

**From:** [Jomo Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#)  
**Cc:** [Jane Pierson](#); [Rex Shattuck](#); [Jim Dodson](#)  
**Subject:** Fairbanks Economic Development - Items for Public Record - Operating Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:37:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [AK Fiscal Challenge 12.15 Resolution - Approved.pdf](#)  
[The Case for Continued Investment in UA Research - Final.pdf](#)  
[UA Research Slides for FEDC 3.1.16.pdf](#)

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached items regarding HB 256: Operating Budget. Fairbanks Economic Development hopes you might include them in the Public Record.

As noted in previous Legislative Testimony, at the end of last year, the **FEDC Board of Directors** passed a **Resolution** calling on State policy-makers to move forward expeditiously on a balanced solution to address Alaska's systemic budgetary challenge – a solution that would involve, along with increased revenues and expanded use of investment earnings, thoughtful and prudent “reductions in the cost and, likely, scope of government”. FEDC maintains this position and, therefore, please find the Resolution **attached**.

However, the recent proposal by the House Finance Subcommittee for the University of Alaska to strip a substantially larger portion of UA's funding than even the Governor's proposed reduction has, understandably, given many across the state and community concerned pause: As you are aware, the University of Alaska is not only a major economic engine for the State and people of Alaska, today, its human development, intellectual and technological outputs are indispensable to Alaska's future economy – at least if we hope that to be a diversifying, dynamic and growing one. It is with this understanding of the critical importance of maintaining the University of Alaska as a viable and vibrant educational and research institution that **JEDC Executive Director, Brian Holst**, and **FEDC President & CEO, Jim Dodson** have issued a **Joint Letter** in support of continued adequate UA funding for publication in state-wide newspapers – a Letter I've **attached**.

The appropriateness of this position was brought home this morning through a **presentation** before the **Energy for All Alaska Task Force** by **Dr. Dan White**, UA's **Vice President for Academic Affairs & Research**. This presentation encapsulates very well both the appreciable value the University of Alaska and UA research bring to the people of Alaska and the substantial return they generate for the State of Alaska for its funding investment – gains that are bearing real fruits for Alaska but which may be lost to future Alaskans if care is not taken for their maintenance and growth. Dr. White's presentation is **attached**.

Sirs, thank you very much for your consideration and, also, very much, for your efforts. All agree many unpleasant, even painful things must be done if we, as a State and people are to address our challenges of the day. We do hope, however, you (every Alaskan) will remember the solution will only be a good and sustainable one if maintains the best of what we've built - and positions Alaska and Alaskans to eventually continue in earnest their advance into an ever better, brighter and more prosperous future.

Sincerely, Respectfully and With my Compliments,

Jomo Stewart

Energy, Military & Mining Project Manager

Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

907-452-2185 office

907-978-0655 mobile

330 Wendell St., Ste. E

Fairbanks, AK 99701

December 18, 2015

### **Resolution**

FEDC Board of Directors asks Alaska's Political Leaders to work together to resolve Alaska's fiscal challenge. With Alaska State expenditures exceeding revenues by more than \$3 Billion dollars, there is no easy solution to balancing the State budget. Achieving long-term fiscal stability, affordability and sustainability for the State of Alaska will require a mix of continued cuts to government spending and increased revenues including use of State investment earnings.

Regarding spending: achieving a smaller, more efficient, more sustainably affordable State Government is critical to Alaska's future fiscal health. Therefore, the Board believes reductions in the cost and, likely, scope of government are necessary to redress Alaska's systemic budgetary imbalance.

Regarding revenue: providing the State revenues sufficient for it to operate and invest effectively in and for the public interest is critical to Alaska's future fiscal health. Therefore, the Board believes that, in addition to increases in user fees, implementing some type of broad-based statewide taxation and the use of some portion of the Permanent Fund earnings to fund State government must to be considered.

We also believe that inaction will, with certainty, lead to Alaska's failure and failure is not an option. Therefore, the Board of FEDC encourages Alaska's policymakers to move forward without delay on a solution.

## **University of Alaska Research and Education**

To survive the present, and thrive in coming years, Alaska must transition its economy – transition from a State which derives most of its capital by grasping at the export value of a single resource, oil, to one which generates wealth by applying enhanced human capital to add value in the development of all its resources. Successfully achieving this transition will require substantial and sustained investment in advanced education, in research and development – and in the institution of higher learning, the University of Alaska, which provides it.

Where do we find the revenue and/or savings to close the gap between \$5 Billion in State spending and \$1 Billion in State revenue? In the short run, we have three options and we need to use all three: reduce spending, broad based taxes and use of the Permanent Fund earnings. Yes, all options will have some negative impacts on Alaskans and our economy. Those impacts, however, are not as great as a failure to reach a sustainably balanced budget. Nor can they be allowed to keep Alaska from the ever-more clear need of bringing greater diversity to our economy.

The new Alaska economy, if it is to be a successful one, must utilize all Alaska's resources, including oil, fish, minerals and timber, our scenic beauty and rich cultural fabric, strategic location and connectivity, and enhanced human capital, and be focused on creating jobs and expanded opportunity for Alaskans. The hallmark of this new economy must be talented Alaskans adding value to our resources, finding innovative ways to better meet our needs and exporting refined and finished products, not just exporting our raw resources. To accomplish this, Alaska will need, more than anything else, a highly trained and talented workforce, with the capacity to innovate and act on opportunities locally and globally.

An educated Alaskan populace, equipped to conceive, perform and utilize the ongoing arctic research that finds new, more affordable and more environmentally responsible ways to harvest and process our resources, will be a major foundation block of our new economy. In 1917, the founders of the University of Alaska (UA), wanting to expand Alaska's agriculture and mining industries, sought to achieve that goal by providing education and research specific to those industries and their operations in an arctic environment. That mission, of educating our workforce and performing applied research, has continued for the past 100 years.

Today, thousands of Alaska's political leaders, industrial leaders, educators, engineers, scientist and other valuable contributors to the Alaska workforce are proud graduates of the University of Alaska. University research has also made invaluable contributions to Alaska and Alaska's economic growth. Some of the more recent research at our University includes working with the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) to mitigate dust on rural Alaska roads and runways, working with DOT to design a more flood resistant roadway to our Arctic oilfields, working with Alaska's oil industry to design more effective Arctic oil spill mitigation technologies, working with the fishing industry to develop more energy efficient methods to process fish in Alaska, develop technologies that have reduced the high cost of energy in rural Alaska and helping the North Slope producers reduce their footprint on our Arctic environment. These examples represent just a very small percentage of the research at UA that has helped grow our economy, but the long term contribution of any one of these could easily justify Alaska's contribution to research.



Developing our economy in Alaska has challenges: high energy costs, fragmented electric grid, harsh climate, end of supply lines, stranded resources, distributed population and limited road network, just to name a few. Let's not further complicate our situations by slashing our investments in our human potential. The strongest economies around our nation and the world are characterized by strong investments in human resource development, not just resource extraction. The challenges of Alaska today can and will be overcome if we have the foresight to recognize that Alaska's investment in education and research—increasing our own capacity to innovate and create—is an indispensable part of building a successful roadmap to a prosperous economic future. Measured and balanced budget cuts are necessary considering our current fiscal challenges, but slashing our University's research and education funding is equivalent to cutting Alaska's future.

Brian Holst  
Executive Director  
Juneau Economic Development Council

Jim Dodson  
President  
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

**From:** [Terry Homan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Finance Committee meeting on Wed March 2  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:25:05 PM

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Hello

Regarding the budget solution, I strongly suggest we use the PF earnings account as we have a good sum build up and this would help end the budget problem. I can see cutting and taxes will not do it although there is someplace for those options also.

I was here when the PF was set up and it was never meant to be forever. By using the earnings to close the budget gap we could still have some PFD but most important not destroy all the good infrastructure we have build. I am especially concerned about too severe of cuts to the University of Alaska and the Athletic programs. I started to attend UAA in 1976 and it has not grown into a first class university with an athletic program that brings many to the campus who would otherwise never visit UAA.

Much of the funding for UAA already comes from private sources but they are still dependant on GF dollars. This year I have personally donated \$150,000 to the UA Foundation specifically for UAA Athletic use, a very large sum for my small retirement savings but one that shows I see the value in their athletic program for the many student-athletes and the benefits it has for the state. I would not have donated such an amount if it was not that UAA Athletics bring such positive national attention to the University. Many of these student-athletes have stayed in Alaska after graduation and are currently making valuable contributions to Anchorage and Alaska.

I strongly encourage you to use the PF earnings to solve this current budget problem.

Thank you

Terry Ann Homan

Meadow Lake, Ak

(907)357-4436

**From:** [James T. Bolin](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Mental Health in Bristol Bay  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:35:23 PM

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Alaska State Legislators,

I recently moved up to Alaska from Missouri over a year ago. If there is a cautionary tale to be told here, it's from Missouri and it's ultimately one of the reasons I moved here, besides my love for colder weather.

Like Alaska, Missouri appeared to care very deeply about mental health. In fact, they'll tell you they have a large mental health budget. Unfortunately, while they may have a lot of money put into facilities, it didn't always translate into quality training and services for professionals on the ground, especially in rural Missouri. Because budgets were crunched to the bare bones at a community mental health agency I was employed at, us mental health clinicians were ultimately forced into seeing too many clients, too short of time, and not always providing the adequate care. Was I legally providing care? Sure. Was it good or effective care? Absolutely not. Community mental health services were reserved only for the most severe and many others that could have been helped and needed to be helped were often turned away.

Want another cautionary tale? I've done work in Illinois as well. Their community mental health budget is practically nonexistent, even before their budget woes.

Having moved up here to Dillingham in rural Alaska, I can tell you the situation is more severe than most things I've encountered in Missouri and Illinois. At present, I'm one of 6 mental health clinicians here in Bristol Bay for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, which serves an area the size of the entire state of Ohio. Of the 6 clinicians, I know at least two or three of us are paid out of state funding. A cut in state mental health funding means possibly losing mental health clinicians here in Bristol Bay. With only 6 mental health clinicians, we're already stretched trying to provide quality services for people in villages as well as here in Dillingham.

Just last summer, the village of Togiak lost a teenager to huffing gasoline. Here's a link to the news article to refresh your memory:

<http://kdlg.org/post/14-year-old-togiak-boy-drowns-huffing-believed-be-involved>

Some other incidents that have occurred include a suicide that occurred in Platinum:

<http://kdlg.org/post/platinum-mans-death-being-investigated-suicide>

These are just the incidents that make the news. There are many, many more occurrences of such traumas that continue to plague the region. Alaska ranks highest in rates of completed suicides and domestic violence. This is a time where we need to be targeting spending to lower occurrences in these areas, not cutting funding that could leave an already isolated area with fewer mental health clinicians.

James Bolin

Dillingham, AK  
907-843-1538

University of Alaska

# Research for Alaska

A Presentation for the  
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

Daniel M. White, PhD  
University of Alaska  
Vice President for Academic  
Affairs and Research

March 1, 2016



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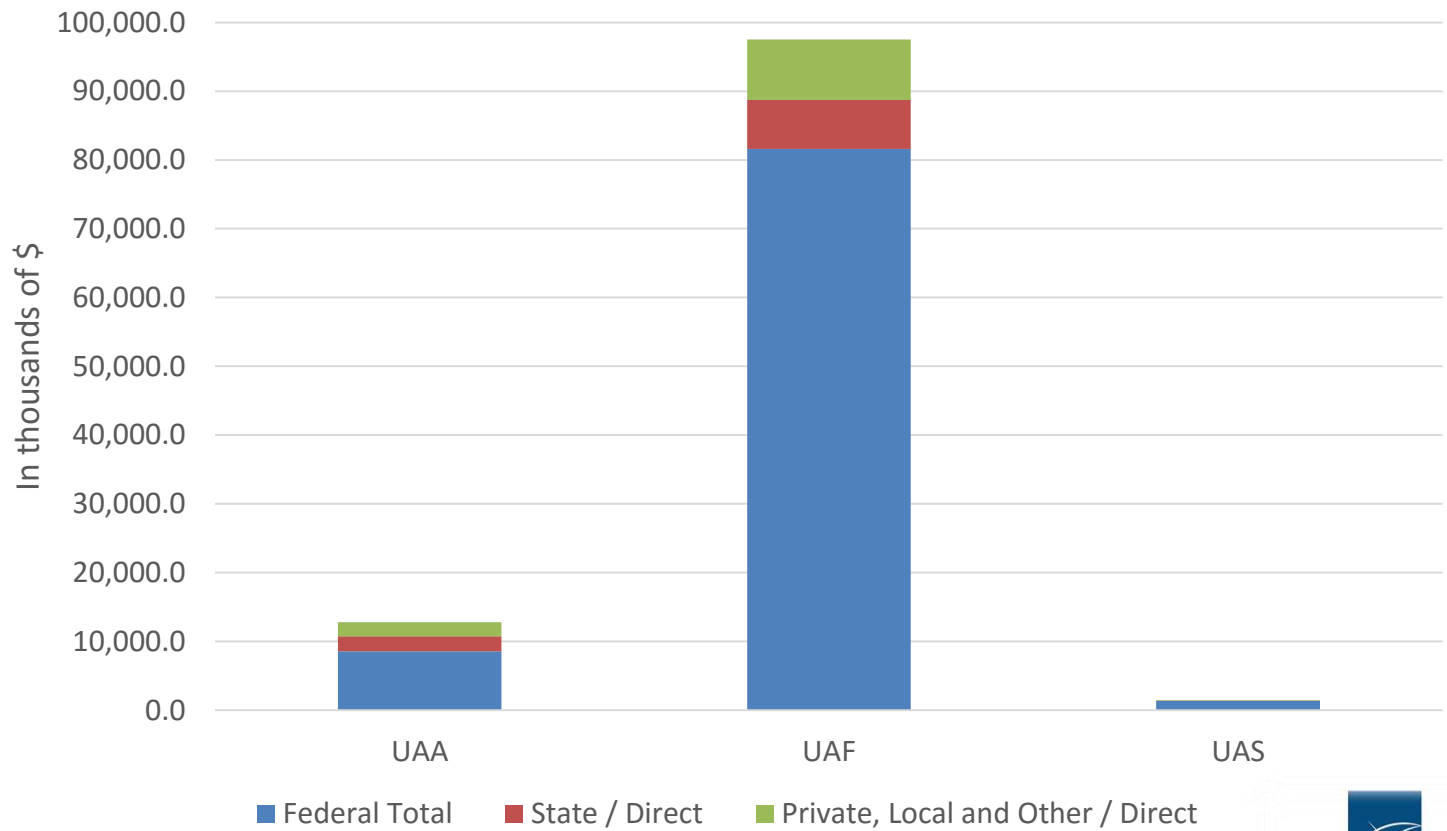
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*Many Traditions One Alaska*

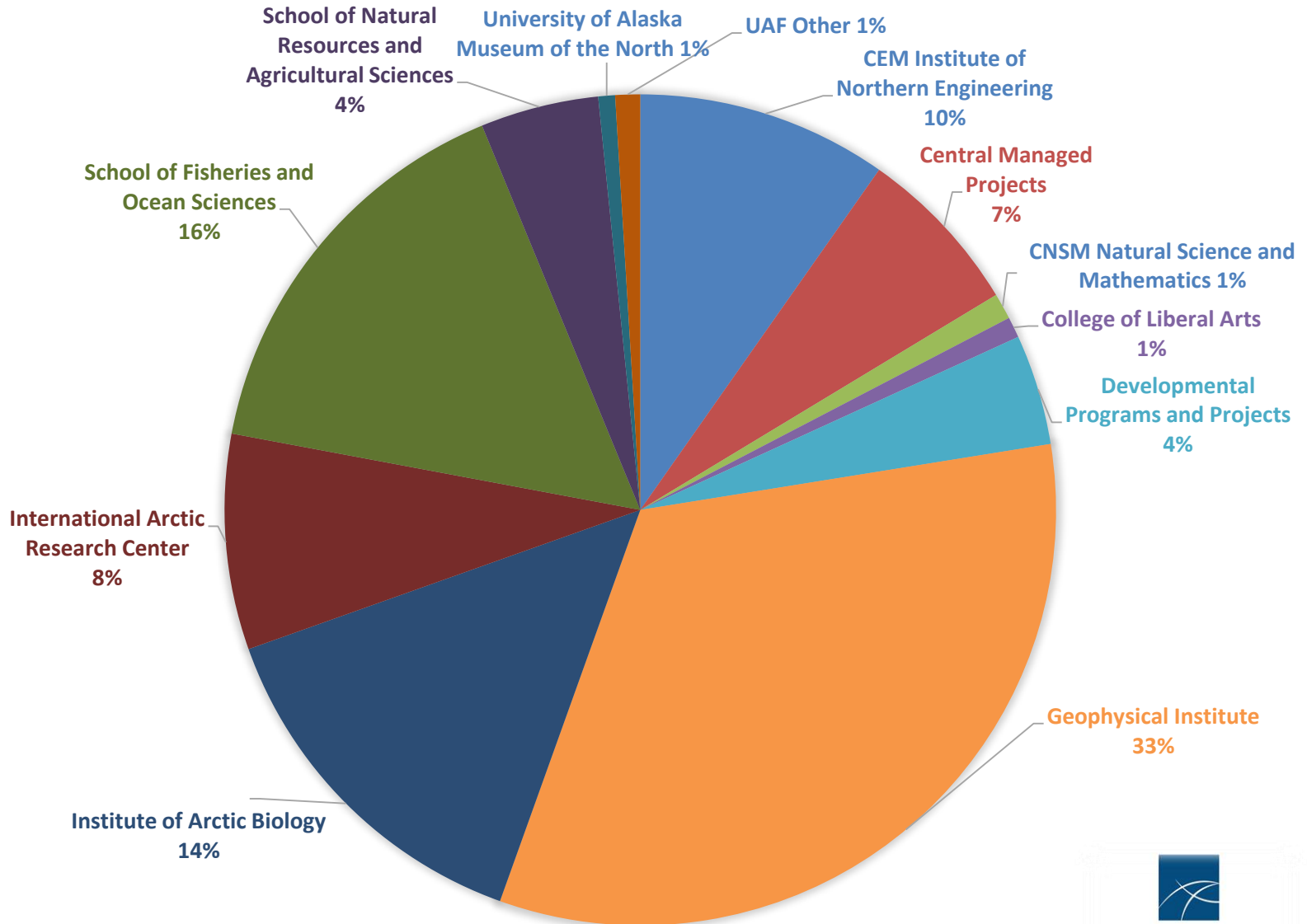
Shaping  
Alaska's  
Future

# Research as an Industry

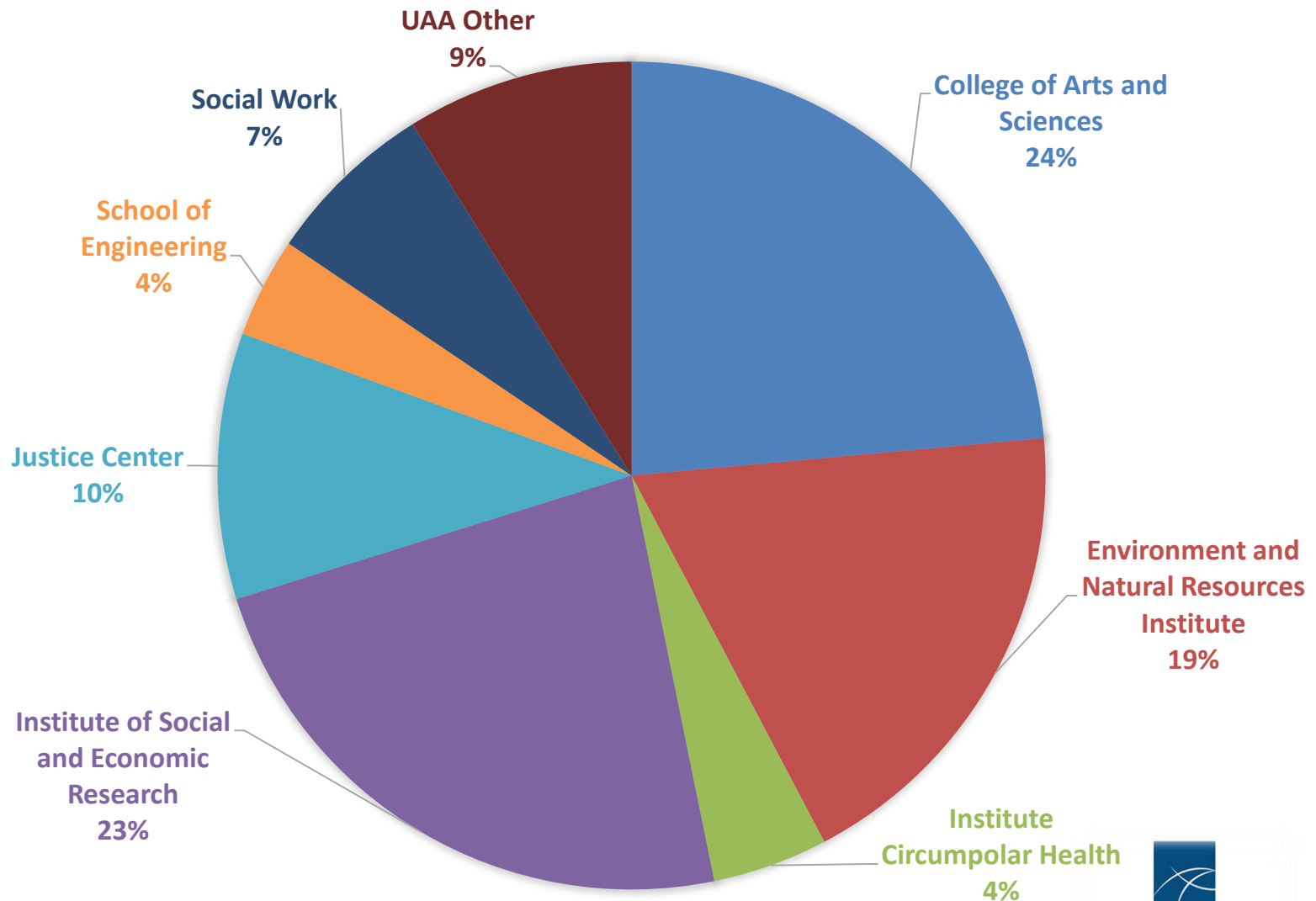
FY15 UA Direct Research Expenditures (unpublished data)



# FY15 UAF REVENUES (IN THOUSANDS OF \$) AS RESULT OF RESEARCH BY INSTITUTE (UNPUBLISHED DATA)



# FY15 UAA REVENUES (IN THOUSANDS OF \$) AS RESULT OF RESEARCH BY INSTITUTE (UNPUBLISHED DATA)





# University of Alaska Southeast

- \$20.9 M grant portfolio (13 Federal agencies!)
- Meeting the Shaping Alaska's Future goals with its research
- Regional focus
- Statewide collaborator on many of the large system grants
- Partner with Juneau Economic Development Corporation (JEDC) – research clusters initiative
  - Southeast AK, as represented by the JEDC Research and Development Cluster Working Group, was named a “Community of Excellence in Research” by SCoR
- Joint appointments with UAF and collaborate on support to MS/PhD students.

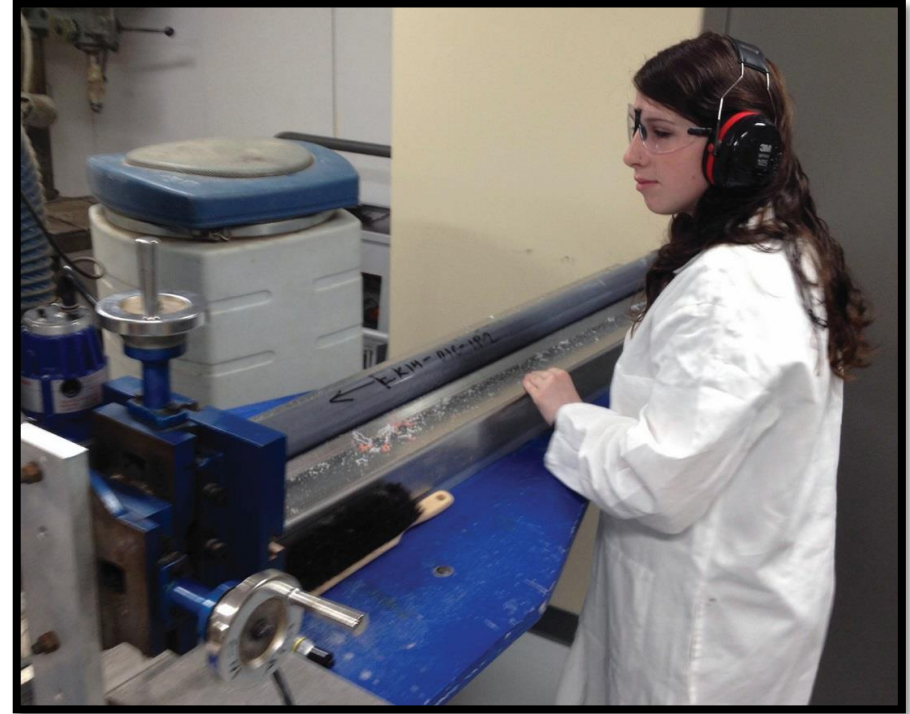
# FY15 Grant Awards by University

(unpublished data)

- UAA
  - 226 new awards, 36.5% of active grants
- UAF
  - 224 new awards, 26.3% of active grants
- UAS
  - 17 new awards, 33.3% of active grants

# Building Research Capacity

- EPSCoR, \$20 million over five years
- UAF leads the three universities
- Stimulate sustainable R&D capacity and competitiveness



# Building Research Capacity

- INBRE, \$18 million from the National Institutes of Health
- Statewide biomedical research and student training
- Interface between health, disease and the environment in people and animals



# Student-focused Opportunities

- BUILD grant, \$24 million from the National Institutes of Health
- Engage rural and minority students in biomedical and health careers
- UAF, nine rural campuses and UAS





# Mining Workforce Grant

- \$8.1 million U.S. Department of Labor grant
- Match skilled workforce with high paying jobs
- UAF, UAS, UAA industry and the State of Alaska



# Alaska Native Health Research

- Collaborative research with Alaska Native communities
- Received \$50 million in support since 2001
- Three, five-year NIH grants for Biomedical Research Excellence



# Hazards Mitigation





# Research Vessel Sikuliaq



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# Ocean Acidification

- Impacts to shellfish farming and potential impacts to fisheries
- Alaska's fishing communities most vulnerable



# Leveraging State Investment

- In FY15, approximately \$28M in state \$ was used to support research; by leveraging this investment, UAF faculty used \$116M in grants and contracts for research. This reflects an average of \$4.1 of external funding for every \$1 of state general fund investment
- A \$10M cut to state support of research may equate to \$30-60M loss to the local economy





# Research for Alaska

- In FY15, total UAF research revenue was \$124.0M (NCHEMS)
- Of this, \$78.6M funded employee salaries and benefits, which were spent in the community



# Research for Alaska

- In FY15, 81 percent of UAF research grant and contract expenditures were directly related to Alaska
- Research efforts addressed issues such as energy efficiency, improved building techniques to reduce heating bills, and petroleum engineering to improve access to resources



# Research for Alaska

Direct solutions to and assistance with problems





# Research for Alaska

Input to the state for policy decisions of impact to Alaska



# Staying Competitive for Alaska



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# Staying Competitive for Alaska

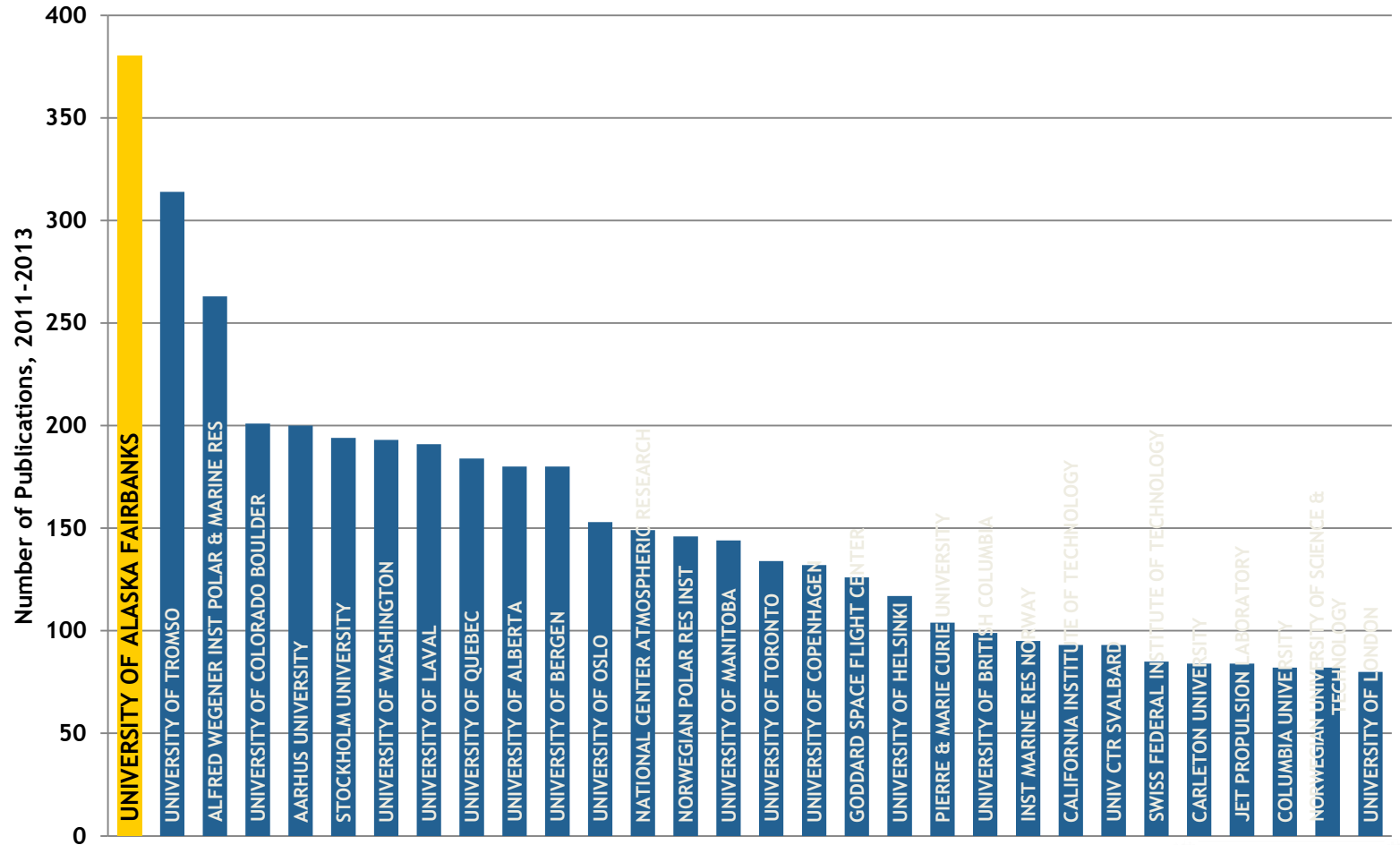


# Staying Competitive for Alaska

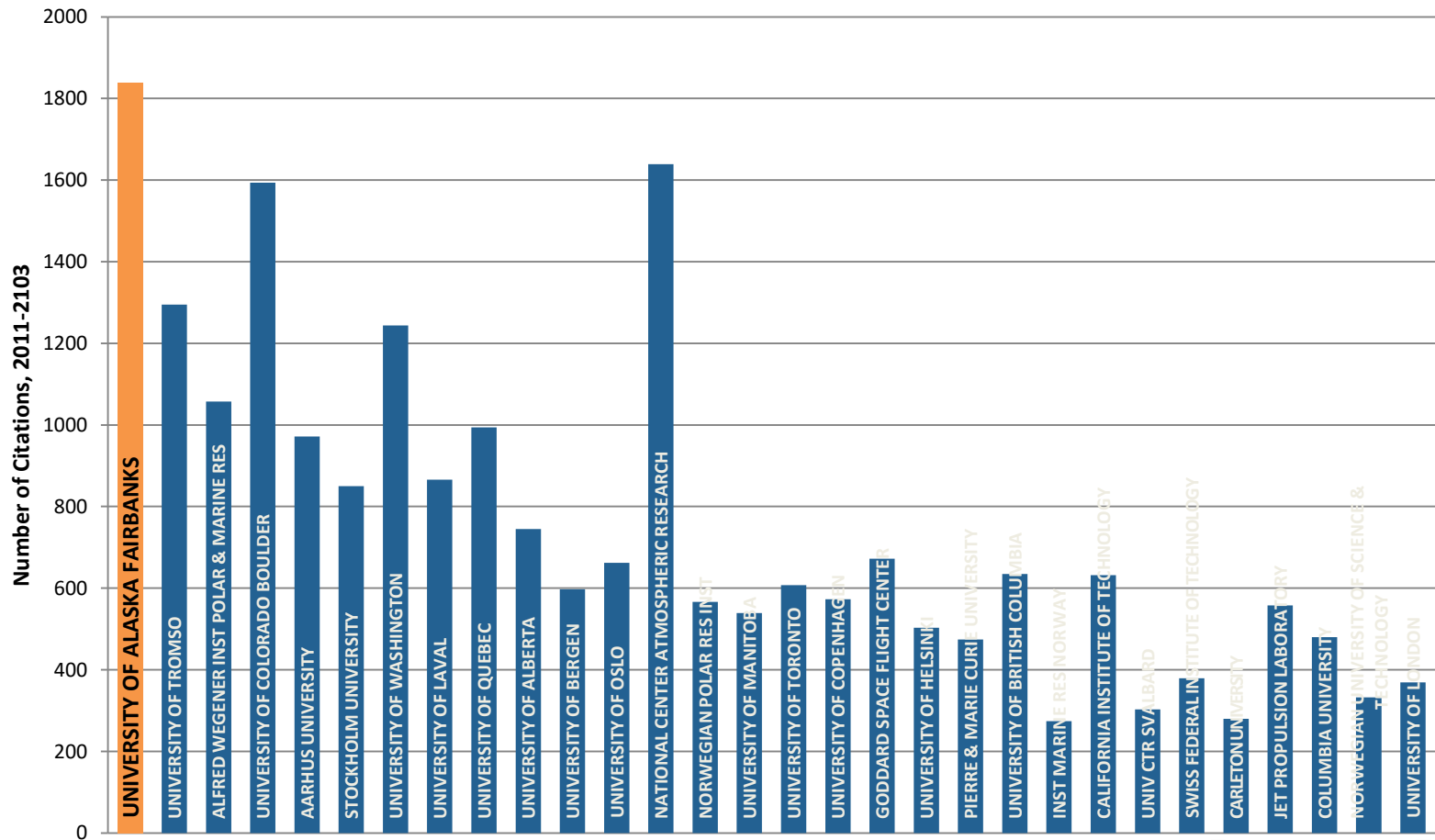
Former UAF student Tripp Collier, one of the project managers for the 2014-2015 student ice arch



# Arctic Publications



# Citations of Arctic Publications



# UA Eligibility and Obligations

Grants and contracts awarded to the universities normally require the university or the UA System to provide facilities, administrative support, and qualified faculty and staff for the duration of the grant. Many of the costs for these services are covered by the grants and contracts.

# UA Eligibility and Obligations

- In addition to fiscal management, UA and its universities are also required to follow a large number of federal regulations pertaining to research. These are too numerous to describe in detail here, but include:
  - *Regulations governing use and care of vertebrate animals in research.*
  - *Regulations governing human research.*
  - *Regulations governing biosafety.*
  - *Regulations on environmental health and safety.*
  - *Regulations concerning research misconduct.*

University of Alaska

# GROWING ALASKA'S ECONOMY

Shaping  
Alaska's  
Future



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# Economic Impact

- **The Economic Impact of the University of Alaska 2012**  
**McDowell Group, Inc.**

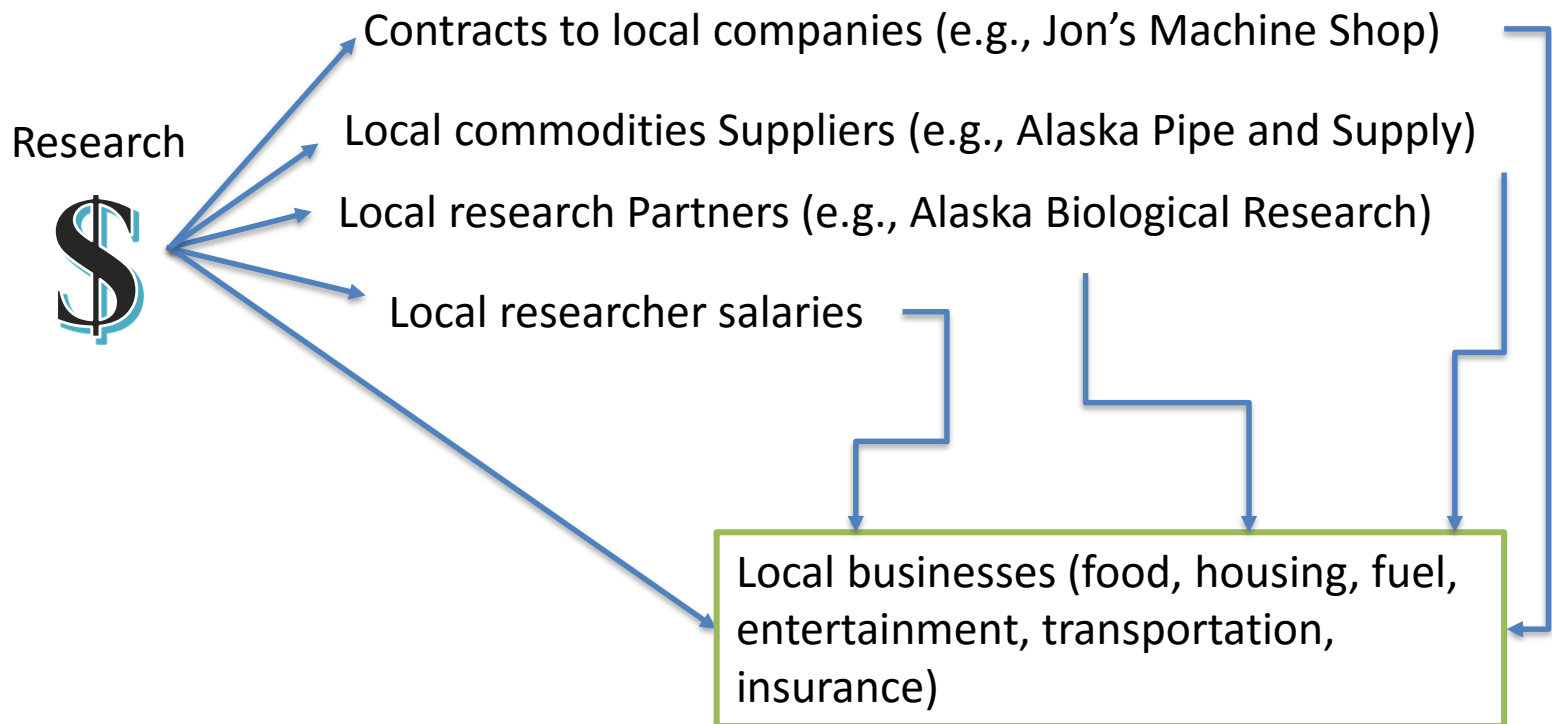
Between FY02 and FY11, competitive grants awarded to the University have accounted for approximately \$1.3 billion in revenue that might not otherwise have come to the state. Thus, a large proportion of the University-generated research revenue represents new dollars into the state.



# UA Expenditures in AK

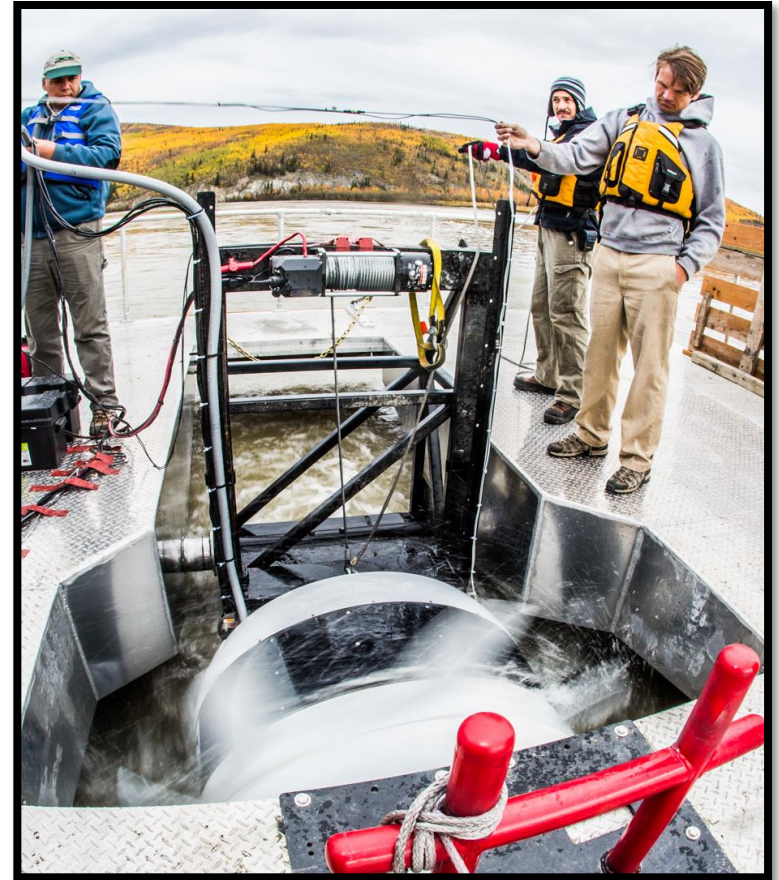
- 88% of UA expenditures were made in Anchorage/Mat-Su and Interior regions
- 9% occurring in Southeast
- 2% in the Coastal region
- 1% in the Southwest and Northern regions

# Research Numbers



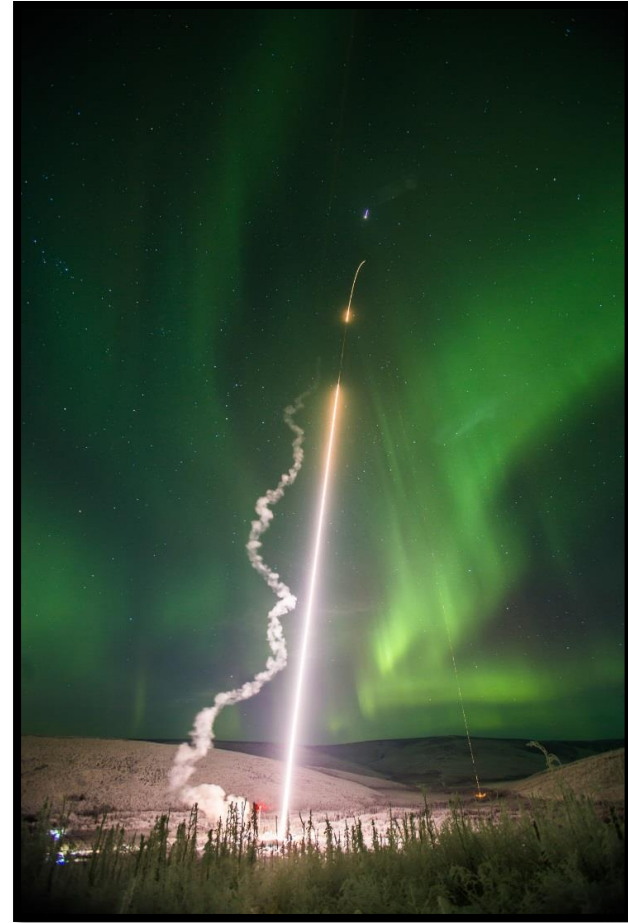
# Alaska Center for Energy and Power

- Hands-on center looking at innovative energy solutions
- Training new generation of engineers
- Leveraged \$29 million, nine times the state's investment



# Poker Flat Research Range

- Only high latitude rocket range in the U.S.
- Situated beneath the auroral oval
- Home to a growing fleet of unmanned aircraft



# Unmanned Aircraft Systems





# Partners



# Arctic Oil Spill Research

- Technologies to help with oil development and shipping
- Provide the science and technology to address issues



# Oil and Gas Development

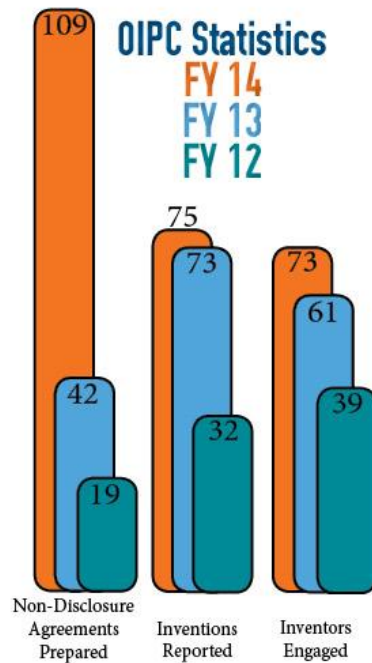
- Applied research in hydrocarbon optimization
- Recovery of viscous oil, shale oil and gas
- Industry needs: permitting, ice formation in TAPS, etc.







Office of Intellectual  
Property and Commercialization  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks*



• Licensed Technologies

FY 14 - 40  
FY 13 - 0  
FY 12 - 1

• Patent Applications Filed

FY 14 - 7  
FY 13 - 5  
FY 12 - 3

• Patents Granted

FY 14 - 2  
FY 13 - 0  
FY 12 - 0

• Start-up Company

FY 14 - 1  
FY 13 - 1  
FY 12 - 0

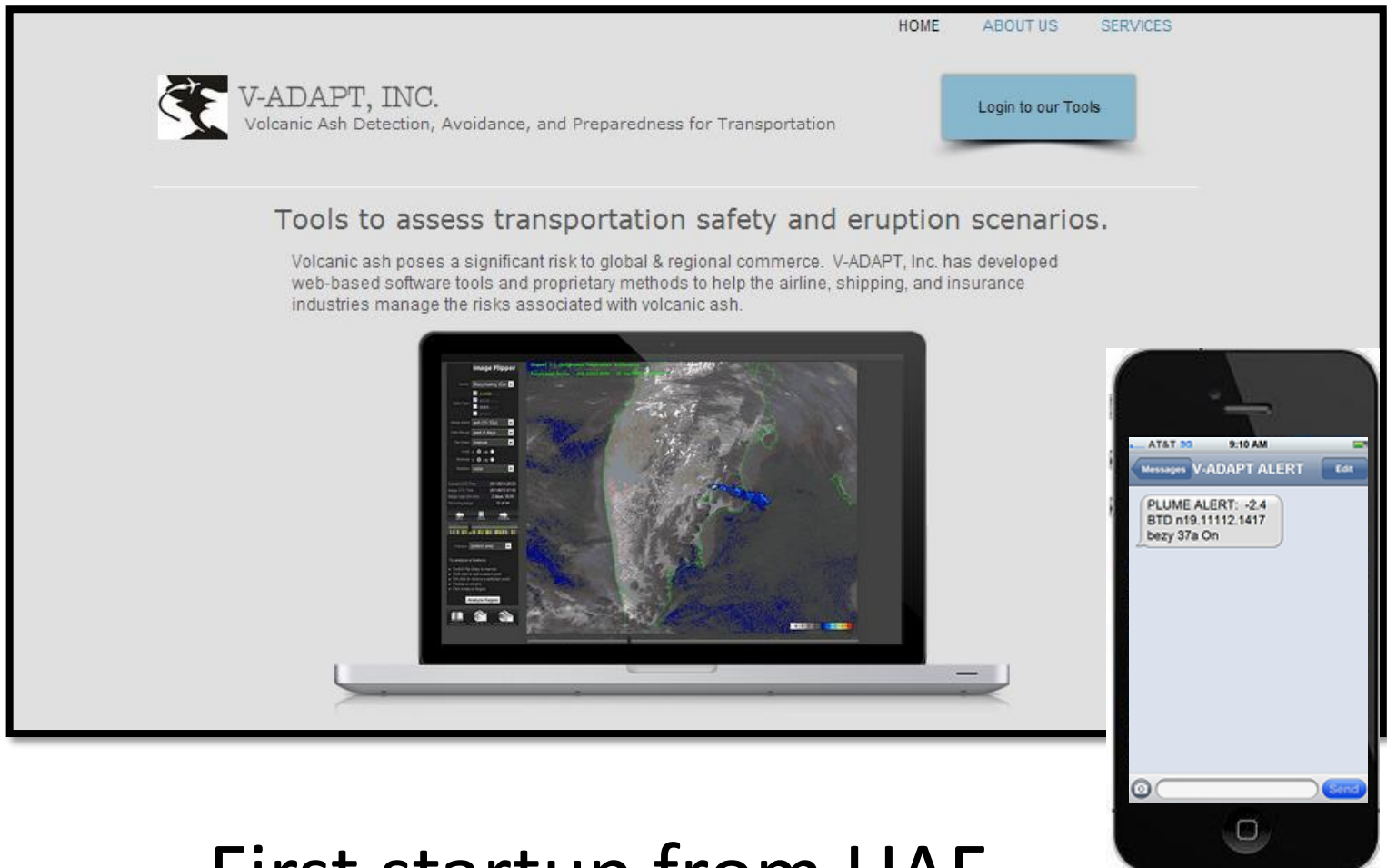


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## Economic Development for Fish Processing

- After years of development and no private sector licensee, the pinbone removal technology has been licensed to Freeman Bell Machine Shop in Juneau and several prototypes have been transferred to end users.



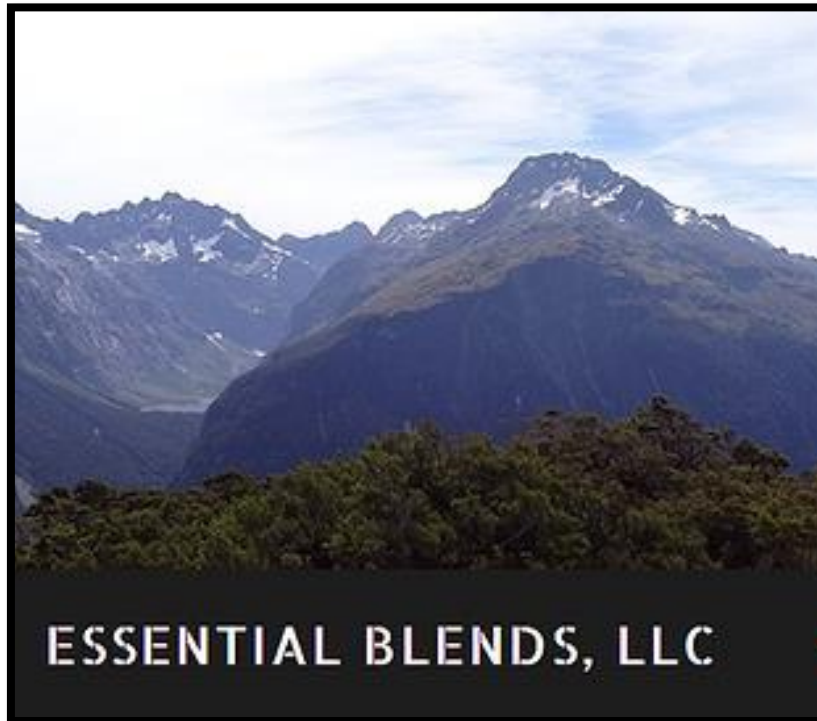


First startup from UAF  
[www.vadapt.net](http://www.vadapt.net)



Several companies created based on UAF intellectual property are launching startups to build new technology under SBIR and STTR grants right here in Alaska.





Faculty have moved to Fairbanks due to the unique start up opportunities provided by UAF OIPC, the Nanook Innovation Corporation and Nanook Tech Ventures.

University of Alaska

# THANK YOU

Daniel M. White

University of Alaska

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research

[www.alaska.edu/research](http://www.alaska.edu/research)

907-450-8019

Shaping  
Alaska's  
Future



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**From:** [Pat Ivey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HFin Testimony March 1, 2016 - Pat Ivey, Fairbanks  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:24:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [testimony.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Most importantly, fund the 2017 budget with the CBRF! That's what it exists for. And finally, do it before the end of the regular session. Special sessions are costly.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pat Ivey <[iveypat@gmail.com](mailto:iveypat@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 1, 2016 at 2:04:24 PM AKST  
**To:** Pat Ivey <[iveypat@gmail.com](mailto:iveypat@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** HFin Testimony March 1, 2016 - Pat Ivey, Fairbanks



March 1, 2016

Alaska State Legislature  
House Finance Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

On behalf of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, I am a strong supporter of the services offered by Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV). USAFV provides vital and unduplicated emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.

It is my understanding that currently the Department of Public Safety subcommittee has recommended 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 USAFV and other CDVSA funded agencies to agency to continue to provide vital necessary services for victims to attain safety and support. We 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.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Thomas C. Robinson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Thomas C. Robinson, Tribal President



COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINANCE COMMITTEE, MARCH 1, 2016  
*Patricia M. Ivey, 106 Oak Drive, Fairbanks AK 99709, mailing PO Box 60634 Fairbanks AK 99706,  
phone: 907-590-8800, email iveypat@gmail.com*

Hello. I am Pat Ivey, a 40 year resident of Fairbanks, a retiree and an undeclared super voter. I come to you today to speak on behalf of the Alaska's university, its youth and its seniors. I represent no group or entity today. My comments are entirely my own.

## REQUESTS

### IN SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million cut to the University of Alaska budget. There is no way the university can absorb cuts of this magnitude in so short a time without declaring financial exigency and thus losing all of its federal funding also. Alaska already leads the rush to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education. The University of Alaska is a land, sea and space grant institution established and governed by many laws relating to its status. Cuts of this magnitude prohibit the university from carrying out mandates and its ability to serve Alaskans.
- Restore the \$19 million to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for senior programs. Seniors are the fastest growing population within Alaska, figures not driven by seniors coming in from outside (less than 2%), but by seniors who were born here or came young, have worked, contributed to the economy and aged here and have no intention of leaving in their lifetimes.
- Restore funding to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for youth services. Alaska ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in terms of support for youth below the poverty line. Don't further exacerbate K-12 school drop out rates caused by kids not being able to concentrate because they are homeless and/or starving.
- Fund the FY2017 operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve fund (CBRF) if we don't have enough money in the general fund. That's what the CBRF was created for and right now contains \$8.69 BILLION. It will give us a softer landing rather than certain death at the bottom of the current bust cycle by allowing us time to do intelligently what we should have done after the 1980s recession—diversify our economy, protect our most vulnerable populations, and compete successfully in the state, national and world market.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

## FURTHER DISCUSSION

### FUNDING SOURCES

The CBRF is the only way to go in this legislative session. It takes more time than available to reinstate state taxes, put the infrastructure in place and begin receiving the revenue to help us now. Capping the permanent fund dividends and diverting the leftover permanent fund interest to the general fund will probably also be necessary, but my guess is nobody is going to try that in an election year. But we can start now to diversify so we begin to receive general fund revenues from non-oil revenue sources before we run out of the CBRF. And we can reinstate the state income tax to start generating revenue by 2018 to include wages of people who work in Alaska and live elsewhere.

## THE UNIVERSITY

Federal funding is the major contributor to university research. A significant component of Fed decisions to fund university research depends on the amount of state support for its university. Very often, federal funds are matched by rapidly disappearing state funds. No state funds, no matching fed funds, a double whammy.

University research produces data vital to the conduct of our lives and our industries— witness climate, housing, agriculture, engineering and marine research. Brings dollars into the state. For every one dollar of research funds, four dollars goes into Alaska's economy.

Cooperative Extension, takes the research data, translates it into ways we can apply to our lives and industries for our own self-sustainability, and works with us to make that happen. We better ourselves and contribute further to our economy as a result. Win-win.

Fire science produces trained personnel to predict, control and fight fires. Given higher than normal temperatures and reduced snow cover this winter, we are going to need all the help we can get. The University of Alaska has never been, and will never be, able to sustain itself without state support. The university is a land grant university but never received the lands necessary to sustain itself.

Former university president Mark Hamilton led the charge for nearly a decade to get us to diversify our economy to offset a crash in oil revenues. If any diversification occurred since then, nothing resulted to significantly add to the state's treasury, despite all university efforts. Former president Patrick Gamble, Hamilton's successor, saw that, looked at the continuing downturn in state funding, and led a massive strategic planning effort to get the university into position to handle budget reductions. President Johnson got here just in time for the hangover and thank heaven, he had worked for President Hamilton before so had previous university experience.

But God himself could not have imagined the cuts proposed by the 2016 legislature.

When cuts of this magnitude were imminent in the 1980s, the university was forced to declare its intention to declare financial exigency. Thankfully, the state pulled back from the edge, and the university was able to proceed to restructure without financial exigency. Financial exigency would lose UA all of its federal funding—ALL OF IT—and most likely most of not all of its corporate and private funding. UA might not be there yet, but my guess is that it might be inevitable given the current path of this legislature.

Regarding the university's ability to teach students, degree programs will be cut according to President Johnson, but it takes time. The university is legally bound to provide the resources for students in declared degree programs to finish their degrees if they choose to stay here. Legally bound. At the least that would take a year or two, four at the max, to chop that program.

The university is like the largest seagoing vessel you can imagine. You cannot hit the brakes and stop it on a dime. It takes time to grind a university to a halt.

Meanwhile, if history repeats itself, UA's now uncertain future is bound to scare away federal, corporate and private sources of funding, marketable faculty are looking for positions elsewhere, and students are going to states where the degree outlook is more stable. Budget cuts of this severity devalue degrees.

Circumpolar shipping routes are about to open if they haven't already. Alaska is the only state IN THE NATION on that route but we have little or no infrastructure except Unalaska to participate and absent the university research to help make that happen in a sustainable manner, the entire nation loses out. Or the nation, not wanting to lose out, funnels billions of dollars to other universities to do the work on Alaska land and waterways and all the economic benefit is reaped elsewhere. Ditto climate change research funds. Our coastlines are eroding daily. Alaska is warming faster than anywhere else. The first large fire occurred in Delta Junction in February and it rained last week in Denali. IN FEBRUARY!

According to the American Council on Education, Alaska is leading the charge to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education, predicting that at the rate the trend is going, Alaska's state support for higher education will reach zero by 2025. The University of Alaska cannot survive without state support.

## ALASKA'S YOUTH AND SENIORS

Cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services jeopardizes Alaska's most vulnerable—it's youth and elders. Youth poverty levels are rising. Youth homelessness is rising. Services and facilities are outstripped by need. Churches and nonprofit organizations strive to fill the gap but are running out of resources.

The elder population is rising exponentially. Massive attempts are underway to help seniors age safely at home, and yet homeless camps are also filled with seniors. The senior population at or below poverty level is rising. The number of seniors over 85 years old is rising exponentially. Assisted living facilities cannot keep up with demand and many cannot pay the astronomical prices for those facilities anyway. Community senior centers provide meals on wheels to home bound seniors. In the Fairbanks area alone, the Fairbanks Senior Center will serve upwards of 50,000 meals on wheels and meals at the senior center in 2016 alone. This does not include all the educational programs and information distribution to keep seniors healthy, housed at home wherever possible and safe. DHSS funds support to senior centers and youth programs through grants is vital to even begin meeting these demands. General relief, public assistance heating assistance, and the rest of the senior programs keeps us at home and healthy for as long as possible so that our woefully inadequate number of assisted living facilities and nursing homes are not further overwhelmed. Homeless camps are full of seniors and youth now. I can't begin to imagine the economic impact of the DHSS cuts, other than to imagine our streets littered with the frozen bodies of the destitute.

## RESTATE SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million proposed cuts to the UA budget proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee
- Restore \$19 million funding to the Department of Health and Social Services for senior services.
- Restore funding to DHSS for youth services.
- Fund the operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve if we don't have enough money in the general fund.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

## RESOURCES

Land grant university definition- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant\\_university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university)

Sea grant university definition - <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/whoware.aspx>

Space grant university definition - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Space\\_Grant\\_College\\_and\\_Fellowship\\_Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Space_Grant_College_and_Fellowship_Program)

State Support for Higher Education - Now <http://www.acenet.edu/the-presidency/columns-and-features/Pages/state-funding-a-race-to-the-bottom.aspx> and in the 1980s <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED311794.pdf>

Role of UA Research - <https://www.alaska.edu/files/state/2016-research-finalreview.pdf>

Arctic Priorities - <http://www.adn.com/article/20160228/interview-lt-gov-mallott-shares-arctic-priorities>

Climate change - <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/alaska.html> and <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/barrow-alaska-ground-zero-for-climate-change-7553696/?no-ist>

Cooperative Extension Service - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska\\_Cooperative\\_Extension\\_Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Cooperative_Extension_Service)

Youth statistics - <http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/report-childhood-poverty-rates-increasing-in-alaska/35426050> and [http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report\\_cards/long/ak\\_long.pdf](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/long/ak_long.pdf)

Aging Statistics - [http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA\\_StatePlan\\_FY16-FY19.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_StatePlan_FY16-FY19.pdf) and <https://www.caregiverlist.com/Alaska/DepartmentOnAging.aspx>

FY 2017 Budget and the Constitutional Budget Reserve - <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/Other/SwissArmyKnife10.pdf> page 26, and <http://treasury.dor.alaska.gov/Investments/Constitutional-Budget-Reserve.aspx> and <http://www.legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2016/Operating/HouseSubNumbers/UOA-Narrative.pdf> and [http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska\\_news/budget-crisis-leads-to-possible-restructure-of-ua-system/article\\_9d61e928-c538-11e5-ba45-033c110d85f1.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/budget-crisis-leads-to-possible-restructure-of-ua-system/article_9d61e928-c538-11e5-ba45-033c110d85f1.html) and <http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf> and <http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf>





# Douglas W. Isaacson

Email: [dougwisaacson@gmail.com](mailto:dougwisaacson@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/doug.isaacson](https://www.facebook.com/doug.isaacson)

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March 1, 2016

Rep. Steve Thompson, Co-Chair House Finance

Rep. Mark Neuman, Co-Chair House Finance

Via email: [lhscfin@akleg.gov](mailto:lhscfin@akleg.gov)

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the House Finance Committee,

I'd love to be giving my testimony in person or telephonically, but my schedule prevents this. You have a very difficult job this year and must consider carefully the consequences to every detail of your budget. Now that the sub-committees have done their work, you have to synthesis their work.

I believe you recognize that Alaska, unlike any or most other states, has only two primary economic drivers: oil and government. We don't have an abundance of economic diversity. What little there is is driven—or impeded—by government regulation, sufficient—or excessive—bureaucracy, government funded projects and research, and stable—or not—fiscal regimes. In other words, you can cut everything equally and destroy our future or you can cut some and INVEST in other parts of government.

For example, if a state agency impedes an entrepreneur from “bootstrapping” a business by placing exorbitant demands upon the business, or if it duplicates its federal counterpart—and only acts when its federal counterpart does, cut the agency down to being a federal watchdog. In my experience, much of the DEC can be categorized in this way.

If a state agency is collecting fees or taxes to provide a public necessity but those fees or taxes haven't kept up with inflation and the public good is consequently being harmed, raise the fees or taxes to be more consistent with national averages. In particular, our highway tax on gasoline has not changed since statehood—it's still at \$0.08, yet we have more lane miles of highway, more traffic, more bridges than ever before. Raising this tax is the exception to the rule of thumb of “no new taxes.”

If a state agency is responsible for generating revenue for the state but its staffing in permitting is reduced, how will new mines, new oil fields, or other resource development be accomplished on an commercially economic time table? We're already among the least developed states in the Union. Perhaps trim executives, but don't trim the necessary personnel needed to keep industry alive in Alaska.

Finally, if a state agency generates revenues by attracting private—or Outside—dollars to the state and our local communities, do not cut its ability to be competitive. In particular, the University system, especially UAF, is a RESEARCH institution. The dollar we spend to keep a professor, provide research space, ensure compliance and certification, allow time for writing proposals, etc, brings \$4 to \$7 back to the State and to our local communities. The state should ensure that students will receive quality education and can be engaged in research that prepares them for a prosperous future. I do have a vested interest in this topic: Since 1996, I have been actively engaged in fostering an environment for technology transfer and the development of the Office of Intellectual Property, and progress is finally being demonstrated. In FY11, a whopping 6 invention patents were secured (up from 1 the year before!). That rate has steadily climbed so that in FY14, 75 patents were secured! Soon, we may have a thriving community of businesses surrounding our research university campuses which will allow UA to fund much of itself with royalty payments by these businesses who actively commercialize UA research and continue to contribute to research funding. This vision won't happen overnight but must be fostered by this Legislature, by you.

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony.

Warmly,

Doug Isaacson  
North Pole, Alaska

Bill Brophy  
301 Snowy Owl Lane  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
[bill@usibelli.com](mailto:bill@usibelli.com)

Alaska Legislators  
State of Alaska  
State Capital Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov  
Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov  
Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov  
Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov  
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Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov  
Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov  
Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov  
Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov  
Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov  
Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov  
Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov

Dear Legislators,

29 February 2016

I request that you preserve adequate funding for the University of Alaska (UA).

The University needs a sound budget to provide programs that meet our state's needs for education, teaching, research, and service. The state's economic future depends on adequate funding today and Alaska businesses and communities flourish with the well trained professionals the University provides. I agree with President Jim Johnsen that "It takes a great university to make a great state."

My employer, Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. has made a tremendous investment for many years in the University Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). To mention a few: the first financial contribution to the Engineering Building (\$500,000), the Museum of the North, several endowments that return scholarships for the treasured Emil Usibelli Awards, the School of Management, the College of Engineering and Mines, the Diesel/Heavy Equipment Program at Community and Technical College, and the Honors Program.

I strongly advocate for timely, reasonable, and adequate funding for the University. A consistent and predicable fiscal policy is integral to the overall plan and vision for economic development and job growth in Alaska.

I am confident that you will find solutions.

With best regards,

Bill



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

Date: 030116

Please accept the written testimony for the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ HFIN \_\_\_\_\_ teleconference hearing that was  
scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ HB256/HB257 \_\_\_\_\_.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee  
on 030116.

Thank You,

Kenai LIO

To Whom It May Concern;

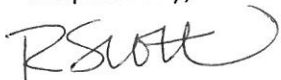
I would like to address the 1.3 million budget cut intended for the Kenai Peninsula College. It is plainly obvious that this will systematically effect the entire campus. Living in the Soldotna area for over 20 years, I've seen this campus grow considerably, thus filling the need for a more well-rounded choice for people to attend college. It appears now, that less people have had to travel to Anchorage (or out of state) to take classes that were not offered here a decade ago. This means that more students are able to stay in their own community.

As a single parent who is trying to get an education while working and maintaining my private residence, I would have to drop out of school if the classes I needed were not available, as I cannot relocate. Where would this get me?? It is the goal of the entire country to get people educated, working in well-paying jobs and maintain middle/upper middle class societies.

Benefits of the Kenai Peninsula College right now are the availability of smaller classes where the professors are able to give personal attention to all students, which enables them to get better grades. Having the choice to attend day or evening classes is also highly beneficial to many students. As well as having more options for degrees or certifications.

Please consider the deep impact this immense budget cut is going to make on our small campus. This will push people out of our community to attend colleges elsewhere and most likely cost some very good professors their jobs. Nothing positive is going to come of this!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Scott', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rhonda Scott  
Student seeking Human Services Degree  
907-394-3739

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Doyle Mannaeser

REPRESENTING:

Doyle Mannaeser

BILL # or SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 3-01-2016

Budget - I think they should look at  
fees and ticketing of state operated facilities  
I have worked with a certain area  
off government and for 34 years and  
the fees for this area I have only  
changed once during that 34 years.

Doyle



Hi, I'm Bill Larned, and I am speaking to you today about KDLL public radio both as a Kenai Peninsula resident since 1984, and also one of the newest KDLL board members. *serving the Central Kenai Peninsula*

Prior to Alaska my family lived in various other locations, unaware of public radio being an important part of life there. But in Alaska we quickly noticed how critical a part it played in keeping folks informed on events from local to global, provide connectivity for individuals and organizations, public safety announcements, especially during crises like earthquakes, volcanoes, wildfires, storms and resulting utility outages. All these services are tied together with commercial-free educational and eclectic musical programming, keeping listeners tuned in as they go about their lives. But one of the biggest surprises I had was how small the budget was to support all that! There are surprisingly few actual employees with very modest salaries, and everything else is done by enthusiastic volunteers and contributing members.

But unfortunately as lean as KDLL is, in the end it has a budget threshold below which it begins to break down. We have <sup>already</sup> sustained cuts in Alaska state grants which thanks to your much appreciated hard work and support were not severe enough to require major changes in programming. However, we are at a juncture where we desperately need some equipment upgrades, which would eliminate annoying dead air from interrupted feeds, and ultimately reduce our operating costs. Also further budget cuts at this point will force us to cancel *some* programming, which will surely precipitate a decrease in membership, further impacting our budget. We have been having those discussions at our meetings, and it is our conclusion that major programming cuts would threaten our viability.

In summary we appreciate the magnitude of Alaska's budget crisis, but want you to be aware of how relatively small the amount is that we need to keep this critical service alive by maintaining current levels as a minimum.

William Larned, member, KDLL Public Radio  
3/1/2016

# KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Emma Brenner

REPRESENTING:

Self (KPC Student)

BILL # or SUBJECT:

UAA Budget / Budget Cuts

COMMITTEE:

Finance Committee

DATE: 3/1/16

There has been a lot of testimony today. Thank you for your time to listen to everyone, even the ones who said a lot of nothing. I am a current student of Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) and am worried about the loss of funding. KPC is one of two local colleges in the Kenai/Soldotna area, the other being a religious based school. It is one of the few ways for residents to access higher learning. I worry about the future of KPC and what lack of funding can do to the community. Residents who choose to <sup>(instead of leaving for college)</sup> stay may have a harder time becoming "job qualified", or even to become certified in the job field. Many of the students at KPC are wanting to go into the medical field and oil field as well. If those individuals leave out of state how many will return? What will happen to families who are unable to leave to achieve their job dreams or even goals of making more than the poverty line? Why would a child want to pursue their education when they have no role models to give them an example? By investing in education, and the facilities that encourage learning such as libraries, you are investing in the residents of Alaska. ~~and~~ Please keep the youth of Alaska when planning Alaska's future.

**From:** [Brett Richardson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** House Finance Committee & Victim Service Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:38:06 PM

---

*My name is Brett Richardson and I am a strong supporter of the services offered by Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV). USAFV provides vital and unduplicated emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.*

*It is my understanding that currently the Department of Public Safety subcommittee has recommended 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 USAFV and other CDVSA funded agencies to agency to continue to provide vital necessary services for victims to attain safety and support. We 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.*

Thank you,

Brett Richardson

Food & Beverage Operations Manager

Grand Aleutian Hotel / Harbor View Inn

907-581-7315

## House Finance Testimony 3-1-2016

To:

Alaska State Legislature,  
House of Representatives Finance Committee

Good Afternoon Folks...

I want to start my Thanking you all for your public service and for volunteering to do represent the people of Alaska. As part of that service, the legislature must remain vigilant in protecting Our resources. Those resources include more than carbon fuels and fish, but also We The People of Alaska and Our Resources. Since before Statehood "Alaskans" have always had a Spirit of Freedom and Family Values. This is even written into the State Constitution.

*"the pursuit of happiness" for We The People is not defined as having to pay Taxes that reduce "the enjoyments of the rewards of their own industry" so that Our government continues to grow."*

The growth of government spending on itself has to be decreased... taxes upon the private sector are quite frankly un-constitutional and will harm the private sector. Costs across Alaska are generally higher than the lower 48 and especially so in rural areas. Some rural municipalities already have sales and property taxes that can add-up pretty quickly on higher priced consumer goods and services. The State of Alaska has to look into departmental restructuring and simplifying government roles to adhere to the State Constitution and declining revenues. Implementing more and more taxes is not the answer to reaching sustainability, if even for a stop-gap band-aid quick-fix to Alaska's fiscal woes.

Let's look at where We stand right now...

Working through the HFIN first Committee Substitute. At first glance it appears to come in within the \$4.5 B target spending level the HFIN

Co-Chairs previously have identified ... except it doesn't. Let's look at these 3 things...

First, while funding for the University appears to be cut by another \$25 million, that in fact is offset by a \$25 million draw from Power Cost Equalization in order to keep actual spending at the same level proposed by the HFIN Subcomm.

Second, while the contribution made to PERS/TRS appears to be cut, that in fact is offset by a \$76.7 million draw from the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (scholarships) to keep actual spending near the same level proposed by the Governor (and recommended by the state's actuaries).

Third, the budget includes a \$145 million generalized credit resulting from a reversal (draw) from a previous fund capitalization (what I have been told is the Public Education Fund).

Such credits previously have been considered below the line adjustments, not spending "cuts."

Shifting money and directing revenue from one area to another isn't the same as cutting the spending. Please see the chart below.



FY 2017 UGF Budget (\$B) (as of 2.29.2016)

		<u>HFIN</u>		%Reduction	HFIN	SFIN Sub	SFIN
		<u>Gov Amend</u>	<u>2.29.2016 CS</u>				
Agency Ops							
DOA	\$	0.072	\$	0.067	7%		
CEED	\$	0.021	\$	0.017	19%		
DOC	\$	0.271	\$	0.270	0%		
DEED (non-forml)	\$	0.040	\$	0.032	20%		
DEED (formula)	\$	1.255	\$	1.255	0%		
DEC	\$	0.018	\$	0.017	5%		
DF&G	\$	0.058	\$	0.056	3%		
Gov	\$	0.023	\$	0.025	-8%		
DHSS (non-forml)	\$	0.360	\$	0.345	4%		
DHSS (formula)	\$	0.758	\$	0.731	4%		
DOLWD	\$	0.024	\$	0.023	5%		
Law	\$	0.055	\$	0.049	11%		
DMVA	\$	0.018	\$	0.016	8%		
DNR	\$	0.094	\$	0.061	35%		
DPS	\$	0.157	\$	0.156	1%		
DOR	\$	0.029	\$	0.027	6%		
DOTPF	\$	0.231	\$	0.228	1%		
UA	\$	0.335	\$	0.275	18%		HFIN proposal adds another \$24.7 from (PCE) (non-UGF) to bring total funding up to \$299 million (p.50).
Judiciary	\$	0.107	\$	0.107	0%		
Legis	\$	0.072	\$	0.064	11%		
Statewide							
O&G Credits	\$	0.073	\$	0.073	0%		
Debt	\$	0.218	\$	0.218	0%		
PERS/TRS	\$	0.224	\$	0.123	45%		HFIN proposal adds another \$76.7 million from AHEIF (non-UGF) to bring total funding up to \$200 million (p. 75). Because SFIN takes the lead on capital, HFIN plug number assumes adoption of Gov's "minimal" capital budget. Details at <a href="http://goo.gl/AD6MzB">http://goo.gl/AD6MzB</a>
Capital	\$	0.185	\$	0.185	0%		
Totals							
Agency	\$	3.999	\$	3.822	4%		
Statewide	\$	0.515	\$	0.414	20%		
Capital	\$	0.185	\$	0.185	0%		See line 30
Total	\$	4.699	\$	4.421	6%		
Unidentified source	\$	(0.145)					HFIN proposal reverses \$145 million of previous fund capitalization (I am told Public Education).
Total including draw	\$		\$	4.276			



Once again, Thanks for Your service and God Speed in figuring this mess out!

Sincerely,

Jon Corbett

*Reference:* <http://ltgov.alaska.gov/Mallott/services/alaska-constitution.html>

## Forwarded To:

[Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov),  
[Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov),  
[Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov),  
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[Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov),  
[Representative.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov),  
[mailto:lhscfin@akleg.gov](mailto:mailto:lhscfin@akleg.gov)

# The Constitution of the State of Alaska

## Article 1 - Declaration of Rights

### **§ 1. Inherent Rights**

This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State.

### **§ 2. Source of Government**

All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole.

## Article 12 - General Provisions

### **§ 5. Oath of Office**

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as . . . to the best of my ability."

**From:** [mike denker](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect small-town public radio!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:20:32 PM

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Hello,

**I am shocked at the recent severe cuts you have proposed to Public Radio and Television in Alaska. I understand that we all need to tighten our belts but to take away 100% of funding is detrimental for these valuable services. The vast reduction in funding also will affect federal funding.**

**I value my local radio station (KHNS) and feel it is an essential service to our community. Our household listens to KHNS every single day of the year. It is a matter of public safety because we get valuable winter road reports for the Haines and Klondike Highways, very important in the winter months. This is just one small example of the importance of Public Radio in our community, there are many more.**

**I urge you to reconsider and to know what a harsh impact taking away all funding to these services will have. Not just to those who are employed at these networks and stations, but to those who rely on this service in their community.**

**Thank you,  
Lisa Blank**

**From:** [amypettit@akfarmland.com](mailto:amypettit@akfarmland.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:21:38 PM

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Good morning;

My name is Amy Pettit and I am the Executive Director of Alaska Farmland Trust. I am an 11 year resident of Palmer, Alaska and have been involved in the agriculture industry my entire life. I was born and raised on a beef cattle operation on the southern Oregon coast; if I were to return to that ranch I would be the 5th generation of my family producing high quality beef. However, I choose to live in Alaska. I choose to provide my expertise and leadership skills to the Alaska Agriculture Industry. For 10 years I worked on the marketing and development team at the Alaska Division of Agriculture. Each year the budget cycle with the Legislature was daunting. It was always so unsettling to face the cuts and criticism of members of the Legislature who seemed to only want to talk about the failures of the past.

Here we are again. Huge cuts to the UAF CES and research programs, huge cuts to the Alaska Division of Agriculture.

I am a supporter of the Governor's budget proposal which makes strategic cuts, changes the PFD structure, and looks for innovative ways to move forward and change our dependency on the oil industry.

The agriculture industry in Alaska is thriving:

- More farmers markets than ever before.
- Huge jumps in the direct-to-consumer sales.
- A plan for privatization of the meat plant.
- Variety trials on unique crops.
- The export of peonies!
- Controlled environment vegetable production in rural, remote villages.
- Year round hydroponic production of lettuces, herbs and other products that used to only be available for our short summer months.
- Strong support of the Alaska Grown program by restaurants, grocery stores, independent lodges and State institutions.

Food is a \$2.5 BILLION dollar industry in Alaska...we have barely begun to tap into that potential.

Please don't try to balance the budget at the detriment of the agriculture industry. Don't cripple the industry by eliminating the agency support provided by UAF CES and the Division of Agriculture.

I know that this is a difficult budget cycle and I appreciate the time and effort you are putting in to finding solutions. Please consider returning the funding to UAF CES and the Division of Agriculture. Please maintain the funding for one year of operational costs for MMM&S.

Sincerely,

Amy Pettit, Executive Director  
Alaska Farmland Trust

desk 907.745.3336  
cell 907.355.2706

[amypettit@akfarmland.com](mailto:amypettit@akfarmland.com)  
[www.akfarmland.com](http://www.akfarmland.com)

Find and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/akfarmland](http://www.facebook.com/akfarmland)

**From:** [amypettit@akfarmland.com](mailto:amypettit@akfarmland.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:21:38 PM

---

Good morning;

My name is Amy Pettit and I am the Executive Director of Alaska Farmland Trust. I am an 11 year resident of Palmer, Alaska and have been involved in the agriculture industry my entire life. I was born and raised on a beef cattle operation on the southern Oregon coast; if I were to return to that ranch I would be the 5th generation of my family producing high quality beef. However, I choose to live in Alaska. I choose to provide my expertise and leadership skills to the Alaska Agriculture Industry. For 10 years I worked on the marketing and development team at the Alaska Division of Agriculture. Each year the budget cycle with the Legislature was daunting. It was always so unsettling to face the cuts and criticism of members of the Legislature who seemed to only want to talk about the failures of the past.

Here we are again. Huge cuts to the UAF CES and research programs, huge cuts to the Alaska Division of Agriculture.

I am a supporter of the Governor's budget proposal which makes strategic cuts, changes the PFD structure, and looks for innovative ways to move forward and change our dependency on the oil industry.

The agriculture industry in Alaska is thriving:

- More farmers markets than ever before.
- Huge jumps in the direct-to-consumer sales.
- A plan for privatization of the meat plant.
- Variety trials on unique crops.
- The export of peonies!
- Controlled environment vegetable production in rural, remote villages.
- Year round hydroponic production of lettuces, herbs and other products that used to only be available for our short summer months.
- Strong support of the Alaska Grown program by restaurants, grocery stores, independent lodges and State institutions.

Food is a \$2.5 BILLION dollar industry in Alaska...we have barely begun to tap into that potential.

Please don't try to balance the budget at the detriment of the agriculture industry. Don't cripple the industry by eliminating the agency support provided by UAF CES and the Division of Agriculture.

I know that this is a difficult budget cycle and I appreciate the time and effort you are putting in to finding solutions. Please consider returning the funding to UAF CES and the Division of Agriculture. Please maintain the funding for one year of operational costs for MMM&S.



Sincerely,

Amy Pettit, Executive Director  
Alaska Farmland Trust

desk 907.745.3336  
cell 907.355.2706

[amypettit@akfarmland.com](mailto:amypettit@akfarmland.com)  
[www.akfarmland.com](http://www.akfarmland.com)

Find and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/akfarmland](http://www.facebook.com/akfarmland)

**From:** [Linda Swarner](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:26:00 PM

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House Finance Committee members,

Thank you for your dedication to all Alaskans!

As a University of Alaska Southeast graduate I am very concerned about the reductions suggested by the Education subcommittee. My first classes at the University of Alaska took place in the summer during junior high as I learned about mining from the late Dr. Earl Biestline. Later after graduating from Lathrop High School I took classes to supplement my University of Minnesota classes. Finally 35 years after high school graduation I had the opportunity to receive a Bachelors of Business Administration at the Kenai Peninsula College graduation. Then a few years later I received my Masters in Public Administration. I became a life long learner many years ago and the University system has provided the opportunities for me to continue this road!! I did not want to wake up at age 70 and say I should have learned more about Economics or Computers. Due to the education I received via the University system I believe I am an asset to the great state of Alaska and our community!! Education helped the territory become a state as residents thirsted to learn more and more. "If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing." Zimbabwean Proverb  
Linda Swarner

**From:** [Seth Stewart](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts to U of A  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:26:42 PM

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To the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed financial cuts to the University of Alaska. I recently spoke with some young adults from my small community in South East, about heading off to UAS for the fall term, but they said they were not going back to school. I have heard this before from other students from University of Alaska schools. When I asked them their reason, they said the program they went to school for had been cut from the University because of lack of funding.

It doesn't seem to be a good way to encourage young Alaskans to get a college degree and become contributing members of our communities in Alaska, by cutting education programs. I have also personally taken some marine safety training funded by the Alaska Sea grant program. I also just attended the Alaska Young Fishermen Summit in Juneau and found it to be incredibly informative and helpful for me, as a young fishermen.

I understand our state is facing difficult financial times. However, I think education, in all its many forms, is vital to the current and future well-being of its residents and industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Seth Stewart  
Yakobi Fisheries  
(907)209-1053  
yakobifish@yahoo.com

From: [Art Delaune](#)  
To: [House Finance](#)  
Subject: House Finance Committee Budget  
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:30:55 PM

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To the House Finance Committee,

I recognize the fiscal situation the state faces given the dramatic drop in oil prices and really appreciate the work the House Finance Committee has done trying to control the costs of state government. I also believe that we are all in this together!

I have 2 adult sons that experience disabilities. They both have used Independent Living Services at Access Alaska as they transitioned from high school to the employment world. They both still use those services for support.

By not cutting the Senior and Disability Services Community Based Grants, individuals (like my sons will have a better chance to live independently in a less restrictive setting and less expensive environment. **I've had 2 other foster children that were taken by OCS who did not receive independent living services; One , age 23, has been incarcerated in Wasilla for several years. The other, 24 and addicted to alcohol and drugs and is in and out of treatment centers and is homeless. What is the cost to the state for these 2 young men?**

Independent living Centers do save the state money. We work to help keep people out of expensive institutional settings like Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Homes and Prisons.

**I urge you not to make cuts that will cost all of us more in the long run. Please restore funding for Senior Community-based Grants**

**Please support Community Developmental Disability Grants**

**Please support behavioral health treatment and services so that more Alaskans can get the help they need to stay out of crisis and out of costly emergency or institutional care.**

**Please restore the funding for General Relief Assistance.**

-

Thank you,

Art Delaune

Independent Living Services Supervisor

Access Alaska

Work: 907-479-7940

Fax: 907-474-4052

[adelaune@accessalaska.net](mailto:adelaune@accessalaska.net)

**From:** [Lynn Crane](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Online with Libraries funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:31:16 PM

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My name is M. Lynn Crane, and I have served as a member of the Unalaska Public Library Advisory Committee for more than 20 years.

Governor Walker's proposed budget included funding for Online With Libraries (OWL), but the finance education committee has apparently cut this vital funding. I am writing to ask that you restore it.

Without this needed funding, it will cost our library \$40,000 to keep our internet connection, which would increase our library's internet budget by more than 700%.

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

- o Federal e-rate funds pay \$79,746 of this cost. OWL pays \$35,074.
- o **If we lose OWL funding and are unable to make up the difference with city funds, we will lose much of this \$79,746 in federal funding.**
- o If we start charging patrons for internet use, we will lose all of the federal funding.
  - Internet is tremendously expensive on the island, and many residents do not have home internet. They need this connection to apply for jobs, do their income taxes, apply for the PFD, continue their education, pay their bills, and connect with their families and the outside world.
  - The library is the only source of free internet, open to all, on the island.

Here are some samples of programs and services that were made possible by OWL:

- Unalaska City School students were able to take a virtual tour of the UAF campus and ask questions about college life.
- Elementary students were able to talk with NASA scientists and take a tour of the space capsule.
- Students at UAF, UAA, and UAS are able to take online classes at the library.
- A dad reads children's books to his kids via Skype in the library's children's room.
- Patrons have job interviews via Skype.
- We are hoping to offer an SAT class through an Anchorage instructor this year, but it will not be possible without high-speed internet and videoconferencing capability.

You must know how crucial these services are in a community such as ours. I urge you to do whatever you can to restore this needed funding.

Sincerely,

M. Lynn Crane  
Unalaska, AK 99685  
907-581-3248



**From:** [E. Thomas Robinson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** University of Alaska, Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:12:40 PM

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University and Education, transfusion not amputation!

I am greatly concerned about the proposed actions, cuts that are being considered in education and in particular, the University of Alaska. I am a 40+ year resident living in Senate District C and House District 5. I am a Professor Emeritus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks where by contract, my work load covered teaching, research, and service. I will not go into a lengthy detail of my interaction while on contract, but simply say many others attested to my significant and favorable impact in my tri-partite efforts, when I retired and was awarded Professor Emeritus status. The Board of Regents are there for both the University and the State, I would think that you would value direction of that Board as well as officials of the University to provide insight and direction in this Constitutional based asset. Please use these resources in making decisions, decisions that provide positive impacts on our great State.

In 1917 the University was established. I am extremely proud of the fact that University of Alaska Fairbanks has earned, developed, and is recognized as a Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant Institution. This recognition with its triple designation is one of very few, I believe 17, in the Nation. The fact that the University has not been provided with sufficient land transfers is a separate contributing issue to current financial position, but only noted here. This is an issue to be pursued separately.

The University's development reflects a leadership role that has been earned since 1917. During this time other units were developed to serve Alaska, many with teaching, instructional, community college type, closer to population centers in Alaska. As time passed the University of Alaska system consolidated and developed into the current three major units, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Southeast. I totally can relate and appreciate the efforts of our legislators to learn, interact, and understand what it takes to maintain accreditation of the University, the many units within the units that have their own separate accreditation needs and requirements.

The scope of cuts suggest by the House committee will require amputation instead of a transfusion. Major cut backs in funding can make impacts that will cause the Schools or separately accredited units to be cut, even though they will cause very negative ripples through the Alaska economy. An example, education cuts causing the loss of accreditation could mean graduating students not being employable in Alaska (and other) schools, exacerbating an already existing headache in finding new entry level teachers in many school districts. I certainly want my grandchildren to attend accredited schools.

A very sad part of this financial approach is that the Board of Regents are being forced to dealing with these major cuts that have been dealt to them by others. The Board has been time and time again, required to direct scarce resources at the direction of the Legislature instead of directing those resources as they deemed necessary. A significant example is direction from the Legislature to establish a sports complex that wasn't asked for or considered necessary by the Board in lieu of resources they had requested.

My wife reminded me of a past action that was used to provide funding for education. Institute

a School Tax that would be required to be withheld from the first check issued in the calendar year. When an individual does not start a job until later in the year, the amount would be withheld from the first pay check. This amount could be, for example \$10 and be for every working person employed in the State. A portion, say \$1 for the University and the balance for K-12.

Thank you for all your work and effort, and please do not short change education in Alaska, in particular keeping the University of Alaska, and UAF, the quality institution it is. Forcing amputation and cuts that negatively impact accreditation, quality, or loss of accredited units, should not be a viable direction. Education is an asset that needs to help lead us through years to come.

E. Thomas Robinson, CPA, CMA, Professor Emeritus  
School of Management, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
3744 Mitchell Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4635  
H:907.479.2110; C:750.3396 F:455.9110 email: [etrobinson@alaska.edu](mailto:etrobinson@alaska.edu)

**From:** [records@safebristolbay.org](mailto:records@safebristolbay.org)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn Casteel](#); [brendakay@rocketmail.com](mailto:brendakay@rocketmail.com)  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts to CDVSA  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:15:43 PM

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Hello-I'm Lisa Haggblom, the Records Analyst (among other things) at Safe and Fear-free Environment, Inc (SAFE), in Dillingham, AK. SAFE provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims in Bristol Bay. CDVSA provides SAFE funding, and a statewide client database that all of their funded programs use in the state. The client database is managed by CDVSA's Research Analyst (Rocket Parrish) in Juneau. He provides the queries to extract the information out of the database for CDVSA and local agencies. He just completed an update to the database that now includes more of the information our federal grantors require for their grant reports. He compiles data from around the state for grantors and others who want/need our numbers. Those numbers are invaluable to show how many of what kinds of services we provide to what kind of clients and when. They guide individual programs with staffing and budget needs. I create queries to provide data to various folks here and elsewhere. Rocket and his position are necessary to assess what's going on, when, and to whom, and the Research Analyst position funding should not be cut. Thank you for your consideration.

***Lisa Haggblom***

records@safebristolbay.org

Systems Administrator, Records Analyst, SART Coordinator

SAFE

PO Box 94, Dillingham, AK 99576

907-842-2320 day

907-842-5627 eve

**From:** [Mary Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** University Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:18:01 PM

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Dear Representatives:

First, thank you for serving and devoting so much time for Alaska.

I'm very concerned about UA's budget proposals. I graduated from UAF, two of my children did and now two of my grandchildren attend. All of us would rather pay more taxes and more tuition to maintain the high quality that the UA system embodies.

You will ruin the University system if you persist in the horrific cuts. My grandchildren will leave Alaska to complete their education and if that happens, the probability of their returning to live here diminishes greatly. So I respectfully ask you to pause and re-examine the budget- there is always a way to solve problems in a different way.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynch

--

Mary Lynch



# Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.

3935 Svedlund Street  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-7655 Fax: (907) 235-3739

March 1, 2016

House Finance Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Honorable Co-Chair Neuman:

Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been serving seniors for 43 years. We offer seniors essential services (assisted and unassisted housing, nutrition, education, and transportation) and social activities that promote independence and a healthy continuum of care.

The proposed reductions to senior programs will affect seniors greatly. The seniors who benefit from these programs have been the pioneers of our state. Without their efforts we would not enjoy the state that we live in today. Removing their financial assistance to remain in the home will change the fabric of our state.

It is always difficult to reduce budgets to make ends meet. As a non-profit we understand the difficulty you are facing. However, the programs that you are proposing to cut actually save the State of Alaska money.

- Senior benefits allow seniors to remain at home. The seniors who benefit the most from these programs are very low income. The loss of this income may shift their need to public assistance.
- Senior grants, Senior Community Based Grants, Division of Senior and Disability services reductions are the mainstay to reduce costs on the very expensive Hospital and Health System. These programs save the State significant amounts of money through providing proper nutrition, transportation and keep safe places for seniors out of long term care which is much more expensive. Nutrition is the first step to keeping seniors independent. The goal is to keep seniors independent and not become a burden on other aspects of health care systems.
- Alaska Adult Medicaid Dental Program is also a significant program which keeps costs down to the health care system. Providing preventive screening to low-income Alaskans reduces potential health risks. Reducing funding to this program will shift the cost to other health care systems.

*40 Years of Great Service Helping Seniors "Live Life to Its Fullest!"*

[www.homerseniors.com](http://www.homerseniors.com)



- Reducing General Relief for seniors to remain in assisted living will shift the burden to the long term care system. Seniors do not wish to be in long term care; however, removing this will again shift the burden to another program. If this assistance is not provided it becomes dangerous for a senior to remain at home. We have had three seniors who chose not to receive assistance and within 30 days of that decision, they were hospitalized into long-term care from a fall.
- Privatizing the Pioneer Homes may be a great solution. We encourage you to consider the option.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keren L. Kelley, MPA, LNHA  
Executive Director

*40 Years of Great Service Helping Seniors "Live Life to Its Fullest!"*

[www.homerseniors.com](http://www.homerseniors.com)





**From:** [cpowers@acsalaska.net](mailto:cpowers@acsalaska.net)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SR BENEFITS CUT TESTIMONY AND QUESTIONS  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:49:16 PM

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----- Forwarded message from cpowers@acsalaska.net -----

Date: Tue, 01 Mar 2016 14:03:32 -0900  
From: cpowers@acsalaska.net  
Reply-To: cpowers@acsalaska.net  
Subject: Fwd: SR BENEFITS CUT TESTIMONY AND QUESTIONS  
To: LHSFN@AKLEG.GOV

----- Forwarded message from cpowers@acsalaska.net -----

Date: Tue, 01 Mar 2016 13:31:00 -0900  
From: cpowers@acsalaska.net  
Reply-To: cpowers@acsalaska.net  
Subject: SR BENEFITS CUT TESTIMONY AND QUESTIONS  
To: LHSFN@AKLEG.GOV

#1 Communication of this drastic 62% cut in senior benefits, was very rude and unprofessional. Heard about the cut on KTUU TV news on a Tuesday and by Friday, the new reduced funds were received. Very, very, sloppy. We, seniors, should have been in the loop much earlier and given that fair shot at adjustment. We understand, budgets, perhaps more than any legislator, since we have lived much longer and have gone through ups and downs in our lives. Personally, my husband and I have been here for over 25 years and paid plenty of taxes to the great state of Alaska and proud to do so. We consider this our home. Now, we hear on the news, comments from our legislative people, that if seniors can't afford to live here, we should move. REALLY ???Do you have any idea how much money seniors spend in this state?? If not, maybe you should check. YOUR ARROGANCE IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION !!!!!

#2 In Dec of 2015, we received a "Senior Benefits Extension Approved" letter. In that letter it stated that benefits were approved for an additional 12 months. You will keep getting benefits unless YOUR circumstances change. Payments may go up or down based on changes in YOUR income or household situation. GREAT, budget can be done for another year. Now, less than 2 months later, benefits were decreased by 62%, but, how could that be? Our income and/or household situation HAS NOT CHANGED !! Explain, please...

#3 Reason for decrease in benefit of "budget shortfall and increase in caseload" is the most pitiful thing I have ever heard of. We, the people, the seniors, have paid for you to take care of financial dealings and programs that have been provided. If this is the best you can do with BUDGETING, you need a class in Budget 101 immediately.....this move can be found in the dictionary under "panic"..... and you call yourselves professionals, what a joke...never, have we been told that this program was temporary.... never, until now.

#4 In your recalculation of income levels, you have cut only 1 category. Any cuts in any of these programs, should be fair, across the board and make some sense of it. So, while picking on only one group of seniors, you have (the govt) have chosen who needs these funds more than others. Of which, you are totally unqualified, to do, and it is no business of any govt to make those decisions. I do believe this comes under the heading of Socialism ?? You are doing the same thing as our Federal Govt (current admin) of picking and choosing the needs of individual . Most of this category of seniors do not qualify for other help programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, etc. But, yet you choose to cut this group of people, using the excuse, that you wanted to make sure those lower income people that really need these benefits, get them. Those, lower income people, may in fact receive many more benefits than the income group you chose. Think about the funds that are spent by seniors in this state. Some of us have worked our whole lives and paid taxes to this great state and are not looking for just a handout, but living in our senior years, can be more challenging, due to the fact, we cannot get another job, or work overtime to fill in the gaps income. In addition, you cut these benefits and then raise the income levels - WHAT IS UP WITH THAT? Any changes in programs should be with new applicants, not existing beneficiaries.

#5 In conclusion, being a senior citizen, anywhere, can be challenging. Yes, Alaska, is more challenging due to weather, medical needs (lack of providers that take Medicare), remote location, and living on a fixed income is challenging on its own. Once again, the seniors are the first group that is thrown under the bus. Which is so wrong. We have supported alaskans for years through our paying taxes, supporting schools, hospitals, etc.. Maybe, the younger, welfare groups of people, should pull their weight, and help support the next generation as well as the seniors that have already paid their dues. Any time you start changing income programs with a group of people that are on a fixed income, is playing with REAL LIVES. I just hope, when you reach our stage in life, you are treated with more RESPECT than you are treating us seniors today !

So, not only have you shown your real ARROGANCE, but also have shown us, your real INCOMPETENCE..... I can't believe you get paid to do your jobs..... we can certainly change that.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Powers (one very dissapointed Alaskan senior citizen)

----- End forwarded message -----

----- End forwarded message -----

**From:** [Bernie Rae](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts to Alaskans  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:02:31 PM

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I want to point out that cutting the higher low income individuals (140% FPL - 300% FPL) is the wrong way of reducing the budget. These individuals that make a little more than the limit for Medicaid and other lower-income programs are the ones suffering the most. For instance with Seniors, they don't get reduced costs on their prescriptions, they are paying their Part D premiums, they are paying their Part B premiums and co-payments. The very low income individuals can take a cut more than the higher low income people. ESPECIALLY THE SENIORS. The Seniors on Medicaid are doing better monthly on finances than the ones at the 200% FPL.

As a family of three in the 300% FPL, it is very hard to get the bills paid monthly and watch families in the 100% FPL has more spending money due to their bills being covered. Heating assistance has made it possible to heat our home in the coldest months of the year and still have food on the table.

Please think about WHO you are cutting and if their are people who are more able to take the cuts and still survive. Also, reduce waste spending as much as possible! Look at office supplies budgets.

Thank you,  
Bernice Metcalf  
750 Park Ave.  
Ketchikan, AK, 99901

**From:** [Paul Reamer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cutting Costs in Government - HB 211--RIP  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:06:17 PM

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HB 211 has been used to not only reduce the size of government, but to cut millions of dollars (estimated at 40million) out of the operating budget. It is time to use RIP again. While I believe in strong government and adequate staffing to deliver the services needed by Alaskans, times like these require strong measures to make a balanced budget. A plan that reduces employees and the financial burden in the short haul, but allows positions to be filled by younger less expensive staff in the future makes good sense.

Please give consideration to early retirement for long time employees as a way of budget reduction. You will likely find that there are many government employees who would retire to give the state budget some room, and to give employment opportunity to Alaska's younger and qualified job seekers.

Paul

**From:** [Jonathan Strong](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [LIO Kodiak](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:24:38 PM

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Good Afternoon,

Please include this public comment from Kodiak, AK.

**HOUSE FINANCE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Public Comment.**

**1. Bob Bunsey Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "Are the legislators just plain heartless, seniors need these services!"**

**2. Dave Blacketer Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "With the reduction in senior benefit a senior couple loses \$1,800 per year and with the proposed cuts that would increase to \$3,000 per year. This reduces our ability to live."**

**3. Judy Rong Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "We need the senior grant services, I attend a grant program that has helped me stay out of the hospital and ER for over 1 year now. Without these grant services I am confident I will have to use emergency services which cost the state much much more. Why would you cut off your nose to spite your face?"**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Strong  
Senior Citizens of Kodiak Inc.  
p: 907-486-2203  
f: 907-486-4503  
302 Erskine Ave. Kodiak, AK 99615

**From:** [Debbie Hanson-Zueger](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** RESTORE OWL (ONLINE WITH LIBRARIES) FUNDING  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:30:29 PM

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Committee Members,

I am writing today because I am deeply disappointed that **OWL** (Online with Libraries) funding, which was included in the Alaska Governor's budget, was cut entirely by the finance education subcommittee. **Please restore this funding immediately.**

In remote communities the internet provides an important lifeline to the outside world in so many ways. It provides limitless educational opportunity. The internet is needed for the world we live in today. From banking to bill paying to applying for a job, looking up a car manual, or applying for your PFD, a decent, reliable internet connection is critical. The best internet service/speed available in Unalaska today is just adequate to stream a video, and some websites still time out because even our best connection is too slow (we do not have high speed internet). Lower speeds are available for lower cost, but much capability, such as video streaming, is lost. Internet bandwidth usage is also capped. 12 GB costs roughly \$99/month and it is almost impossible for a family to not go over 12 GB's per month. The next level available is \$196 per month for 25 GB's. Many Unalaskan families cannot afford these prices and send their children to use the library's internet connection and/or go use it themselves.

In summary:

- The Unalaska Public Library's internet connection, which is shared with the school to save money, costs \$159,492 per year.
  - Federal e-rate funds pay \$79,746 of this cost. OWL pays \$35,074.
  - **If the Unalaska Public Library loses OWL funding and is unable to make up the difference it will lose much of this \$79,746 in federal funding.**
  - **If the Unalaska Public Library charges patrons for internet use, it will lose all of the federal funding.**
- Internet is tremendously expensive in Unalaska, and many residents do not have home internet. They need this connection to apply for jobs, do their income taxes, apply for the PFD, continue their education, pay their bills, and connect with their families and the outside world.
- **The library is the only source of free internet, open to all, in Unalaska.**

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



- Unalaska City School students were able to take a virtual tour of the UAF campus and ask questions about college life.
- Elementary students were able to talk with NASA scientists and take a tour of the space capsule.
- **Many Unalaskans who are students at UAF, UAA, UAS or who are enrolled in other training programs take online classes at the library in order to pursue a degree or other accreditation. Many Unalaskans have earned college degrees and accreditations online. This has literally changed lives.**
- Several patrons use the library internet to operate small businesses.
- A dad reads children's books to his kids via Skype in the library's children's room.
- Patrons have job interviews via Skype.
- The Unalaska Public Library is hoping to offer an SAT class through an Anchorage instructor this year, but it will not be possible without decent internet service which allows videoconferencing capability.

I know other remote community libraries are in the same situation as the Unalaska Public Library. As a 26 year Unalaska resident who has lived and raised three children in a remote community, part of that time as a single parent, I cannot begin to tell you how important the library internet connection is to families and community members in remote communities. **OWL is a service/program used by thousands of people for thousands of different reasons and the State gains so much back on this small investment.** Please restore funding for this vital program.

Thank You,

**Debra J. Hanson-Zueger**

**City of Unalaska, Risk Manager**

**PO Box 610**

**Unalaska, AK 99685**

**Administration: 907 581-1252**

**Direct: 907 581-1251 ext. 1202 (follow prompts)**

**City Cell: 907 359-2346**

**Fax: 907 581-4469**

**Email: [riskmanager@ci.unalaska.ak.us](mailto:riskmanager@ci.unalaska.ak.us)**



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**From:** [Lauren Bell](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public testimony re: proposed public broadcasting funding cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:36:48 PM

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To the Alaska House Finance Committee:

I'm writing to express my concern over the recently proposed 100% budget cut to public broadcasting in our state. I have lived in Alaska since birth, and during my lifetime I have relied almost exclusively on Alaska's exceptional public broadcasting stations for my local, state, and national news. More often than not, the various small communities I have lived in across Alaska have been out-of-range for both internet access and reliable cell phone coverage, so that tuning in to public radio broadcasting has been my only means of staying informed of health, safety, and emergency alerts. Where internet access is possible in our state, it does not provide the same consistent and timely, community-level information that our local public broadcasting stations are able to afford, such as local marine forecasts, school lunch menus, community calendars and announcements, and updates during disaster responses. Commercial broadcasters and media will not invest in such local services if public broadcasting is removed.

I understand the current financial crisis within our state, and the tough decisions that the Alaska legislature currently faces. I do not believe that sweeping elimination of the public broadcasting budget is the answer to our state's fiscal imbalance. I am very concerned that choosing to cut state funding to public broadcasting will significantly undermine the strength, safety, and resilience of our communities as well as weaken the vital connections of Alaskans to one another across the immense expanse of our state.

I urge the House Finance Committee to not support this proposed reduction.

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Bell

Member, Board of Directors – Raven Radio, KCAW

Sitka, AK

**From:** [LIO Kodiak](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments Operating Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:50:32 PM

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Please see the following email regarding public testimony for HB256/257 from senior citizens in Kodiak.

Best regards, Heather

**Kodiak Legislative Information Office**

305 Center Ave., Suite. 1 | Kodiak, AK 99615 | *ph.* 907.486.8116 | *fax* 907.486.5264  
*Toll Free:* 855.486.8116 | *Email:* [kodiak.lio@akleg.gov](mailto:kodiak.lio@akleg.gov)

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website

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**From:** Jonathan Strong [mailto:scokcc@ak.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance <lhscfin@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** LIO Kodiak <Lio.Kodiak@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Good Afternoon,

Please include this public comment from Kodiak, AK.

**HOUSE FINANCE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Public Comment.**

**1. Bob Bunsey Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "Are the legislators just plain heartless, seniors need these services!"**

**2. Dave Blacketer Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "With the reduction in senior benefit a senior couple loses \$1,800 per year and with the proposed cuts that would increase to \$3,000 per year. This reduces our ability to live."**

**3. Judy Rong Senior Citizen Kodiak, AK. "We need the senior grant services, I attend a grant program that has helped me stay out of the hospital and ER for over 1 year now. Without these grant services I am confident I will have to use emergency services which cost the state much much more. Why would you cut off your nose to spite your face?"**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Strong  
Senior Citizens of Kodiak Inc.

p: 907-486-2203

f: 907-486-4503

302 Erskine Ave. Kodiak, AK 99615

**From:** [Gabrielle Vance](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** University of Alaska budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:01:59 PM

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Gabrielle Vance

Senate District C

House District 5

I would like to share some of the concerns I have with cutting funding for research at the University of Alaska.

I was born and raised in Juneau and completed my undergraduate Geology degree at Whitman College in Washington State. I always knew I wanted to return to Alaska for graduate school. I got my Masters in Geology at UAF, which is the only institution in the UA system that has graduate programs in my field. During that time, most of the funding for my education came from federal research programs (NASA, National Science Foundation) and research grants I brought in myself (Sigma Xi, Alaska Geological Society). My experience illustrates that research brings in crucial outside funding. The University needs some state funding in order to seek federal funding; the state's investment is essential, and often returned several times over.

Cutting funding for research would devastate the UA system, denying Alaskan students like me the opportunity to pursue our education in our home state. Growing up, I heard people bemoan the "brain drain," the lack of young, educated Alaskans remaining in or returning to the state. A University without research would exacerbate this problem. Moreover, in the sciences, research and instruction are inseparable. A University without research is not worthy of the name. Gutting scientific research at the University of Alaska would eliminate much of what is most valuable about the University's programs, things that make us different, even unique, among colleges and universities throughout the world: our Arctic research programs, the Geophysical Institute, and the Fisheries Division, among others.

The future impact of such a cut would be incalculable. I understand that your committee and the legislature as a whole have incredibly difficult decisions to make. I do not want to complain without offering alternatives, so I suggest that statewide and UAF administration could be streamlined, and the University's athletic program reduced, before cutting the heart out of our academic programs. I beg you not to mortgage Alaska's future to solve a temporary crisis.

Thank you for considering my concerns, and thank you for your service to our state.

--

Gabrielle Vance

Museum Educator/Outreach Specialist

[University of Alaska Museum of the North](#)

(907) 321-1515



North Star Council on Aging  
Meals on Wheels  
1424 Moore Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: 907-452-1735 / Fax: 451-9974  
[nscoa.manager@alaska.net](mailto:nscoa.manager@alaska.net)

Dear Representative Mark Neuman,

*I would like to speak on behalf of the seniors in our community, who at times are unable to communicate to the legislators when decisions are being made that will directly affect their well-being. The proposed budget cuts to senior programs will dramatically affect their lives and have negative consequences to their security and health. At a time when the senior population is expediently growing, especially the 85 plus cohort which has a current growth rate of 112%, it is our job as a state, neighbor, leader and politician to make sure their basic needs are met. The aging population crisis is real and any funds deviated from the Senior programs and Services only set the seniors and our community up for failure.*

*I am at the front line of making sure no senior goes hungry and without and every day I hear stories of food insecurities and lack of services to assist them in living in their homes. This will become critical considering the lack of assisted living/nursing home beds existing in our state to care for those who can no longer live independently.*

*Cutting any senior program at this time is an immoral act and shows little awareness for the facts that the senior population is creating a wave and if we do not invest in the base, we will for sure experience a collapse in vital services to make sure we do not neglect those who cannot provide for themselves.*

*I administer the Meals on Wheels program here in Fairbanks and know the severity of senior issues and implore you to see the destructiveness in cutting services when strengthening the services in preparation of this historical growth is most needed. No seniors should live in filth, poverty, be malnourished, have fear of not being able to find the services needed for safe living and/or provide a roof over their heads.*

*Retired seniors, as a whole, contribute at least \$2.4 billion annually to Alaska's economy. Keeping the seniors in our communities instead of them having to leave Alaska due to lack of services, beds and vital support will create a decrease in cash flow from a important factor in Alaska's economy and history.*

Respectfully,

Darlene Supplee  
Executive Director



**From:** [Nancy B](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Kachemak Bay campus  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:09:20 PM

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I urge you to accept Governor Walker's proposed budget regarding our local college. We desperately need affordable higher education to assist our youth in breaking the cycle of welfare in this city.

Thank you.

Nancy Bishop  
907 299-7612

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Elias Haroun](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budgetary reduction concern  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:42:26 PM

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My name is Elias Haroun and I live in Juneau Alaska. I have major concerns about the planned reductions to Community DD Grants in the Department of Health and Social Services.

These funds directly impact the quality of life for so many Alaskans with disabilities.

The grants are used to serve individuals on the DD Registry who are waiting for Medicaid home and community-based services. They also provide important services to Alaskans with disabilities who don't meet the level of care for the Medicaid home and community-based waiver program or who are not Medicaid eligible. The average cost per Alaska receiving these services is only \$3,556 and they make a tremendous improvement to their lives.

These low-cost services, if provided at the right time, prevent crises that result in higher costs to the State. A 5% cut to the program means that approximately 203 individuals will no longer receive services.

The proposed 4.8% cut is magnified by the reduction in the annual draw from the DD Registry from 200 to 50. The longer people wait for services, the more intense their needs become-decreasing family income, diminishing caregiver health, decreasing employment and productivity, and, in the long run, increasing costs to the State.

These grants fund services for individuals with developmental disabilities. These essential services include supported employment, respite care, day habilitation, case management, and specialized equipment. They also include educational programs to make Alaskans with disabilities more self-sufficient.

Please do not take those opportunities away by reducing the funding of these grants that are so valuable to Alaskans with disabilities.

These grants fund some of the most important activities for Alaskans with disabilities. These grants help disabled Alaskans find a job, learn to be more self-sufficient, do outside activities, and pursue artistic interests.

Sincerely yours,

Eli Haroun



**ALASKA**  
**Bering Sea Crabbers**

206.783.0188 | 4005 20th Avenue W, Suite 102 | Seattle, WA 98199  
alaskaberingscraabbers.com

March 1, 2016

Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair  
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol, Room 519  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

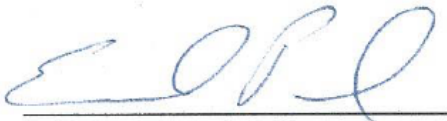
Dear Representatives Neuman & Thompson,  
The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a non-profit, seafood industry trade association representing approximately 70% of the crab harvesters in the Rationalized Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fisheries. We take great pride in being good stewards of the crab resource and believe that management decisions need to be made based on the best available science. As you know, fisheries management in Alaska is among the most highly regarded anywhere in the world and is “the gold standard” to which other areas aspire. We believe the long-term sustainability and health of the fisheries in Alaska is a testament to this. As such, we wish to take this opportunity to express our extreme concern with the House Finance Committee- University of Alaska Subcommittee proposal to cut State funding for University of Alaska (UA) research and outreach services. The proposed \$51 million (~15%) cut proposed by the Subcommittee is far more severe than what had been proposed by the Governor and would be crippling to the UA system.

In addition to teaching, research and outreach are critical to the UA mission. In fulfillment of this mission, UA faculty plays a significant role in the continued success and sustainability of all fisheries off the coast of Alaska. UA faculty serve as Plan Team and Science & Statistical Committee members conducting stock assessment and peer reviews that serve as the foundation for all commercial, recreational, and subsistence harvests throughout the State. Further, these individuals conduct valuable research that serves to enhance and improve not only the biological knowledge base, but the economic knowledge base as well. And the Sea Grant program provides that critical outreach link between the work these researchers do and the coastal communities who benefit from their efforts.

If the proposed Subcommittee recommendation is adopted, it will seriously jeopardize UA’s continued ability to support fisheries in Alaska. Everyone in the State will suffer as a result. Commercial, recreational, and subsistence users will have fewer harvest opportunities. The processing sector will have fewer fish to process, resulting in job loss in fishery-dependent communities. Coastal communities will experience a reduction in landing taxes and municipal revenue as fewer fish pass across the docks. The State will lose revenue from fishing and business tax, permit fees, and the like. And most importantly the resources will suffer if not properly managed according to the best available science. Given the proposed reductions to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) budget, this

will, in effect, be a "one-two punch" that neither the resources nor those dependent upon them can afford. And finally, the University will lose its spot as one of the pre-eminent fisheries universities in the country. We cannot let this come to pass. We thank you for your consideration in this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to work with your staff to better understand the vital role that UA faculty and researchers play in support of Alaska's fisheries.

Sincerely,



Edward Poulsen, President



Mark H. Gleason, Executive Director

Honorable Bill Walker, Governor, State of Alaska  
Honorable Byron Mallott, Lt. Governor, State of Alaska  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Representative Lynn Gattis  
Representative Cathy Munoz  
Representative Lance Pruitt  
Representative Tammie Wilson  
Representative Les Gara  
Representative David Guttenberg  
Representative Scott Kawasaki  
Representative Mike Hawker  
Mr. James Johnsen, President, University of Alaska  
Ms. Jyotsna Heckman, Chair, UA Board of Regents  
Mr. Michael K. Powers, Interim Chancellor, University of Alaska  
Ms. Paula Cullenberg, Director, Alaska Sea Grant  
Dr. Ginny Eckert, Associate Director for Research, Alaska Sea Grant



**From:** [LIO Mat-Su](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Testifying in support of one time funding for transition of private sector management and operation of MMM&S.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:45:26 PM

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**From:** todd Pettit [mailto:trpettit@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:43 PM  
**To:** LIO Mat-Su <LIO.Mat-Su@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testifying in support of one time funding for transition of private sector management and operation of MMM&S.

Thru the chair, my name is Todd Pettit, I am a 3rd generation farmer/rancher on the same piece of ground in the MatValley, my grandparents started clearing in the late 40s. My roots run strong within this agricultural community and can only hope my children will also have the same opportunity.

I would like to thank the Committee for the work they've done in developing the budget and I recognize the difficult and challenging task before them.

As a farmer I would like to quickly express my deep concern to the committee on the cuts to the seed potato program at the PMC. WE ARE WORLD RENOWN in our cold weather disease free certified seed program, not only in this state but also thru national export. Please reconsider these drastic cuts.

Secondly, under full disclosure, I am part of a diverse group of red meat producers and processers that have formed a corporation called DMC. Just recently we put forth a proposal to the BAC and DNR requesting a RFP to put forth the process of competing and being apart of the public process of open bid to privately manage and operate MMM&S. We as Denali Meat Co look forward to competing and being a part of this open and public process.

- Today I am Testifying in support of the current one-time funding to keep the Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage Plant operational until it can transition to private sector operation and management
- 
- Given the State's fiscal situation it makes sense to move the Plant into the private sector where it can be run more efficiently
- 
- Doing so will reduce or eliminate state subsidies and need for government oversight, management, and economic support in-an already overburdened economy
- 
- We Beleive there is a huge potential for the red meat industry and market to grow and thrive in this great state.
- 
- This Will allow for future growth of Alaskan livestock businesses, grain growers and



family farms

- 
- We believe Maintaining Alaska's only USDA-certified cut and wrap and stamp approved slaughter and processing facility is vital to the industry, community, and the state's food security and sustainability.
- 
- We Believe that this funding will allow for enough time to transition into private sector
- 
- In closing I would like to Thank the Committee for recognizing the importance of the Plant to Alaska's farmers and the opportunity for the private sector to do what government can not -- run the plant successfully and expand this industry with the security of knowing it will not be open to being cut or closed in times of state budgetary crisis.
- Thank you for your time.

Todd Pettit

Pitchfork Ranch

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [darren platt](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cuts to Alaska University System  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:57:31 PM

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To the House Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Kodiak and a commercial fishermen writing to express my concern about the deep cuts proposed for the state university system. Our schools should be seen as an investment in the state, not a cost, and should be last area for financial cuts. The benefits of the university stretch far beyond the campuses: I have personally benefited from the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory program whose various training seminars for commercial fishermen have proved invaluable to the success of my business. My concern is that the savings gained from cuts the university will have long-term negative compounding effects for generations to come. Please continue to support the University system and invest in Alaska's future by opposing the the proposed 51 million dollar budget cut to it's programs.

Sincerely,

Darren Platt

3331 Balika Ln  
Kodiak, AK 99615

**From:** [Dela Cruz, Dmitri](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** House Finance Committee & Victim Service Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:57:54 PM

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*Hello,*

*My name is Dmitri Dela Cruz and I am a strong supporter of the services offered by Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV). USAFV provides vital and unduplicated emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.*

*It is my understanding that currently the Department of Public Safety subcommittee has recommended 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 USAFV and other CDVSA funded agencies to agency to continue to provide vital necessary services for victims to attain safety and support. We 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.*

If I can be of any service by answering any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,  
Dmitri

Dmitri Dela Cruz  
907 359 5234

**From:** [Maxine](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Subject:** Re: House Finance Committee Operating Budget Deliberations  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:02:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [SCIUfundingf11.pdf](#)  
[Special Crimes Investigation Unit Status Update 2015 \(1\).pdf](#)

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February 29, 2016

Re: House Finance Committee Operating Budget Deliberations

Dear Representative Mark Neuman

This is a letter to confirm that the Community United for Safety and Protection opposes any budget cuts on the most vulnerable Alaskans. Please don't balance the state budget on the backs of the drug addicted, the elderly, the disabled, and the down on out.

Instead, you should consider reallocating \$578,239, the yearly budget for the Special Crimes Investigative Unit (a part of the Alaska Bureau of Investigations). Its "main purpose" is to "locate and rescue juvenile victims that are being forced to work as prostitutes in the commercial sexual exploitation of children." However, in its 25 months of investigation, the SCIU has yet to investigate a case resulting in any charges of trafficking a minor. In fact, no one has been charged with trafficking a minor in Alaska since 2009 (people have been charged with making child pornography and with trying to pay for sex with fictitious minors - those are federal cases investigated by the FBI and Anchorage PD).

Instead of using the sex trafficking law to target the people they were intended to, the fund has been primarily used to charge marginalized adult women in the sex industry under AS 11.66.110-135 for sex trafficking themselves. In its first year, everyone charged with trafficking was an alleged prostitute who was charged with prostitution of themselves in the very same case they were charged with trafficking ("aiding or facilitating" their own prostitution or having a "place of prostitution"). At the end of 2014, four out of the seven total trafficking cases were against sex workers and none of them involved minors. The Department of Law has not yet responded to a January 15, 2016 records request for 2015 cases.

Although the SCIU is also tasked with investigating sex trafficking, SCIU officers have both refused to take reports from sex workers and have followed up on such reports in threatening and highly sexualized manners. We consider this type of response to crime victims of any

age, especially minors, incredibly inappropriate and we hope you do too.

It is incumbent upon you as our representatives to scrutinize this budget item and be responsible to the health and welfare of the most vulnerable Alaskans are not sacrificed.

Thanks for your attention in this matter,

Maxine Doogan

Terra Burns

Kat McElroy  
Community United For Safety And Protection  
[Www.sextraffickingalaska.com](http://www.sextraffickingalaska.com)

*No new funding was appropriated for this unit; AST stood it up using existing positions. These position include a sergeant and two troopers, as well as a Criminal Justice Technician. The total personal services costs for these four positions for FY15 is \$578,239.*

**From:** [bill zorb](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Lesil McGuire](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#)  
**Subject:** Budget, Public Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:18:24 PM

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I cannot make it to the LIO today to call in, so I'd like to give you my thoughts here.

You have not cut nearly enough so far. Alaska state government is out of control, doubling in size over the last decade. Alaska has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. In the private sector, we must cut budgets to match available funds. The legislature should do the same with the state budget!

At an absolute minimum, you should cut the state budget to \$4.5B overall. Honestly, I don't think that's a large enough cut.

Let's say you are at a \$4.5B budget (which you are not even close to yet). You are projecting less than \$1.5B of revenue! That's a \$3B shortfall! You should cut half of that shortfall from the budget, making the budget \$3B. Then cover the remaining \$1.5B deficit using the CBR, that's what it is intended for. It is there to cover the interim deficit while you are making the necessary cuts to right size state government.

DO NOT monkey with the Permanent Fund or create new taxes! We have a spending problem and need to reduce spending to get a sustainable budget!

The different departments come before you to defend or justify the budget numbers that they gave the Governor. Instead of that, why don't you explain to them that the State only has \$1.5B to spend and ask them what they are going to be able to do with 1/3 of what they are asking for, because that is where we are headed.

No one is saying that this right sizing of government will be easy or painless, but it is absolutely necessary. Putting this off, kicking the can down the road will only make the inevitable that much harder. Wouldn't it be much simpler this year if we had made the serious and necessary cuts last year?

We need to quickly get the state budget and government to a right sized and sustainable level!

Bill Zorb  
Fairbanks



**From:** [Cyri](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** OWL Funding testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:32:16 PM

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As a former Unalaska library staff member, I am highly aware of how important the public internet services that our library offer are to many, many people in this community.

Most of our patrons are transient residents that come in and out of town for work. For some, this is the only form of communication they have with people back home. We also have a lot of students taking online courses in this town, and without the library, that wouldn't be possible.

For me, personally, the services that the library offers for Internet and computer usage were vital as a student attending UCSD. I was able to finish so many projects that I wasn't able to at home because we did not own a computer, or have Internet access.

- o Our internet connection, which we share with the school to save money, costs \$159,492 per year.
- o Federal e-rate funds pay \$79,746 of this cost. OWL pays \$35,074.
- o **If we lose OWL funding and are unable to make up the difference with city funds, we will lose much of this \$79,746 in federal funding.**
- o If we start charging patrons for internet use, we will lose all of the federal funding.
- Internet is tremendously expensive on the island, and many residents do not have home internet. They need this connection to apply for jobs, do their income taxes, apply for the PFD, continue their education, pay their bills, and connect with their families and the outside world.
- The library is the only source of free internet, open to all, on the island.

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

- Unalaska City School students were able to take a virtual tour of the UAF campus and

ask questions about college life.

- Elementary students were able to talk with NASA scientists and take a tour of the space capsule.
- Students at UAF, UAA, and UAS are able to take online classes at the library.
- Several patrons have mentioned to me that they are using the library internet to operate small businesses.
- A dad reads children's books to his kids via Skype in the library's children's room.
- Patrons have job interviews via Skype.
- We are hoping to offer an SAT class through an Anchorage instructor this year, but it will not be possible without high-speed internet and videoconferencing capability.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michele Mouton](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony about good things at UAF  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:41:49 PM

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I support Governor's budget and revenue suggestions

Here is some positive news going on with Students at UAF:

In the Spring of 2009 the students of UAF voted to have a \$20 fee per semester levied upon all students in the interests of sustainability.

**Since then, the Student Sustainability fee/fund, funded over 90 Projects** saved over \$520,000 and helped to make UAF a leader in sustainability. Over 70% of the funded projects reduce energy costs at UAF.

#### **Key Student Projects and Sustainability Funded:**

- Computer Shutdown program reduces electricity costs on campus by \$77,000 annually
- Implementation of fluorescent to LED lighting across campus has saved \$43,000 annually
- MACS Bus U-pass provides more than 135,000 rides to students annually
- The Green Bikes Program has provided bikes to more than 1000 students to date
- The 6 Solar panel installations on the SRC, Sustainable Village, CTC Process Technology, the new Engineering Building, the Fire Station, and the new Power Plant, and currently save \$15,000 and abate 36 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide annually
- Electric shuttles and carts for both the Office of Sustainability and Facilities Services for seasonal use
- Filtered Water Filling stations
- UAF Community Garden – 102 plots available.
- UAF FreeStore - In the 2015, over 800 visits.. 1,880 items were taken and 1,975 items were donated.
- Recycling
- Murie Zero Waste Pilot Project
- 4 Faculty Curriculum Enhancement Projects, Chemistry, Forestry and Education

#### **Savings Incurred Through Implemented Projects via GRITS:**

- Our total investment of \$1,100,000 has produced a measurable return of over \$520,000 to date
- Our current investments save more than \$140,000 annually
- Renewable Energy Initiatives have reduced electricity usage by 705 MWh annually
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions have reduced 439 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide annually
- Pilot program for waterless urinals has reduced water usage by 35 thousand gallons
- Personal Vehicle Miles traveled has been reduced by
  - [135,000 riders x average commute length, 225,000] miles annually
- Waste taken to the landfill has been reduced on-campus by the student run recycling program

UAF Students are making a big difference.

**From:** [Doug Coon](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Fund the SBDC  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:43:02 PM

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I would like to share with you some of the great things the AK SBDC has done for our company and I'm sure many others and ask you to please reconsider cutting their funding.

We have worked with them starting back in 2006. They were extremely helpful in the purchasing process of Young's Gear in 2007. Each year we meet with them to gather valuable advice which has helped us grow from an initial staff of six employees to nine full time and three part time employees. Their counselors have always been helpful with advice that has caused us to become more efficient and profitable. We rely heavily on their wisdom and ideas to help make us a better company.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider this decision.

Thanks,

Doug Coon - Owner

Young's Gear LLC

239 E. International Airport Rd.

Anchorage, AK 99518

ph 907-561-2106

fax 907-561-3334

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# **Special Crimes Investigation Unit (SCIU) Status Report January 2015**

Located in Anchorage, the SCIU is comprised of 1 Sergeant and 2 Investigators with the primary responsibility to respond on a statewide basis to interact with and provide assistance to AST Detachments and municipal police agencies that have identified an investigative need to target criminal activities associated with human trafficking and/or sex trafficking.

The main purpose of this unit is to attempt to locate and rescue juvenile victims that are being forced to work as prostitutes in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. This unit will also work cases involving other forms of human trafficking such as adults being forced to work in the sex trade and adults and juveniles being forced to work in servitude.

Human trafficking cases can be complex and, as a rule, cannot be handled by one agency alone. Typically, the investigating law enforcement agency and at least one victim services provider will be involved. Routinely, cases can involve both local and federal law enforcement agencies, local (or state) and federal prosecutors, immigration and civil attorneys, and several victim services providers who each provide for the various needs of the victims. The SCIU is tasked with maintaining current communication with the appropriate prosecutorial authority and engages regularly with our federal partners.

**The unit is relied upon for a variety of roles to support and augment investigative activity among the other ABI/SDEU units and Detachments throughout the state-**

- Surveillance and technical assistance;
- Crime scene processing in conjunction with the SCDL Crime Scene Response team;
- Work overflow support for units experiencing periods of unusually high activity or extended vacancies
- Emergent critical incidents that require an initial influx of investigative resources
- Longer term investigative strategies, such as targeting specific burglary/auto theft serial/related incidents
- Sensitive and/or investigations with a likelihood of intense public scrutiny

## **-Targeted Secondary Offenses**

- Address criminal activity that occurs in such a nature or manner that a standard patrol or investigative unit would be unable or significantly challenged to adequately investigate it.
- Whether person and/or property crimes, the offenses are of such a nature that they cause a significant, ongoing threat to life or property in the state of Alaska.

### **-Special Projects**

- Large scale or high monetary value property crime rings. Over \$25,000 non-vehicular/\$100,000 vehicular.
- Criminal conduct that involves public/state employees.

**Additionally, the unit will be developed and prepared to undertake the role of case responsibility for OIS investigations, relying on the localized ABI personnel to undertake an investigative support role.**

**This effort is conceived in order to:**

- Relieve the ABI major Crimes Units from the immense amount of case work associated with these events
- Develop a small team of investigators experienced and familiar with the investigative requirements
- Address and eliminate any associated “discomfort” that might arise from localized investigators having to interview and collect items from Troopers they see and work with on a daily basis.

### **Significant Cases in 2014**

- Sex Trafficking Case AK14004921, defendant Jeron Batts – arrested for Sex Trafficking 1<sup>st</sup>, two counts Sex Trafficking 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sex Trafficking 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Missing Person / Homicide Case 10-44654, defendant Simon D. Smith, indicted on Murder 1<sup>st</sup> & Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> charges.
- Crime Lab Tampering Case, AK13051101, defendant Stephen Palmer – arrested for Scheme to Defraud, MICS 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tampering w/ Physical Evidence (x4) and Official Misconduct (x4).
- Assist PALI w/ Homicide AK13092406. Case is still unsolved, assisted by tracking down suspects and running informant(s) for apparent drug related homicide.
- Assist CSU w/ Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> Case AK13087726, worked in UC capacity, in conjunction with running a CS. Defendant William Beasley Jr. arrested for Robbery 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Prostitution / MICS Case AK14028201, defendant Sarah Enox, arrested for MICS 4<sup>th</sup> & Prostitution
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14044441, defendants Amber Batts & Quinn Batts – arrested for Sex Trafficking 1<sup>st</sup>, Sex Trafficking 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sex Trafficking 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- MICS 4<sup>th</sup> Case AK14051217 – defendant Steven Yarnot. Charged with four counts of MICS 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Double Trooper Homicide AK14030015, defendants Nathaniel Kangas & Arvin Kangas. Nathaniel arrested for Murder 1<sup>st</sup> (x2) and Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> (x2) and Tampering w/ Physical Evidence. Arvin arrested for Tampering w/ Physical Evidence, Hindering Prosecution, Assault 4<sup>th</sup> and DWLS.



- Soliciting Prostitution Case AK14064616, defendant Kelton Oliver, arrested for Prostitution.
- VCOR Case AK14066886, defendant Kelton Oliver – arrested for VCOR.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14026405, defendant Leroy Straker – arrested for Sex Trafficking 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sex Trafficking 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Assist FAII w/ Homicide AK14086037, Case is still unsolved, assisted by tracking down suspects and running informant(s) for apparent drug related homicide.
- VCOR & DWLR Case AK14078876, defendant Timothy S. Baker – arrested for VCOR and DLWR (stemmed from Sex Trafficking investigation)
- Hindering Prosecution Case AK14088398, defendant Louis Spencer – arrested for Hindering Prosecution 1<sup>st</sup> & DWLR (stemmed from Sex Trafficking investigation)
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14095539, defendant Coytez Clark – indicted for Sex Trafficking 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sex Trafficking 3<sup>rd</sup> (x3) and Failure to Stop at the Direction of a Peace Officer 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14076825, suspects Tani Osterman & Xavier Benson – pertinent case info passed along to FBI as they have pending Sex Trafficking case on Benson.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14095539, case still pending...
- Sex Trafficking case AK14079946, case still pending...

9% Plan

9-2 inflation proofing = 7%

State requires 80%

1  $52,800,000,000 \times 7\% = 3,696,000,000$

2  $3,696,000,000 \times 80\% = 2,956,800,000$

3  $739,200,000 - 37,555,000 = 701,645,000$

4  $701,645,000 \div 644,569 = 1,088$  amount of PFD checks

State requires 70%

1  $3,696,000,000$

2  $3,696,000,000 \times 70\% = 2,587,200,000$

3  $1,108,800,000 - 37,555,000 = 1,071,245,000$

4  $1,071,245,000 \div 644,569 = 1,661.95$

State requires 60%

1  $3,696,000,000$

2  $3,696,000,000 \times 60\% = 2,217,600,000$

3  $1,478,400,000 - 37,555,000 = 1,440,845,000$

4  $1,440,845,000 \div 644,569 = 2,235.36$  PFD checks

99% Plan

State Requires 50%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2  $3,696,000,000 \times 50\% = 1,848,000,000$
- 3  $1,848,000,000 - 37,555,000 = 1,810,445,000$
- 4  $1,810,445,000 \div 644,569 = 2,808.76$  PFD Checks

State Requires 40%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2  $3,696,000,000 \times 40\% = \del{2,217,600,000} 1,478,400,000$
- 3  $2,217,600,000 - 37,555,000 = 2,180,045,000$
- 4  $2,180,045,000 \div 644,569 = 3,382.17$  PFD checks

State requires 30%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2  $3,696,000,000 \times 30\% = 1,108,800,000$
- 3  $2,587,200,000 - 37,555,000 = 2,549,645,000$
- 4  $2,549,645,000 \div 644,569 = 3,955.58$  PFD checks

State requires 20%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2  $3,696,000,000 \times 20\% = 739,200,000$
- 3  $2,956,800,000 - 37,555,000 = 2,919,245,000$
- 4  $2,919,245,000 \div 644,569 = 4,528.98$  PFD check

9% Plan

State requires 10%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2  $3,696,000,000 \times 10\% = 369,600,000$
- 3  $3,326,400,000 - 37,555,000 = 3,288,845,000$
- 4  $3,288,845,000 \div 644,569 = 5102.39$  PFD checks

State requires 0%

- 1 3,696,000,000
- 2 0
- 3  $3,696,000,000 - 37,555,000 = 3,658,445,000$
- 4  $3,658,445,000 \div 644,569 = 5675.80$  PFD check