

From: [Daniello, Denise L \(HSS\)](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Cc: [Mary Shields \(marys1941@icloud.com\)](#); [marys@ak.net](#)
Subject: ACoA Comment on HB 256 and HB 257
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:25:10 PM
Attachments: [ACoA Comment on HB 256 & HB 257.pdf](#)

Dear Chair Neuman:

The Alaska Commission on Aging respectfully requests your consideration of the proposed funding reductions for programs serving Alaska seniors including the Alaska Senior Benefits Program, Senior Community Based Grants, and the Adult Preventative Medicaid Dental Services within the Department of Health and Social Services. These services help seniors maintain their health, ability to live with dignity, provide support for their family caregivers, and reduce the need for higher cost care. Thank you for your support of programs serving Alaska seniors and for the opportunity to provide public comment. Denise

Denise Daniello

Executive Director | Alaska Commission on Aging

Department of Health and Social Services

PO Box 110680 | Juneau, AK 99811-0680

907.465.4879 | denise.daniello@alaska.gov

www.alaskaaging.org

Healthy Aging for Alaskans Across the Lifespan

From: [Jana walette](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 6:39:02 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,
Jana walette
6015 Bulgaria Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Tami Scime](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Save Community Radio
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 6:40:00 PM

I am sending this to implore you to reconsider budget cuts that would hurt community radio. Not everyone has access to internet or cell service. I am a dispatcher at the Skagway police department and we always notify KHNS about road closures and other emergency information. They are an essential tool for getting word out to residents. My own internet is unreliable and so KHNS is a valuable resource for me to stay up to date on local, national and world news. Local radio can be a lifeline, especially under emergency conditions. They aren't a luxury, they are a necessity. If you're building a ship and your budget runs short, do you remove the lifeboats to save money?



--

Tami Scime
Mary Kay
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/tscime
907-973-7033
PO Box 996
Skagway, AK 99840

From: [Denali Drilling, Inc.](#)
To: [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Dave Talerico](#); [Rep. David Gutttenberg](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Max Gruenberg](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Sen. Lesil McGuire](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 5:13:29 PM

I would like to reiterate that we don't need more government. You are trying to reduce the size of government by cutting employees, programs, and giveaways. Then you want to turn around and are discussing having an income tax and still keeping the PFD. All the people I talk to don't understand how you can say you want to reduce government employees and programs, but then if you start an income tax and keep the PFD. You will have to hire 50-60 new employees to collect the income tax. Then you will have to hire 75-150 new state employees to enforce the new tax. Most people don't understand why you would have a government agency giving out a check, the PFD, and then a new agency collecting checks, the income tax. This is like taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another pocket just to make yourself feel good. Just do what needs to be done and use the PFD before you start taxes. This will have to happen someday when they shut down the pipeline, so do it now so we don't duplicate more government.

Hal Ingalls

Denali Drilling, Inc.
8240 Petersburg Street
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-562-2312
907-562-5971 (fax)

This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com

From: [william luttrell](#)
To: [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Alaska Budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 5:17:11 PM

If you want the sinners of this state to carry the brunt of this fiscal Crisis that you created , then its only fair that we get some things in return . I'm going to give you some advice on a myriad of topics : Legalize gambling , make the Wasilla fun Center , a adult casino , Bring in the Lottery to help fund K1-K12 education , Legalize Prostitution , make the woman get regular medical check ups and tax them , Cut all State Departments by 50% this year , to include personnel ,buildings and offices , Ensure DOT & Pub facilitys gets enough money to keep the airports , Marine and main highways open from Fairbanks ,Wasilla, Whitier , Anchorage to Tok ,Ak. , this will allow all non real Alaskans and The legislature to leave AK. and to never return !. Dept. of Corrections : This recidivism's : If it truly costs \$150.00 a day to house a prisoner up here ? , house them here If there sentence is less than 6 months , everything over 6 months send to private jail in lower 48 , where costs \$50.00 a day and at the end of there sentence , they cannot come back to Ak. Contact AK. Dept of labor , ask her how many people work in AK. , and whats there total gross annual Pay , take 10% of there Gross pay and add it to Non oil annual revenue the state receives , That is your Budget amount !, go back to 1976 when you didn't have oil revenue ! , and see what AK. budget was. Medicaid: meet the minimum federal guidelines, period. Education : ask AK.dept of education , what's the average cost to the state of a home schooled child , that is what the state will provide to the parent per child period. Alaska state tax : if instituted will be a flat tax , every worker and corporation will pay , workers will not have to do a state tax form annually , it will be between the State and the company they work for , money taken out of there pay will be reflected on there W-2 for federal tax filing. Now the golden egg ! , For the next 2 years , we real Alaskans will loan you the money out of the PFD earnings reserve account , at a interest rate of 5% over the state income and sales tax combined that your getting ready to impose on all Alaskans , we're giving 2 years to get this budget worked out , after that I will get every Veteran and real Alaskan in this state to recall all of you , of course you could do Alaska a favor and resign now !, you and past legislatures overspent ! and created this crisis !, now fix it !. If you want me to come to Juneau and supervise you I can , I'm retired. My name is William M. Luttrell , Jr. , P.O. Box 331, Willow ,AK. , 99688 , Ph# (907) 521-0246

From: [Chris Rose](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for State Renewable Energy Programs
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 5:24:06 PM

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of REAP's 70 utility, developer, corporate and NGO members to respectfully request that the House Finance Committee restore the \$5 million for the state's Renewable Energy Fund (REF), as well as the dollars that were deleted from the budget for the Emerging Energy Technology Fund (EETF) and the administration of both programs.

As you know, on February 16th the Governor submitted an amended budget to the legislature that deletes this funding. The rationale for the cuts stated, "this funding reduction reflects a lesser need for energy projects at current energy prices."

Energy projects are 25-50 year undertakings. Fuel prices will clearly go up and down over this period. Today's lower fuel prices do not guarantee sustainability for the 200+ Alaskan communities that rely on diesel. Local, stably-priced renewable energy is a long-term solution that is already providing tremendous benefits across the state. The Alaska Energy Authority estimates that the 54 projects that have so far been constructed through the REF will displace 30 million gallons of diesel in 2016. **That savings is worth more than \$60 million in this year alone,** demonstrating significant returns on the \$259 million in state appropriations that have been invested in the REF since 2008, which also leveraged more than \$200 million in federal and private dollars. Renewable energy is keeping money in communities that would otherwise be exported. Alaska needs to keep those dollars circulating in our economy, creating both direct and indirect jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The EETF is another anchor program for maintaining Alaska's status as a world leader in small, remote grids that incorporate clean energy technologies. More than a billion people on the planet could use the technologies that Alaskans are developing in our rural communities, providing an opportunity for Alaskan businesses and workers to be part of the \$300 billion per year clean energy industry, one of the fastest growing business sectors in the world.

Please consider the restoration of funding for both the Renewable Energy Fund and Emerging Energy Technology Fund. They are both playing an important role in keeping the state's economy stable today, and represent a strategic investment in Alaska's future.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rose".

Chris Rose
Executive Director
Renewable Energy Alaska Project
308 G Street, Suite 225
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-232-0908 (mobile)
chris@realaska.org
www.realaska.org

From: [Licha Kelley-King](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. less.gara@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: Budget cuts to senior benefits and community based operations
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:47:12 PM

Rendezvous Senior Day Services, Inc.

2441 First Ave, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Phone: (907)247-1961

rendezvous@kpunet.net

February 29, 2016

I am writing this letter to discuss the proposed cuts to the numerous grants and services for Alaska Seniors and persons with disabilities. I understand the budget shortfall. I understand you and the rest of the Legislature need to find ways to cut the deficit for Alaska. My heart goes out to you making these very difficult decisions. However, you need to know that this particular portion of our state population cannot survive any more cuts and funding reductions.

Caring for someone who is frail or has a disability is a demanding job. The **Rendezvous Adult Day Service** can provide caregivers with a much-deserved break, secure in the knowledge that family members are receiving excellent care. **Rendezvous** provides frail adults experiencing physical, mental or social problems associated with stroke, isolation, confusion or other conditions with the opportunity to meet new people, participate in challenging activities and enjoy daily life in comforting surroundings.

Rendezvous Staff oversees a variety of activities specially designed to meet the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of adults who may be physically challenged or coping with some sort of dementia or memory loss. These activities can range from arts and crafts, discussion groups and light exercise to safe care for functionally impaired persons.

Rendezvous' adult day service is a supervised daytime program providing personal care services appropriate for adults with medical or disabling conditions that do not require the intervention or services of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed rehabilitative therapist acting under the supervision of the client's physician.

The Member participants of **Rendezvous** are Seniors or persons with disabilities who:

- Can no longer structure his or her own daily activities
- Is isolated and desires companionship
- Can't be safely left alone at home
- Lives with someone who works outside the home or who is frequently away from home for other reasons

- Can benefit from the friendship and functional assistance the day center offers
- May be physically or cognitively challenged but do not require 24-hour supervision
- Are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease

The **Rendezvous Adult Day Center's** goals focus on enriching the participants' lives, building upon their skills, knowledge, and unique abilities and strengths. Below are some of the activities that are available:

- Arts and crafts including items to sell at bazaars and other venues
- Musical entertainment and sing-a-longs
- Mental stimulation games such as bingo, puzzles, sodukow contests, scrabble & card games
- Stretching and other gentle exercise
- Discussion groups (books, films, current events, information presentations)
- Holiday and birthday celebrations
- Local outings

Most of our participants are below the poverty line and cannot afford to pay for our services. They come to us for all kinds of support as most do not have family members to give them the help they require. Our Staff makes certain they have made and get to their doctors' appointments, get needed prescriptions filled (and take them), get the balanced nutrition they need, the mental and physical stimulation to keep their minds and bodies functioning and a hug as they go out the door because everybody needs a hug every day. Mostly, these are proud people that have worked hard all their lives that are determined to live outside of a long term facility. These are the people that built this state and it is our duty to care for them.

Please, on behalf of the Seniors in Alaska, please find a way to fully fund the services for the people that built our state. Please fully fund the benefits for our Seniors and the community based funding.

Licha Kelley-King, Executive Director

Licha Kelley-King

Executive Director

Rendezvous Senior Day Services, Inc.

907-2247-1961

rendezvous@kpunet.net



Feb 29/16

goodday state -

i'm a 40 year fbks resident - i never went to the "u", nor have i worked there -

however the "u" is an almost daily part of my life - friends who work there share their knowledge and expertise - the science, the art, the music, its FBKS!

the salaries, both big and small, from the "u" are reinvested in the fbks economy - without the "u" fbks would be an economic cripple -

research is a vibrant and important part of the "u" - a world with no research is a dead world - we move forward via research -

the state should borrow money from the permanent fund to keep the "u" afloat until we can get our feet back under us.

Zin Kittredge
605 front st.
fbks, 99701

thank
Zin



the "u" is the university!

From: [Michael Horton](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. less.gara@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Kate Burkhart](#)
Subject: Proposed cuts to the State budget for Health Care
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:20:05 PM

I know that my voice will probably be lost in the flurry of emails and mind-numbing hours of testimony, but I just wanted to add my brief suggestions. It is the surgeon's rule: let's not cut too deeply or too fast for fear of hitting an artery and causing irreparable damage.

Two programs that I would like to see "held harmless" are (1) Behavioral Health funding and (2) dental care for elders.

Since coming to Alaska over thirty years ago, I have seen a decrease in per capita consumption of alcohol. We had been close to three times the national average and now we are approaching twice. That is still too much, but we have made progress. But now we are facing a host of incoming drugs that are just now being increasingly felt in our urban and rural communities- methamphetamines and heroin (a drug we thought we had already closed the door on until Afghanistan). This affects the kids growing up in the midst of poisons in the manufacture of Meth with something approaching four times the incidence of childhood psychosis. Simply stated, we need support of addictions programs and mental health programs as other safety nets are removed.

I also would encourage the support of dental services to the elderly. This one is a new one for me. I had no idea until recently that elders often are not covered for dental problems under Medicare. Our most venerable citizens are also our most vulnerable in many cases. Please help ensure that they have the basic health care that they need.

I have been down with the flu, or I would probably be trying to bother you in person. Thank you for listening and representing us!

Michael Horton

Chugiak, Alaska

F-12

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Alan Boraas](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#)
Subject: university budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:52:29 PM

Dear Legislators:

As one of the longest tenured faculty in the history of the University of Alaska, I wish to comment on the University House Finance Subcommittee's proposed \$50.8 million dollar reduction in the state's contribution to the university's budget.

I can tell you that faculty morale is low and many are seeking jobs elsewhere. Moreover, Alaskan students are considering transferring out of state. This deep budget cut will mean a further exodus of faculty and students. I urge you to restore the University of Alaska's funding at least to the governor's proposed budget of \$335 million--a 4.5 percent reduction. Thank you.

Alan Boraas, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology
Kenai Peninsula College

From: [Meredith R. Pochardt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Radio Funding
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:15:14 PM

Greetings,

I would like to strongly urge the Finance Committee to reconsider its proposed 100% cut to public radio. As a resident of Haines, I rely daily on our public radio station, KHNS, and have long been a financial supporter of the radio station. This is a vital piece of living in a remote, rural community in Alaska - where internet is not a common household luxury! I have personally chosen to not have internet at my house for the past 5 years and rely on KHNS for daily weather and road conditions, among many other things.

I realize the State is in a difficult financial situation at the moment, but fully de-funding public radio would kill community radio stations. Think about the lasting implications that could have on Alaska's rural, remote communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meredith Pochardt
PO Box 1544
166 Menaker Rd.
Haines, AK 99827

From: [Michael LoMonaco](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please fund SBDC
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:14:15 PM

Dear Finance Committee,

Please DO NOT eliminate funding to the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

The center's mission contributes to Alaska business growth, diversification, and job creation. Despite the tough economic times facing Alaska, eliminating SBDC is contrary to the objective of the building an economically strong Alaska.

Please retain funding to SBDC.

Regards,

Michael Salvatore LoMonaco

PO Box 111994
Anchorage AK 99511
907-229-7945

From: [Mark Troutman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 256 Seed Potato Program
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:32:46 PM

I am a long time Seed Producer, "Farmer" in the Mat Su Valley. I purchase all my G-0 seed from the PMC. The Seed Potatoes I purchase are disease free. I grow seed for other farmers, greenhouses, gardeners and villages. If the Potato program is eliminated, my seed costs will double or triple, plus freight to get it to Alaska. This can only mean that I and other seed producers will have to increase the price of our seed. I don't understand why the Div. of Ag. and the PMC are always targeted for Budget cuts. I am willing to pay taxes. Mark Troutman



State Of Alaska
Legislative Affairs Agency
Kenai LIO
145 Main St Lp, Ste 217
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-2030

Date: _____ 022916 _____

Please accept the following as written testimony for the
_____ HFIN _____ HB256 _____ teleconference
hearing that was scheduled on _____ 030116 _____.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee
on _____ 022916 _____.

Thank You,

Kenai LIO

Shauna Thornton
320 Lantern Circle
Kenai, Alaska 99611

February 29, 2016

State of Alaska Legislators
C/O LIO Office Kenai
145 Main Street Loop
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Alaska State Legislators,

I just wanted to take a moment and voice my support of the University budget the Governor has recommended this is imperative for online courses and programs. These programs have allowed and afforded me the flexibility to remain in my hometown of Kenai, receive an excellent education and given me opportunities that are boundless for not only my growth as a student but as a participating community member. I have attended classes at the University all throughout working on my Bachelors in Liberal Arts (concentrations in Sociology, History, and English) with an academic minor in Anthropology and currently enrolled in the Masters of Public Administration program at UAS.

I have been very active not only within our UA community as a Student Government member, Coalition of Student Leaders Speaker, and now as the Student Government Advisor. I additionally serve my community as a volunteer with many organizations and starting a non-profit community art group, sitting on the Kenai Harbor Commission and many other events on our local campus. The opportunities to attend classes at times that are most convenient have enhanced my application of what I am learning within each of the courses that I have attended. The most fascinating thing for me in the online course delivery method is the vastness of our cohort as we travel on our paths. I have had in class people from all over the world, working and living just as I do here in Alaska. However, this network and bond have given me ideas and a network far larger than I had ever dreamed of, this is the priceless part of what I consider the tools for success part of my education. I believe that as a University that we can weather the storm that a budget crisis will create through our innovative and problem solving skills, working together and focusing on unique delivery methods that our outlying campuses have perfected and work for a large diverse population.

I support and have witnessed first hand how many of our smaller campuses are not only innovative for their local markets but have reached new heights with worldwide enrollment, making our smaller campuses a golden gem of opportunity to the larger University, through their value added programming/research within their individual communities, and our state as a whole. Please during the impending doom and gloom; keep an eye on the future, and our often forgotten gems within the University.

Sincerely,

Shauna Thornton
Graduate Student
UAS MPA Program.

From: [Kelly E. Nymeyer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Parents as Teachers
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:41:05 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the program, "Parents as Teachers," based in Kodiak, AK. I am currently not a participant of the program, but fully intend to re-enroll if I am blessed with another child.

When I had my first child, the program helped me understand what developmental stages my son was going through and ways to help him succeed emotionally, relationally, and physically. Infants are entirely dependent on their parents with little to no reciprocation of affection in the relationship. This can be hard on a parent who wonders, "Is my kid on par with his/her skills? Is there more I should be doing? Am I doing all the right things?" Parents as Teachers was a great way to work with my family's schedule, personalize the knowledge to my family and where we were at, keep up with my son's development, and empower parents in their roll of providing & meeting needs.

In addition to the direct interaction this program has with the family, I felt the staff was knowledgeable in other Kodiak-based programs to help families with whatever needs the family has. I have had an all around great experience with every aspect of pregnancy, birth and post-partum care, and that is one thing that makes the community of Kodiak great.

Please continue to give your needed support to keep programs like "Parents as Teachers" going. Please don't let my family be the last family to benefit from programs like this. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kelly E. Nymeyer

--

Kelly E. Nymeyer

~ *A smile is a curve that can set things straight* ~

From: [Clair Kochis](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#)
Subject: Budget crisis and impact to the UA system and citizens of Alaska
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:01:09 PM

Greetings,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the current proposed budget cuts to the UA system. I am fearful that the extreme cuts proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee appears to be more about vindictive party politics than about finding a realistic budget that can keep Alaska moving forward as a state while allowing her citizens to continue moving forward through the opportunities that can only be offered by a healthy university system.

Yes, I have a personal stake in this, but I believe that all Alaskans do. My job with the UA system generates revenue for the university. I routinely teach classes with higher than average enrollments, thereby maximizing the revenue stream that I am personally able to affect. I have worked with students who have altered their career paths to pursue higher degrees after hearing my story and they have gone on to offer contributions back to the state that continue to make this a wonderful place to live, work, play, and pursue dreams.

I was a non-traditional student when I finally went back to college, like many of the students who are currently enrolled in the UA system. I was a single mother with three children. I did not have online courses available to me, but I did have professors who generously gave me the encouragement I needed to complete my degree. Without those individuals to guide and support me I would never have earned a total of four degrees, been able to hold a well-paid job as an engineer with Hewlett Packard, nor would I have received the education I needed to be able to eventually give back to my community in the same way as those professors did when I was a student. My current position as an assistant professor of mathematics and physics is not just a job for me. It is doing something I love in order to make a positive contribution to the economic health of my local community, my state, and my nation.

The earlier budget proposals with smaller cuts have already forced the UAF campus to hand term professors notices of non-renewal. It does not take my degrees in math and physics to see that additional cuts will mean more non-tenure track revenue producers in the system, like myself, will be handed pink slips. Individuals who are in the unique position of contributing to the financial well-being of the system are being let go creating an even greater financial crisis for UA.

Please support the Governor's proposed budget, not the current budget as outlined by the House Finance Subcommittee, so that UA has a chance to survive this crisis without gutting important programs and eliminating many of the highly skilled faculty resources that may be difficult or even impossible to replace in the future. By keeping our key programs and resources intact, students will be able to continue to use UA as their vehicle for self-improvement, career training, education, and outreach for a brighter future for all of us.

Thank you,
Clair Kochis

Kenai, Alaska

907-395-0361

From: [Rachael Craig](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Reduction of Senior Community Based Grants
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:06:05 PM

Dear Finance Committee:

I will be unavailable for public testimony on Tuesday, March 1 to speak on the reduction of senior community based grants. I understand our State is in crisis mode and looking for ways to cut the budget. However, I understand that \$450,000 is being cut from the Senior Community Based Grants. This funding includes senior centers on the Peninsula that deliver home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, and homemaker services. These services allow our seniors 60+ to stay in their homes and have services provided within their communities that they are familiar with, trust and depend on!

The Alaska senior population is growing at an annual rate of 4 to 6%. Seniors who receive these services are often food insecure, low-income, homebound, and they need assistance with 2 or more activities of daily living. Their caregivers (if they have a caregiver), usually the spouse, or

another family member depend on these grant-funded services for respite and support. Many seniors with dementia do not qualify for the wavier (Medicaid) program. Senior grants are the lowest cost service that enable seniors to stay in their homes and saves the State money from higher

Cost of health and institutional care! It costs an average of \$600 per senior within the senior grant program compared to the \$20,100 for Personal Care Assistance compared to the \$31,300 for Choice Waiver (Medicaid Services) and \$270,845 for nursing home care.

Please, do not cut senior community based grants! Our low income seniors have already taken a hit to their Senior Benefits, now you are asking

Providers to take a hit as well. We will not be able to afford purchasing food for meal programs of transportation costs if cuts continue!!

Sincerely,

Rachael S. Craig

Director

City of Kenai

Kenai Senior Services

361 Senior Court

Kenai, AK 99611

From: [Bill Thomas](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter in support of KHNS and Public Radio
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:35:20 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: FW: Letter in support of KHNS and Public Radio

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: [jean ward](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: fund SBDC
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:17:25 PM

To Whom it may concern,

Please do not short funding to the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC). This organization directly contributes to Alaska's business growth , diversification, and job creation. Despite the economic downturn facing Alaska, eliminating SBDC is contrary to the objective of the building an economically strong and stable Alaska.

Please retain funding to SBDC.

Sincerely,

Jean K Ward
7030 Crawford street
Anchorage Alaska
99502
[\(907\) 570-2321](tel:(907)570-2321)

From: [Dave Atcheson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: House Finance Committee Public Testimony
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:19:46 PM

I am unable to make the public testimony hearing at my local LIO office tomorrow (march 1) before the House Finance Committee, but would like to submit this:

I am writing to implore you to find a way to fund the University of Alaska. I realize times are tough, but the proposed cut of over \$50 million, nearly 18% of the current budget is appalling. In my over 30 years in Alaska I have been witness to a university system that has steadily improved to the point where its graduates are in high demand and its reputation has blossomed, today highly regarded in many disciplines around the world.

To see cuts continue to the point where our currently well respected university is rendered a mere shell of its once great self, and where our children automatically venture out of state for a decent education, would be a disgrace. Please do not let that happen. We have had a bright future, that has grown ever brighter due to your support. It is so important to our society, to our state, and to our children, to have a first class university system. To see that unravel, and to one day have to try and rebuild the institution that is University of Alaska back to where it is now, would be a shame, and in the long term wasteful. The progress the university has made, what University of Alaska is today, would be toppled in a matter of a few short months, and would take years, as well as an untold amount of resources and money, to build back again.

Thank you,

Dave Atcheson
Box 145
Sterling, AK 99672
907-398-4216

From: [jean ward](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SBDC Funding
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:23:20 PM

To Whom it may concern,

Please do not short funding to the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC). This organization directly contributes to Alaska's business growth , diversification, and job creation. Despite the economic downturn facing Alaska, eliminating SBDC is contrary to the objective of the building an economically strong and stable Alaska.

Please retain funding to SBDC.

Sincerely,

Jean K Ward
7030 Crawford street
Anchorage Alaska
99502
[\(907\) 570-2321](tel:(907)570-2321)

From: [Matt Cook](#)
To: [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); representative.jim.clover@akleg.gov; [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Max Gruenberg](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); representative.shelly.hughes@akleg.gov; [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#)
Subject: misclassification of greenhouse business as industrial
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 6:10:53 PM

To: Members of Alaska House of Representatives

From: Matt Cook, future cannabusiness owner

Subject: Incorrect classification of a greenhouse as F1, Moderately Hazardous Industrial, by Alaska State Fire Marshal.

Date: 26 February 2016

I must bring to your attention the incorrect classification of part of OUR States newest businesses. A business that many in the Legislature have dedicated many hours already in the form of Ballot measure 2 in 2014. As a hopeful, law abiding member of this new business I was shocked to find out our State Fire Marshal has categorized "Limited Greenhouse Cultivation Operations", 500 sqft or less in cultivation, as a F1 "Moderately Hazardous Industrial" business. F1 is an industrial classification. How can a business in a greenhouse, a "U" classification for other agricultural businesses, now be classified as F1 Industrial?

I can understand the F1 classification for producers of marijuana concentrates. Producers of marijuana concentrates use processes similar to those found in a F1 industrial classification. Producers of concentrates, either THC or CBG/CBD, use chemicals in pressure vessels under heat or a vacuum to strip the desired parts out of/off of the bud/flower. However, I can't understand why a greenhouse cultivation would be classified as industrial and not agricultural. I ask you to notice the examples of Hemp Products and Jute Products within the F1 businesses classification. Why is the act of growing hemp and jute not given an F1 classification? Why would the growing of cannabis not be in the same category as growing hemp or jute? How can the growing of cannabis be in the same classification as building/fabricating of construction and agricultural equipment?

I have provided the results of a quick google search on "International Building Code" for both F1 Industrial and U Agricultural. I have provided both url and cut and paste text. I ask you to read both classifications and tell me which is more appropriate for a "Limited Greenhouse Cultivation of 500 sqft or Less".

Remember, we are talking about a business that is NOT open to the public. The greenhouse is behind a chain link fence. The only people who will be legally entering the greenhouse are the licensed owners. How can this F1 classification be correct? I ask the Legislature to change/amend any law, statute, ordinance, etc... that would classify a greenhouse cannabis grow/cultivation operation as a class U business and not an F1 Industrial business. I look forward to hearing from any who chose to reply back to me. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with any of you on this issue.

Matt Cook

Soldotna, Alaska

907-740-8070

http://publicecodes.cyberregs.com/icod/ibc/2009/icod_ibc_2009_3_par009.htm

306.2 Factory Industrial F-1 Moderate-hazard Occupancy. Factory industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)

Appliances

Athletic equipment

Automobiles and other motor vehicles

Bakeries

Beverages: over 16-percent alcohol content

Bicycles

Boats

Brooms or brushes

Business machines

Cameras and photo equipment

Canvas or similar fabric

Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)

Clothing

Construction and agricultural machinery

Disinfectants

Dry cleaning and dyeing

Electric generation plants

Electronics

Engines (including rebuilding)

Food processing

Furniture

Hemp products

Jute products

Laundries

Leather products

Machinery

Metals

Millwork (sash and door)

Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)

Musical instruments

Optical goods

Paper mills or products

Photographic film

Plastic products

Printing or publishing

Recreational vehicles

Refuse incineration

Shoes

Soaps and detergents

Textiles

Tobacco

Trailers

Upholstering

Wood; distillation

Woodworking (cabinet)

Top Previous Section Next Section To view the next subsection please select the Next Section option.

<http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/MercerIsland/html/MercerIsland17/MercerIsland1701.html>

Chapter 17.01

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

Sections:

17.01.010 Adoption.

17.01.020 Amendments and additions.

17.01.010 Adoption.

The 2012 Edition of the International Building Code (IBC) including the adoption of ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009, as adopted and amended by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-50 WAC, as published by the International Code Council, excluding Chapter 1, Administration, is adopted by reference, together with the following amendments and additions. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 17.14 MICC, shall be used in place of IBC Chapter 1, Administration.

The following appendices of the 2012 Edition of the International Building Code are also adopted by reference: Appendix E – Supplementary Accessibility Requirements, and Appendix H – Signs.

The 2012 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) is included in the adoption of the International Building Code as provided by IBC Section 3401.5 and amended in WAC 51-50-480000, excluding Chapter 1, Part 2 – Administration. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 17.14 MICC, shall be used in place of IEBC Chapter 1, Part 2 – Administration.

Exceptions. The provisions of this code do not apply to temporary growing structures used solely for the commercial production of horticultural plants including ornamental plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits. “Temporary growing structure” means a structure that has the sides and roof covered with polyethylene, polyvinyl, or similar flexible synthetic material and is used to provide plants with either frost protection or increased heat retention. A temporary growing structure is not considered a building for purposes of this code.

The provisions of this code do not apply to the construction, alteration, or repair of temporary worker housing except as provided by rule adopted under Chapter 70.114A RCW or Chapter 37, Laws of 1998 (SB 6168). “Temporary worker housing” means a place, area, or piece of land where sleeping places or housing sites are provided by an employer for his or her employees or

by another person, including a temporary worker housing operator, who is providing such accommodations for employees, for temporary, seasonal occupancy, and includes “labor camps” under RCW 70.54.110. (Ord. 13C-06 § 1; Ord. 10C-03 § 1; Ord. 07C-04 § 1; Ord. 04C-12 § 4).

17.01.020 Amendments and additions.

A. IBC Section 312.1 Amended – Utility and Miscellaneous Group U, General. Section 312.1 of the International Building Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 312.1 – General. Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy. Group U shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Agricultural buildings

Aircraft hangars, accessory to a one- or two-family residence (see Section 412.5)

Barns

Carports

Fences more than 6 feet (1,829 mm) high

Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy

Greenhouses

Livestock shelters

Private garages

Retaining walls

Sheds

Stables

Tanks

Towers Waterfront structures

From: [Arkose Brewery](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SBDC
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 6:37:33 PM

Rep. Wilson,


The proposed cuts to eliminate SBDC funding would make it difficult for new business to get started as well as established businesses to grow.

We have recently hired 2 employees from our small community in Palmer and will be expanding our manufacturing operation in April. We are poised to double our production capacity and will be hiring additional employees in the spring. These are full-time year-round jobs not seasonal. Successful manufacturing operations in Alaska are vital to growing a healthy economy.

The SBDC not only gave us knowledge and the confidence that we needed when we began 5 years ago, it has provided us with mentorship and guidance as we expanded and we will look to the SBDC as we continue to expand and grow our team.

Best regards,

Stephen Gerteisen
Co-founder & Head Brewer

Arkose Brewery, LLC
650 E. Steel Loop
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 746-BEER
arkosebrewery.com
 [Arkose Brewery](#)



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693
Main: 907.465.3250
Fax: 907.465.1398

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 505 & 515
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

Subject: Support for Senior Benefits, Senior Community Based Grants, and Medicaid Adult Dental (HB 256 and HB 257, Department of Health and Social Services Operating Budget)

Dear Chair Neuman and Chair Thompson:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) extends our sincere thanks and appreciation for the important work conducted by the House Finance Health and Social Services Subcommittee on the operating budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. We do understand and recognize the difficult decisions that you have been called upon to make. We want to take this opportunity to share with you how important programs such as Senior Benefits, Senior Community Based Grants, and Medicaid Adult Dental are for Alaska seniors in reducing the need for more expensive health and long-term care services. While targeted for funding reductions, these safety net services help seniors to maintain their health, independence, dignity, and ability to live at home and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities. We are concerned that reduced funding for these programs will have unintended consequences that may lead to increased utilization of more expensive health and long-term care services thus straining the state's budget and, most importantly, compromising the health and welfare of Alaska's older people.

The **Alaska Senior Benefits Program**, administered by the Division of Public Assistance, provides a critical safety net for Alaskans age 65 and older who live on small fixed incomes. This program offers monthly cash benefits to more than 11,700 seniors statewide to help pay for life necessities including food, housing, heat, and prescribed medications. The average age is 76. The majority of recipients are women, many of whom may be widowed. The proposed budget reduction of **\$5,137,000** eliminates the third highest income category (175% federal poverty level) that provides the lowest amount of cash assistance and will impact 5,438 seniors. The loss of \$125 monthly for a person on a fixed income will make a huge difference in their purchase of nutritious food like fresh fruits and vegetables at the grocery store, being able to afford medications in the prescribed amounts, and keeping the thermostat at a comfortable level during the winter. Many low-income seniors lack cash reserves to pay for emergencies and the increased cost of living. Senior Benefits has proven to be an invaluable help for many older Alaskans who are most vulnerable to economic stresses.

The **Senior Community Based Grants Component**, within the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, is targeted for a funding cut in the amount of **\$450,000**. These funds provide services for seniors age 60 and older that include home-delivered meals, congregate meals, adult day services, respite for family caregivers, homemaker/chore services, transportation, services for people with traumatic brain injury, and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Senior Community Based Grant services serve the largest number of older people at the least cost so that seniors may remain in their homes and communities, where they most desire to be, and provide support for their family caregivers so that they can retain their health and ability to hold a job. Senior

Community Based Grant services target seniors with the greatest economic and social need. They also serve seniors with dementia and other vulnerable older people who do not meet the level of care for the Medicaid Alaskans Living Independently Waiver program. In SFY2015, 25,893 seniors (unduplicated count) received senior grant-funded services at an average annual cost of \$574 per person. These services, if provided at the right time, prevent the need for higher cost health and long-term care such as assisted living (\$68,430 annual cost per person) and nursing home care (\$281,415 annual cost per person) (Genworth Financial Cost of Care Survey 2015). In the long run, senior grant funded services save money for the State.

Adult Preventative Dental Medicaid Services, within Medicaid Services, is targeted for a General Fund reduction in the amount of **\$3,161,700** and a consequential loss of \$2,882,700 of federal receipts. Medicaid Adult Dental is a Medicaid State Option service that was implemented in April 2007. This program assists many low-income seniors who live with a variety of painful, destructive dental problems who otherwise could not afford to pay for routine dental health care, such as dentures. Medicare does not cover the cost of most dental care for senior beneficiaries, including dentures. Dental pain and missing/decaying teeth often affect the dietary choices for seniors that may impact overall health. Studies have consistently shown the link between oral health and chronic disease. Older adults are at high risk for dental decay that has been associated with periodontal disease, diabetes, pneumonia, and cardiovascular disease including increased risk for stroke and vascular dementia. Those without dental coverage or a routine place for dental care and under distress may be forced to access care through hospital emergency departments at a significantly higher cost.

Other budget reductions proposed for programs serving seniors include the

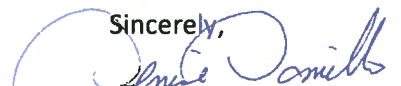
- **Alaska Pioneer Homes (\$741,000)** that will result in the elimination of 11 staff positions and reduce the number of residents who can be served, adding to the waitlist. The Pioneer Homes provide high quality residential care for 535 older Alaskans with an average age of 86 years. Fifty-eight percent of the residents are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and
- **Alaska's Heating Assistance Program (\$9,174,300)** that provides energy assistance for households up to 221% federal poverty level was eliminated in the Governor's budget. In FY2016, 815 households that received home heating assistance through this program had at least one elderly member age 60 and older. Funding for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), that provides heating assistance for households up to 151% federal poverty level, is not expected to be affected by these budget actions.

In total, there is an approximate **\$18,664,000** proposed reduction for five programs serving seniors and other vulnerable Alaskans in the FY16 operating budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. These programs support Alaskan seniors desire to continue living in-state and promote their health, safety, and personal dignity. Seniors are our parents, grandparents caring for grandchildren while their parents are making a living, and pioneers who developed the State many years ago. The Alaska Commission on Aging appreciates your thoughtful re-examination of the consequences of these particular reductions and the impact on Alaska seniors. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's Executive Director by phone (465-4879) or email (denise.daniello@alaska.gov) for further information. Thank you for your leadership and commitment serving Alaskans!

Sincerely,


Mary E. Shields
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,


Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Dan Sadler, Vice Chair
Representative Cathy Muñoz
Representative Lance Pruitt
Representative Les Gara

Representative Tammie Wilson
Representative Scott Kawasaki
Representative David Guttenberg
Representative Mike Hawker (alternate)

From: [Gloria Burnett](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Supporting the University of Alaska... Supports Alaska's Future
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:26:43 PM
Attachments: [2015-ahec-annual-report_final-electronic.pdf](#)

Greetings Representative Neuman,

I am writing to you to voice my strong passion and commitment to the state of Alaska and the future of our great state. I am the Director of Alaska's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, a program within the University of Alaska Anchorage that functions as a statewide healthcare workforce development tool. I have attached a copy of our 2015 annual report for your review and to help you better understand the full breadth of our program.

The AHEC receives federal funding which is matched with grant funds and then sub-awarded to five regional centers throughout the state. These centers are the heart and soul of the program, recruiting Alaskans to pursue career paths in healthcare and helping to fill the enormous gap of healthcare providers in Alaska. The AHECs function as the "glue" holding together partnerships between academics and industry and providing invaluable opportunities for career exploration and experiential learning in our most rural and under-served communities.

We are a "grow our own" program that perfectly demonstrates the value of state funds provided to the university. With those funds we are able to generate federal grant funds to further enhance our mission. Cutting university funds will in many ways jeopardize the great progress we are making in nurturing the healthcare workforce of the future. I understand that cuts will need to be made, but those cuts should not be at the expense of securing millions of dollars worth of funding for research and community outreach.

With that being said, I urge the Finance Committee to seriously reconsider the \$50 million dollar cut to general funding. A drastic cut to the budget will result in detrimental damage to our infrastructure and ability to support students to meet their goals and sustain Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,
Gloria Burnett, MS
Director, Alaska's AHEC Program
University of Alaska Anchorage
gburnett3@uaa.alaska.edu
907-786-6705

From: [Dave Atcheson](#)
To: [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](#)
Cc: [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#)
Subject: University Budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:27:15 PM

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to implore you to find a way to fund the University of Alaska. I realize times are tough, but the proposed cut of over \$50 million, nearly 18% of the current budget is appalling. In my over 30 years in Alaska I have been witness to a university system that has steadily improved to the point where its graduates are in high demand and its reputation has blossomed, today highly regarded in many disciplines around the world.

To see cuts continue to the point where our currently well respected university is rendered a mere shell of its once great self, and where our children automatically venture out of state for a decent education, would be a disgrace. Please do not let that happen. We have had a bright future, that has grown ever brighter due to your support. It is so important to our society, to our state, and to our children, to have a first class university system. To see that unravel, and to one day have to try and rebuild the institution that is University of Alaska back to where it is now, would be a shame, and in the long term wasteful. The progress the university has made, what University of Alaska is today, would be toppled in a matter of a few short months, and would take years, as well as an untold amount of resources and money, to build back again.

Thank you,

Dave Atcheson
Box 145
Sterling, AK 99672
907-398-4216

From: [Al Poindexter](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: seed potato program
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:27:31 PM

China wants certified potato seed. Growers need certified seed. This program keeps our soil clean. Without the program, we will be introducing virus that will stay in the soil forever, therefore giving up our chances of ever having a potato export industry or potatoes that qualify for commercial markets. That would be so shortsighted. Cut the rest – leave the potato program. Roll the entire budget back to what it was in 1970 then use constitutional reserve to fill in to adjust for population. We were doing fine in 1970 before big oil revenues, we can do fine again with the programs we had then. Last programs on the budget should be the first to go and so on if you would take another approach. A couple hundred million isn't going to cut it.

Al Poindexter

From: [Roger](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:29:55 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,
Roger
1901 Shore Dr
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: [jimmy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:33:13 PM

Legislators: Really? A 6.8 billion dollar budget? Please do the tough job of cutting the budget in a major way. Do not take the permanent fund and do not institute an income tax. Alaska is giving away its oil. Repeal SB21 and all tax credits. Impose a production tax on each barrel of oil produced. The bloated state budget must be reduced to about \$3 billion per year. Many economists believe this is the sustainable level. Do your job. Also if you are going to cut checks to senior citizens, at least cut your own pay accordingly. Why shouldn't the legislature share in the sacrifice? Thank you JR

My name is Gordon Kruse. I am the Director of the Fisheries Division of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am located at the Juneau Center and a member of house district 33.

To begin, thank you for your past support for the university.

The House Finance Subcommittee proposes to reduce the university budget by \$50 million from FY16, not counting fixed cost increases that the university must absorb. ***Such deep cuts risk serious, long-term damage to the university.***

I'd like to make three points:

- 1) ***The University's success in securing external research funding should be celebrated.*** Every \$1 million of state funding for research brings in ~\$4 million in external research grants and a total of about ~\$6 million in total economic activity. ***This is an excellent investment.***
- 2) ***We research issues that matter to Alaskans.*** For example, in my program we research into declines in Western Alaskan salmon, which threatens the very way of life in those impoverished communities, and the causes of stunted halibut, which results in low halibut catches, and more importantly, what to do about it. These are just two of examples.
- 3) ***Our Fisheries Program has a huge impact on Alaskan fisheries. For instance:***
 - a) We train Alaska's fisheries workforce; ***65% of all our fisheries graduates are employed in Alaska***
 - b) 25% of the science advisors to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council are UA faculty. ***If we lose these faculty, which outsiders would you rather have set catch limits for our multi-billion dollar fisheries?***

Finally, it is critically important to diversify our state revenues now. I strongly support:

- 1) A sustainable plan to use Permanent Fund earnings reserve in perpetuity,
- 2) A modest income tax that includes the large non-resident workforce in Alaska,
- 3) A tax on mining, just like we tax the fishing industry, and
- 4) A revision to oil tax credit structure.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak to you. I urge your continued support for the university, which has huge impacts on the Alaskan economy in so many ways.

From: [Gretchen T Bersch](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Cc: [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: UAA Cuts
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:09:14 PM
Attachments: [GTB Legislative letter.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Greetings:

I am writing to oppose the proposal to eliminate the service component of University of Alaska faculty workloads. This idea would seriously impact our organization.

I chair the board of OLÉ! (Opportunity for Lifelong Education, offering courses and learning activities for folks over 50) centered in Anchorage. We are an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit with one paid administrative assistant and over 350 members. We are not part of, but are affiliated with UAA, UAF, Alaska Heritage Museum, and other organizations. (see our website at www.OLEAnchorage.org).

The University of Alaska's Mission Statement reads: *"The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples."* Regents' Policy 01.01.01. The UA Values include *Accessibility for all Alaskans* and *Dedication to Serving Community Needs*.

OLÉ! is a great benefit for the University of Alaska as we serve senior citizens at no direct cost to the university, a population that UAA does not serve well. While UAA has a tuition waiver, it serves only those who qualify for social security, generally age 66 and above. Seniors can't enroll until the day the class begins and often by then there is not room in the class; they must pay Student Life and other fees. Most senior citizens do not want to enroll in credit courses, they just want to keep learning.

OLÉ! courses have no tests, no grades and provide stimulating academic learning as well as a valuable social component. We do not ask for any grants or funding but successfully operate using our membership fees. We are affiliated with UAA- they allow us to use a few classrooms on Friday, the least conflict for space. As part of their community service, a few talented UAA faculty have taught OLÉ! classes for which we are very grateful. We are also affiliated with UAF through Cooperative Extension- we help them meet their goal of offering learning and services to the community; they provide us a small shared office space and periodic use of their main classroom. Some of their faculty have taught courses for us as part of their service.

Service is part of all public institutions in the U.S. Service has been a benefit to the citizens of Alaska since our university system began. At Anchorage Community College, from its founding in 1954 until the merger in 1986/87, community service was a big part of their mission and faculty responsibility. At UAA and UAF, community/public service continues to be part of their mission.

There is no benefit to cutting the public service component of faculty workloads. There is great benefit to continuing. It:

1. Maximizes the university/community partnerships, bringing financial benefit to the

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The university system is working hard to find ways to reduce their costs. Cutting out faculty public service would jeopardize valuable community partnerships and alienate the university from the community. It would go against its mission. And I don't believe in the end, it would save money.

Regards,

Gretchen T. Bersch,

OLÉ! Board Chair

gtb@alaska.net

The same message as a document:

From: [Mark C. Wiggin](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Mark Wiggin](#); [DEWiggin](#)
Subject: House Finance Sub-Comm -- Please support public broadcasting in Alaska
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 1:59:03 PM

House Finance Committee members:

I am writing to ask that you include funding in this year's budget for public broadcasting, including KSKA / KAKM / APRN [APM / Alaska Public Media] and KNBA. I am a member of the APM Board of Directors and I have contributed money and time to KSKA / KAKM for the past 33 years. I am a member of the APM Leadership Circle of donors, which shows how significantly my Family and I value public broadcasting. Along with my APM efforts, I also donate to KNBA, which I believe offers a valuable communication source as well, especially to the native Alaskan communities.

I have heard people in and out of government at times make comments such as "with all the channels that are now available, information is available." Respectfully, I disagree. The other night I watched a NOVA program on KAKM TV. It was amazing in its treatment of the complexity, the challenges, and the opportunities afforded to our society through the advancement and use of robots. My thoughts while watching that program were "this kind and quality of information is RARELY available on non-PBS channels."

Please do not eliminate state funding of public broadcasting. Our communities depend on the programming and the communications that public broadcasting provides.

Mark C. Wiggin
2213 Douglas Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-245-2213(h)
907-339-6373(w)
907-244-5041 (cell)
EMail: mwiggin@yahoo.com

From: [David and Kati Prantner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Education Funding: Parents as Teachers
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:02:45 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been enrolled in Parents as Teachers for about 5 years. We have had three great home visitors over the course of this time period and have learned valuable and fun lessons about how to teach our children at home through play. I have enjoyed receiving materials like books that have become some of the best loved stories of my two daughters.

Parents as Teachers meetings and special activities have been highlights of our school year months and we hope to continue being part of the program as we have a new child on the way!

Thank you for supporting programs like this in order to make being a parent even more fun and giving us tools to help make the most of the early years spent with our children!

Sincerely,
Kati Prantner

--

In God there are many blessings!

From: [Sandy Stolle](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: testimony on the state operating budget
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:02:52 PM

Dear Legislators,

I support Governor Walkers approach to balancing the budget.

I understand the need for making cuts to the budget, but extreme cuts will devastate our economy and may increase costs in the long term. Please keep the University of Alaska's research department. We need our higher education to find other revenues for our state. Don't overly target the Human Services Dept. for cuts. Elders and children with needs have few other resources. We are just pushing those expenses down the road or onto other departments, such as public safety.

After having many white knuckle drives this winter on the Seward Hwy to get to Anchorage for medical appointments, I really wonder if last year's reduction to the hwy department, actually pushed those cost to the State Troopers for time responding to the steep rise in serious auto accidents.

How about leading the way in reductions by making "real" reductions to the legislative budget.

I support using part of the Permanent Fund Earnings to help reduce the deficit. This is a rainy day!! I have payed attention to different viewpoints about how to balance the budget and I agree this is an essential component.

I look at the PFD checks as coming out of our "PUBLIC" money and should be used for the good for all. What good is my \$1000 check if our roads are not drive-able and our kids have a poor education --or worse, no school, as is being proposed for small communities. Please promote a sense of "Community" in attitudes towards the PFD. I can do little with my one dividend, but we can support and pay for programs if we combine our PFDs.

I support looking for new sources of revenue, including an income tax. We need to support the talented intellects at our University system to help us find or create other revenue sources for Alaska. Living in Seward, we already have a 7% sales tax to support Borough and City services, but I think this should also be considered.

I know your job is difficult, but I implore you to set aside your political ideology and do what is best for all Alaskans. Alaska can be a difficult place to live, but as I was told when I moved here 40 years ago, "We survive by working together and helping each other".

Sandy Stolle
PO Box 2363
Seward, AK 99664

From: [Ruth Tong](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); ["Rep. less.gara@akleg.gov"](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#)
Cc: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); ["Koahnic Broadcast Corporation"](#)
Subject: Please protect funding for KNBA, public radio station in Anchorage
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:08:14 PM

Dear Alaska Legislature, please protect funding for public radio and television and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. KNBA and other stations throughout the State are lifelines to local, regional, and State news and information. Please restore all state grant funding for public broadcasting for FY2017.

Please secure and preserve emergency response and local voices.

- We understand the tough choices that the Governor and legislature face because of the financial crisis of the State of Alaska. The Governor has included in the FY2017 budget a 27% cut to public broadcasting.
- KNBA is the official 'Local Primary 2' station in Anchorage and Mat-Su area. In emergency situations and in the event the first station is unable to broadcast emergency alert communications, KNBA will be relied upon to do this. This is out of the nearly 30 radio stations in our market. KNBA and other public stations have the technical infrastructure to disseminate emergency information. While Internet and cell service may be available, these can be unreliable in times of emergency, and unaffordable to the economically disadvantaged and elderly. The KNBA emergency alert system is key to the welfare and safety to Alaska's largest city and local vicinity.
- A 100% cut will cause serious financial instability for KNBA, our network of stations, and the daily Native news service. Stations airing our National Native News programming will no longer be able to provide this to their communities. The loss of State funding will severely impact KNBA's ability to administer and attract an additional 25% of federal matching dollars. The daily Native news service and the Native Voice 1 distribution service could lose additional tens of thousands of federal matching dollars.
- Broadcast of Yup'ik, Inupiaq and Tlingit language programming would not be available in the Anchorage area and throughout the state, where young Alaskans are striving to find connections with their identity.
- Commercial broadcasters and other media do not invest the resources to produce daily productions with local Alaska Native voices as only KNBA does.
- KNBA will not be able to recoup the loss of \$108,000 in the State of Alaska grant with local resources or federal grants, and more remote villages with no cash economy would not have a public safety outlet.

I rely daily on KNBA for news and cultural programming. Please continue to fund this essential service.

--Ruth Tong

7245 Bearfoot Drive, Apt. 2

Anchorage, AK 99502

Greetings:

I am writing to oppose the proposal to eliminate the service component of University of Alaska faculty workloads. This idea would seriously impact our organization.

I chair the board of OLÉ! (Opportunity for Lifelong Education, offering courses and learning activities for folks over 50) centered in Anchorage. We are an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit with one paid administrative assistant and over 350 members. We are not part of, but are affiliated with UAA, UAF, Alaska Heritage Museum, and other organizations. (see our website at www.OLEAnchorage.org).

The University of Alaska's Mission Statement reads: *"The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples."* Regents' Policy 01.01.01. The UA Values include **Accessibility for all Alaskans** and **Dedication to Serving Community Needs**.

OLÉ! is a great benefit for the University of Alaska as we serve senior citizens at no direct cost to the university, a population that UAA does not serve well. While UAA has a tuition waiver, it serves only those who qualify for social security, generally age 66 and above. Seniors can't enroll until the day the class begins and often by then there is not room in the class; they must pay Student Life and other fees. Most senior citizens do not want to enroll in credit courses, they just want to keep learning.

OLÉ! courses have no tests, no grades and provide stimulating academic learning as well as a valuable social component. We do not ask for any grants or funding but successfully operate using our membership fees. We are affiliated with UAA- they allow us to use a few classrooms on Friday, the least conflict for space. As part of their community service, a few talented UAA faculty have taught OLÉ! classes for which we are very grateful. We are also affiliated with UAF through Cooperative Extension- we help them meet their goal of offering learning and services to the community; they provide us a small shared office space and periodic use of their main classroom. Some of their faculty have taught courses for us as part of their service.

Service is part of all public institutions in the U.S. Service has been a benefit to the citizens of Alaska since our university system began. At Anchorage Community College, from its founding in 1954 until the merger in 1986/87, community service was a big part of their mission and faculty responsibility. At UAA and UAF, community/public service continues to be part of their mission.

There is no benefit to cutting the public service component of faculty workloads. There is great benefit to continuing. It:

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Regards,

Gretchen T. Bersch
OLÉ! Board Chair
gtb@alaska.net