

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Finance Committee
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From: Cheryl Stewart [mailto:cturletes@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:33 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Finance Committee

Operating Budget Testimony

Thanks for this Opportunity to testify, I am Chris Turletes, I live in Anchorage, I am a retired Army Officer and now work at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I encourage you to support the Governor's budget and the re plumbing that he proposes to fund government this year and into the future. It is important that we get to a sustainable budget without destroying our economy and the future of Alaskans. Additional surgical cuts to government are likely needed, a modest income tax levied on residents and non-residents is needed, I think it's a good tool to have in our tool box (again); a reduction in and capping of the PFD is needed; and a reduction to our Oil Tax Credits will be needed; and use of some of our reserves.

I am concerned that if we cut too deep we lose jobs, families; health and education and make the tough rural living near impossible. We need to want industry and people to come and work in Alaska. We need to be an inviting environment with a certain amount of physical, social and economic infrastructure. We have a Permanent Fund with lots of earnings. Shouldn't we use some of the earnings to create an environment that is inviting, safe and comfortable for Alaskans today and in the future?

I think it's critical that we support education from K on up to our University. I think key to a great state is a great university. Please continue to support the University at the Governor's proposed level of funding. The University is vital to Alaska's future. The University provides programs that meet our state's needs, that meet our global needs, that provides vital knowledge about the Arctic, that supplies our workforce with locally trained engineers, teachers, nurses, miners, artists and technicians. The University is an integral part of diversifying our economy through commercializing the intellectual property developed through research, through education, and by providing quality human talent. A healthy university has health enrollment and provides jobs to faculty and staff and the contractors and suppliers that meet the needs of the University. I firmly believe that the role of our University is to transform lives and serve our society and citizens by educating and providing experiences; enabling graduates to put that knowledge to work right here at home.

I have been able to participate in a couple of sessions with Cliff Groh and Gunnar Knapp using their budget model. It's a daunting task what you have to do. You have to look beyond the next few year's; look way down the road. The big oil days are gone. The time is now to change the momentum of declining oil and economy; Fix our budget model to address the future Alaska. We should be grateful for the fore thought of the Permanent Fund creators and all of it's earning and growth. We've gone too long without owning our government, it's time to get some skin in the game. For me that skin is: a smaller government, a smaller dividend, a personal income tax, and strong education, health and infrastructure.

Thanks for all you do. Seize this opportunity to invest in the next year and re-plumb to allow us all to invest in Alaska's future.

Chris Turletes

3010 Admiralty Bay Dr

Anchorage, AK 99515

Sent from my iPad