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**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#)  
**Subject:** 2017 Budget Crunch  
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Dear Esteemed Members of the AK Senate Finance Committee,

It is my sincere hope that you are planning on ensuring that Alaska's 2017 *Bottom Line* Budget is no more than \$4.5 B. I also encourage you to disregard any consideration of a reconfiguration of the Permanent Fund. Yes, I mean the entire fund - corpus, reserves, inflation proofing and dividends.

Additionally, I believe that any change to the oil industry's tax credit system as established by SB 21 is a terrible idea at this time. Just when the law is working, someone tries to shut it down.

Taxes, of any kind, should be disregarded until the State's Budget is at \$3.2B.

Finally, the employees of the Departments and Divisions and Sections of the government whom we pay should be severely and publicly chastised when they cut the 'boots on the ground', e.g., fire fighting/prevention, troopers, emergency services, infrastructure maintenance and classroom teachers. Travel for anything that is not related to the direct services herein should be considered luxuries and cut before any of these types of services and activities.

Luxury items would include:

- travel outside of the state for any reason. Any out-of-state travel should require approval of the Governor's office and be posted on the internet with a direct link from the Governor's web page. Bring the training up here if it is that necessary.
- in-state travel that is not directly related to infrastructure maintenance or consolidated training opportunities should require approval of the Governor's office and be posted at the same direct link from the Governor's web page.
- Special Sessions should be held in Anchorage with those who live outside of the City using the local Legislative Information Offices (and not per diem) to participate.
- Vacant positions - all vacant positions that do not provide direct services (see

previous paragraph) to the citizenry should be eliminated. The Alaska Policy Forum has used a FOIA to determine that 4,000 vacant positions exist at a potential \$20M cost.

Regardless of the pain and anguish all of this may cause us, it is my belief that not one of you would make a plan for emptying out your savings plans to continue spending until all of your financial resources are lost.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Beth Fread

Palmer, Alaska