
From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:39 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Oppose PFD cap & new taxes

From: Ric Plate [mailto:ricplate@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 1:40 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose PFD cap & new taxes

Dear Representative Thompson,

I am writing to ask you to oppose any changes or caps to the PFD dividends and adding new state taxes.

I have worked for and with the State and I know there is a lot of state waste. The state has mismanaged spending for many years and the state government has grown way too large in size. Sadly the state has not had the foresight to limit spending and save during years of abundance; instead of being fiscally responsible the state wants to put the burden on the people. Until the state can get its financial house in order you should not punish the people of the State of Alaska by reducing the PFD dividends and/or adding more taxes. To do so is a betrayal of the people.

Many of us are on fixed or low incomes and reducing the PFD or adding taxes is an additional hardship on us.

Please think of the impact capping the PFD and/or adding taxes will have to everyone in Alaska.

Please do not reduce or cap the PFD and please do not add more taxes.

Thank you,

Ric Plate

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: POMV

From: Ronald Johnson [mailto:rajohnson@alaska.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:50 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: POMV

Dear Rep Thompson,

RE the governor's fiscal revenue plan, I so disagree with the unfairness argument re PFD vs 6 % In Tax. The argument for, say, a family of 4 making 40 K/yr, is a PFD reduction from 2K to 1 K = 4K/yr drop = 10 % of income.

Whereas, a 6 % I tax ~ 1 % drop in AGI is a lesser hit for the "wealthy". I think a more honest argument is to take the average PFD ~ 1K over last 20 yrs so Gov's plan would have no decrease in PFD. Hence, one has a 0 % hit for lower incomes vs 1 % hit for better off.

Obviously, life is more complex than this.

--
Ron Johnson
Professor Emeritus
Mechanical and Environmental Engineering
Univ of Alaska Fairbanks

2113 Jack St
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:23 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 245 (and HB 250)

From: Tom Boutin [mailto:bOutin@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:15 AM
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; representative.scott.kawasaki@akleg.gov'; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 245 (and HB 250)

Good morning honorable ladies and gentlemen,

Alaskans have to be told that state and municipal government is a measure of our consumption, but it's productivity we need. We need to produce something that replaces lost oil volume and value; otherwise our consumption will dramatically contract no matter what the 29th and 30th Alaska Legislatures do. Many would establish a tension between the private and public sectors, but that is a false choice.

People who propose an income tax have no apparent understanding of basic Economics. We are 700,000 people wearing out Boeings, Subarus, and Iphones. We consume Nabisco cookies and Fred Meyer milk. We produce none of those. We produce less of what we consume than any other state, and we may consume more per capita than any other state.

The people at Boeing and Nabisco need to get paid. We cannot give our suppliers a picture of a state employee and tell them we no longer produce nearly as much state product as we once did but on your behalf we have provided this state employee with a job. An income tax promotes the myth that we can create an economy if I take my laundry and a \$20 bill down to the SOB and exchange it with Jerry Burnett for his laundry and his \$20 bill. That pays no one at Boeing, Subaru or Nabisco, even if Jerry and I exchange laundry every day.

When common sense and Economics teaching intersect we have to pay attention. We cannot support the government that we built with oil by taxing one another. We cannot take in each other's laundry to somehow pay for the goods we consume. Either we increase production of something that we can trade for the Boeings, Subarus and cookies, or we reduce our consumption. State government is a measure of our consumption, not our production. I know you can all see that.

We can of course divert Permanent Fund earnings, including capital gains, to prop up state spending. Objective Alaskans would agree that spending on government could be a better use of PF earnings than is the PFD, and both uses represent consumption. Moreover, diverting PF earnings does not penalize working and productivity as taxes do. Taxing the private sector to prop up consumption will hurt all Alaskans in the mid-term and long term. At the same time, it seems that Alaskans need to see larger operating budget cuts before a consensus on using PF earnings develops.

Fewer than half of Alaskans pay a federal income tax according to what I read. So a state income tax would tax a minority of Alaskans, and only those who work. Taxing workers and job creators would set up an adverse selection as we re-balance aggregate consumption with current gross state product. We will be lucky if our economy can weather this and repay our \$11 billion of public debt, meet the public employee defined benefits obligations and pay for what the courts will tell us the Constitution requires. An income tax would exacerbate the problem, and the workers and job creators who leave will not take a share of the public debt and other obligations with them.

A state income tax is deductible only for those who itemize – forego the standard deduction. So for 2015 the deductibility for a married couple of an Alaska income tax would have begun at the twelve thousand six hundred and first dollar. The first \$12,600 would not have been deductible. Only one quarter of those Alaskans who pay a tax itemize according to what I read, and that is why.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for the hard work you do for all Alaskans.

Tomas Boutin
Juneau

From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Support of HB 245

Importance: High

From: Meg Nordale [mailto:meg@ghemm.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:59 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support of HB 245
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you this afternoon in support of HB245 and your efforts to provide fiscal stability for the State of Alaska. I am concerned about the fiscal challenges facing our state. I am concerned about the future of Alaska, for the community of Fairbanks, for the longevity of my general contracting firm and for the opportunities I hope my grandchildren are able to seize just like our forefathers used to create the State we all enjoy today.

I believe the time has come to make the hard decisions required to address the fiscal challenges facing Alaska today. A healthy state economy is crucial for a vigorous and healthy private sector economy in our state. The private sector of Alaska needs to know the State – each of you - are addressing our fiscal challenges. The private sector's future, my business' future, depends upon your proactive work during this legislative session.

HB 245 will provide fiscal stability for Alaska's future. It will provide for stability and start the process of reinvigorating the economy of Alaska. This bill combines the most favorable components of other bills into one bill which will stabilize permanent fund dividends for all Alaskans and uses the bulk of the assets in the form of earnings to diversify Alaska's revenues.

The worst decision is no decision at all and poorly timed decisions are no different. Make the decision now so we all know how the fiscal future can and will be for Alaska.

Thank you for considering my comments. Thank you for doing the hard work that you do for Alaska.

Meg Nordale

GHEMM Company, Inc.

PO Box 70507

Fairbanks, AK 99707

(907) 452-5191 Ph

(907) 460-1069 Cell

(907) 451-7797 Fax



From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 245

From: Bryce Erickson [mailto:BErickson@orionmarinegroup.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:34 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 245

Representatives,

HB 245 is vital piece of legislation that will provide fiscal stability for Alaska's future. The bill combines the most favorable components of other bills into one bill that stabilizes the dividend for all Alaskans and uses the bulk of the assets in the form of earnings to diversify Alaska's revenues. There is no perfect solution but this is a great compromise and we must pass it now, we can't kick the can down the street or the street will become our home.

I write in support of HB245

Thank you

Bryce Erickson
Vice President

Orion Marine Group, Inc.

740 Bonanza Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99518

Phone 907 561 9811

Fax 907 561-9844

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From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 245

From: Robby Capps [mailto:rcapps@fwalaska.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 245

HB 245 is an important piece of legislation that will provide fiscal stability for Alaska's future. The bill combines the most favorable components of other bills into one bill that stabilizes the dividend for all Alaskans and uses the bulk of the assets in the form of earnings to diversify Alaska's revenues.

I write in support of HB245

Thank you

Robby Capps

F&W Construction

(907) 248-3666

From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB245

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

From: Mark Erickson [mailto:marke@massexcavation.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:19 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB245

HB 245 is an important piece of legislation that will provide fiscal stability for Alaska's future. The bill combines the most favorable components of other bills into one bill that stabilizes the dividend for all Alaskans and uses the bulk of the assets in the form of earnings to diversify Alaska's revenues.

I write in support of HB245

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Cynthia Henry testimony

I am here to support HB245 and oppose HB250 which would impose a personal income tax

I appreciate all of your hard work this session, and your willingness to provide this opportunity to speak with you.

This is not an easy time to serve in your positions. It is also not an easy time to operate a retail business in Alaska.

Although home for my husband and me is Fairbanks, our family operates retail stores in the malls in Anchorage.

Our Hallmark stores are seeing the impact of our state's fiscal uncertainty

Our fate is at the mercy of a healthy economy and our customers' job confidence. That confidence is precarious at best. We are observing decreased mall traffic and our customers are being cautious and seem financially insecure. The ripple effect of reduced ^{consumer} spending is accelerating and permeating the Alaska economy.

I am writing to ask that you vote against implementing a personal income tax. As you know, companies in the oil industry are already cutting back and leaving the state. I have grave concerns about the impact of the job losses and uncertainty for Alaska small businesses like mine. Imposing a personal income tax will exacerbate an already weak economy.

After cuts to state government, the best tool we have to address the deficit is to use a portion of the earnings from the permanent fund to pay for government services. The remaining deficit should be funded by the CBR.

Doing this will extend the life of the CBR and maintain a sustainable dividend program. Acting this year saves the dividend, avoids a recession, and maintains the state's bond rating.

~~Additionally~~, enacting legislation utilizing the earnings from the Permanent Fund combined with a draw from the CBR will provide some certainty to the private sector that the legislature is steadily managing the state fiscal challenge. This action will protect private sector jobs and support continued private sector investment.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the committee.

Target 4.5... How Do We Get There?

5.2Billion is the big number in the Governor's Budget Plan...that incorporates a host of new taxes and a change in the PFD structure and formula. Below is how #ProtectThePFD proposes to structure the FY17 budget with cuts and revenues aimed at minimal impact upon Alaskans.

\$5,200,000,000

- 250,000,000 Vacant, but funded Job Positions
 - 220,000,000 Revert Medicaid to basic coverage
 - 200,000,000 Restructuring of the Education System
- = 4.53 Billion...

How to pay for it:

\$4.5 Billion UGF Budget

- \$1.2 Billion Oil revenue
 - \$3.3 Billion from Savings
- = \$0

\$3.3 Billion draw leaves savings of \$12.9 Billion

Unless oil revenues spike dramatically in the next year, in order to get back in-line with inflation... the State of Alaska is going to have to cut another \$500 Million in FY18 and then yet another \$2-300 Million in FY19. The actual with inflation UGF number in Alaska is \$3.8 Billion, but doing it all at once would literally shock the economy and culture of Alaska.



*HB 245
Public Testimony*

Founded 1975

Executive Director
Marleanna Hall

2015-2016

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Governor Bill Walker



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Steve Thompson
Alaska State House
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Committee Substitutes for SB 128 and HB 245

Dear Representative Thompson:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) applauds the legislature with putting forward the new versions of SB 128 and HB 245, which represent the important foundation for a much-needed long-term fiscal plan for the State. At the same time, RDC strongly opposes any linkage of this important step forward with the major step backwards contained in the oil tax bills (SB 130/HB 247).

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

For more than 20 years, RDC has advocated for a long-term fiscal plan for the State of Alaska.

RDC appreciates and supports the efforts of the respective House and Senate Finance Committees and the Administration to reach consensus around one of the most important aspects of such a long-range plan; prudent use of our state's savings and investment assets to address the budget deficit and provide a long-term, sustainable revenue source. The Committee Substitutes for SB 128 and HB 245 are an important step in this direction.

Unfortunately, the Committee Substitutes for SB 128 and HB 245 are being tied to extracting more revenue from the private sector when they are linked to oil tax credit bills. It is the private sector who has "skin in the game," and which drives our state's resource-based economy. The idea and timing of taking more money from the investors who drive our economy could not be worse as many production, exploration, and service companies have laid off thousands of Alaskans, and as many are in negative cash flow. Yet State government has maintained essentially flat staffing levels during this current downturn in both energy and commodity prices.

Now is the time to stimulate the private sector. The oil tax bills will extract billions of dollars from the private sector, and will send Alaska's revenue generating sector into a steeper tailspin. We continue to hear that increasing government's take from the private sector is politically tied to taking the prudent step of utilizing our State's savings at this time.

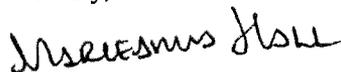
Increasing taxes is not a wise course of action in these tough economic times. To protect Alaska's economy, policy makers must restructure Alaska's savings, as the models show, so that plenty of revenue is provided in the future to fund government, and keep up with inflation.

According to the legislative finance analysis of the new versions of SB 128 and HB 245, the government take line from the private economy resulting from changing the investment tax credits simply increases the projected extra cash reserves that state government would have in year 2025 from \$10 billion to as much as \$13 billion. Alternatively, with no increases in state tax take from the private economy, the Legislative Finance models show that state government will continue to have a \$10 billion cash reserve in ten years.

Thus, RDC believes that the new versions of the savings restructuring bills are a vital step in the right direction, and should be considered on their merits without being tied to increasing the tax take from the sector that drives our state's economy. While it may be politically challenging to fix the budget this session, Alaska must realize a path to sustainability.

RDC appreciates your time and efforts this session, and thanks you for your consideration of our perspective. We look forward to working with the Administration and Legislature to find solutions for Alaska's future.

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall
Executive Director

From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: FW: Please forward to appropriate lawmakers

Helen,
I'm not sure what to do with this testimony...but I'm sure you can figure it out. ;)
Lynette

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 4:34 PM
Subject: FW: Please forward to appropriate lawmakers

Please distribute and enter into the record the emailed testimony below to the bills in your committee:

SB 128 PERM. FUND:DEPOSITS;DIVIDEND;EARNINGS in the Senate Finance Committee
SB 114 PERM FUND: EARNINGS, DEPOSITS, ACCOUNTS in the Senate Finance Committee

HB 250 INDIV. INCOME TAX: CREDITS; RETURNS in the House Finance Committee
SB 134 INDIV. INCOME TAX: CREDITS; RETURNS in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Thank you,
Jennie Hafele
Fairbanks LIO

CC: Interior Delegation Members

HB 245

From: Marin Kuizenga
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:27 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Please forward to appropriate lawmakers

Dear LIO,

Thank you so much for the information provided via phone. I am a proponent of the role of government, and am happy that you are present to receive my comments and direct them on to the appropriate legislators. Thank you for your assistance in forwarding my note. - Marin

Dear Legislature,

I am an average Alaska citizen of 26 years. I own a house in Fairbanks, my company statewide office is based in Fairbanks, supporting academic research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My children attend school

here. I love Alaska and do not plan on leaving however, if you do not deal with our economy, and if you gut our schools and universities, and communities, I will have no choice but to leave, taking my family and discouraging my employer from using this base for our work place. I would like you each to know my views:

1. We need to fundamentally rework Alaska's economy away from its oil-only dependence.
2. We need new revenue. We need a sustainable balanced budget – a visionary plan, not dim-witted cutting
 - a. **I am fine with you taking my PFD, all of it. Take it.**
 - b. **I like government services and am grateful for any number of them. I like my streets plowed, my teachers to be paid, the LIO to exist, and so on. If we must, let's have an income tax.**

I am appalled with the representation the Interior is getting from the likes of Senator Pete Kelly and Representative Tammie Wilson. [And don't even get me started on the guns on college campuses idea. What a nut case.]

I appeal to those who have vision and courage to understand that there are average Alaskans who want what is best for this state, long term. Please work for a better budget that preserves what we have in Alaska, and asks what we can give back to the State.

Thank you,

Marin Kuizenga

1953 Swallow Drive

Fairbanks, AK 99709

polarmarin@gmail.com

From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:45 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: FW: Testimony to be entered into the record

Hi Helen,
Both of these bills are in HFIN. HB 245 was already heard and is rescheduled for 3-18. The other bill hasn't been heard yet. This email was addressed to all the Interior Delegation members. I wasn't sure if you already received it...but wanted to make sure it got into the record.
Thank you,
Lynette

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:14 PM
Subject: Testimony

Topic:
Budget
PFD
Income Tax

Please enter into the record the emailed testimony below to the bills in your committee dated 3/16/2016

PFD: HB 245/SB 128

PFD: SB 114/HB 303

Income Tax: HB 250/SB134

Cc: Interior Delegation members

Thanks,
Jennie
FBX LIO

From: Don Pendergrast
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:37 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: My budget expectations

Alaska Legislators,

Alaska's budget crisis cannot be solved the way our state revenue stream is structured but it can be soothed by thoughtful actions from our elected officials and it's citizens.

The state needs to increase revenue, reallocate resources, spend frugally and wisely, and foster long term economic growth so we are not so dependent on oil and gas revenues. I want to express my views on the subjects above.

Increase revenues by raising taxes.

- Alaska needs an income tax. This is easily implemented with minimum administrative costs since it would be a percentage of the federal income tax that most Alaskans pay.
- A state sales tax is another fair tax. A sales tax is more cumbersome to collect and administer, but everyone pays something. It may be wise to exempt some things (e.g. prescription medicines, or certain costs for seniors), but these should be judiciously applied.

Reallocation of existing resources: the Permanent Fund.

- Our annual dividend must be repurposed to help pay for our expenses. It is foolish to pay a dividend and not collect taxes. The expressed purpose of the Permanent Fund was to be a "rainy day" account and that "rainy day" is here.
- We also need to cut contributions to the principle of the Permanent Fund. We need to use some of these funds for the near future. However the Permanent Fund must continue to grow and we must add what we can to the principle. I suggest decreasing the individual dividend by two dollars for every one dollar withheld from the principal. I think this two to one ratio is important because we cannot give up on saving even during these tough times.

Long-term growth for economies is positively correlated to a well-educated and trained population. The surest way to "grow the pie" in Alaska is to support education and training.

- We do not need to cut funding for our university system, in fact that should be increased, but increases spent wisely to train our future work force. Restructuring our university system may make it more efficient.
- Public schools are the backbone of education, they continue to need adequate funding. Pay increases should be based on merit not length of service. A good teacher is priceless, a poor teacher is, well poor. Schools are often the center of social life in communities, if we want to foster community and our future work force we need to fund not fetter our schools.

We need to transform our resource extraction economy to a value added economy.

- Resource based industries must pay more for the resources they use. Our state needs to increase its taxes on our timber, fishing, and mining industries as well as capturing more from the oil and gas industry by increasing taxes and eliminating subsidies.
- Our tourism industry grows steadily, but also needs a transformation to provide much more than "industrial scale" tourism driven by the large cruise operators to smaller locally owned operations which keep the dollars closer to home, and provide more local employment.

· We can provide economic boosts to local economies by refunding weatherization projects. Energy conservation, particularly here in Alaska, pays immediate returns that last for many years. The least expensive energy is what you don't use. Most energy conservation work is local, benefits to the community are substantial and long lived. It's the smartest place to stimulate our economy.

In our current budget crisis I cannot support and you should not fund dubious mega-projects of questionable financial return. Halt them, defund them and utilize those funds for more immediate needs. Gone are the days when "the costs are the benefits".

A lot rides on your decisions in the next several months; all industries and constituencies will try to influence you to favor them. This is the time to be a statesman not a politician. Your decisions and actions need to be focused on what is best for our state, not your re-election. It is the time to put Alaska's future first and foremost. I am certain you will.

--

Don Pendergrast
1358 Spring Glade Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-479-2964 h
907-750-4902 c

From: Daniel Lester <mutt_76@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; House Finance Legislation
Subject: re: PFD and tough choices

Although I supported Governor Walker in the election, I DO NOT support taking the PFD for any reason. I also would not support any kind of income tax. I do not want to see an income tax of any kind but would not be totally against a sales tax. A state income tax is again only a few paying for the whole. Why not a state sales tax with a permanent cap. A sales tax on all general products sold in our state, not just alcohol and tobacco. This way everyone, including visitors, would help pay for sustaining this state. I know several people who work on the slope from out of state. A sales tax would also create a way for them to help support the state they work in. By a permanent cap I refer to a stop placed on the tax that can not be changed except by a vote of the people of the state of Alaska. The government already gets a good portion of the PFD. There is even a fund set aside designed to help them in times of need. I for one would rather have a smaller dividend check than give it all to the government. Besides if an income tax is imposed, you are taking the PFD from us anyway. At least with a sales tax we can choose what to spend it on before you get it. Just a thought...

Please, I pray you will take into serious consideration what you about to put vote... This is not about the next election or politics as usual. This is about our children and grandchildren and their children after that.

Thank you,

Robin Lester
mutt_76@hotmail.com
Houston, Alaska