

From: [matt irinaga](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Be responsible
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:11:46 PM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in response to the state budget crisis. I support utilizing some of the PFD earnings to pay for vital gov't services. I support the idea of a state sales tax. If there is a lot of push back maybe this could be a seasonal sales tax from May 1 to October 1 to take advantage of the influx of visitors to the state. The sales tax should exclude food/groceries/medications. I support the concept of a state run lottery. I don't support a state income tax. Alcohol, tobacco, and gasoline/fuel (excluding home heating oil) should be taxed. Somebody needs to figure out the state marijuana tax structure and streamline the process of creating new business in the state. Done right, I think it can generate a modest income to the state.

I support public education including preschool programs and charter schools. I believe in supporting higher education and the University of Alaska system.

Our legislators need to take the long view on decisions made today will have huge implications on our kids tomorrow. **Keep education funding as intact as possible.**

That said, I know the state is faced with having to reduce spending and cutting budgets. Right now there is very little confidence and trust with our legislators. The public perception is that you've gotten us into this mess now fix it. Honestly, based on a lot of recent examples of wanton waste of public money you should not be surprised. Taking stances on issues based on party lines is not acceptable. Dragging your work into special sessions and not getting anything done is pathetic. You need to work together for the benefit of the state and your constituents. Poll most Alaskans and I think you'll find that we don't care if you're democrat or republican, just get your job done and work together for what is right. Hearing about non-essential travel by our legislators is sickening. You need to lead by example. Be responsible. Anybody can recognize a boondoggle. You should call each other out on those who take those trips and bring "associates" or aides along or who are being catered to by interest groups. **You're public servants, we pay your salaries.** Do your work or get fired.

If my tone is anger I don't believe I am alone. And I won't apologize for it. We are in a crisis. You should be feeling a lot of pressure to get this right.

Thanks,

Matt Irinaga
Fairbanks