



Alaska Power Association

703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6650
(907) 771-5700
Fax: (907) 561-5547
www.alaskapower.org

March 3, 2016

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99803

Re: Funding for Renewable Energy Fund in FY 2017 Operating Budget (HB 256)

Alaska Power Association is the trade association of the electric utilities in the state of Alaska. We represent utilities from Barrow to Unalaska, through the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.

APA's members know that all of you are working hard to find solutions to the state's fiscal challenge, just as our members work hard toward lowering the cost of electric energy for Alaskans. A crucial part of that effort is the partnership our members have with Alaska Energy Authority. AEA has been a leader and collaborator in the ongoing mission of electric utilities to make the cost of energy more affordable across the state.

APA urges the House Finance Committee to restore \$2 million to the Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget for the Renewable Energy Fund. This appropriation would allow AEA to protect the state investments in the Renewable Energy Fund by managing the 133 existing, active REF grants that represent \$131 million of state investment. If funding is not restored, AEA will not be able to effectively manage the existing grants, resulting in decreased project management and technical oversight.

The projects that have been funded by the Renewable Energy Fund have a proven track record of bringing down costs – or holding costs steady – in communities across the state. We are taking the long view by asking for this program management funding to be restored in the Operating Budget. Through continued investment in the Renewable Energy Fund program, communities where our friends and families live can continue to benefit from lower cost energy, which helps the individual and the economy.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director

From: [MJF](#)
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](#)
Cc: [Tom Chard](#)
Subject: Cuts to DHSS and in particular, the Behavioral Health Budget
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:42:42 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for your efforts to speak for Alaskans and put forth legislation that is in our collective best and highest good . I have a tremendous respect for the difficult and complex decisions that are made, and to be honest, it appears to be a daunting process.

With the proposed grant cuts and Bills that affect the delivery of services to alcoholics, addicts, homeless and those with lack of access to housing, mentally ill, (criminally involved or not)and children and families, Alaska will continue to be among the top states in the Nation for suicide, alcoholism, drugs, domestic violence, high numbers of children in foster care; and by necessity end up using incarceration, emergency rooms, and law enforcement as the intervention and treatment for substance use and mental health--and the problems will increase over time.

Addiction to alcohol and drugs are deep problems that require **sustained, frequent, timely and varied therapeutic responses** to individuals **over time**...and without a responsive capacity among providers, jails and emergency medical services and law enforcement will experience unforeseen levels of burden from addicts and alcoholics--and my understanding is that those services cost far more than Behavioral Health per capita. People will fail at higher rates than we see today.

I believe that you can save money by reducing the administrative costs in all State Departments that have become "systems" in and of themselves and would not be harmed by modification. Before we cut services to Alaskans, we must look at ways to increase savings at the State operations level, in all departments, from DHSS to the LAA. You can also use taxes to increase revenue(New Sustainable Alaska Plan). in particular, increasing taxes on alcohol, tobacco and now marijuana operations, would be very helpful. I think that before grants dollars are dismantled, we need to see where the new expanded Medicaid dollars will land (could be a lot of primary care dollars due to high co-morbidity among the expanded pool of Medicaid users) and make sure that necessary Behavioral Health and other necessary life infrastructure services remain adequately funded. When the dust settles then we can re-allocate.

Making excessive and sweeping cuts to DHSS is dangerous for Alaska.

Michele Federico

907-723-3021

MJF

From: [Brian Brown](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:15:13 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Brian Brown
PO Box 7243
Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: schweig@ptialaska.net
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); Rep.ess.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
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:55:32 AM

As a resident here for over 40 years, who paid income tax when there were no pfd's, I know Alaskans can pay more than property taxes and live without pfd's.

Knowing many who are retired, I strongly caution cuts to programs supporting Elders, Native and Non-native, on fixed retirement income. Heating and health support are important, and can be written in ways to lessen cost to government.

For example, I have to go to doctor every year for high blood pressure medication renewal. That is not a drug that is addictive or dangerous. However, it does pay doctors and insurance. Passing a general bill that inclusively requires doctors to renew all medication is a waste of money (and time). It's not going to "save" people misusing potentially addictive drugs.

Behavioral health, substance abuse (including abuse while pregnant), and foster families are frequently interrelated. Not intervening via behavioral health supports harm, particularly to children. The children not receiving sufficiently intensive interventions go to jail, where we once again pay. If not in jail, literal harm escalates. Read the bill and see what can be cut within, cut the fluff. But do not cut the service.

Education, cut the expenditures on sports facilities and superficial gloss. Just pay for students to be educated. No vouchers, no assistance to private schools. Support the education system we have to allow our students to be academically competitive.

Keep the roads fixed that we have. For now, don't build more.

Keep the safety personnel we have. Public safety is your job.

Stop the "agendas" and take care of what Alaskans voted for/constitutionalized initially.

From: [Sarah Hargrave](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Testimony House Finance Committee
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 6:33:20 AM

Dear House Finance Subcommittee Members,

Thank you for considering private citizen input in these important matters. I am writing to express my high level of concern about the budget cuts you are recommending for Health and Social Services, particularly those that relate to the Division of Public Health, and Public Health Nursing.

I am concerned that the recommended cuts put lives and health at risk, will adversely affect the economy of several communities, and in the end, will do nothing to stave off the financial crisis Alaska faces.

Public health in Alaska requires the data that Sections like Chronic Disease and Prevention and Health Systems and Planning Sections offer. These services are used daily by local non-profits, community agencies, and also the local public health centers. Our local communities depend on our public health centers and public health nurses to carry out public health at the local level. These services are essential to prevent disease, promote health, and provide needed services and health education for a higher quality of life for our citizens, especially the most vulnerable. The current recommended cuts will have an enormous impact on this valuable service.

Please, preserve our public health system, and our public health nurses.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Hargrave, Juneau Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail](#)

From: [Barclay Kopchak](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Marine Advisory Program Success
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:59:14 PM

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

From: **Barclay Kopchak** <barclay.kopchak@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016
Subject: Marine Advisory Program Success
To: Lhscfin@akkeg.gov
Cc: Sbmoran@alaska.edu

Gentlepeople;

I write in support of the Marine Advisory Program and its many successes and to consider how vital the University's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences is to the health of our fisheries and our fleet. With the loss of oil revenues the value and sustainability of fishing are even more important to our state.

As a regular conference speaker I've personally observed how the Alaska Young Fishermen's Conferences organized by the Marine Advisory Program have educated and invigorated the next generation of fishermen. The conferences educated young fishermen about their industry, their role in governance, and their stake in the state of Alaska. There's a bewildering thicket of regulations, financing options, Board of Fish deliberations, gear and quota considerations that can overwhelm newcomers. Marine Advisory Programs are stalwart navigators. In an industry concerned over the graying of the fleet the conferences enable young fishermen to see a professional path to success.

It is not enough to tell people that 'everything you need is on-line.' You need the human connection that the Marine Advisory outreach programs provide to support Alaska's economic drivers, its fishermen.

Sincerely,

Barclay Jones Kopchak

Cordova, Alaska

From: [PSD Superintendent](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Sustainable State Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:01:59 PM

My name is Erica Kludt-Painter and I am the superintendent in the Petersburg School District. I am also a parent and 16 year Petersburg community member. I am writing to encourage the House Finance Committee to take the appropriate actions to craft a sustainable state budget that includes revenue. This plan could utilize some version of Governor Walker's plan or others that have been submitted. Accessing the permanent fund earnings this spring to begin to address the shortfall is the only responsible action. Thank you for your time and efforts during this difficult time. Erica Kludt-Painter

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IMAGINE

With all your mind

BELIEVE

With all your heart

ACHIEVE

With all your might

Erica Kludt-Painter
Superintendent
Petersburg School District
P.O. Box 289
Petersburg, AK 99833

Ph: (907) 772-4271
Fax: (907) 772-4219
E-mail: supt@pcsd.us
Website: www.pcsd.us

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From: [Paul Bennetts](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#)
Subject: Budget cut testimony affecting trust beneficiaries.
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:41:35 PM

Dear finance committee-

I write you today with hope that you will reconsider your cuts to some of the seniors and disabled programs. My son Tyler is 20 years old, has Down Syndrome, and is currently on the waiting list for DD eligibility. Recently he has been approved to apply for this waiver through Medicaid. I have always been a guy to try and do things on my own (without any kind of subsidy) and to not involve state resources into Tyler's daily routine if possible. We have until now raised him without much support. Tyler has been on grant services for the past 5 years for an after school program at Hope discovery center, but last week we were told he needed more one on one help while at the center, but there was a waiting list and he needed waiver DD eligibility/approval for grant services. The system is set up as such, that Hope could charge me but i's told that they can't accept anything less than \$45 an hour for the 4 hours after school care he receives because they can't accept anything less than what Medicaid pays because they have to play by Medicaid rules. Doing the math, this is nearly 2K a week. They're is no way we can pay that for our son, nor anyone else can pay for these services without state funding. The rules set up have made it impossible to get services without this grant money that is prosed to be cut. I really hate that Tyler has to use Medicaid, but there is nothing else that pays for these type of services. Tyler will never have a normal job, or income due to the care and his developmental disability. I wish you could understand how stressful it is some days to always have to worry about how your kid will get the services he needs. I implore you to cut from other areas, table some of the build projects such as the power plant and bridge until our revenue stream from gas and oil comes back. Please don't cut from those that physically or mentally can't help themselves. These folks did not ask for these life challenges nor have they made bad life decisions to need this help. I know you have a tough job, but these folks have nowhere to go for help. They need you to stand up for them. Put yourself in these folks shoes and look another direction for cost savings. Please help.

V/r

Paul Bennetts
Anchorage
907-677-8173

From: [Rita S](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Grants for Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:41:42 PM

My name is Margarita Suafoa and I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage.

I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending to the House Finance Committee that the grants line within the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be funded at \$12,652,700. While this represents a decrease from FY16, it will allow the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support.

Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Rita Suafoa

rita_s@awaic.org

Direct Service Advocate

AWAIC, Inc.

Phone: 907-279-9585 ext.771

Fax: 907-279-7244

Crisis Line: 907-272-0100

From: [Anne Beaudreau](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#)
Subject: Support the University of Alaska
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:48:54 PM

February 28, 2016

To the members of the House Finance Committee:

I urge you to support the University of Alaska in its tripartite mission of research, teaching, and service as you make final decisions on the budget in the days ahead. In short, the reduction to \$300 million proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee goes too far and would do irreparable damage to our state's sole institution for higher education.

I moved to Juneau from Seattle just over four years ago to start a faculty position in Fisheries at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Like many of my colleagues, I was attracted to UAF because of its strength in fisheries research and leadership in natural resource issues across the North Pacific. With the deep budget cuts proposed, we would lose external funding and partnerships, fail to attract talented faculty and students, see attrition of faculty to other institutions, and become increasingly isolated from the rest of the nation. This proposal would only further diminish the resilience of UA to future fiscal challenges. A large proportion of our grant funds are from other state entities, like Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which are also seriously impacted by the state budget crisis. With diminishing opportunities for external funding and deep cuts in the UA budget, our research programs will come to a standstill. We must be active in all three areas of teaching, research and service in order to remain a premier research university.

Undergraduate education would be significantly weakened without the research programs at UA and graduate education would cease to exist. Many undergraduates participate in research as part of their training, which makes them highly competitive for jobs and graduate programs. Graduate students seek UAF because of its reputation as a top research institution, particularly in fisheries and Arctic science, and receive rigorous training from top researchers. Many of our undergraduate and graduate students go on to create the workforce in Alaskan fisheries, which are an economic engine of the state. Service activities are a natural extension of our teaching and research. For example, many UAF fisheries faculty provide expertise and knowledge that aids in sustainable fisheries management on state and federal levels. Many of us dedicate significant time to outreach and engagement with stakeholders in our research communities.

Initial projections from the UA suggest that the proposed reduction to \$300 million would most likely result in a job loss of 500 to 900 positions across the UA system. For many faculty, including me, there *is no equivalent position* in Alaska where we could continue to teach courses, train students, conduct research, and make important contributions to the state more broadly through outreach and public service. This means that not only will talented, productive people be lost from UA, but many will have to leave Alaska altogether. Besides the people who will immediately lose their jobs, deep budget cuts will severely compromise the ability of remaining faculty to effectively do our jobs. This will lead to attrition of top faculty and students from the UA system and the state of Alaska. How is driving out a young, skilled, energetic workforce setting Alaska up for a more secure future?

I want to look forward to a future in which I can continue to build an exciting career in Alaska, where my research is dedicated to informing sustainable fisheries in a place where they are so important. I want to continue to build my family in Alaska, where my young son could someday have the opportunity to join a thriving, vibrant academic community at the University of Alaska. I fear that this will be impossible if the severe cuts proposed become a reality.

All of us understand the difficult decisions that you face in addressing the budget shortfall. No one questions that cuts are necessary. However, please take a longer view to see how failing to support all three important missions of UA will not only cripple our state's university system, but have compounding negative impacts on Alaska's economy for decades to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne H. Beaudreau

4886 Steelhead Street

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [David and Shelli Swanson](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#)
Subject: Our budget situation
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:05:13 PM

I hope you will have the courage to consider new revenue to solve Alaska's budget crisis. I support the basic principles of the Governor's plan. Thanks you.

David Swanson, Fairbanks

From: [Deb Blaylock](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [LIO Mat-Su](#)
Subject: Budgets cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:23:58 PM

I would like to express my distress with several proposed cuts to the State's 2017 operating budget.

These are the cuts to UAF's Cooperative Extension Service and to the Division of Agriculture – specifically,

the elimination of the Plant Material's Center Potato Program.

These are both very important (some say critical) pieces to the Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H programs

and even our home gardeners. In the very recent past Food Security has been on the radar. These programs

tie in hand in hand with our Food Security.

I am a 26 year retired Veteran of our US Military and have (had) plans to start farming. I am also an Alaska

Master Gardener and received my training from the Mat-Su Valley Cooperative Service in 2004. I volunteer

many hours every year to my community through our Master Gardeners Association. I am just one and there

are hundreds more like me who provide hundreds of hours of free services to our communities because of

our valuable training and the resources provided by the CES agents and employees. One can't put a price tag

on this.

Potatoes are one of the few commercial agriculture crops which grow well up here and can be sold year round

because of their ability to be stored. These potato crops would probably not be feasible if not for the Potato Program.

They develop the seed crop which our potato farmers use. One of the huge advantages we have in Alaska as far

as growing potatoes goes, is the low number of diseases and pests. Without our certification program and being forced to

import seed potatoes from “outside”, there is significant risk to bringing in nasty pathogens which can virtually destroy

our potato industry. Once soils are infected with some pathogens, it is almost impossible to go back to our relatively

virgin soils.

With so many other options out there to cut back on the budget, why risk both our food security and agriculture industries?

For example – why do we need THREE university systems? Each of these have HUGE amounts of overhead in administrative

positions and infrastructure. Is this really need for our population base?? Consolidate UAA and UAS under UAF as the

flagship university. The land grant college is the important one in the scheme of things. Why do you need three – four if you count

all the UA – Chancellors, Human Resources, Payroll, Information Services, Maintenance, Purchasing, Contracting, Accounting, etc, etc .

I am not alone in saying, if you vote to cut these programs, I (we) will vote to make sure this is your last term in office. We need representation

which can look to the future and truly see what our state needs. Cut out the true fat and not the lean muscle.

Thank you for your consideration

Debra Blaylock, US Army (Retired)

From: [Ruby Peck-Hollembaek](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Taxes PFD
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 7:36:26 AM

I am willing to accept new taxes or changes to the Permanent Fund to help fund vital services such as UA's CES programs and APRN.

Thank you.

Ruby Peck-Hollembaek
FARMER RANCHER
RETIRED EDUCATOR

www.bisonandelk.com

www.wecangrowit.blogspot.com

www.akrhubarb.blogspot.com



Alaska Psychological Association

Advancing psychology as a science, a profession, and a means of promoting health and welfare

February 25, 2016

Representative Lynn Gattis
Chair, House Subcommittee on the Education Budget
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative Gattis:

As the State of Alaska undertakes the critical task of reforming our healthcare system and moving toward an integrated system of care as a way to improve the health outcomes of Alaskans and control costs, Alaska needs now more than ever to maintain its investment in the cooperative medical education program with the University of Washington School of Medicine, the Alaska WWAMI program.

The AK-PA Board understands that any comprehensive, effective, and cost efficient healthcare system requires a highly skilled workforce of both mental health and medical providers. This is especially true with respect to primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and emergency room physicians. Our state continues to experience a significant lack of physicians, and this is especially true in rural/frontier areas.

It is important to recognize that WWAMI is widely recognized as a world-class medical education program, represents a critical component in ensuring that the people of Alaska have access to high-quality healthcare. Without WWAMI Alaska would be the only state to not have a medical school to serve its population. We cannot hope to establish a sustainable healthcare system in Alaska without a source of high-quality physicians. In fact, if Alaska students are forced to go out of state for training, they are much less likely to return to practice in Alaska. The WWAMI program's greatest strength is in primary care medicine, which also represents Alaska's most pressing need.

Importantly:

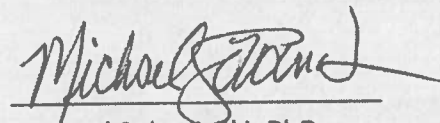
1. Alaska continues to have a significant shortage of physicians: primary care, psychiatry, and emergency medicine.
2. In order to meet the healthcare needs of our underserved population, we need to bring in approximately 60 new doctors/year to meet demand. WWAMI is on target to provide 25% of Alaska's Physician Workforce (with a class of 20).
3. The average return rate of AK students graduating from WWAMI is 42%; this number increases to nearly 71% return-on-investment, when including additional non-AK WWAMI graduates practicing in the state.
4. WWAMI is an efficient investment of resources. The per capita cost for public medical education in Alaska is \$4.62/year. This is far less than other states with comparable populations, such as North Dakota and South Dakota, where the per capita costs are over \$25.00 per student/year.

5. AK WWAMI students who do not return to AK to practice must 'payback' the state's subsidy. This further reduces the cost of the program to the state.
6. The impact of the WWAMI program in Alaska is estimated to be over \$5 for every \$1 allocated to the program. This is a rate of return that makes economic sense. The economic impact of one primary care physician has been estimated at over \$1 million per year, with creation of an average of 5 fulltime staff positions, with both direct and multiplier factors fueling economic stimulus.
7. Downsizing the program will drive up the per-student training costs due to the fixed expenses associated with medical school education. This will negatively impact the economics of healthcare in Alaska.
8. WWAMI graduates understand the unique challenges of providing medical care in Alaska, and have demonstrated their interest in living and working here. Having committed physicians who appreciate the unique geographic challenges and cultural opportunities of the state is a huge benefit.

The Alaska WWAMI program provides a unique and invaluable service to Alaska, and serves as an essential component of those basic medical services needed to keep Alaskans healthy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA), I urge you to continue supporting WWAMI funding in the State budget at current levels.

Sincerely,



Michael Sobocinski, PhD

President

Alaska Psychological Association

Via Electronic Submission

CC: Rep. Wes Keller Rep. Sam Kito
 Rep. David Talerico Rep. Dan Ortiz
 Rep. Mike Hawker Rep. Neal Foster
 Jeff Jessee, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
 Dr. Tom Nighswander, Alaska WWAMI,

From: [Linda Daak](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Commets
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:09:21 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State's budget.

During the 1970's I paid state income tax, and always assumed there would come a day when I would again do so. At this time, however, I feel that implementing additional taxes and fees may be premature until further budget reductions are made. Below are my recommendations:

University of Alaska:

1. Eliminate all campuses other than Anchorage and Fairbanks. In order to realize economies of scale, it is prudent to consolidate the university system programs into fewer locations so more funding can go to the educational programs and not for maintaining the physical buildings and grounds.
2. If there is a demonstrated need for a third campus, keep the Juneau campus open; but operate this as a community college.
3. Utilize any freed up building space (from Juneau and other satellite campuses) to house State offices. This could eliminate the need for many of the leased facilities currently in use, particularly in Juneau.
4. Eliminate all inter-collegiate athletics.
5. Eliminate all state funding for research. Research programs should seek non-state funding through private endowments and the federal government.
6. Eliminate the Cooperative Extension Services. These types of programs are better handled on a community and private group level.

Department of Education:

1. Eliminate all pre-kindergarten programs; such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings. I believe the value of these programs is questionable, and that they take funding away from what the focus of our education dollars should be - Kindergarten through grade 12.
2. Eliminate the majority of the school superintendent positions. Currently, there are 53 superintendents; with many overseeing relatively few students and staff. Retain the superintendents for the larger districts (such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, etc.), split the remainder of the state into districts (perhaps 8 to 10 districts), and have one superintendent for each of these districts. I believe approximately 40 superintendent positions could be eliminated.

Department of Health and Social Services:

1. Eliminate the exceptions for the 60-month lifetime limit for welfare. We all want to help those in our communities who may need temporary assistance, but these programs should not be used as a way of life. Each of us is responsible to support the type of life we choose to live.

Legislature:

1. Discontinue the lease of the Anchorage LIO and move the legislative offices into the Atwood building.

In closing, I would like to lend my support to continued funding for public broadcasting. PBS is an invaluable source of information and educational programming for Alaskans.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to comment on the budget. I greatly appreciate the extraordinary effort you folks have made to involve as many Alaskans as possible in this very difficult decision making progress. Your sole focus on the budget bills, as well as the amount of information posted on the legislative web site has been extremely helpful.

I wish you well.

Linda Daak

Douglas, Alaska

From: [Virginia Evens](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#)
Subject: HB 256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:21:59 PM

Representative Thompson and the House Finance Committee,

Hello, my name is Ginger Evens, a 22 year resident of Petersburg and a 44 year resident of the Alaska. I am writing to you tonight on HB 256 General Operating Budget. I encourage you, the House Finance Committee, to take the appropriate actions to craft a sustainable state budget that includes revenue.

I would like the state budget to utilize some version of Governor Walker's plan. As a lifelong Alaskan, what is unacceptable to me is no action by the legislature. Accessing the permanent fund earnings this spring to begin to address the short fall in the state budget is necessary to keep Alaska moving towards the future.

I encourage the House Finance Committee to take the necessary steps to craft a sustainable state budget that includes revenue, like a state income tax, not a sales tax. I would also encourage maintaining the \$50.00 BSA to education funding. Educating the children of our state is our top priority.

On another issue, I would encourage the House Finance Committee to reinstate funding to public radio. In Petersburg KFSK is our only radio station and is our lifeline. In my house KFSK is turned on the moment I wake up and is turned off when I go to bed. KFSK is vital to our rural community.

Sincerely,

Ginger Evens

From: [Carrie Beeman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Laura Cisneros](#)
Subject: Public Testimony from Carrie Beeman
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:56:36 PM

My name is Carrie Beeman from Tok. As a resident of Alaska and I am urging the reinstatement of Early Childhood Education funding as our children are truly our state's greatest resource.

Located in Tok, the RurAL CAP Early Learning Center provides quality seamless services for families of young children in both Tok & Tanacross. It serves prenatal to age 3 through the Parents As Teachers (PAT) home base program and children ages 3-5 thorough the Head Start center based program. In addition, the Upper Tanana Imagination Library, run through Best Beginnings serves children ages 0-5 in the villages Tok, Tanacross, Northway, Tetlin, Mentasta, Eagle, Dot Lake and the Border.

The Early Learning Center's vision is that all children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential. Through these programs, children have access to activities and materials to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential. Parents are offered the latest information and tips on parenting to be the best teacher of their children. I have seen the difference these programs have made in the lives of children including my own. My daughter Holly was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis at a young age. Speech and language delays have been identified in approximately 68% of children with this genetic disorder. I believe that Holly, who is now 9, has not experienced any learning delays in part because of her access to quality early childhood programs she has had access to here in Tok, Alaska.

Every child deserves a solid foundation for school success and waiting until kindergarten won't work. Remediation is expensive. Families and children need the information and tools for success from day one thus I am urging for restoration of state funding for both Parents As Teachers (PAT) and Best Beginnings. I truly believe that investing in Early Childhood Education is one of the best decisions that can be made for our State. Thank you.

Carrie Beeman

From: [Robyn Lauster](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:38:54 PM

I understand budget cuts are necessary, but we are underfunding environmental conservation and health & human services already. Public radio is a necessity if we are to have an informed public. Education cuts will be felt for the next generation.

I have lived in the state since 1962. We need to bring back the school tax and state income tax. We need some limited form of sales tax also. There need to be more revenue streams than just oil, fish & tourism in Alaska.

Keep in mind quality of life. Remember the least among us.

Thank you

Robyn Lauster
3003 W. 32nd Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99517

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Finance Committee,

RE: HB 256

My name is Charles Wood, and I am representing myself.

I am a commercial fisherman, and one of the first things I do when I deliver my fish in any port in Southeast, is hit the scan button on my FM radio. Sure enough, within seconds it locks on to the local public broadcast radio station, where I am able to soak up local and State news.

I am able to get national and international news while I am at sea through my XM satellite radio, but I have no access to State or local news.

Public radio provides services other than news however. For instance, I will never forget listening to our local KFSK public radio station in the middle of the night several years ago, to live tsunami updates on the earthquake just offshore from Craig.

Though the evacuation of low-lying areas in Petersburg did occur, fortunately there was no tsunami, this time anyway. This is just an example of a local public safety announcement by public broadcasting that would not happen on XM satellite radio or Fox News.

While I appreciate and fully understand the fiscal hole that past governors and legislators have dug for us, at some point without a certain level of State funding, there likely will be no matching Federal funds to keep public radio on the air.

I've lived in Alaska since 1954, well before statehood, and while I can point at many project boondoggles that have occurred over the last six decades, I can't recall many times when the State's legislature was willing to throw away available matching Federal funds for anything, especially those with public safety ramifications such as the loss of public broadcasting.

As a financial contributor myself, I urge this committee and the legislature to provide adequate State funding for public broadcasting to a level sufficient to retain future matching Federal funds.

Thank you,

Charles E. "Ed" Wood

P.O. Box 383

Petersburg, AK 99833-0383

907-772-3480

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: Thomas E. Abbott Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☐

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): _____

BILL #: HBZ56 Subject: Budget for Schools & Public Broadcasting

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance HEARING DATE: March 2, 2016

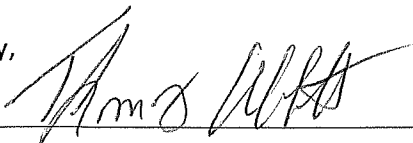
I support creating new revenue streams and cuts to state spending to help resolve the financial crisis. Developing a state income tax and use of the permanent fund earnings as presented in the governor's budget proposal. I support the \$50 per student allocation increase as well as support funding for senior services and domestic violence awareness programs.

As for public broadcasting - the state cut of 18% was deep and stations have been prepared for another cut this year, but a 100% cut eliminating all state funding would be devastating especially to rural stations that have no other ~~broadcast~~ revenue sources to draw from - and rural communities would suffer, no connection to immediate services, such as emergency notifications, local news, state and national news.

To be clear a 100% cut to state broadcasting funds would result in a loss of matching federal dollars!

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: Elizabeth M. Hart Circle one: ☐ Support ☐ Opposed

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Public Radio Funding / Public education Funding

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance Committee HEARING DATE: 3-2-16

Please reinstate funding to Alaska Public Radio. We, in Alaska, live in remote communities without local television or a local daily newspapers. KFSK is Petersburg's local public radio station and provides our only local source of daily news. KFSK is responsible for emergency broadcasting and goes live immediately to provide safety alerts, whether regarding Tsunami warnings or escaped convicts on the loose. Losing state funding would have a cascading effect, resulting in loss of matching federal funds next year. This would have a devastating effect on KFSK's budget, an estimated 46% cut. This deep cut would eliminate public radio as we know it, reducing many local stations to transmitters only. KFSK is an irreplaceable, vital part of our community, providing announcements throughout the week that are not available elsewhere. It is a source of statewide ; national news not available from another single source.

I understand that deep cuts need to happen, please do not jeopardize our children's future to be competitive, productive world citizens by compromising their fundamental education.

Please consider implementing an income tax and reducing the Permanent Fund Dividend to cover budget shortages.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Hart

(Updated 4/9/2013)

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: Sigurd R Mathison Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☐

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: 256 Subject: Budget Finance

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance Committee HEARING DATE: 3/2/14

I am a Life long resident of Petersburg, Alaska. I rely on Public Radio in Alaska and KFSK in Petersburg for essential information affecting my life in Alaska. The Public Radio system is our only source in many cases to receive important information affecting our daily lives. It is an essential service that cannot sustain much more cutting without totally disrupting that service to our Rural communities. We cannot accept that vacuum we will be in if Public Radio goes down.

There has to be Funding for this service, We give what we can individually, but the state is a necessary component of their funding, and without it matching funding falls out too. I rely on this service and do not think it is in the best interest of the state to see this service stop.

I favor a state income tax. Also I favor a state sales tax.

I do not favor cutting essential services that our communities rely on. We can't stop the wheels, or cut the Propeller off our ship of State and still move ahead.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Sigurd R Mathison

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: Karin L. McCullough Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☐
REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self
BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Operating Budget FY 2017 funding needed for public radio
COMMITTEE NAME: House FINANCE HEARING DATE: 2/2/16

Re: Public Radio Funding (STATE)

Please restore funding to public radio to the governor's 27% cut in his first budget recommendation.

KFSK is our emergency notification & ongoing information re an emergency situation.

Examples: School lockdowns; snow days & other natural disasters

KFSK is our daily notification of local events, local news & statewide events & news.

KFSK allows us to hear Borough Council and School Board issues.

Public Radio is important for our island bound rural community of Petersburg. The support given by our community during membership drives/pledge drives/fundraisers shows its importance. State support is also important and essential.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Karin L. McCullough

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: Michael N. STAINBROOK Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☐

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): SELF

BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Funding for Public Radio

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance HEARING DATE: 2/2/2016

Regarding Funding for Public Radio

Please restore the funding to Public Radio
to the Governor's recommendation

KFSK is the emergency notification
and information source for this part of
S. E. ALASKA - Petersburg, Kupreanof & other
communities for emergency situations,
school lockdowns, snow days and other critical
times to inform the public

KFSK broadcasts Public Meetings ie
Borough Council, School Board Among others.

KFSK is a daily source of local, state
and national news

Please restore the funding of Public Radio
to the Governor's recommendation.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Stainbrook

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: Craig Evans Circle one: Support Opposed

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): self

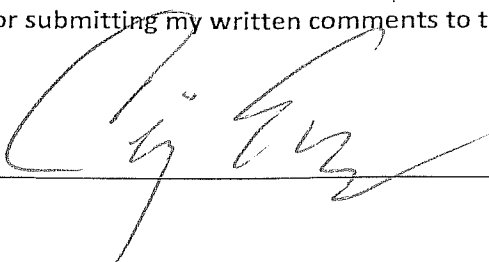
BILL #: 256 Subject: General Op Budget

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance HEARING DATE: 3-2-2016

I would like to state my support for Governor Walkers proposal to use the permanent fund as ~~the~~ a funding source for the future. we need to have a sustainable plan to fund the state which includes income tax. A statewide sales tax would be detrimental to communities which already use sales tax to fund city government. we need to fund schools, we need to fund ADF & G.

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: Chelsea Tremblay Circle one: Support ☐ Opposed ☐

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: HB 256 Subject: Support long-term budget, & Radio funding

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

I'm not sure how much of this is sinking in, I know you're dealing with long days and heavy stakes. But cutting our services past bone and into the very marrow of what makes this state great won't make it any easier. Services like public radio (an essential part of rural Alaska), a strong ferry and educational system, and access to ~~key~~ life-saving domestic violence and mental health services, are ~~part~~ part of what makes life here possible. Combined ~~with~~ with our ability to pull together, put ideology aside and get the work done. Future Alaskans will remember these times as either the ~~the~~ beginning of a state's allowance, ~~as~~ such as the Governor's proposed budget, & the year more of our savings were squandered. Please do the right thing by future generations by refusing to dismantle the systems so many Alaskans rely on. Thank you for all the work you're doing, good luck with the hard decisions ahead.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Tremblay

(Updated 4/9/2013)

From: [Caitlin Jaksic](#)
To: [Rep. Chris Tuck](#)
Cc: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:32:17 PM

Greetings,

I wanted to give my testimony of why I thought Behavioral Health needed to be supported, but what I realized is that 2 minutes was not long enough. This was my story that I was trying to tell, this is small part of a complicated story.

On October 15, 2014 my husband and I became foster parents for the first time to children who were ages 3, 4, and 6 years old. The children we took in all have special needs. I also have two biological children of my own, ages 5 and 6. The first night was scary, emotional, and overwhelming. I was not expecting to get three kids at once, but that was what life handed me and I embraced it with open arms. They were placed in my home as emergency placements. The moment I brought the three kids into my house and saw the expression on my children's faces, I was overcome with a sense of fear. I was scared that this would be a bad experience for my children. The first month was very difficult and I questioned if continuing was the best thing for my family.

Life had completely changed for my family, and the children we were caring for. Everyone was overwhelmed, and as a new foster mother I was trying to figure out how I could help these kids. The one familiar place that I was able to keep for the children was Alaska Youth & Family Network. AYFN provided a positive place where the children could go to see their family, and have some sort of consistency in their lives. Shortly after taking in the children, I started taking them to Friday night group at AYFN. Once the girls developed language and were able to talk, on Friday's when I picked them up from preschool the first thing they would say when we got to the car was, "I want to go to AYFN." AYFN has a relaxed, inviting atmosphere, I love it, and the children love it. Not only did they provide a safe place for the children, but they gave me the extra support that I so desperately needed. They provided dinner on Fridays, and the 2.5 hours that the children would spend there would allow me to have one-on-one time with my own children. They always welcomed my family, and my own children would not want to leave when I dropped the kids off.

I can honestly say that during the beginning of having these kids, AYFN was more of a support than anyone else. The staff was always available to give me the support that I needed. I felt at home and relaxed at AYFN. If I had questions or concerns they gave me the advice that I needed. I could talk to them about the children, because they knew these kids better than I did. If I simply needed to vent, they would listen to me when I needed it the most. When the kids behaviors started to improve, they noticed it, and gave me the recognition that made me feel good about what I was doing.

AYFN has been such a support for the children, for my family, and the family of the children. I will continue take the kids to Friday night group at AYFN. Out of all the agencies that I am now involved with in the children's support system, AYFN has been the most helpful. I am incredible grateful to AYFN for helping me through the most difficult transitional period of

taking these children in. The Friday night group at AYFN gave my family the break that everybody needed.

The kids I had taken in desperately needed help. OCS was ignoring the problem and the kids were being left in an unhealthy environment. Because of AYFN's push to get OCS to take the kids, the kids finally got the services and help that they so desperately needed. As a first time foster parent I was disappointed with OCS's lack of support, luckily I had AYFN to fill the gap that OCS left.

I believe you are going to make problems worse for OCS by cutting 3 Million from the Behavioral Health Treatment And Recovery Grants, and in the end it will cost the state more money.

Thank You,

Caitlin Jaksic
Cell 907-360-5261

From: [Russell Lyman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: public broadcasting cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:35:19 PM

To the Alaska House Finance Committee,

As a member of a rural Alaskan community, Haines, I rely on our local public radio station for news and important information, including weather, emergency alerts and community information such as road conditions. Much of this information is not readily available in any other single, easy-access location.

Because the Federal funding for public radio is based on "local contributions" made by the State, zeroing out State funding for public radio will kill our local community radio, depriving us of this vital entity.

I realize the State is in a dire predicament in regards to the budget, but this action of cutting off all funding for public broadcasting puts an unfair burden on rural communities that rely on it for the above-mentioned, important services. Please incorporate a less drastic cut in funding for public broadcasting in the budget.

Sincerely,
Russell Lyman
890 Oslund Dr.
Haines, Alaska, 99827

From: [Janalee](#)
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: regarding the purposed cuts to the AK Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:46:18 PM

My Name is Janalee Minnich Gage 49 Years Born and Raised in Ketchikan Alaska, and I am part of the Ketchikan City Council, In this life of mine so far I have had the pleasure to living in several places including two other Alaska communities Kotzebue and Kenai. I will state that these are my feelings and I do not speak for the Ketchikan City Council or anyone else.

I am a working disabled individual who became disabled 20 years ago, I have experienced the hardship of spending two years in physical rehab, fighting for SSI, living on \$700 a month in Disability and \$200 a month in food stamps and have seen the disregard and bias attitude first hand from those who do not understand how one's life can be changed in the blink of an eye no fault of their own. Over the years I have had my share of nasty comments but this story fits the message you are sending our community.

In 2003 I moved to Kotzebue, Alaska, to begin a new job, and my first week there I encountered a stranger who walked up to me in the post office and said, "This is no place for a cripple to live." I turned to this man who wasn't from Kotzebue Alaska and said, "Sir, could you direct me to where the village for the disabled is, so that I might go and live among my kind?" He of course stomped off angry, but I never forgot that feeling and shock he left me with and the thought that there are so many others who think like this man.

I will ask the same of Mrs Gattis, the other House Finance Committee members and our community of Alaska. Is this the message you really want to send? By making these cuts you are handing lifelong generations of Alaskans who were born, raised, and whose blood sweat and tears went into making this home a Blue ticket out of town.

Every one of these programs is a vital part of our infrastructure, built by generations of Alaskans to protect us all in our time of need. It saddens and angers me that we can even begin to think about such heavy cuts on each and every one of these programs, before we consider our duty as a state to take care of our own, especially our elders. I want you to think about all our ancestors in the past 90 years, one of them my great-great grandmother who believed in the rights of all Alaskans to stay home and not be forced to move out of state because there were no services. I want you to think about so many families who were ripped apart, never seeing their siblings again, because they were sent to institutions. I highly recommend you all sit down and think about, what if tomorrow I wake up and have a disability, would I like to be told I had to move to another state never to see my family or home again, so that I might receive services? Course if you aren't a true Alaskan, and maybe this sounds rude but one with generations, blood ties to the land but want to boast about how you've been here 20 or more years, and plan on being a snow bird when you retire. You are not a true Alaskan, you don't have a clue and you are not invested in this as your home and the people in it as family.

Like Mrs Gattis said. "If you can't afford to live here, move." WOW, is all I can say, it pains me to think that you could be so callus, and so arrogant to think that one day you won't end up like we all do, elderly and in one way or another disabled. I am not sure where you are originally from, but maybe you should move instead, and go back to wince you came, because based on this statement you did not think about the true natives of Alaska, whom you

will force out too.

I highly recommend we all sit down and think about, what if tomorrow I wake up and have a disability, would I like to be told I had to move to another state never to see my family or home again, so that I might receive services?

I do not make a lot of money, but if it means shipping family, friends and our communities out of state, I will gladly pay an income Tax, because I would much rather see my money stay in the State of Alaska before it goes to the Federal Government.

Let's think about the many amazing volunteers that work on the public radio programs to make sure that all our communities have access to the news, local PSAs', The emergency response notices, council meetings, and even more important weather notices when weather takes a dangerous shift. It may not be expensive to get internet in some of the larger areas of Alaska, but if you live in rural Alaska the internet, television, phones aren't always an option. Yes, people choose to live this way but they still deserve our respect as a member of this community.

As a community member of Alaska, I will gladly pay if it means a healthier community for our children, and behavioral services for those who desperately need them. I will gladly pay more in sales tax, and state tax on groceries if it means building new industries, and natural resources, especially if it means, not depending solely on oil, but instead invests in local businesses and building a stronger, supportive, and vital education program for our children from 0-college so that we may grow stronger as a state and build an even stronger community for the future of our children's children.

I already Pick, Click and give with a portion of my dividend and although my youngest child is graduating this year I would much rather lose a few dollars of my dividend to support the extracurricular activities, college programs, and healthy activities, as well as the prospect of buying Alaskan grown and raised meat, dairy and vegetables. So that our kids see Alaska as home and a future, so they keep investing in Alaska as their future and their children's future, instead of moving someplace else.

If we do not take care of each other, and our children will never learn the importance of community, and the importance of taking care of us when we can no longer do so. Everyone needs to chip in, and everyone needs to take responsibility but we all need to understand that we all find a time in our lives when we need help from others. Today our country is being pulled apart by hate and finger pointing, with no answers in site. Alaskan's have always been resourceful, and we have one of the richest states in the union when it comes to resources. Let's do what we need to do today to keep our programs, and build on our other resources other than oil.

I do not envy this job you have in front of you, but not everyone lives in the big city of Anchorage and surrounding areas. Let's make the tuff choices with respect, dignity and a conscious responsibility, because one day it will be us in need of one of these services.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Janalee Minnich Gage

Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: ljbonner@acsalaska.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Chris Tuck](#)
Subject: Public testimony on budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:11:05 PM

Dear Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Laura Bonner. I am retired and have lived in Alaska since 1972.

I'm not sure what part of the budget this would fall under but I oppose spending any more money on the lawsuit regarding the Governor expanding Medicaid. It has already helped with reducing some expenses, especially in Corrections. Not only that, but Alaska is paying the legal expenses for both sides of the issue. The Legislature had the chance to expand it last year and didn't despite overwhelming support of Alaskans to do so. This is an expense we cannot afford.

Also, I oppose cuts to Seniors. Some of the low-income Seniors are raising their grandchildren on very limited incomes. I am one who has raised my grandchild from the time she was 4 months old due to an unexpected event. She is now 18. I was never qualified to receive the low-income benefits and I feel fortunate for that. Many Seniors aren't so lucky. At the very least, these grandparents who are raising their grandchildren should get a waiver from the cuts.

The oil industry remained untouched when cuts were made last year. Tax credits and oil production tax policies must change. Alaska getting zero on production tax is really disturbing! Last year, Alaska paid \$700 million in credits when the obligatory amount was under \$100 million. Why? Let's do a better job this year!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

From: [Amy Young](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Parents as teachers!!!
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:19:34 PM

Hello! My name is Amy Young and I am writing in about the Parents as Teachers program! I have had my oldest daughter in the program before she started Head Start and now have my youngest in the program and they both love it!!!! They so look forward to their teacher coming to their house to learn with them and play along side them! It's a great way to introduce them into the program and get them comfortable! The excitement my daughter gets when Molly and previously Jane comes with all their fun learning to do with just them makes them feel so special! I know they assist many families with information on where their child needs to be and guides them along the way! This program is amazing and I know many families who would suffer from losing it!

Thank You

Amy Young

Sent from my iPhone 4S

Finance Committee Testimony – March 3, 2016

William Updegrave
PO Box 1872
Bethel, Alaska 99559

I have a conflict with an LKSD School Board meeting during the scheduled time for Bethel testimony, so I am emailing you my testimony – or perhaps someone else could share my thoughts with you during your hearing.

Last week I was the only “public” attendee at the APTI board meeting in Anchorage. I learned that the Anchorage stations will experience cutbacks under the budget proposals, but the scenario presented by the APTI CFO outlined the domino effect of lost revenue which will lead to the loss of both federal and underwriter funding and the closing of most rural stations. The impact of cuts will be both disproportionate and devastating for rural Alaskans. KSKA can probably continue to fund “Alaska News Nightly” but there will be no rural news feed to the program and no one able to hear the program outside of the railbelt. It will no longer be statewide news nor will it reach a statewide audience.

As members of the Finance Committee you have heard the “talking points” from multiple individuals regarding the proposed cuts to public broadcasting in the FY17 budget. I’ll add my own list of public broadcasting resources important to me: APRN and NPR reporting, PBS programming - both entertainment and news/information, local news and community interaction. “Zero” funding can no longer be considered a prudent fiscal reduction or belt tightening – especially on top of the deep cuts already in this year’s budget – it means the outright end to public radio and television in the bush and to the entire state wide public broadcasting network. There are no commercial stations in the bush to fill the gap left by the loss

of public broadcasting. Even in the leanest of state budgets in the past, the old RATNET was recognized as an important service to maintain.

Avalanches are an Alaskan reality. Even seasoned backcountry skiers are never 100% sure of the consequences of a winter ski trip. The proposed reduction in funding to public broadcasting is like skiing across the face of a steep slope – exhilarating but highly dangerous and most likely fatal. The committee may feel forced onto dangerous slopes to deal with our fiscal crisis – but I urge extreme caution because of the snowballing effect of cuts to the future of Alaska Public Broadcasting across the state.

We may look back after a devastating avalanche at some seemingly unavoidable, but honest mistakes - but I would challenge any on the committee whose budget knife is intentionally aimed at the jugular of public broadcasting not to posture behind fiscal responsibility but to have the honesty to tell the public that their intention is not just to defund, but to kill the public broadcast system that helps to bind urban and bush Alaska together as one state. Please restore the proposed budget cuts and maintain the integrity of Public Broadcasting.

From: [William Updegrove](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Finance Committee Testimony on Budgetary Funding for Alaska Public Broadcasting
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 12:43:26 AM
Attachments: [Finance Committee - Testimony.docx](#)

Finance Committee Testimony – March 3, 2016

William Updegrove

PO Box 1872

Bethel, Alaska 99559

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From: Vendettis@aol.com
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](#)
Cc: [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Testimony from Anchorage
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:29:04 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I emailed my testimony today during the Anchorage testimony time slot. I don't know if it was read during the session, so I also wanted to reach out to you individually.

Some of you know me already, so my stance here isn't a big surprise. For those who don't; I am asking you to give serious consideration to the decisions you are about to make regarding deep cuts that will impact vulnerable Alaskans, not just for this session, but forever.

You wield a great deal of power right now. As an advocate for the disabled children of our community, I have worked long and hard, with many others, to raise awareness of issues that impact us. Finally seeing results, the approval of services through waiver programs, behavioral health, and even the acknowledgement of childhood trauma. I have been encouraged that others are listening, agreeing that there is a tremendous problem for vulnerable Alaskans. Service providers are stepping up to the plate, organizations are making programs possible for mental health treatment. People are acknowledging the need to be more proactive in our approach to mental health treatment rather than proactive with the increased costs associated with this. Both, the \$3 million dollar cut to Behavioral Health Grants and the loss of \$640,000 for Developmentally Disabled grant services are unconscionable and wrong. This is groups of people without options and the one thing available to help them, you are taking away by not funding it.

I am worried about our fiscal crisis. Governor Walker's recommended budget cuts were painful to even consider. I want Alaska to strongly pursue alternative revenue streams, but also manage revenue wisely. It is my belief that as the average Alaskan was unaware of any personal investment in our state's budget process, most of us looked the other way. Everyone had basically what they needed, coffers were full and the oil continued to flow. Vulnerable Alaskans were dependent on programs, but the grants and programs existed for those that qualified. If you knew the right people, anything reasonably logical was funded without very much oversight or follow up. As a result, we have an insane number of committees, councils, boards, and people are tripping over each other, doing similar tasks or none.

I support fair taxation, income and sales tax. I am willing to pay my fair share and a portion of those that can't. While I agree that people shouldn't count the PFD as part of their annual income; the truth is that many lower income families are dependent on this money. I do support a cap though and utilizing the earnings to balance the budget. As long as the process is transparent and not wasteful.

Funding projects that are not practical or necessary at this time should stop. The Knik Arm Bridge, the Susitna Dam, the Juneau Road, and even the Anchorage LIO offices. I can honestly say that I don't think the offices are overly fancy but they certainly were overpriced and alternative options would have made much more sense financially. With the media coverage this last session, salaries and legislative staff numbers have been out in the open and many seem pretty excessive.

I am hearing nothing about addressing the above expenses and these items don't seem to be on your agenda either. Why is that?

I am hearing that Seniors don't need that additional money, even though I know many who depend on it to make co-pays for medication, pay for food since the delivery they get from the food bank doesn't last very long. Senior grant programs make it possible for many to stay in their own homes, maintain their independence and dignity. These cuts almost ensure an increase to elders moving to assisted living homes. But then, you are proposing cuts to the Pioneer Home as well. Where do you think these people will live, eat, and get medical care? These elders are the generation of your parents or even grandparents. I would not want to have to explain to my grandparents that I supported these cuts to a group who should have our respect and honor. Instead they are being put in a position of begging for help and justifying their existence in our state.

Cuts to Adult Dental Care with Medicaid, Heating Assistance and General Relief Assistance are yet one more way to negatively impact a vulnerable group. No one is benefiting or accruing personal wealth by utilizing these programs. The qualification process ensures this.

You are proposing \$23 million in cuts that would gravely impact a highly vulnerable group that we should protect, honor, and yes; even provide for when necessary. Yet you are also supporting spending \$1.7 billion and more for the Knik Arm Bridge, \$600 million for the Juneau road, and \$6 BILLION for the Susitna Dam; not to mention the highly conflicting decision to remain in the Anchorage LIO. These costs for the LIO vary greatly and it appears that we are continuing to pay others to tell us what the amount of money wasted actually is.

I can't find the magic words to make a difference in your decisions or my testimony, emails and ideas over the last 2 sessions would have already made a difference. All I can do is keep trying to appeal to your sense of ethics, your personal moral compass and encourage you to vote in a way that makes you proud of your decisions.

A story I have shared with my own children over the years is what my father told me when faced with an ethical conflict. Always make your choice by imagining what your grandparents, parents or even what your own children would think of you one day. Would they be proud to say you were one of their own or just hope no one they knew ever made the connection? Would they have to defend your own actions because they love you or celebrate those same actions out of respect for your integrity?

I hope this makes you consider the impact on others that your own decisions have when voting for these additional cuts to the budget. The amount of money saved seems trivial compared to the damage done, especially when weighed against the outrageous amount approved for the projects mentioned above.

Thank you for your consideration and for reading this rambling email, which would have been way longer than 2 minutes.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

8411 Berry Patch Dr.

Anchorage, Alaska 99502

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

From: [Debra Oskolkoff](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:29:51 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,
Debra Oskolkoff
PO Box 39228
Ninilchik, AK 99639

From: [Donna Hauser](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Do not cut UA funding, instead build revenue
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:28:38 PM

Dear Representative Neuman,

I was raised since 8 months old in Alaska, and I am proud to call this great state home. But I am writing to express **my extreme concern about recent proposals to significant cuts in UA research funding** by the State.

Most importantly, federal and other non-state **research grants brought in by UA faculty GENERATE state money**. The research done at the UA is not just a matter of esoteric subjects, but also applied research with direct implications for communities of Alaska now and in the future. Instead of crushing the research capacity of our state's only academic enterprise, I urge you to seek creative ways to instead build up the ability of our state to reinforce, stimulate, and retain our own best resource – it's people.

As an alternative to cutting University and other spending, it is imperative that we seriously address our budget situation by building revenue. **I support the use of permanent fund earnings as well the initiation of new taxes to create revenue** that will help meet our budget shortfalls. I would much rather see Alaska take these measures than the drastic cuts that will instead burden education and research of current and future Alaskans.

Thank you for considering my interests. I expect to see your response in actions that will continue to encourage the research and education capabilities in our state, rather than squelch and stagnate them.

Sincerely,

Donna Hauser

Fairbanks

From: [Cordova Family Resource Center](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: letter of support for Fy 17 budget/Dept. public Safety
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:04:31 PM
Attachments: [letter of support for fy17 budget.docx](#)
Importance: High

Please see the attached letter of support for FY 17 budget, for Dept. of Public Safety. For testimony during Cordova's allotted time.

Thank you,
Nicole Songer
Executive Director
Cordova Family Resource Center



Cordova Family Resource Center
P.O. Box 863, Cordova AK 99574
907-424-5674 FAX 907-424-5673
cfrc@ctcak.net

March 02, 2016

To whom it may concern,

My name Nicole Songer, I serve as the Executive Director of the Cordova Family Resource Center. Our agency is located in Cordova, Alaska and provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter through safe homes, advocacy, and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes in the Cordova, Chenega Bay and Tatitlek communities. Our agency currently receives grant funds disbursed through the Dept of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. We would like to express our support for the current funding amounts contained in the close out of the Dept of Public Safety subcommittee of \$12,652,700. While this reflects a decrease of \$340,000 from the FY16 budget, this amount allows the core emergency services we provide to our communities to continue.

Last year our agency served 52 unduplicated individuals impacted by domestic violence and/or sexual assault, 34 of which were new individuals seeking our services that fiscal year. We provided total of 512 individual services to participants. During the first two quarters of FY 17 we had a total of 20 new individuals seeking services compared to 9 new individuals seeking services during the first two quarters of FY 16. CFRC had a total of 119 (24-hour)Help line calls during FY 16 compared to 96 calls during the first 2 quarters of FY 17. This is an increase of 62% over last year during the first 2 quarters. We have already assisted individuals with 7 short-term restraining orders and 2 long-term orders, compared to 3 restraining orders for all of FY 16. The agency has exhausted our funds for emergency transportation for individuals seeking safety outside our community, as well as our safe home funds for FY 17, during the first two quarters. CFRC facilitates and supports the prevention programs such as Girls on the Run, Green Dot, Coaching Boys into Men, Choose Respect Campaign, B.I.O.N.I.C(Believe Or Not I Care) youth mentoring program, 4th R school Curriculum in schools, 4th R afterschool programs, the Lead-On mini summit, Summer art programs and summer camps. CFRC currently has two full-time employees, funded at 1.8 FTE through CDVSA funds.

We thank you for recognizing the need for these services and prioritizing them within this challenging budget.

In addition to the support in the grants line we would like to encourage the committee to reconsider the proposed cuts of 3 staff member positions within the CDVSA office staff. The programs currently use the CDVSA staff for technical support, expertise in the subject matter, data and research functions, and financial information.

Regardless of what position is cut within the Council, losing 3 staff members of a team of nine will impact the local programs in receiving the type of support needed from the Council. We encourage you to consider only cutting 2 staff members and keeping a staff of 7 to support the intervention and prevention work going on throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Songer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "N" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Nicole Songer
Executive Director