced strong earthquake tremors. KFSK was the only up to the minute service we had to know what happened, what to expect and what to do. The second event was when our community needed to go on lock down due to a very real concern regarding a person the police needed to locate. Without this type of resource we would be in an extremely difficult position.

I am certain other rural communities are in the same situation as Petersburg.

I thank you sincerely for your thoughtful consideration of my remarks and hope for revision of current decision.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely, Sharon Hunter

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: petersburg.lio@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
(Please Write Clearly and Legibly)

YOUR FULL NAME: Chris Lopez Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☒

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): SELF

BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance HEARING DATE: 3/2/16

I'm opposed to cuts to Public Radio (KFSK) as they are an essential part of our Community. They provide local News, Weather, Public Announcements, Information when Natural Disasters such as Earth Quakes, Tsunamis and the like. If 100% percent of State Funding is cut, Federal Funding will also be cut, Leaving us in the dark and without a needed resource of information and entertainment. I understand the Financial Dilemma you are facing and Hope and pray that some funds can be found for a very essential Service for the Community of Petersburg and Surrounding Communities thank you for your time

Respectfully yours

Chris Lopez

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: petersburg.lio@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
(Please Write Clearly and Legibly)

YOUR FULL NAME: Susan Erickson Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed
REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): self
BILL #: HB256 Subject: Public Radio
COMMITTEE NAME: House finance HEARING DATE: 3-2-16

I am opposed to eliminating funding for public radio. The public station here, KFSK, is the only radio that serves central Southeast Alaska. There is no other option. It is vital for this service to continue. In the last month we have had an escaped prisoner, schools and hospital in lock down mode and trees that blew down on the highway. These safety issues were imminent and we learned of these from the radio. There is no television station servicing our area and during the daytime hours the radio is the source for emergency and public safety broadcasts. We do get Anchorage T.V. but they will never override their broadcast to ask the public for help in a manhunt for an escaped prisoner in Petersburg nor to notify the public that there is a mud slide on Mitkof Highway.

This public radio service is absolutely essential in our community. Decreased funding starts a snow ball effect on federal funding as well. If you must cut some funding please keep it less than 5%.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Susan Erickson

(Updated 4/9/2013)

From: [D. Tyrell McGirt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SUPPORT OWL FUNDING
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:58:49 PM

Good day. I am D. Tyrell McGirt, City of Unalaska Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation (PCR) Director. The Unalaska Public Library falls under the PCR department.

I was disheartened to hear that funds to support the OWL program have been removed from the Governor's budget. This will have a costly impact on the Unalaska Public Library's budget and potentially put citizens that live here at a greater disadvantage of staying connect to the outside world. I ask you to reconsider eliminating OWL funding.

Being able to offer recreational and library services in a small rural remote place like Unalaska helps attract families here, help families stay here, adds to the quality of life, and makes our community a livable place. The cost of living in the Aleutian Islands is substantially more and the internet cost is even higher. Currently the Unalaska Public Library is the only place on the island where internet is free and open to all. We currently partner with the local school district to offer internet services and save money. We depend on OWL funding coupled with Federal e-rate funding to make accessible internet possible in our community and in our schools.

With OWL funding the Unalaska Public Library has been able to support educational opportunities for the Unalaska City School District, support Unalaska small businesses, and support citizens and seasonal workers by having a place for them to stay connected to loved ones off the island, pay bills, get additional training and education, apply for jobs, complete taxes, and apply for PFD.

Please continue funding the OWL program. Rural Alaska greatly benefits from the service. Thank you.



D. Tyrell McGirt, Director
City of Unalaska | Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Post Office Box 610 | Unalaska, Alaska 99685

907.581.1297 ext. 5110 | 907.581.2989 Fax
Alaska Recreation and Park Association
National Recreation and Park Association

From: [Cora Holmes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Owl Internet funding in UNALASKA, Alaska
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:56:08 PM

>

> To whom it may concern:

>

> Please restore the OWL funding included by the governor in his budget and cut by the finance education subcommittee. As a library employee in Unalaska for eight years I saw firsthand the need for free readily available Internet service in that community of transient multilingual residents. The loss would devastate the canneries, schools, and general public.

>

> Cora Holmes

> Library staff 2004-2012

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Jacky Graham](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please balance the budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:13:13 AM

Good morning,

Your hearing from constituents is key at this time. I would like to make my opinion heard.

Please do everything you can to balance this budget and close the gap.

Slash every program to the bone. Do not hire new staff for government positions.

For the next couple of years, shutter extraneous facilities.

Raise taxes now without delay. A sales tax on everything but food. A transportation tax to pay for Trooper patrols on the Seward Hwy.

If we have to go 3 years without a large PFD or any PFD at all, that is OK with me until we get this budget balanced.

Most importantly grow balls, man up, woman up, and make the hard decisions now that are required of you as our elected servants. Vote with courage and you will get my vote. Do nothing and you won't.

Thank you and good Luck,

Nina J Graham
Girdwood

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Michael A. R. [unclear]", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

City: Fairbanks

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

David Leonards

City:

North Pole AK 99705

3/1/16

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Sincerely- Josh LaBreck

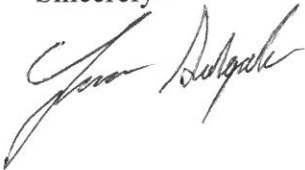
City: Fairbanks / North Pole

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Rodgark".


City: Fairbanks

3/1/16

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Sincerely-


Greg Crompton

City:

North Pole

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...' with a stylized flourish at the end.

City: Fairbanks, AK

Good people in place to do good things

3/1/16

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Sincerely-



City:

Fairbanks

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. [unclear]', written over the word 'Sincerely-'.

City: FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

VERY RESPECTFUL CLASS, HELPS GET ALOT....

3/1/16

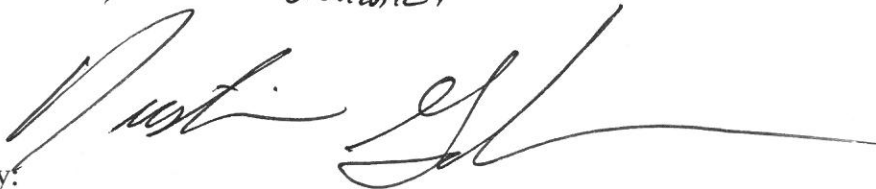
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Sincerely-

Dustin Gonzales

City:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Gonzales', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

FAIRBANKS

3/1/16

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Sincerely- Leanna Phipps

Leanna Phipps

City: Fairbanks

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

WGAHeg

City: Fairbanks AK

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Alexander

Michael Alexander

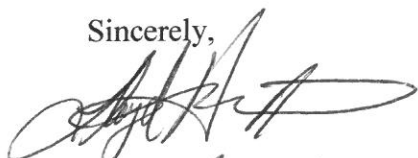
*Domestic Violence is a serious problem.
the classes I've taken have been very helpful.
It would be a loss to make them harder to get.*

3/1/16

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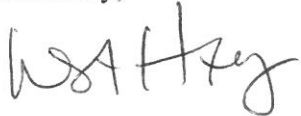
LLOYD HOBAN

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. In my over 20 years experience in working with offenders, I can tell you that DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Hay', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Hay, MFA, MSW, LCSW
Fairbanks, AK

From: [Scott Anaya](#)
To: allegislators@akleg.gov; gov.allegislators@akleg.gov
Cc: [House Finance](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Subject: AK Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:48:36 PM

Dear Members of the Legislature,

Please first:

- Cut wasteful dead-end boondoggle projects: Susitna dam, railroad spur, roads to no where Juneau, Cordova, & the Rampart/Ambler Road.
- Rein in Oil Tax credits to \$10 Million & make them loans given towards only those projects proven to show a return on investment of our state dollars.
- Keep the Permanent Fund & the PFD intact- only use ONLY the excess earnings.
- NO to sales tax, NO to alcohol taxes
- No to tax increases on small family fishermen
- Greatly increase mining and minerals taxes more than the Governor proposes.
- Then Consider an Income tax @ 7-10% of Federal

Scott Anaya
Alaskan Business Owner & Father

I ask that you consider cuts in the budget and any potential new revenue sources in order of the least impact they have in hurting the overall Alaskan economy. Your response to the budget shortfall could make things far worse for our state.

Please keep education funding in-tact. No to school vouchers, yes to more charter & language immersion schools. I support using the excess earnings of the Perm Fund for education, but please keep the Fund & PFD in-tact.

Please do NOT implement a sales tax which would further burden our state's small businesses.

I am not sure why Alaskans support a regressive sales tax over an income tax that would treat income levels more fairly as well as capturing all of the outta state workers. Plus, deducting a state income tax off of our federal taxes eases that burden more easily for all of us who don't itemize. Also collecting an income tax is less of a burden on Alaskan businesses compared to a sales tax.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my views.

Scott Anaya
owner/manager
CRUSH Wine Bistro & CeLLar
www.crushak.com

Sent from my iPad. Please forgive typos.