

From: [David Lee](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#)
Subject: Support of governor's proposed budget for University of Alaska
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:56:45 AM

Greetings,

I moved to Alaska in 1969. I love my state and my university. I have watched the university grow during this time, and it is in part due to the excellent support we have always had from the state of Alaska. All of my children have attended college right here in Alaska. I have one daughter currently attending UAS in Juneau. My children could not have afforded to attend college out of state. My worry is this - what are we doing to future college bound, Alaskan students? If they cannot get what they need here, at home, what message does that send? It says that we do not value education. We need our future Alaskans here in Alaska after they graduate from our great university. We need their expertise and value they add to our workforce.

I am a student as well, graduating in May at the age of 55 with my first college degree from Kenai Peninsula College. Future students will not have the opportunity to graduate with my current degree; it has been cut due to budget cuts. Many programs have been cut university-wide. The university will not be able to recover from the current proposal before the Senate if it is passed as is. It has been said, "We are only as great as our University." I hope that you believe this to be true and don't cut us by twenty-five million in one year!

I was getting my hair cut last week, and my hairdresser told me that two faculty members from our local College are looking for jobs outside of Alaska. We cannot let this happen, when amazing instructors are gone, they are no longer contributing to our future! We are only as strong as our educated students that stay and work in our great state.

I am in support of the governor's proposed budget. The budget set before the Senate is way off that initial budget cut of 15.8 million. How can the university recover from a twenty-five million reduction in one year? I understand it is a rough time for our state, but I beg you not to cut the University of Alaska to the point of no return.

Thank you for your time,

Susan Lee

Longtime Alaskan, student, and mother

