

**From:** [Tom Moran](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON FY17 OPERATING BUDGET  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 2:04:09 PM

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Greetings:

Please let this e-mail serve as written testimony in support of the operating budget that has passed through the House. Governor Walker has been faced with a very unique challenge that I do not envy one bit. Our state's economy, predicated on the oil industry, is on the brink of collapse. While some of our citizenry urges us to "Cut the fat!," we all know that there isn't anything to cut. Alaska is entitled to the same level of government services that the rest of the country receives. The economies of our continental brethren, however, have not been based wholly on what appears to be a dying industry. Just like the next Alaskan, I hope for a return to the days of \$100+ per barrel...but I'm not holding my breath. And even if oil prices suddenly do soar, the fact will remain that our economy is a one-trick pony. It's time to diversify our interests and protect our infrastructure. Many people in the lower 48 call Alaska a "Libertarian state," but I believe that perception has been colored, in large part, by the fact that we do not adequately tax our citizenry, while literally paying them for their citizenship. I am not advocating for a tax-and-spend government; rather, I am advocating for our government, with whichever party is in the leadership, to see the writing on the wall and change with the times. My sentiment is that it's time to turn the page on the old way of doing things. Please count this testimony as a ringing endorsement for a budget that increases revenues rather than decreases expenditures.

Most sincerely,

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*"Do more than is required of you." - General George S. Patton, Jr.*