

From: [The Alaska Food Policy Council](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: bill.walker@alaska.gov; [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Max Gruenberg](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Lesil McGuire](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#)
Subject: Support Food Related Programs in the FY2017 Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:24:32 PM
Attachments: [Support Food Related Programs in the State Budget.pdf](#)

To the Members of the Finance Committee:

We are writing today to submit comments on SB 139, the proposed state budget. Please see the attached letter for our comments. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,
Victoria Briggs & Elizabeth Hodges Snyder
Co-Chairs, Alaska Food Policy Council



Alaska Food Policy Council

3601 C Street, Ste. 722

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

907-269-8072

akfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

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AmeriCorp VISTA

Samantha Ford, *Anchorage*

March 9, 2016

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Alaska Food Policy Council is a group of Alaskans who believe that food security is vital to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. We want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. We are writing today to share our thoughts about cuts in the current budget draft makes so deep that they will weaken Alaska's food security.

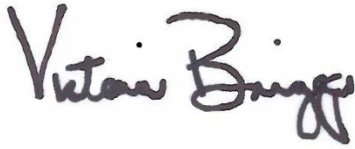
We understand that the state faces fiscal challenges and we recognize and value your expertise in addressing the budget cuts that must be made. We think these necessary changes also provide opportunities: to support farmers, fisherman, and other local businesses; to reduce the number of food dollars that flow out of our state every year; and to strengthen our food system so that when our food chain is disrupted by a late barge or natural disaster, we have safe, healthy, Alaska Grown and produced products to stock our shelves. Much of this can be accomplished in the private sector, but if we cut the budget for building block programs that support these fledgling industries, it will be difficult to recover. With that in mind, here are five suggestions we urge you to consider in the coming days:

- **Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program:** We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.
- **Restore research and outreach funding to the University of Alaska system:** While the proposed budget makes no specific cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, or the 4-H Program, *non-specific* cuts to the UA budget could force the universities to make tough choices that could reduce funding for those programs by up to 71%.
- **Provide funding for Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC):** The PMC provides a wide variety of fundamental services to the agriculture industry including: certified seed production, horticultural recommendations, conducting variety trials, disease testing and production of the State's only native plant directory. These services help many individual Alaska farmers every year and are an invaluable data source for future growers.
- **Provide funding to the Division of Agriculture Potato Program:** Alaska's disease free seed potatoes – which are propagated at the PMC – support a \$3 million dollar industry that feeds Alaskans.

- **Provide funding for one year of operational funds in the Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage (MMM&S) budget line:** As one of only three certified meat processing plants in the state, it is not an exaggeration that losing MMM&S would be catastrophic for local ranchers. A private corporation has expressed interest in transitioning the meat plant out of State ownership. One year of funding will allow that transition to take place.

As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget the opportunity to support natural resource *production* and the strengthening of our food system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Victoria Briggs". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Briggs, Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Elizabeth Hodges Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, Co-Chair

cc:
Governor Bill Walker
Members of the Alaska Senate
Members of the Alaska House of Representatives

From: [Gerry Carter](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:52:17 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Gerry Carter
10961 Richardson Hwy
Salcha, AK 99714

Proposed by:	Assemblyman Morgan
Attorney Review:	02/25/2016
Vote:	6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Absent

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 16-07R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LESS SEVERE BUDGET CUTS TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and additional years in the near future; and

WHEREAS, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in all facets of state government across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential emergency service supported by the State of Alaska; and

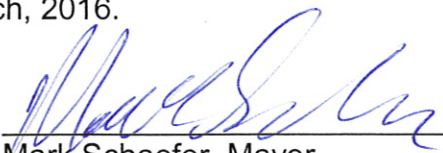
WHEREAS, public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural and educational information to Alaska residents, in addition to programming and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the public broadcasting budget is facing significant proposed reductions in the legislative process; and

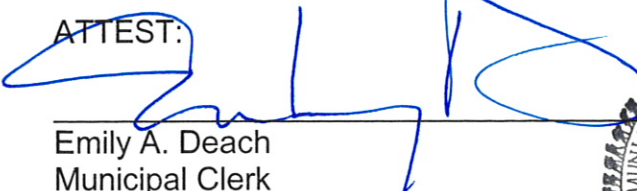
WHEREAS, cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY2017, but the proportion of the proposed reduction for public broadcasting is disproportionate in comparison and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency information, regional information sharing, entertainment and community information;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska, respectfully requests the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission than are currently being proposed for the FY2017 budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 3rd day of March, 2016.


Mark Schaefer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Emily A. Deach
Municipal Clerk
(SEAL)





"Yee gu.aa yax x' wan."

An Indian Reorganization Act Village
Under Act of Congress June 15th, 1935
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska 99827
HC60 Box 2207 Haines, Alaska 99827
Phone: (907) 767-5505
Fax: (907) 767-5518
Email: klukwan@chilkat-nsn.gov

RESOLUTION # 2016-1

A Resolution of Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Council Requesting Alaska Legislature to Consider Less Severe Cuts to Public Broadcasting Services in Alaska

- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village Tribe has been in existence since time & immemorial; and
- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan is a duly constituted Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250) and in accordance with section 16 & 17; and
- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village Council acting as the duly constituted governing body of the Chilkat Indian Village, pursuant of Article V Section (j) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Chilkat Indian Village has authority to negotiate with federal and state agencies and organizations for the benefit of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS;** the State of Alaska is facing another challenging budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and likely additional fiscal years in the near future ; and
- WHEREAS,** a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in every facet of State Government all across Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Public Broadcasting is a statewide essential service supported by the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS;** public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural, and education information to Alaska residents, not to mention entertaining programming; and
- WHEREAS;** the public broadcasting budget is facing another round of significant reductions in the legislative process; and
- WHEREAS;** cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY17 but the proportion of the reduction to public broadcasting appears disproportionate and will adversely affect the availability of local services across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of community and regional news and information sharing; and
- WHEREAS;** losses in federal matching funds for stations will result from additional state cuts; and

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE

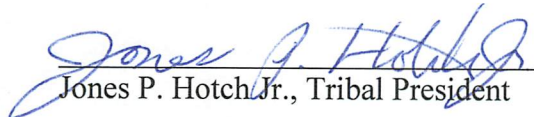


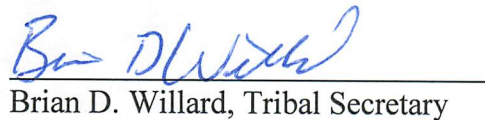
"Yee gu.aa yax x'wan."

An Indian Reorganization Act Village
Under Act of Congress June 15th, 1935
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska 99827
HC60 Box 2207 Haines, Alaska 99827
Phone: (907) 767-5505
Fax: (907) 767-5518
Email: klukwan@chilkat-nsn.gov

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chilkat Indian Village Council respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to Alaska's Public Broadcasting Services in the FY2017 budget.

CERTIFICATION: This certifies that the foregoing resolution of the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan, Alaska was adopted. The Chilkat Indian Village Council is made up of 7 members with a quorum of 7 established. The foregoing resolution was adopted on this 19th day of February, 2016, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent, 0 excused and 0 abstaining.


Jones P. Hotch Jr., Tribal President


Brian D. Willard, Tribal Secretary

BOROUGH OF HAINES RESOLUTION

No. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE BOROUGH OF HAINES,
ALASKA, REQUESTING ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LESS SEVERE
CUTS TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and additional fiscal years in the near future; and

WHEREAS, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in rough choices and difficult cuts in all facets of State Government all across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential emergency service supported by the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural, and education information to Alaska residents, not to mention programming and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the public broadcasting budget is facing significant reductions in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY 17 but the proportion of the reduction for public broadcasting is disproportionate in comparison and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency information, regional information sharing, entertainment and community information.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the Borough of Haines, Alaska, to respectfully request the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission in FY20 17 budget.

ADOPTED: January 26, 2016

ATTEST: Kim Lane
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

David L. Jack
David L. Jack, Mayor



Proposed by:	Assemblyman Morgan
Attorney Review:	02/25/2016
Vote:	6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Absent

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 16-07R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LESS SEVERE BUDGET CUTS TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and additional years in the near future; and

WHEREAS, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in all facets of state government across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential emergency service supported by the State of Alaska; and

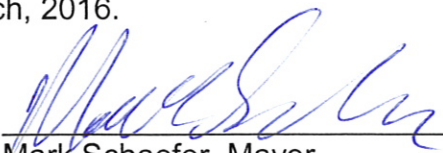
WHEREAS, public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural and educational information to Alaska residents, in addition to programming and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the public broadcasting budget is facing significant proposed reductions in the legislative process; and

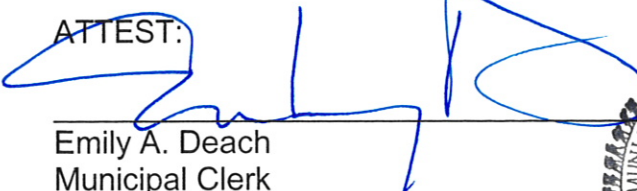
WHEREAS, cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY2017, but the proportion of the proposed reduction for public broadcasting is disproportionate in comparison and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency information, regional information sharing, entertainment and community information;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska, respectfully requests the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission than are currently being proposed for the FY2017 budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 3rd day of March, 2016.


Mark Schaefer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Emily A. Deach
Municipal Clerk
(SEAL)



From: [Emily Deach](#)
Subject: Municipality of Skagway Resolution No. 16-07R re: Support for Public Radio
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:31:43 AM
Attachments: [Res 16-07R FY17 Public Radio Support.pdf](#)

Good morning,

Attached please find Resolution No. 16-07R, adopted by the Skagway Borough Assembly on March 3, 2016, "requesting the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to consider less severe budget cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission.

Please contact me with questions.

Thank you!

Emily

Emily Wescott Deach, CMC
Borough Clerk

Municipality of Skagway

P.O. Box 415, Skagway, AK 99840

(Phone) 907-983-2297 option 6

(Direct) 907-983-9706

(Fax) 907-983-2151

From: [Ray and Kay Zernia](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: budget
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:39:11 AM

I am very concerned about our future as a state, with the dire predictions about our budget deficit. I will not vote for any legislator who does not support some sort of plan to at least start reducing it during THIS legislative session! This plan will have to include using some of the Permanent Fund earnings, income or sales taxes, and reducing our Permanent Fund Dividend. I think we have to realize that all three of these will impact all of us, but I believe that legislators will have to bite the bullet, and realize that if nothing is done (as in past years), the people will revolt and vote them out of office! I don't believe in additional cuts to the budget beyond the governor's plan, especially those to the University of Alaska, which would be devastating to our economy and our young people's future.

Thank you,

Kay Zernia
7515 East 20th Ave.
Anchorage, AK

From: [Dave Anderson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)
Subject: Kachemak Emergency Services support for public radio
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:16:27 PM
Attachments: [03-01-16 Kachemak Emergency Services LTR.docx](#)

Hi folks,

Attached is a letter of support for public radio from Robert Cicciarella, Chief of Kachemak Emergency Services and President, Kenai Peninsula Fire Chief's Association. KESA serves a large area of the southern Kenai Peninsula from south of Anchor Point to the head of Kachemak Bay. Your support for public radio is important on many levels, but a serious safety issue for small and remote communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David S. Anderson

General Manager

KBBI Homer, Alaska

907-235-7721 x222

www.kbbi.org/

Like us on [Facebook](#)!

-----Original Message-----

From: Cicciarella, Bob

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:55 PM

To: Representative_Seaton

Subject: KBBI Funding

Paul,

I was just informed that a decision was made to no longer provide State funding for KBBI Radio in Homer. I totally understand the issues with the State of Alaska's financial situation and know that the legislators have a difficult task ahead however, I feel that supporting KBBI's funding would have a minimal financial impact but yield a maximum return on investment to warrant a reconsideration.

As I am sure you know, KBBI is the most listened to Radio Station in the Greater Homer Area where we do not have the luxury of a big city market with multiple private stations to choose from. Local residents tune in for information not only day to day but whenever there is a major emergency where KBBI is the "Go To" resource. Residents benefitted from key up-to-date information broadcasted during the Mile 17 Fire, Redoubt Eruption, multiple Power Outages as well as during Tsunami Siren Alerts and Severe Storms so much so there is a message announcement at the end of the Tsunami Warning Siren activation, directing the public to tune in to your local radio station for more information.

Emergency Services depends on KBBI as a resource vehicle to deliver timely information to the public during major emergencies and disasters. KESA along with The Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management have used air time to proactively deliver public education on topics such as disaster planning, Fire Wise-wildland fire mitigation programs.

I pledge my support for this non-profit radio station to continue to receive State funding to help keep them in operation at least until other alternatives or means of income can be secured.

Respectfully,

Bob

Robert W. Cicciarella

Chief, Kachemak Emergency Services

President, Kenai Peninsula Fire Chief's Association IAFC, CFI, NFPA, NASAR

53048 Ashwood Ave

Homer, Alaska 99603

(907) 235-9811

From: [Tom McGrath](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Senator Kevin Meyer \(Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov\)](mailto:Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov)
Subject: HB256
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 3:22:43 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending to the House Finance Committee that the grants line within the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be funded at \$12,652,700. While this represents a decrease from FY16, it will allow the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support. Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Thank You for your consideration:

Tom McGrath

250-4302

From: [Erin Hollingsworth](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: public testimony on HB 256
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 4:14:20 PM

Dear House Committee Finance Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed operating budget. I appreciate your time and consideration. The state is being faced with difficult times and I understand that there are many requests for a limited fund.

I would like to highlight again my concern for the continued funding for the OWL broadband program, the early literacy programs and public broadcasting. All of these services are vital to the daily life on the North Slope. Below are a few examples:

- Recently, Tuzzy Consortium Library was able to host Iñisagvik College's 30 hour OSHA Maritime Standards course via the OWL network. Eight students received advanced education that will better prepare them for employment because of this service. The economic and education benefits of funding OWL go beyond the obvious as well; matching federal e-rate funds for this grant also contribute to providing access opportunities to many rural Alaskans. The funding of this connectivity allows for online access for many of Alaska's most remote and rural communities.
- Early literacy funding is also vital to all Alaskans. Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and the Pre K grants all work to ensure that our children achieve kindergarten readiness by age five. The first months of a baby's life are crucial for brain development. The cognitive growth that takes place during this time is key to a child's future academic success. These children will be tomorrow's leaders and it is best to equip them with any advantage possible. The North Slope Imagination Library, which is operated with help and support from Best Beginnings, has an 85% enrollment. This means that 85% of the eligible children will enter kindergarten with 60 books in their homes. These families are being equipped with tools to help the children be prepared to learn when they enter school.
- Public broadcasting is a major concern in Barrow and on the North Slope. KBRW, the public radio station, is the means for dissemination of vital information regarding weather, community health notices, public safety and local government. The school and borough closures are broadcast through this medium. The radio is used to notify the community when the drinking water needs to be boiled and when the villages are under rabies quarantine. Public radio is also how average citizens can participate in assembly meetings, school board meetings, and other forms of local government. It is also a vital source of information for the hunters and whalers who depend upon the local weather forecasts. There is no other service

on the North Slope that can replace what KBRW does for the community.

Thank you again for your time.

Respectfully,

Erin Hollingsworth, MLIS, M.Ed

Public Services Librarian

Tuzzy Consortium Library

Iḷisagvik College

P.O. Box 2130

Barrow, AK 99723

erin.hollingsworth@tuzzy.org

Ph: 907.852.4050

Fax: 907.852.4059

From: [Ginger Self](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 5:04:01 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Ginger Self
39400 Moose River Dr
Sterling, AK 99672

From: [Victoria Stone](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Representative.Dan.Sadler@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: Re: UAA Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 5:57:05 PM

To the members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I was recently informed of some rather extreme budget cuts which your committee has been considering, and I feel the need to express my concern.

I am told the budget cuts would likely affect and, in some cases, eradicate:

- academic advisers
- student employment
- academic programs
- access to university buildings

I understand running a public university is a costly affair. The aforementioned items, however, are certainly necessary for the success of students, and I urge your committee to please reexamine these budget cuts.

Thank you for your time,

Victoria Stone
(907) 244-4691

From: [LIO Mat-Su](#)
Subject: FW: budget suggestions
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:59:38 AM

From: Shonti Elder [mailto:elderfrey@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:23 PM
To: LIO Mat-Su <LIO.Mat-Su@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget suggestions

As a Valley resident for the past few decades, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to seriously evaluate a way to balance our budget.

Right now, I'm afraid that your cuts are too deep. We need to restore pre K education, and continue to prioritize education, health and social services. We also need to consider quality of life issues such as supporting public broadcasting, which is the most important emergency and news source for many of Alaska's villages.

I'm willing to pay state income taxes to continue our quality of life here. I'm willing to have a smaller dividend, in order to balance our budget, but the dividend shouldn't be cut too drastically all at once because poor Alaskans depend on it.

I advocate reducing the oil tax credits. The world doesn't need us to pay the oil companies to explore for more oil. We need that money to support other worthy causes.

I'm against sales taxes because they are a regressive tax that hurts the poor too much. It's time to add a progressive state income tax, that would also capture money from the many out-of-state oil workers who use our infrastructure without paying anything at all for it.

Please consider a healthy balance of cuts and additional taxes. Thank you for your consideration.

(What email address can I use to reach all of the Alaskan legislators?)

Representative Mark Neuman
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

19 February 2016

Dear Representative Neuman,

I am sending you the attached letter jointly produced by members of the State Parks Citizens Advisory Boards to inform you of the past relative fiscal self sufficiency in operation of the State Parks and to request your assistance in the difficult budgeting process. We request minimal state fiscal support to assure continuing operation of the parks, currently largely based on income from user fees, income from contracts with concessioners, as well as volunteer services provided by Alaskan residents. State Parks need more freedom to generate income from sale of maps, locally generated crafts and souvenirs, interpretive and informative brochures to tourists, and other park users.

I am a member of the Northern Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, and am a retired UAF professor in the environmental sciences. Through many visits to Alaska's State Parks with family, friends, and university students, I appreciate the role that the parks have played in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Alaskans. But I also appreciate the role parks have played as natural laboratories where park users, especially my own children, grandchildren, friends, and university students have gained appreciation for the natural environment within Alaska's parks and have increased their understanding of the basic ecological processes within the Alaskan environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "K".

David R. Klein

2027 Weston Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

7278 East Bogard Road, Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 745-3975 Fax (907) 745-0938

February 19th 2016

Representative Mark Neuman
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Neuman:

The following State Parks Citizen Advisory Boards from across Alaska recognize the critical budget crisis we all face. We also recognize the important role parks play in fueling Alaska's economy by supporting the state's tourism industry and by providing outdoor recreational opportunities for all Alaskans as well as visitors to Alaska. The user fees from all park visitors provide the major support for necessary park maintenance. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, 559 non-competitive commercial use permits were issued to small businesses operating inside Alaska State Parks. These businesses paid the state \$975,255 in application and permit fees.

Last year, Alaska State Parks budget reductions targeted actions that minimized loss of revenues. Further reductions in Fiscal Year 2017 budget (reductions) will have a significant negative impact on the revenue currently generated by closing some facilities and reducing maintenance at others. We respectfully ask that the Alaska State Legislature fund an unreduced operating budget for the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation that will allow for the continued maintenance of the infrastructure of our parks.

In order to create a successful and sustainable park system, it is essential that all revenues from state park program receipts are appropriated in their entirety back to state parks by the legislature. It is also critical that the division broadens its funding sources. Therefore we ask that you support the division's efforts to generate new revenue through the creation of major profit centers, such as completing the South Denali Visitor Center, and allowing state park merchandise to be sold by the division for a profit. An example of this would be selling artwork created through the Artist in Residency program.

Alaska State Parks is working to broaden funding sources to become more self sufficient. Your help is needed. Please support a *status quo* FY 2017 operating budget that keeps funding at FY 2016 levels, new revenue strategies that will allow DPOR to seek new sources of income, and appropriate all revenues from state park program receipts in their entirety back to state parks.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Norman Piispanen

80E7450035CF47E

Northern Area State Park Citizens Advisory Board
Norm Piispanen, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Howard W. Valley

C48C2B94AEED485

Kodiak State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
Howard Valley, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Lindsay Wolter

8F780AA7DC2B4F7

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Lindsay Wolter, Chair

DocuSigned by:

John Wilcock

337F9CE7CF5A423

Juneau Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
John Wilcock, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory, Jan Hill

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Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council
Jan Hill, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Rick Sinnott

6DBC83908BC144C

Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board
Rick Sinnott, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Gregory R. Ronnback

E0B7DA2832BD4A8

Mat-Su/ Copper Basin Area State Parks
Citizen Advisory Board
Greg Ronnback, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Ketchikan State Parks, Susan Bethel

E2E78D75008C48F

Ketchikan State Parks Citizen Advisory
Board Susan Bethel, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Seward State Parks CIB, Paul Paquette

5D177702F880474

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board
Paul Paquette, Chair

cc. Members of the 29th Legislative Session



Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.

A non-profit, community service organization

March 8, 2016

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

We were dismayed to see your recent recommendation to eliminate state funding to Alaska Public Broadcasting. We have appreciated your support on other issues, and would like to find a way to convince you of the importance of our little radio station in Talkeetna, KTNA. State and federal funding has always been vital to rural broadcasting, and it has been state legislative support as well as that of Rep. Young and Senator Murkowski that KTNA has made this possible. Don Young especially has spoken up for public radio at the federal level as an integral part of communication statewide and especially in remote areas.

The digital age has made many communication options available to people in our area, but in remote locations many citizens' only connection is through radio, and in our area KTNA is the only station they can receive. When it comes to local news, KTNA is the only option for all of us.

There may be a number of your constituents in the KTNA listening area who do not regularly listen to KTNA, but in times of flood, fire or other emergency, there is no other place to go without an internet connection.

But it is more than emergencies, news and communication with remote areas that make KTNA important. KTNA is the glue that holds our culture together. Our airwaves, our Facebook page and our website help to keep interested people informed of social and cultural activities, and political activities such as reports on Community Council meetings, voting information and legislative affairs. We urge you to read through the Announcements at ktna.org to see the diversity and plentitude of activities and other items of local interest that are there.

We believe that public television is equally important but beyond the scope of this letter, as there are no local television stations up here, but we would

Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 608, Talkeetna AK 99676


like to voice our appreciation for the excellent and indispensable work that 360 North and KTOO do on Gavel to Gavel.

We understand that budget cuts must be made. KTNA has and will continue to make hard financial choices that have already had impacts on our citizens. However, cutting state funding completely would likely be a deathblow to KTNA services which we need and which took so much effort and resources to create.

We urge you to reconsider your position and help keep the information flowing in the great state of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your continued representation of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Button". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul J. Button
Member, Board of Directors
Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.

From: thmorse2000@yahoo.com
To: [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#)
Subject: Universities and Athletics
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:39:27 AM

To the Alaska State Legislature:

Athletics have no place in higher education. To quote U. of Chicago president Robert Hutchins - "Football, fraternities, and fun have no place at a university. They were invented to entertain those who should not be in the university. ... We Americans are the only people in human history who got sports mixed up with higher education". The sports industry treats children and adults alike as slabs of meat, cash cows, and then throws them away. Universities should have nothing to do with the corrupt and impotent NCAA.

European universities, often superior to those in America, do not have intercollegiate sports programs. They understand that universities are meant only for education, and wonder why we tolerate the nonstop hypocrisy and scandals of our college athletic programs. Students receiving "athletic scholarships" (a contradiction in terms) should instead work part-time jobs, apply for financial aid, and manage their finances wisely, like the rest of the student population. Financial aid for higher education should be based upon academic, not athletic, ability. Scholarships are for scholars.

College administrators and politicians love to build money-sucking monuments to themselves (the LIO Building, the Alaska Airlines Center, etc.), crippling the budgets of those whom they profess to serve. It is not surprising that the University of Alaska, with its palatial athletic facilities and bloated administration, is crying poverty over its academic programs. It needs to be an absolute requirement that the University Board of Regents, president, and chancellors all put academics unconditionally above athletics and administration. The impending budget cuts require that the University of Alaska preserve its scholastic integrity by abolishing its athletic programs and reduce drastically its administrative infrastructure and costs.

Thomas H. Morse

UAA Math and Chemistry Faculty

thmorse@uaa.alaska.edu

From: [KReardon](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Input on Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:26:10 AM

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am pleased you are asking for Alaskans to voice their opinions on our current fiscal situation and decisions that must be made to ensure a healthy and stable future for our state. I am retired and want to stay in a vibrant Alaska. My husband is currently working with an engineering firm and our 22 year old son wants to return to Alaska to live and work after finishing college in architecture . My family has a vested interest in keeping the economy strong & our housing market stable. We do believe in some government spending cut-backs – However, this must be balanced with continued services that make Alaska a good place to work and live. We believe we need to develop new revenue sources to keep our economy strong and our state's credit rating at triple AAA. Our big 3 oil companies are cutting back as there is a national over supply of oil right now and very low prices. We will see oil company lay-offs that will have an impact on our economy. We want to encourage these oil engineers and other professionals to stay by keeping other sector jobs strong. Cutting away only at the government and state agencies also creates job losses for many Alaskans and again we need people to stay and find work here.

My family strongly urges a balanced approach & moving this direction this YEAR!

Yes-Use the Permanent Fund earnings in some manner that maintains the fund-Percent of Market value-Or similar strategy

Yes-It is fine to limit or lower the dividend-We have had 30 YEARS of this FREE RIDE & it is time to pay the piper

Yes-Look at a restructuring of the oil company tax & subsidy structure

Yes-Implement a fair income &/or sales tax that make people aware of the costs

Yes-Drop the Medicare Expansion law suit

Yes-Move Anch offices to the Atwood Building

Thank-You

Kerry Reardon

907-338-1183 hm

reardonscher@gci.net

From: [Richard Dormer](#)
To: [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: HB256 and education funding
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:40:30 PM

Hello.

My name is Richard Dormer, and I am the Principal of Petersburg High School and Mitkof Middle School. I also serve as the Region 5 representative on the AASSP board.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Thank you also for your strong past support of education. I do appreciate the difficulty in which you find yourselves as our legislative leaders. Please continue to fight for our students, as they are our future leaders and they need your ongoing support.

Please recognize that without strong teachers and adequate support for students, we will not have capable doctors, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs, etc. in our great state.

I strongly encourage you to take the appropriate steps to craft a sustainable budget that includes funding the BSA at 100% including the \$50 increase over FY16. Please hold the BSA steady. Doing otherwise will dramatically impact classrooms and students. This could be utilizing some version of Governor Walker's plan. **Accessing the permanent fund earnings this spring to begin to address the shortfall is non-negotiable.** We cannot continue to give out money when our students could be facing large class sizes, reduction in support and resources, or more challenging situations.

Please recognize that such severe cuts to DEED will impact the department's ability to provide support to districts, which will have an impact on students.

Thank you for your time today and for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Rick Dormer, Principal

Petersburg High School / Mitkof Middle School

AASSP Region V Representative

rdormer@pcsd.us

907.772.3861 IMAGINE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

<http://www.pcsd.us>

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From: [Alice Murr](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Stop feeling bad for doing your job
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:32:48 PM

I feel sorry for all the bashing you are receive and that everyone is paddling their own canoe.
You have a job to do and you
are not going to make people happy - STOP TRYING. There are tough cuts to be make but it
has to be done - NOW>

You have taken flack over senior cuts and heating assistance. The longevity bonus stopped
taking applications in 1997 and
was discontinued in 2003 = SO WHY WAS IT REINACTED on a low income basis = it is no
longer a senior longevity bonus
but another welfare handout. I am sorry people made a decision to live in such a high cost of
living state without planning or
they chose to move to Alaska just for the benefits. Please keep in mind that Alaska's money
belong to all Alaskans. Also most of
these people have housing assistance and/or Hud home loans, energy assistance etc., so as
their income goes down so does rent and
mortgage payment and food assistance goes up on a federal level. Most are on Medicaid and
they should take in to consideration the hundreds of thousand
of dollars the state and feds are paying on there behalf. None of these programs are sustainable
in the budget and as the population
of Alaska ages it is only going to get worse.

As a working senior I pay 4 times the normal amount for my Medicare each month to help pay
for Medicaid, I don't like it but it is
what it is. Below is an article from the Juneau Empire in 2003 about the longevity bonus
being stopped. Please read it and
please think before enacting any more programs that are not sustainable in the years to come.
One in mind is the paid cost
of health insurance for persons killed on the job - even families of fallen military in war still
have to pay for there health insurance,
as the cost of health care insurance continues to go up this is an unfunded liability the state
can not afford.

Losing the longevity bonus

As deadline for last check approaches, seniors look for answers

Posted: Thursday, July 17, 2003

By TIMOTHY INKLEBARGER

JUNEAU EMPIRE © 2003

For some of the state's 18,000 seniors who receive longevity bonuses, August's final check
may mean fewer trips in the future to see family in the Lower 48.

For others, loss of the monthly income may mean moving to the Lower 48 because they can't
afford to stay in Alaska.

Since its creation in 1972, the Longevity Bonus Program has provided Alaskans 65 and older
with monthly checks of up to \$250.

Gov. Frank Murkowski vetoed funding for the \$45 million program last month as a cost-
saving measure to the state. The program started as an effort to reward seniors who had been

around since statehood, but as it grew more expensive and as oil revenue began to decline, the Legislature changed the program to stop accepting new recipients in 1997.

At the Juneau Senior Center downtown, many recipients of the bonus gather daily for a free lunch and a little camaraderie.

Over a steaming bowl of chicken pot pie, Ruth Kenworthy, 83, who lives next door at the Mountain View Apartments, explained losing the bonus won't leave her in dire straits - but it probably will keep her from doing some of the things she used to do.

"I don't require too much for myself for entertainment," said Kenworthy, who was left partially disabled four years ago after suffering a stroke. "But I won't be able to give presents and help my grandchildren."

Kenworthy, who receives a \$250 longevity bonus check each month, has lived in Alaska since 1950. Over the years she has worked as a teacher in Eagle, a small community northeast of Tok on the Yukon River, and for the state Department of Labor and the Division of Occupational Safety.

"I'm fortunate because I receive retirement from the state and Social Security," she said.

Kenworthy, however, noted that some of her friends at Mountain View are thinking of leaving the state.

"Some said they would have to move down south because they can't afford the rent," she said.

Mountain View Apartments provides about 80 of the 583 senior housing units across the state that are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to Sherrie Simmonds, a spokeswoman for the Alaska Housing Finance Corp.

Seniors who live in subsidized housing such as Mountain View pay a third of their adjusted gross income in rent. That includes income received through the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend program and the Longevity Bonus Program.

As a result, the percentage of rent covered by the state through longevity bonus money will be passed on to the federal government, Simmonds said.

"Since their income goes down, the amount of rent they pay will go down and the subsidy from HUD will increase," she said.

Simmonds said the demand for subsidized housing for seniors likely will increase once the bonus program ends next month. The change likely will be taxing for a senior housing program that is already maxed out statewide. The waiting list for senior housing in Juneau is 11 people, but Simmonds noted that the turnover can be as quick as a few weeks or a few months.

Subsidized housing could be the fate for some in Juneau who say the loss of the longevity bonus will make it hard to keep up with property taxes.

Connie Paddock, 83, a former chief clerk for the state House of Representatives, eats lunch at the Juneau Senior Center every Tuesday and Thursday and receives \$250 a month in her longevity bonus check.

She said cutting the program could put her in jeopardy of losing the house where she has lived for the past 38 years.

"I live in my own home and use the money to pay my property taxes," she said, noting that she pays about \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year in taxes. "I would hate to give up my home."

Respectfully,

A 60 yr resident of Alaska

From: [Judy Brakel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: UAF Cooperative Extension Service
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:03:27 PM

To the House and Senate Finance Committees:

I support continued state funding of the UAF Extension Service, which also receives federal matching funds. The Extension Service helps people grow food, as well as helping teach about processing wild and garden foods for storage. It also does good things for kids, as I know from my grandson, who has attended several of the Alaska outdoor skills camps held near Juneau.

Local food is only going to become more important in Alaska now that there will be less money around, ferry services will be reduced, etc. Depending more on local food also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is considered the most greenhouse gas intensive aspect of the US food system. One hears that the average bite of food eaten by people in the US has traveled 1,400 miles. Add another thousand miles to that and you're getting it to Alaska. Our household depends at least 50% on local food (garden, gathering, fishing, hunting) so I know local food is practical, especially in our smaller communities. The Extension Service is needed for raising public consciousness about the value and feasibility of eating locally. Rather than cutting this program, it should be publicized more and be a part of a shift in how we provide for ourselves.

Thank you, Judy Brakel Gustavus, Alaska, 907-697-2287

From: [Bob Adrienne Koon](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Commercial Fishing Boat Licenses and Poundage Fees
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:43:56 PM

In order to generate new revenue I propose Alaska impose an annual nonresident boat and crew licensing requirement.

If a boat is home ported from out of state Alaska would require the vessel to purchase an annual nonresident fishing permit of \$25,000.00 for the vessel to fish Alaska waters..

A nonresident captain license fee would be \$5000.00, and a nonresident crew members fee would be \$1,000.00 annually. Alaska would require fish processors to pay the vessel fee and an annual rate of \$0.20 cents per pound for all fish harvested and processed off shore, or transported to Seattle or Portland for processing. Fish processed in Alaska Canneries would not be subject to the process poundage fee.

This action would encourage fish processors to process their annual harvest at local canneries, enhancing Alaskans employment. Charging Captain and Crew licensing fees would also enhance local hires from in state.

Robert Koon

Eagle River, Alaska

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Lisa Vukasin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Finance
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:22:53 PM

My name is _Lisa Vukasin_ an I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending to the House Finance Committee that the grants line within the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be funded at \$12,652,700. While this represents a decrease from FY16, it will allow the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support.

Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

I believe that the time has come to look at the money we give to retired senators and congress.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Joel Randrup](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: HFIN
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:10:18 PM

Dear Representative Neuman,

Thank you for your work on the budget and informing the public. The process is very hard to understand and follow for us in the public but we are paying attention. The cuts are a hard part of this process, but I believe we need a leaner government in our state before asking the public to help pay for it. It seems its time to start having some of the services we enjoy to start paying their own way. I am a commercial fisherman and have been in the private sector my entire working career. My views are not to keep subsidizing programs just because we have before. I am willing to help and I understand that I will need to. I only ask that the cuts continue so we don't break the private sector before the help we can give will be needed.

Please look for more cuts and hold the line on proposed cuts

Then we can explore new revenue sources

Finally we can look at a "sustainable" draw from the permanent fund earnings

I also like the ISER reports for a target 4.5 Billion budget and hope we can get there.

Thank you,
Joel Randrup
Petersburg, AK

From: [Maria Pointer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for Public Broadcasting and AMHS.
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:00:05 AM

Your job seems impossible with all the needs of our great state, but we have faith that your solution will keep Alaska functioning and moving forward.

My name is Captain Maria Crowl - Pointer Ret. and I was the first female deckhand in S.E. with the AMHS. In the early 70s life in Alaska was dangerous and bleak for me at times. I lived and worked in many difficult situations and isolated places. Working and living on the water by myself, an Exxon tanker or with the AMHS, I always counter on two things in Alaska, a public broadcasting system every vessel depends on, and a merchant fleet such as the AMHS, that could respond to any emergency.

Growing up from my teens to now retired, I never imagined a day when lifelines of Alaska could legally be jeopardized with budget cuts. I own two properties that have both suffered from earthquake or flooding, which public broadcasting was my only venue for vital information. Countless other times I've depended on a public broadcasting stations as they reach far into the needs of outlying regions. KHNS in the upper Lynn Canal is the lifeline to a vast region that suffers much earthquake, weather, and transportation needs just to name a few. As a board member with KHNS any further cuts, let alone 100%, would isolate the area beyond safety. We will lose our federal dollars with other standing grants when you pull further funds. Our growth in the upper Lynn Canal depends on transportation and information. Business, education, and tourism will falter with your budget proposals.

Alaska has more than a uniqueness, it is so vast that we requires public broadcasting to protect her people from disasters, alerts and even as far as keeping our political awareness from taking the wrong course. I urge you to think outside the box, keep Alaska growing in the right direction, introduce a tax, or take a wage cut as we all have suffered with losses and possibly more without our oil profits.

Smoother sailing is always ahead if you stay at the helm and change course, as storms physically can't last forever. There is always calm seas in days to come. Sometimes it is just a change in the tide that makes all the difference. You were elected to be that change in tide of our storm in this oil based budget. Alaska needs to stay the course with her programs you were elected to keep off the rocks, command is hard at best, but please don't sink our future. Find a better course that will ride out this storm and learn from this passage we went down depending on a volatile oil market. In other words, don't chart the same course in the next storm as the tides always change.

May God grant you wisdom and calmer seas.

Capt. Maria Crowl-Pointer, Ret.
P.O. Box 715
Haines, AK 99827

From: [Pugh, Gregory S CTR MDA/ICTA](#)
To: [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#)
Subject: Budget Testimony/Manifesto
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:18:23 AM
Attachments: [Dear Legislature.docx](#)

Dear Legislature,

My name is Gregory Pugh and I live in Palmer inside of district 12 of our wonderful state. I am a husband (to an Alaskan native), father (to four daughters), and son to a special family that all of us can relate and embrace as fellow Alaskans. I realize this email is long but my voice needs to be heard that 2 minutes of public testimony simply does not allow addressing. I want to quote Dave Ramsey as a platform for this email and my concerns as I see this legislation session headed and our state in regards to sustained government size. Dave Ramsey states, "A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went". I am a veteran to this great nation and I work for DOD still today and I have seen DOD severely cut over the last 5 years to over 60% in my particular section and growing. I know people do not want to lose jobs or services, but the private sector and most federal government organizations are reducing at a high level because our economy cannot sustain current levels of spending. Taxing more to people who are losing their jobs or losing their wages to lower wages creates more people needing more assistance.

We simply cannot break the people who are barely surviving because entitlement programs look like the right thing to fund today with no regard to future impact. I hear a lot that if we do nothing right now about our budget or we do not use the PFD and create a state income tax we are going to be in real trouble. I would say if we keep spending money we do not have the consequences are more severe and costly to many more generations to follow. We simply cannot do business of the past as it has shown all of us a complete failure and costly mistake. We have a grand opportunity at this time to do a complete reset of our priorities as a state government and steer our government to a place of true value for all Alaskans that can be sustained without asking for more money from those who are truly on the brink of financial crises themselves. As a bread winner for my home and responsible adult to my family, I understand the major responsibility I have to sustain my family, make hard choices, and live within my means to ensure my family is healthy and safe. As with most hard working Alaskans, we have to adjust our living expenses with the flow that comes to us by our pay checks or investments. We have to tighten our belts when required and we spend at times when we have the opportunity to spend a little more. With many jobs in the private sector leaving this state and the massive reductions to military that will occur, it needs to be understood that asking for more money from Alaskans in a time where jobs, good paying jobs, are scarce. Who will pay this burden if it happens as this state will see over 10% unemployment in the near future?

The quote mentioned above is my cornerstone to my everyday life and a gentle reminder that I have to be a steward of my finances and I am ultimately responsible how I spend my money. I have to give an account for every dollar that flows through my home and ensure that every dollar is spent to the fullest extent to benefit my family today but spare money for tomorrow. I never wonder where my money went and why I used that money for a particular bill or life event. I am challenged to raise my children to understand the value of a dollar and they must use restraint in a society that seems bent to spending well above their value today or tomorrow. I equate that same mentality to our state and nation that has spent itself in a place of debt those generations after me will never see a debt-free liberty that was once spoke loud in every city and town in our nation. I am more than concerned with this mentality and I cannot see a bright future for my children or their children if we continue to advocate that the government is the solution to every issue of individual life that should be paid by taxpayers who work hard to sustain their little piece of the American dream.

Reviewing a government budget is much like going through the attic in an old home. You uncover items in boxes that you ask yourself why they were kept and you reveal keep sakes that seemed at the time a good thing to keep but now have a different value to you with a look of dust and rust. I see much of this states issues like that attic of an old house. We have conducted ourselves like money grew on trees and built keep sakes (state programs/entitlement programs) that we thought we should have because they looked bright and shiny or a family heirloom. We have created several generations where cradle to grave government is what is expected if not desired to the point where a simple motivation to work for a living or leave a legacy of hard work has become null and void. We have demonstrated to our children that hard work is not rewarded and if they succeed their hard work will

be stripped from them in taxes and fees that the local, state, and federal government levies upon them. As a result, the hard working generation loses hope and stop performing and those with their hands out becomes greater and greater.

Over the last month, I have viewed the legislation session on many different media outlets and I have come to the conclusion that most elected officials truly do not understand the crossroads we all find ourselves in at this moment in time of Alaska history. We stand at a four way stop looking at several directions before our eyes. I hear Alaskans that have had government money handed to them for so long that they lost the creative spirit that made this state so great. They have lost the free enterprise and private business mentality and have traded those important traits for a quick government check or new program that someone from a state department can create. It is heartbreaking to see and hear that Alaskans have given up on their ability and embraced the dead end road of government dole. We have been on this road and it has led us to complete meltdown of our economy and our state does not have resources to keep that path viable. We are simply broke and we have to scale down to a place that we can afford.

We have to get to a place where state government is only spending what is constitutionally mandated for the state to finance. We have to get to a place as a society that our constitution like our nation's constitution was written for a purpose to speak for the general welfare of all the people not just minorities, low income, high income, sick, well, and etc. The constitution mandates removes party lines and speaks from a platform that addresses every government dollar that should be spent from taxpayers and state investments. If we stood on a document that has spoken its glorious tune since statehood, we would see that it creates the pursuit of happiness and stimulates the idea of capitalism in a free market system. The government was never designed to stimulate the economy nor was it designed to regulate the private sector out of work as it is doing in this state today. I advocate that our elected officials get back to basics of government and stop and reverse the kingdom that we have built in this state. Our legacy is at stake and what we leave behind for future generations!

I know by now in this very lengthy email, you say what are the solutions in Greg's view? It is easy to speak change with no solutions. I understand that view and I offer several areas that should be done to get us to a place where people can work again and move our state from red to black and will give our children hope for tomorrow. The following are a scratch of the surface that needs to be done:

1. We need a right to work law that allows everyone to be all they can be without being forced to join an organization or allow them to join an organization of their choice not government's choice. This would also allow the practice of government to bid out work that supports the people in a fair market value instead of bloated wages and retirement plans. We need to repeal law that forces Davis Bacon wages for every function of government projects/maintenance. This alone would save the state millions of dollars a year in small projects and major projects and would stimulate competition for all not those with big pockets and special interest.
2. We need to thoroughly walk through the mandates of the state constitution and reveal from those pages what the government should be funding. We should quit making bids to state dollars for the sake of getting federal dollars as matching funds. People need to realize that the federal government is insolvent and why fellow Alaskans are paying more federal taxes because grants of entitlement programs keep growing at a rate of 30 to 40 percent annually nationwide. The very idea that we create more state programs to get more federal money means hard working taxpayers are being syphoned on both ends and the growth of welfare grows and grows.
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I could address the university system in the same context with paying presidents of the university over three-hundred thousand annually and yet students cry over cuts from the state but truly the students need to demand fair wages from their university and they would see no budget cut and actually a surplus that would benefit them. In summation, I have so much more to address and I could say so much more but truly we need to start to roll up our sleeves and get back to work, get government out of the way where we can open our resources to produce and generate a future where this state has a diversity of wealth not just in oil and gas. We need to repeal regulations and laws that push taxpayers to fund a level of government that truly is not constitutional of our state. Alaska truly has a golden opportunity right now to correct the mistakes of the past and reduce government to a place that matches this states revenue. We have a chance to put people back to work and reduce out of market inflation on wages and projects by simply opening up a competition in the private sector that will allow all Alaskans to benefit not just a few. I am a voter and I am watching from a far but right now there are elected officials in Juneau that truly need to wake up and start working for the people as a whole piece and not just minority groups or special interest. We need leaders who will stand for the future at any cost and I know that will require courage and a mindset to ignore the next election.

Gregory S. Pugh

Dear Legislature,

My name is Gregory Pugh and I live in Palmer inside of district 12 of our wonderful state. I am a husband (to an Alaskan native), father (to four daughters), and son to a special family that all of us can relate and embrace as fellow Alaskans. I realize this email is long but my voice needs to be heard that 2 minutes of public testimony simply does not allow addressing. I want to quote Dave Ramsey as a platform for this email and my concerns as I see this legislation session headed and our state in regards to sustained government size. Dave Ramsey states, "A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went". I am a veteran to this great nation and I work for DOD still today and I have seen DOD severely cut over the last 5 years to over 60% in my particular section and growing. I know people do not want to lose jobs or services, but the private sector and most federal government organizations are reducing at a high level because our economy cannot sustain current levels of spending. Taxing more to people who are losing their jobs or losing their wages to lower wages creates more people needing more assistance.

We simply cannot break the people who are barely surviving because entitlement programs look like the right thing to fund today with no regard to future impact. I hear a lot that if we do nothing right now about our budget or we do not use the PFD and create a state income tax we are going to be in real trouble. I would say if we keep spending money we do not have the consequences are more severe and costly to many more generations to follow. We simply cannot do business of the past as it has shown all of us a complete failure and costly mistake. We have a grand opportunity at this time to do a complete reset of our priorities as a state government and steer our government to a place of true value for all Alaskans that can be sustained without asking for more money from those who are truly on the brink of financial crises themselves. As a bread winner for my home and responsible adult to my family, I understand the major responsibility I have to sustain my family, make hard choices, and live within my means to ensure my family is healthy and safe. As with most hard working Alaskans, we have to adjust our living expenses with the flow that comes to us by our pay checks or investments. We have to tighten our belts when required and we spend at times when we have the opportunity to spend a little more. With many jobs in the private sector leaving this state and the massive reductions to military that will occur, it needs to be understood that asking for more money from Alaskans in a time where jobs, good paying jobs, are scarce. Who will pay this burden if it happens as this state will see over 10% unemployment in the near future?

The quote mentioned above is my cornerstone to my everyday life and a gentle reminder that I have to be a steward of my finances and I am ultimately responsible how I spend my money. I have to give an account for every dollar that flows through my home and ensure that every dollar is spent to the fullest extent to benefit my family today but spare money for tomorrow. I never wonder where my money went and why I used that money for a particular bill or life event. I am challenged to raise my children to understand the value of a dollar and they must use restraint in a society that seems bent to spending well above their value today or tomorrow. I equate that same mentality to our state and nation that has spent itself in a place of debt those generations after me will never see a debt-free

liberty that was once spoke loud in every city and town in our nation. I am more than concerned with this mentality and I cannot see a bright future for my children or their children if we continue to advocate that the government is the solution to every issue of individual life that should be paid by taxpayers who work hard to sustain their little piece of the American dream.

Reviewing a government budget is much like going through the attic in an old home. You uncover items in boxes that you ask yourself why they were kept and you reveal keep sakes that seemed at the time a good thing to keep but now have a different value to you with a look of dust and rust. I see much of this states issues like that attic of an old house. We have conducted ourselves like money grew on trees and built keep sakes (state programs/entitlement programs) that we thought we should have because they looked bright and shiny or a family heirloom. We have created several generations where cradle to grave government is what is expected if not desired to the point where a simple motivation to work for a living or leave a legacy of hard work has become null and void. We have demonstrated to our children that hard work is not rewarded and if they succeed their hard work will be stripped from them in taxes and fees that the local, state, and federal government levies upon them. As a result, the hard working generation loses hope and stop performing and those with their hands out becomes greater and greater.

Over the last month, I have viewed the legislation session on many different media outlets and I have come to the conclusion that most elected officials truly do not understand the crossroads we all find ourselves in at this moment in time of Alaska history. We stand at a four way stop looking at several directions before our eyes. I hear Alaskans that have had government money handed to them for so long that they lost the creative spirit that made this state so great. They have lost the free enterprise and private business mentality and have traded those important traits for a quick government check or new program that someone from a state department can create. It is heartbreaking to see and hear that Alaskans have given up on their ability and embraced the dead end road of government dole. We have been on this road and it has led us to complete meltdown of our economy and our state does not have resources to keep that path viable. We are simply broke and we have to scale down to a place that we can afford.

We have to get to a place where state government is only spending what is constitutionally mandated for the state to finance. We have to get to a place as a society that our constitution like our nation's constitution was written for a purpose to speak for the general welfare of all the people not just minorities, low income, high income, sick, well, and etc. The constitution mandates removes party lines and speaks from a platform that addresses every government dollar that should be spent from taxpayers and state investments. If we stood on a document that has spoken its glorious tune since statehood, we would see that it creates the pursuit of happiness and stimulates the idea of capitalism in a free market system. The government was never designed to stimulate the economy nor was it designed to regulate the private sector out of work as it is doing in this state today. I advocate that our elected officials get back to basics of government and stop and reverse the kingdom that we have built in this state. Our legacy is at stake and what we leave behind for future generations!

I know by now in this very lengthy email, you say what are the solutions in Greg's view? It is easy to speak change with no solutions. I understand that view and I offer several areas that should be done to get us to a place where people can work again and move our state from red to black and will give our children hope for tomorrow. The following are a scratch of the surface that needs to be done:

1. We need a right to work law that allows everyone to be all they can be without being forced to join an organization or allow them to join an organization of their choice not government's choice. This would also allow the practice of government to bid out work that supports the people in a fair market value instead of bloated wages and retirement plans. We need to repeal law that forces Davis Bacon wages for every function of government projects/maintenance. This alone would save the state millions of dollars a year in small projects and major projects and would stimulate competition for all not those with big pockets and special interest.
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From: [Andrea Story](#)
To: [Andrea Story](#)
Subject: Support for University of Alaska's Funding Request
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:27:59 AM

Dear State of Alaska Representatives and Senators,

I am reaching out to you not only as a lifelong (and third generation) Alaskan and proud alumna of the University Alaska Anchorage, but also as a business owner whose firm relies heavily on graduates of the University of Alaska to fill our staff across all areas of our business. I understand fully the dire fiscal situation the State is in and truly appreciate your efforts towards coming up with a solution all Alaskans can live with.

I am one of 30 owners of a long-time Alaskan professional services consulting firm – R&M CONSULTANTS, INC. R&M has a 47-year history in Alaska, one that would not be possible without the contributions of many University of Alaska graduates and the specialized arctic expertise they bring to our firm. R&M's founder was a UAF professor before being lured away to start R&M and perform geotechnical engineering on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. R&M currently has 110 employees between our Anchorage headquarters and our Fairbanks branch office. Of these, 52 employees are graduates of the University of Alaska (40 from UAA, 12 from UAF), including graduates from a variety of programs: civil engineering, arctic engineering, geological engineering, geology, geomatics, accounting, communications, geography and marketing. Each summer we also have a robust intern program that typically includes several University of Alaska students as interns in our materials laboratory and construction administration, earth sciences, engineering and land surveying departments. As you can see, the University of Alaska plays a vital role in our ability to staff our business with quality employees who in turn provide their knowledge, experience and innovation on infrastructure projects that improve the everyday lives of Alaskans.

I am also concerned that significant cuts to the University's budget will serve as a deterrent to local high school graduates staying in state and attending the University of Alaska. I graduated from Nenana High School in 1989, and was a solid student and accepted at a number of quality universities outside of Alaska. The thing that kept me here was a Chancellor's scholarship from UAA, which granted me a tuition waiver for my first year of school, and led to me receiving my degree and calling Anchorage home for the past 27 years. I can honestly say that if I had gone out of state for school, I likely would not be living here now. We cannot afford to gut our university system to the point local high school graduates don't want to go to school here. As an alumna and a mother of three soon-to-be college students, I want to be able to talk to my kids and to their friends about why they should consider the University of Alaska as a viable college option.

As a very active voting constituent and on behalf of R&M, I strongly urge you to support the University's budget request and provide them with funding that allows the University to continue providing quality education to all Alaskans. I firmly believe it takes a great university to make a great state and the University of Alaska cannot be great with inadequate funding.

Andrea Story, CPSM *Vice President, Marketing and Business Development*

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