

# NELSON FARMS LLC

Delta Junction, Alaska

PO Box 70888, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Ron Nelson

907-322-6877

rnelson@alaska.net



**ALASKA  
POTATOES**  
Finest Quality  
Fairness Prices



Delivered via e-mail

March 4, 2016

To: Members of our Alaska State Legislature; Governor Bill Walker & Members of Governor Walker's Administration.

The following will not balance our budget but would be a small step in that direction.

Even considering that potatoes are our main crop...We support eliminating funding for the potato program at the PMC...there are private sources available for seed or other services being provided now by the PMC. This program can be eliminated.

Further, consideration should be given to privatizing the PMC, similarly, as you are considering privatizing Mt McKinley Meat & Sausage. Research or related activities being conducted at the PMC could be combined with the University of Alaska, Alaska's Land Grant University to minimize duplication and associated administrative costs.

In closing, it is important that funding continue to DNR for Seed Certification. Seed certification is the regulatory process...world wide... that verifies that seed being planted, sold or exported meets State, Federal and International Standards. DNR is responsible for seed certification in Alaska.



Ron Nelson  
Nelson Farms LLC

CC:

Dr. Jim Johnsen, President of the University of Alaska  
Bryce Wrigley, President of the Alaska Farm Bureau

**From:** [Loreen Davis](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Representative.Dan.Sadler@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Crisis  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:44:26 AM

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Dear Representatives,

Like most Alaskans, I am frustrated and anxious as I watch the process of the state budget unfold. It is my firm belief that, all those times we said that the permanent fund was there for a rainy day, we were talking about now. As long as the state continues to hand out money to people “just because,” people will continue to feel entitled to this free money, all the while lamenting about government services that are not in place. And, as more and more people qualify for the permanent fund, more and more people believe it is their “right” to receive it. It is a self-perpetuating nightmare.

I implore you to use the interest from the permanent fund to balance the budget. It makes no sense at all to give us money, cut services, and then ask for money from us in the form of taxes. Will people get upset that the annual check has stopped? Of course. But nothing is forever. High oil prices certainly were not forever. Not only that, with globalization and technology, our economy has changed significantly. We cannot base current decisions on what has happened in the past, especially now with changes occurring rapidly. Our intuition has been formed by a set of experiences about how things worked during a time when changes were incremental and somewhat predictable, the dynamics of change now should make one question their intuition.

We need strong leadership who is not afraid to do the right and responsible thing. If you get media out there explaining why things have to be this way people will accept it. With respect to UAA, cutting funding and only providing money for “student education” is like sending a person to a hospital for an operation and only funding the surgeon. There is so much that goes into providing true student education and a student’s education will not be worth anything if a university cannot maintain the accreditations each department works so hard to maintain. These accreditations require many things that would, more than likely, not fall under Representative Wilson’s proposal “to fund student instruction which includes athletics.”

Alaskan students who have the option to go out of state for their college education will definitely leave when the university system is not considered valuable enough to fund. Alaskan students who do not have the option to leave the state for higher education will be put at a disadvantage, having to settle for the leftovers of an under-funded higher education system.

Without quality instructors we won’t have quality education. Take away research funds and our PhD’s will leave and we will have a hard time recruiting quality instructors, or quality students for that matter. We will be a bargain basement university heading toward a community college.

In today's world quality education is not an option, society demands that people come into the job market well prepared. UAA has been doing a good job at stretching the dollars it has to provide quality. The legislators, suggesting that more and more money and programs be cut, are suggesting that Alaskans do not deserve the opportunity to participate in the global economy.

A university where professors are not able to be on the cutting edge of their discipline is an inferior university. Of the institutions (businesses) that are important to this state, UAA stands out as one of the top 10. The contributions it makes by providing students with quality education, the number of people it employs, the research and publications that originate from UAA that add to the world's knowledge base, the federal dollars it draws in (I believe it is \$5 for each \$1 spent on research), the community connectedness it is responsible for, and many other intangible but very important contributions, are threatened by continually decreasing the funding to UAA.

Please rethink the budget cuts to UAA. I am a student there and now I am wondering if I really am going to go on to grad school because I don't want a master's degree that has no clout.

Thank you for listening.

Loreen Davis

(907)306-7340

**From:** [LISA HUFFMAN](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:53:25 AM

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I am writing to urge that our elected representatives in Juneau support Governor Walker's Budget. I support the following:

1. Further cuts to government
2. Protect the Permanent Fund corpus
3. Use Permanent Fund earnings to help fund government
4. Preserve the Permanent Fund Dividend program
5. Find new revenues through sales tax
6. Share the burden of taxes through increases in existing taxes
7. No bloated government

I believe that the Governor's plan accomplishes what Alaskans need: A Sustainable Plan!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Huffman  
11101 Hideaway Lake Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907-306-9933

**From:** [Kevin Liebner](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:54:42 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Kevin Liebner  
8321 Rainy Pl  
Anchorage, AK 99518

**From:** [Cecily Stern](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please reinstate OWL funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 10:05:03 AM

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Every dollar of OWL funds leverages \$4 of federal E-rate support which subsidizes telecommunication and internet costs in schools and libraries. Travel to remote Alaskan rural communities is exorbitantly expensive. In these communities, Alaskans use OWL for teleconferences for classes, meetings, lectures, courses, and cultural programs statewide and for government use. This allows rural Alaskans access to education and to stay connected with state agency and nonprofit services while saving thousands of dollars in travel costs.

This funding is essential to rural libraries such as the one I use in Haines, Alaska.

Please ensure this funding stays in the state's budget.

Thank you,

Cecily

Cecily Stern

**From:** [Jennifer Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Proposed DHSS Budget cuts  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 10:06:44 AM

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Dear DHSS Committee Senators and Representatives,

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate my thoughts regarding the proposed budget cuts to the DHSS 2017 budget. I urge you to instead support the Governors proposed DHSS Budget.

I would like to specifically speak to the proposed cuts to the Section of Public Health Nursing (PHN). As a past public health nurse who served the YK Delta Region, I find the proposed cuts to this section, and the reduction of 30/200 positions appalling. Rep. Wilson states, 'I've done the research and there won't be any impact,' which is completely untrue. What is true is that the states ability to respond during an emergency or outbreak of disease will be significantly impacted and prevention oriented public health efforts dangerously limited.

Public Health Nurses are your only field staff located outside of Anchorage within the Division of Public Health. They have a unique skill set that allows them to provide health education, community mobilization, individual clinical nursing services and population health assessments. They are your 'safety net' for Alaskans who fall through the cracks of our health care system. Without them, individuals with communicable diseases (STD's, TB etc.) would be sicker longer and infect more community members.

If you think the nurses who work in the Section of Epidemiology will simply take on more case work, remember this will cost the state much, much more in travel/lodging and per diem to investigate and treat clients outside of Anchorage. Additionally, Anchorage based staff don't have the community relationships a local public health nurse would have and this will impact the success of the investigations.

Rep Wilson did not do her homework and the rest of the sub committee does not seem to understand the difference between health care and public health. By cutting Public Health Nursing you have no dedicated workforce looking upstream at what is causing poor community health outcomes in the first place. Additionally, these types of suggested budget reductions will result in closure of several public health centers.

We all need to tighten our belts during this fiscal crisis, but the cut and run approach to the deficit is short sighted and puts the public at risk. Cutting 15% of your statewide public health nurse safety net is unwise in the age of Ebola, Zika and Measles.

Afterall, we had a measles case in Fairbanks last year. Parents in Fairbanks are also well known for knowingly exposing their young children to another child with active chicken pox instead of getting the vaccine. Fairbanks also voted to remove fluoride from the community water system thus potentially moving more vulnerable children into dental pain, suffering and lost school days. Believe me, there is so much public health work to be done and the public health nurses are your boots on the ground, building organizational relationships, moving communities towards better individual health choices, linking people to a medical homes and

contributing to evidence based public policies.

I urge you to consider the quality of life we want to have here in Alaska both now and for future generations. Please support the Governor's Budget for DHSS. Thank you.

J.A.Meyer

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Jennifer Meyer RN, MPH, CPH  
Assistant Professor of Allied Health  
UAF College of Rural and Community Development, Kuskokwim Campus

<http://www.bethel.uaf.edu/> Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KuskokwimCampus>

Allied Health Department Co-Chair  
Personal Care Attendant Program Head

[jameyer2@alaska.edu](mailto:jameyer2@alaska.edu)

@JenniferMeyer6

For more information about e-learning and community-based Allied Health Programs, please contact me directly or visit: [elearning.uaf.edu](http://elearning.uaf.edu)

Alaska Public Health Association <http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/>

Healthy Alaskans 2020 <http://hss.state.ak.us/ha2020/>



**From:** [Dave Duncan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 10:23:03 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Dave Duncan  
PO Box 900  
Sterling, AK 99672

**From:** [Marna Sanford](#)  
**To:** [bill.walker@alaska.gov](mailto:bill.walker@alaska.gov); [jim.whitaker@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.whitaker@alaska.gov); [Victor Joseph](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [pat.pitney@alaska.gov](mailto:pat.pitney@alaska.gov); [chris.hladick@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.hladick@alaska.gov); [sfishergoad@aidea.org](mailto:sfishergoad@aidea.org); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.com](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.com)  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts to Rural Energy  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:18:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [Alternative Energy & Efficiency programs.DPM.PDF](#)

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Governor Walker and Finance Committee members,

Please see the attached letter in support of investment into ADA's Energy & Efficiency programs.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Marna L. Sanford

Government Relations

122 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907.452.8251 x3317



**From:** [Randall LaSalle](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 7:45:58 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Randall LaSalle  
3675 Silverleaf Ave  
North Pole, AK 99705

**From:** [Jim Jurgeleit](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect public radio funding in Alaska  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 9:27:27 PM

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Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am very disappointed in the amount of cuts proposed to Public Radio in Alaska, I fully understand that some cuts will be necessary during these belt tightening times but the suggested amount will be the end of service for most of the broadcasting. Larger cities may not notice the loss of a public radio station when they have other stations to rely on but the rural communities will definitely feel the loss such as us here in Haines, we listen to KHNS. Local stations provide us with important information such as road closures due to landslides, snow, accidents etc. We also are provided with local weather that fisherman and boaters rely on. We also are able to be informed of community events and keep track of our students that are away playing in school sports.

I urge you to reconsider the amount of proposed funding cuts and to keep it in line with other services that are receiving partially reduced funding so that our stations can be kept active.

Best Regards, Jim Jurgeleit - Haines

**From:** [David Huckaby](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 1:41:52 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
David Huckaby  
PO Box 221241  
Anchorage, AK 99522

**From:** [Abrigon Gusiq via WAYN](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** A message from Abrigon  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:02:00 AM

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Hi,

[Abrigon Gusiq](#) has left you a message on WAYN.

[Read the message](#)

To stop receiving requests from Abrigon Gusiq, [click here](#)  
To stop receiving any notifications from WAYN, [click here](#)

**From:** [Michelle Niland](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Subsidizing of Juneau  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 6:17:09 AM

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Years ago, representative Neuman's efforts to move the capitol of Alaska to a more accessible site were blocked by the legislator. The people of Alaska have made that desire clear through multiple channels, including ballot initiatives which have subsequently been ignored. As the state faces what you are all referring to as a budget crisis, I ask you why we as a state are still subsidizing Juneau by hemorrhaging public funds into all of the waste that helps keep the legislature removed from the core population? Ferrying your vehicles to a place with so few roads that you could all walk to where you need to go (if you are really on public business), flights for you all and staff, day rates, housing, extra offices etc.

Put the move out for bid. See what creative people can come up with. If you don't want to move the capitol because it will cost money (less than continuing what you are doing now), then why doesn't someone get creative and offer a plan for legislators to telecommute from home or town offices? If the state put money into home offices or offices at the LIO's or the local offices you all seem to require in addition to Juneau offices, I think we would save a ton of money.

It is not the responsibility of the people of Alaska to subsidize Juneau. Just as Rep Gattis has correctly pointed out, we shouldn't be subsidizing people to get them to stay in Alaska, and we shouldn't be building multi-million dollar schools for 5 students just to maintain remote area populations. We also should not be subsidizing Juneau. If the place can't stand on it's own (I actually believe it can) then Juneau needs to sort that out, just as every other remote area should.

Respectfully,  
Michelle Latham

**From:** [Warren sharp](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:47:31 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Warren sharp  
3275 Dove Ln  
Palmer, AK 99645



**From:** [lawton mclean](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 5:21:06 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
lawton mclean

Wasilla, AK 99687

**From:** [Shawn McGrew](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 5:53:14 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Shawn McGrew  
9501 Puffin Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99577

**From:** [Joanne Pride](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 6:43:04 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Joanne Pride  
11831 Hilltop Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99515

**From:** [Ginger Self](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 7:29:54 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

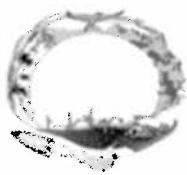
I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Ginger Self  
39400 Moose River Dr  
Sterling, AK 99672



# Tanana Chiefs Conference

122 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-8251  
[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

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The Honorable Governor Bill Walker  
Alaska State Capitol  
Third Floor  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 4, 2016

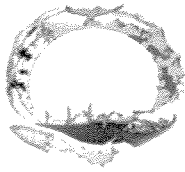
Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Inter-Tribal Consortia of 42 member tribes across Alaska's Interior; we respectfully request that you reconsider full removal of \$6.3 million in State operating funds for Alternative Energy & Efficiency programs at the Alaska Energy Authority, included in your FY2017 Amended Budget released on February 16, 2016. The programs impacted by these amendments provide critical support to residents, tribes, utilities, and community organizations in Alaska's most remote communities.

The amendment: eliminates \$5 million in capital funding for the Renewable Energy Fund; eliminates the funding component that supports staff for renewable energy initiatives, emerging energy technology and energy efficiency programs; and it eradicates the funding component used for rural power house and bulk fuel training, community assistance, and the circuit rider maintenance support program. Finally, this amendment limits the Alaska Energy Authority from accepting federal funding, including a recently secured award of \$250,000, from the U.S. Department of Energy to support the Emerging Energy Technology Fund.

It is very difficult for Alaskan residents on the rail belt to understand the degree to which rural communities are dependent on assistance from the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA). AEA acts equal parts as a technical assistance provider for existing diesel generation and information clearinghouse for energy generation technology and energy efficiency. Removing funding from AEA will significantly weaken rural Alaska's energy infrastructure and the proposed cuts risk eliminating many of the advances that have been made over the last decade toward rural Alaskan energy sustainability.

Although we are well aware of the current fiscal condition of the State of Alaska, and the fact that spending cuts will be necessary to help balance the budget, we believe full eradication of a suite of programs at the State's energy office is **neither sensible nor reasonable**. This move will cripple the State's ability to provide crucial support to address the high cost of energy in our most rural communities – those very communities you have acknowledged are still paying an overwhelming percentage of income to cover energy-costs.



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

122 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-8251  
[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

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We believe a conservative investment back into AEA's Energy & Efficiency programs will augment the work of non-profits like ours, who are aggressively working to support and improve the small utilities that are spread across our region.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. We appreciate all you do on behalf of rural, and all of, Alaska

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

President / Chairman

CC: Senator Lyman Hoffman

Representative Bob Herron

House Finance Committee

DCCED Budget Sub-Committee

Pat Pitney, Director of the Office of Management & Budget

Commissioner Chris Hladick, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Sara Fisher-Goad, Director of the Alaska Energy Authority

**From:** [Ginger Self](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 9:31:34 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Ginger Self  
39400 Moose River Dr  
Sterling, AK 99672

**From:** [charles.scantlebuty](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 7:45:28 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
charles scantlebuty  
PO Box 220931  
Anchorage, AK 99522



**From:** [Kenneth smith](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 10:06:46 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Kenneth smith  
5801 E Fireweed Dr  
Wasilla, AK 99654

**From:** [Ann](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** state budget cuts  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 12:30:48 PM

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I missed the LIO meeting so may be too late. Just want to urge you to cut MORE than what the Governor cut. Still way too high. And to thank those departments who came up with 10% cuts or more.

Ann Roberts

2821 Totem Drive

Fbks 99709.

**From:** [John Kiernan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 4:00:07 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$3.5 billion.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget! Stop spending money you have not got.

Privatize all state services.

John J Kiernan

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

**From:** [william Scudder](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 5:13:07 PM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
william Scudder  
491 Ruth Estates Rd  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

**From:** [carl.caesy](mailto:carl.caesy)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Education budget  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 6:18:11 PM

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Dear Legislators

I would like to start this letter with this bit of information. As a 30 year military veteran and Christian, I would consider myself a VERY CONSERVATIVE individual when it comes to government. I think smaller is better and have never been a big fan of government spending. There are a few areas that I think the governments should spend money: infrastructure (roads and bridges), military, police, fire departments and education.

I urge you to consider carefully any cuts to education, in that education is a foundation that builds a strong future and community. This is a long term investment in Alaska, and in our country as a whole. I would much rather see cuts in welfare programs, parks, planned parenthood, etc. Educating our future is critical. We need great thinkers again, like the ones that sent men to the moon and built the SR-71 using slide-rules and their creative intelligence.

I hate paying taxes as much as anyone, especially for some of the wasteful things that governments spend that money on sometimes—planned parenthood and endowment for the arts being a couple I don't agree with. But with oil revenues down, we cannot cut education to the point where we cannot adequately educate our youth. We should come up with some type of flex tax that goes down when oil revenues go up, and up when oil revenues are down. I think it is critical to have roads to drive on, and highly educated young men and women that can build a better and stronger Alaska and nation for generations to come.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

CARL L. CASEY

(907) 479-0772

(931) 933-1939

**From:** [mike.chenault](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 10:28:28 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
mike.chenault  
145 Main St Loop  
Kenai, AK 99611

**From:** [Stanley duncan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 10:40:43 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Stanley duncan  
111 Mt Eccles Rd  
Cordova, AK 99574

**From:** [deemarcou@yahoo.com](mailto:deemarcou@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** do not cut funding for education.  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 5:29:22 PM

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Sent from Windows Mail



**From:** [Ronald Johnson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Toelle](#)  
**Subject:** HB 256  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 7:50:22 PM

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I have e mailed legislators several times in year with suggestions for reducing the operating budget.

But, this e mail is in support for Access Alaska, an organization that provides independent living services for those with disabilities. I am in a wheelchair but have enough of my own resources to take care of my own financial needs. But, if I were lacking in financial resources, I would need Access Alaska as is the case for many Alaskans.

I have come to know Doug Toelle, Advocacy Director at Access Alaska during the last two years. Folks like him make this organization. Efforts like his allow Access to operate very efficiently and ultimately save Alaska money by lessening the need for more expensive state-paid care.

--

Ron Johnson  
Professor Emeritus  
Mechanical and Environmental Engineering  
Univ of Alaska Fairbanks

2113 Jack St  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**From:** [Travis McCaughey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 9:23:42 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Travis McCaughey  
273 Corral Ave  
Soldotna, AK 99669

**From:** [Eileen char](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 9:56:52 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Eileen char  
Borealis Ave  
Kasilof, AK 99610

**From:** [Richard Steele](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 11:32:50 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Richard Steele  
2001 Tudor Hills Ct  
Anchorage, AK 99507

**From:** [Thomas Scott](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 1:18:46 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Thomas Scott  
12210 Brookwood Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99516

**From:** [Susan Fischetti](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 7:40:35 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Susan Fischetti  
10336 Stewart Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99577

**From:** [Micheal Batchelder](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 8:53:30 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

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

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

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

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

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

**From:** [scott.visscher](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect small-town public radio!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 9:30:26 AM

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In the upper Chilkat valley our public radio station KHNS is the only radio we get. Don't cut it by 100%. It could cease to exist. Lots of state money spent on unorganized boroughs! These areas don't pay anything toward local operations, the state does. Stop spending \$ in unorganized areas-tax these areas if they refuse to organize. Move \$ from any projects in these areas to public radio. In one such area- Elfin Cove, SE AK. millions have been spent to aid and abet the growth of a Lodge industry run by outsiders. Really!...be smart, cut where you can but keep the state connected by radio. Thanks, Scott Visscher , Haines Alaska-Chilkat valley.



**From:** [Elizabeth Ripley](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** MSHF testimony regarding  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 5:14:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [Savings Narratives.docx](#)  
[Mental Health Budget Testimony Mar 1 2016 V3.docx](#)

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Representatives Neuman and Thompson, Members of House Finance,

I appreciated the chance to testify this week on the behavioral health budget cuts (testimony attached for the written record) but did not have time to express the Mat-Su Health Foundation's views on the cuts to senior community-based grants. Mat-Su is home to Alaska's fastest growing senior population, which is projected to grow by 41% in the next five years. For two decades now, more seniors have been moving to Mat-Su than leaving. As a result of this booming demographic, the Foundation has a focus area on Healthy Aging.

We commissioned the first Regional Plan for the Delivery of Senior Services, which was published in 2011, and an updated version will be published in April 2016 that includes a deep dive of senior utilization of the Mat-Su Regional Emergency Department (ED), interviews with seniors and senior service providers, and other data analysis. Both reports highlight a key finding of lack of awareness and access to senior services.

The first report recommended that Mat-Su establish an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The Mat-Su Health Foundation and the State worked together to change regulations, and to plan and fund an ADRC in Mat-Su, which opened in July 2013. In its first six months of operation, it eclipsed all ADRC start-ups in the state, including Anchorage, in terms of the volumes of calls/visits and individuals served. It has continued this pace and perfected its information and referral services, which are critical to achieving the DSDS "conflict free case management" priority to comply with federal mandates. Yet, it is still underfunded compared to other ADRCs across the state, and your proposed cuts to these senior grants jeopardize the great work it is doing. Please see the attached, which gives specific narratives regarding how the Mat-Su ADRC saved seniors and the State money in its first three months of operations.

These proposed cuts will affect access to adult day services. Our latest data shows that Mat-Su has 35 spaces for adult day care, and 2015 demand was for 80. 2020 estimates a demand of 113 spaces. Without adequate day services, more seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia will have challenges resulting in an ED visit or hospitalization.

Lastly, in 2015, approximately \$26.5 million was spent by DHSS on Mat-Su seniors receiving Medicaid, General Relief, or Senior Benefits support, or participating in programs paid for by community-based support programs. The funding averaged \$2,581 for each senior living in the Mat-Su. These same programs spent an estimated \$3,837 for each Alaskan senior living elsewhere in Alaska, so once again, our research demonstrates that Mat-Su has been disproportionately underfunded through these grants and should not be cut.

Our data shows that many seniors moving to Mat-Su are financially stable and healthy. However, in 2015, 1099 Mat-Su seniors had household incomes below the federal poverty level. We urge you to reconsider the needs of these vulnerable populations and restore this funding upstream to prevent downstream ED visits and hospitalizations.

*Elizabeth A. Ripley*

*Executive Director*

*Mat-Su Health Foundation*

*950 E. Bogard Road, Ste. 218*

*Wasilla, AK 99654*

*907-352-2863 (office)*

*907-354-3595 (cell)*

*907-352-2865 (fax)*

*eripley@healthymatsu.org*



Created By:  
Christine Inglet  
LINKS Mat-Su ADRC Program Coordinator  
and  
Greta Kopperud  
ADRC Specialist

### **Three Medicare Success Stories**

1. When GB came into the Mat-Su ADRC for Medicare Part D counseling, she was afraid that she was spending too much for her current plan. She told me that she was having her medication filled through a mail order pharmacy, as she had been told that this was always the cheapest option. We looked through her current plan and found that using a mail-order pharmacy was more than double the cost of filling her medications at a retail pharmacy. With education about Part D plans and Medicare counseling, GB was able to stay on the same plan, but save \$2,907 annually, just by switching her pharmacy. In addition, she received application assistance and education regarding manufacturer financial assistance programs which would help pay for the cost of her brand name pharmaceuticals, saving her even more money. In the future she will have the knowledge and tools she needs to evaluate her Medicare Part D plans without assistance from an agency.
2. BJ had been having a frustrating few months, trying to get her current Medicare Part D plan to cover one of her breathing medications. She had called and spoken with the insurance company, who told her that her plan had quantity limit restrictions and that more than a 30 day supply could not be covered. The insurance company suggested that she speak with her doctor about changing the medication. BJ spoke with her medical provider, who explained that unfortunately her medications could not be changed. There didn't seem to be any options. BJ told me that she was skipping daily doses against her doctor's wishes so that she could make the 30 day supply last. The ADRC staff educated BJ on her Part D benefits, and explained how drug formulary lists and restrictions (like quantity limits) can affect her plan. We were quickly able to change her plan to one with no quantity limit restrictions and also saved her \$574 annually.

3. EJ came to us right after his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was planning to retire at the end of the month and knew that he would lose his group health insurance. He only wanted to sign-up for Medicare Part A (Hospital insurance) and nothing more. He told us that he was in perfect health and he didn't need Part B or D (Medical and Drug). He was willing to incur a penalty to not have to pay a monthly premium. We discussed with EJ the pros and cons of carrying Medicare insurance that he didn't immediately need. EJ preferred to take a risk and go without. One month later, we encountered EJ again at a Medicare Part D presentation. He explained that he had recently been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, and now had a long list of medications that needed to be covered. He was unsure if he was still able to sign-up for Medicare and wondered how he would make it to the end of the year uninsured. The ADRC assisted EJ in understanding his Part B and Part D benefits and enrollment periods. He did not incur a penalty, and successfully signed-up for medical insurance and a drug plan which would cover all of his medications till the end of the year and into the next. The ADRC helped him navigate the Medicare health insurance system successfully, saving him immense out-of-pocket costs for diabetes treatment and medications.

### **Medicaid Savings**

Sara came to Alaska to help her parent who had suffered from a stroke. The parent also had guardianship of her adult intellectually disabled daughter. Sarah is physically disabled. When Sara arrived her parent was still in the hospital. At this time she was made aware that her parent would not be capable of living on her own any more. Her parent and she had agreed many years earlier that she would not put her in a home and she had room for them both in her house in Seattle. Her parent had been suffering from Dementia and had been hoarding expired food. Sarah came to our office with a purse full of mixed papers and in distress. We sat down and organized her Mother's legal and medical information. We applied for grants through the Alzheimer's Resource Center and Acquired Traumatic Brain Injury grant. As a result of the individual granting process we were able to help her tie up ends here in Alaska and move her Mother and sister to Washington.

Cost of Assisted Living Home 73,000 per year x2

Cost of mini grants totaled 5,000 one time application

Cost for PCA services to support Sarah in caregiving \$35,000

### **Caregiver Supports**

Mr. B.'s mother with Alzheimer's was in an assisted living home on the Kenai Peninsula, where his sister was located. When the home closed his sister was unable to find another placement in her area and was unable to take care of her mother in her home. Mr. B. moved his mother to the Mat-Su Valley where he and his wife took turns taking care of her. They were quickly becoming exhausted and his wife was ready to quit her job and stay home. When they called our office he did not know which way to turn or how to find a home. We were able to access resources and find him 6 homes that specialized in Alzheimer's care and some that were close to his location and had open rooms.

Mr. B and his wife were able to continue being employed. His mother is with experienced staff that specializes in Alzheimer's. Mr. B. and his wife can continue to contribute to the community and are aware of resources to help support them.

### **Individual with Disabilities**

KT called because she was unable to work. She needed a hip replacement and needed to come up with \$6000 for an MRI. KT was single and living off \$600 per month unemployment. She wanted to go back to work after the surgery, she was unsure what her recovery time would be or what supports she would need after surgery. KT also had medications that she was unable to afford and her condition was getting worse. We referred her to Providence and their patient forgiveness program, we also referred her to public assistance to begin the SSDI process and Adult Public Assistance. We also referred her to Access Alaska to help with her care after surgery until she could work again. We found a program that addressed her medication needs connecting her to drug company grant programs called needymeds.org. While we connected KT to financial resources we hope to keep her in her home and not needing more intensive services. Without medical services and resources, the chances of permanent disability increase and proper recovery decrease. The state could be looking at lifetime support of an individual who would otherwise be able to contribute to society with the proper supports.

Who have we been serving?

7/2013 to 10/2013

Total Contacts 240	Age of Clients receiving options counseling	Received Options Counseling : 81
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contacts by consumers: 156</li><li>• Contacts by Caregivers: 54</li><li>• Contacts by professionals: 30</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seniors: 39</li><li>• Under age 60: 48</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referred to public resources: 58</li><li>• Referred to non public resources: 44</li></ul>

MSHF Testimony  
House Finance Committee Mental Health Budget  
March 1, 2016

Representatives Neuman, Thompson, Members of the Committee, my name is Elizabeth Ripley and I serve as Executive Director of the Mat-Su Health Foundation, which shares ownership in Mat-Su Regional and invests its profits back into the community to improve the health.

We conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment in 2013, where community residents—out of a long list of health issues--ranked five behavioral health issues as the top five health issues affecting Mat-Su. As a result our board adopted focus areas for our funding called Healthy Minds, Healthy Aging and Healthy Foundations for Families. We are concerned that the proposed cuts to the budget will adversely affect people who fall into all three of those focus areas.

While Medicaid expansion should help increase access to behavioral health services, and we advocated as such, current laws and regulations do not permit all providers to bill Medicaid. Until we rectify this, cutting behavioral health grants will only reinforce the current system that drives people to seek care in the emergency room. A 2013 data analysis showed Mat-Su Regional Emergency Department has five times the number visits than our community mental health center. These visits to one hospital cost Alaskans \$23M in 2013, not including doctor, EMS or police costs.

Of the almost \$4.6M in behavioral health grant funding for Mat-Su, \$4.3M of this goes to acute treatment needs. Only \$288,000 goes to early intervention. We are investing all these state dollars downstream and investing virtually nothing in preventing people from becoming acutely sick. And while Mat-Su's population doubled over the last 15 years, these grants have stayed flat. So Mat-Su is disproportionately underfunded in every category of behavioral health funding compared to any other region in the state. The foundation is doing its part to help reform the Medicaid program, and will help our grant-based providers convert to bill Medicaid. But cutting these grants now will only increase the State costs and further compromise access to desperately needed care. This is an arena—even in these dire budget times—where an investment in behavioral health upstream will have significant savings downstream. I urge you to consider this bold move. I'll

put the remainder of my concerns regarding the senior services cuts in writing.  
Thanks for this chance to testify.

**From:** [craig\\_beth](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)  
**Subject:** Preschool Funding  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 3:45:35 PM

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Dear Senator,

As an Alaskan preschool special education teacher, parent of a toddler, and a constituent, I am deeply concerned about the ludicrous proposal to cut all state funding for preschool programs to include Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers.

I mean, seriously, is our state honestly considering cutting all funding for the very few public preschool programs that our state does offer? And considering cutting funds towards the highly successful program, the Imagination Library, that puts REAL books in kids hands that truly need them? Seriously?! While I do understand that everyone has had to make cuts, I can't understand why these imperative programs would even be considered to be cut.

Studies continue to show that those who attend preschool demonstrate vast improvement in important development in language, literacy, mathematics and social skills. Low-income families and communities, in particular, benefit from these preschool programs. They also provide a free, safe and education-oriented place for children to learn while their parents can work more hours. Not to mention the long-term effects of improved test scores and graduation rates. THINGS WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SUPPORTING!

Please let the Senate and Finance Committees know that there are thousands of us out here that will fight for this funding. It's just too important for my son's and his peers' future.

Thank you for listening. Our voices need to be heard.

Sincerely, Beth Craig

2666 Northrup Place  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Beth Craig  
Special Education Teacher  
Preschool Assessment Team Early Intervention Services @ ASD Education Center  
742-2657 Main Phone 742-6073 Direct Line Fax 742-2660

Attention: This message and all attachments are private and may contain information that is confidential and privileged. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply email and delete the message immediately.



**From:** [Jocelyn Davis](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Subject:** University Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 4:54:57 PM

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Representative Neuman,

I am a student at UAA and am very concerned about budget cuts for the State Universities. I don't fully understand everything that is going on with state funds, but I do know that the future lies with students. If tuition goes up and the quality of the school goes down because of

lack of funding, I am sure that fewer Alaska residents will choose to pursue an education.

UAA is convenient, close and low cost right now. It is really a godsend.

I am sure that you already are already doing your best, but I would like to encourage you to fight for our university.

Alaska needs this.

Thank you.

God bless,

Jocelyn Davis  
Sophomore Elementary Education Major