

REPRESENTATIVE COLLEEN SULLIVAN-LEONARD  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE DISTRICT 7

SESSION  
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Juneau, AK 99801  
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Wasilla, AK 99654  
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TO: HTRA Co-Chairs Representative Stutes & Representative Wool

FROM: Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard

DATE: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

SUBJECT: HB60 Public Testimony

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Good Morning House Transportation Co-Chairs,

We received these emails from concerned citizens regarding HB60. It includes emails from various sides of the issue, and Rep. Sullivan-Leonard would like to submit them for public testimony.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns.

Thank you!

Esther Mielke *EM*  
Staff to Representative Sullivan-Leonard

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** m.ainge@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Cc:** m.ainge@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Re: Motor Fuel Tax-Public Testimony!

**Categories:** Public Testimony

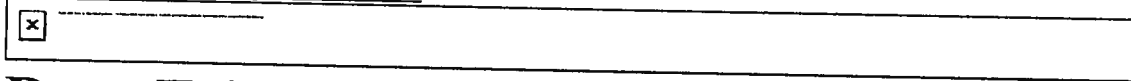
Please put my name on record as opposed to the new motor fuel tax

Thanks Max Ainge

On Feb 5, 2017 7:15 PM, "Rep.ColleenSullivan-Leonard" <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov> wrote:

February 5, 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Dear Friends & Constituents:

More than 30,000 Mat-Su commuters will be directly affected by a 200% increase in fuel tax in the next two years! You can read the full text of HB60 [here](#).

To voice your opinion on this progressive tax, viisit your local LIO or call into the House Transportation Committee (907-586-9085) on **Tuesday, Feb 7, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.** to testify in person. If you are unable to publicly testify, email me at Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov to have your testimony submitted to t record.

## Esther Mielke

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**From:** Marc Grober <marc@interak.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 8:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Cc:** Rep. Ivy Spohnholz  
**Subject:** HB 60  
  
**Categories:** Public Testimony

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The communication below and any files transmitted with it may contain privileged or confidential information. It is solely for use by the individual for whom it is intended, even if addressed incorrectly. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender; do not disclose, copy, distribute, or take any action in reliance on the contents of this information; and delete it from your system.

Thank you for your cooperation.  
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Dear Representatives,

In advance of your hearing on HB 60 the whiners are already out in force, banging the drum about the "200% tax increase", and leaving out the fact that this translates to an additional \$.08 per gallon. Enough! It is the whiners who have been bellyaching that Alaskans should pay their way, and now that they are asked to actually do that, the only thing you hear is their whimpering.

The fact of the matter is that most people in Alaska who own cars live in our urban regions, and the median family income in those regions is in excess of \$80,000! And, as any competent economist will tell you, most of Alaskans make no net payment for any State or Local service. Partly as a result of that we now have families of four driving four huge SUVs/Pick-ups who now want someone else to pay to maintain the streets they are tearing up. In the meantime, our pedestrians and bike riders can't even use our thoroughfares while our cities are buried in oily grey sediment.

It is high time motorists paid their fair share, and that means the tax on gasoline should be \$8.00/gallon as opposed to \$.08/gallon! I have argued that as part and parcel of a progressive income tax we could raise fuel taxes to appropriate levels, and then provide some interim

relief for first 100 gallons (see, e. g. <http://opinion.alaskapolicy.net/pardonme/?p=607>) but no one in Juneau seems interested in a comprehensive approach to financing our way of life - fear of whingers, apparently).

If someone REALLY wants to talk about welfare queens, they need look no further than the Alaskans who want something for nothing, and I am sorry to say this as someone who has been an Alaskan Republican for over 30 years, but it would appear that most of the people refusing to pay for what they get are Republican ideologues... the kind of people who think that you fix a cash starved operation by cutting the funding by 25%; the "me, mine, more" crowd.

I have no problem with someone who wants to drive a two-ton monstrosity to go to work at a State job created purely so they don't have to wait in lines, as long as they don't mind paying \$32 in tax every time they and their loved ones leave the house in the morning :-)

Marc

Marc Grober, Esq.  
5610 Radcliff Dr.  
Anchorage Alaska 99504  
email: [marc@interak.com](mailto:marc@interak.com)  
cell: (907)2272417

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** Cathy <cmosher@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 8:41 PM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Re: ADV: Motor Fuel Tax-Public Testimony!  
**Categories:** Public Testimony

Hi Colleen,

The gas tax will hurt Alaska's economy. It will cause prices to rise on everything. Please vote NO on the gas tax.

Thank you for the email.

I hope you can get enough support in the house to defeat this bill.

Sincerely,

Cathy Mosher

Valley Republican Women's President

[cmosher@mtaonline.net](mailto:cmosher@mtaonline.net)

907-982-2646

On 02/05/2017 07:15 PM, Rep.ColleenSullivan-Leonard wrote:

February 5, 2017

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**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** Mtaonline <cindybettine@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 10:58 PM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Re: ADV: Motor Fuel Tax-Public Testimony!

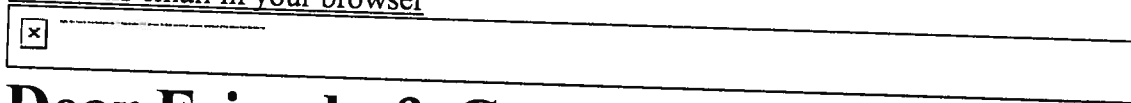
**Categories:** Public Testimony

Rep Leonard,  
If you believe that a combination of increased revenue and continued budget cuts are going to fix the budget deficit, then I think increasing the fuel tax is a option to be considered. If I understand correctly, our fuel tax is the lowest in the nation. Perhaps a slight incremental increase is necessary. Certainly some contribution from Alaskans to the deficit is not out of the question. I am one that agrees with the reduced PFD; way less painful than continued reductions in services like public safety, education and road services.  
Cindy B

On Feb 5, 2017, at 7:15 PM, Rep.ColleenSullivan-Leonard <[Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov)> wrote:

February 5, 2017

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## Esther Mielke

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**From:** Carrol Palmer <carrol@cpaccounting.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Gas Tax

**Categories:** Public Testimony

My thoughts are that we have a Governor that doesn't and never care about the people or State of Alaska.

Check his track record and then ask the Liberals why they voted for him. It is an Obama replica as far as I am concerned. He will steal from the people to get everything for the takers and government employees.

Carrol Palmer PO Box 872508 Wasilla

376-5376

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** Judy Patrick <judy@judypatrickphotography.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Motor vehicle fuel tax-comment

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Hi Colleen,  
Thanks for reaching out to us for our input on this proposed tax!

My comments are that this isn't going to amount to a drop in the bucket of the State's fiscal gap. The people who will be the most impacted are people who are already making a sacrifice every day by commuting two hours per day to Anchorage and back, like me! Personally I spend an average of \$ 500+ per month on fuel, not to mention the wear and tear on my car. Lets quit "cherry picking" solutions and address the bigger problem of reducing spending and coming up with a bigger revenue stream other than going back to the same pattern of taxing the oil industry.

I support (gasp) a statewide sales tax! A sales tax compared to an income tax, is broad based, is fair (because the more you earn the more you spend) and also captures revenue from visitors. An income tax penalizes the same honest hard working group of people that are the commuters and wage earners that are being taxed to death by the Federal government.

I have a lot more to say about the tax subject, but you get the point.  
Thanks again for asking and not making us fill out a dumb form to respond ; )

Sincerely,  
Judy Patrick

Judy Patrick Photography  
907.258.4704 office  
907.223.4704 cell  
511 W. 41st Ave. Suite 101  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
[www.judypatrickphotography.com](http://www.judypatrickphotography.com)





## Esther Mielke

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**From:** Care Tuk <care@caretuk.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Re:tax increase

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Raising the fuel tax would be an injustice to the many Mat-Su senior citizens, and those affected by disability, of which I am both. I am in the middle of my 14th battle with cancer that prevents me from continuing my work as a rural and school occupational therapist. What it DOES mean, is that my days and weeks and months are filled with infusion appointments, specialist appointments, scans, oncology appointments and multiple follow-ups. While we have NOT seen a COLA increase in disability SSI, we have seen increase amounts taken out of the paltry \$1200.00/mo we are expected to make do with - like paying for fuel to get to/from appointments. Add having to pay additional fees for insurance to just cover medications, etc, there is not much but for basics. Think this through - PLEASE: it's not just people who GET to go to work, it will affect those of us robbed of the opportunity TO work..

Care  
(Carolyn)  
Tuk

P.O. Box 871632  
Wasilla, AK 99687

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** Tammy Ervin <tammyervin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 9:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Re: PFD, SB91, Taxes and More!  
**Categories:** Public Testimony

Thank you Colleen. I read your emails and appreciate the effort to keep us informed.

I wanted to voice my opposition to the motor fuel tax. I agree that Mat-Su commuters will unfairly pay the bulk of this without benefiting proportionately.

Thank you  
Tammy

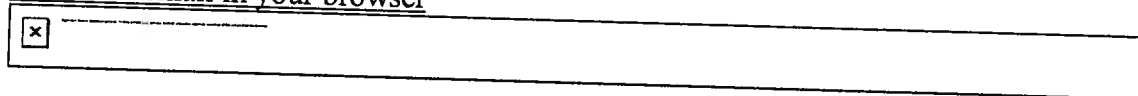
Sent from my iPhone

Tammy Ervin  
Remax Dynamic of the Valley  
907.355.7600

On Feb 6, 2017, at 7:10 PM, Rep.ColleenSullivan-Leonard <[Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov)> wrote:

February 6, 2017

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## Dear Friends & Constituents:

The legislature heard your voices! Bills have been filed in both the Senate and House regarding the PFD. The Senate has taken the lead in revisions to SB91, known as the "Crim Bill" *and* budget committee meetings are well underway. This newsletter will touch on all three issues:

### PFD Legislation

One piece of legislation I'm excited about this year is SB1.

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** noelcbell <noelcbell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 10:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Fuel tax

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Good Evening Ms.Sullivan-Leonard,

Thank you so much for your newsletter. I enjoy knowing the bills you are working on. Of particular interest is the public hearing on this 200% tax on fuel.

I am unable to testify tomorrow but wanted to say:

I am absolutely against it.

In the almost 20 years I've called the valley home, I have had my fair share of years commuting. It's hard enough when gas is at its current price of \$2.65 a gallon but trying to wrap my mind around the burden of a 200% increase even if it is in incremental steps gives me a migraine.

Thank you for your due diligence on this bill. I hope others are able to voice their thoughts and let Juneau know we need better solutions and that we'll find them if we keep looking.

Sincerely  
Noel Crowley-Bell

Sent from my GCI smartphone

## Esther Mielke

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**From:** Deborah Hackenberger <nightfall966@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 6:21 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Gas Tax Hike

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Dear Representative Sullivan;

I am writing in protest of an increase in the gasoline tax on Alaska. Currently Alaskans pay on average \$0.62 per gallon more than the rest of the United States. This translates into an extra \$7.44 that I pay to fill my gas tank as compared to my friends in the lower 48. I do not have a public transportation option due to where I live and I still require a job to be able to pay all of my family's utilities, put food on the table and keep a roof over our heads.

Perhaps cutting the budget and doing away with some state jobs would be in order BEFORE implementing more taxes on a shrinking population. I understand that laying off people is hard, but the State of Alaska has already lost more than 9,000 private sector jobs. Yet state workers are getting guaranteed wage increases, something I will not be receiving in the near foreseeable future, but something I am being asked to pay for through taxes, so someone else can. Perhaps stopping Walker's gas pipe dream which will cost the state BILLIONS of dollars to build, will NEVER be profitable (see Matanuska Maid, the fish processing plant in Anchorage) and will NOT decrease the costs of natural gas to the citizens of the State of Alaska. The legislator could start with closing any LNG offices NOT contained within the state of Alaska since these jobs did not go to Alaskans to begin with.

There are still a lot of areas that can be cut before increasing taxes on the citizens of the state and should be done before increasing our taxes. As I wrote to the legislator regarding Medicaid expansion, in which I predicted oil would fall below \$25 per barrel, I will now predict that Alaska will see a significant shrinking of its population. So answer me this how many people can we afford to lose before the extra tax monies you expect to bring in from ANY tax increases becomes not enough to sustain your budgets?

Now is the time for all of you in the legislator to prove you actually represent ALL the people of Alaska, not just the state workers. Now is the time to consolidate departments and make them run more efficiently. YOU are in charge of the bureaucracy, not the other way around. If the department heads are unwilling to present their budgets with explanations as to why they need the money and how the services being provided are a necessary function of the State and provide a benefit to the people of the state, then their budgets need to be cut and perhaps their department needs to be consolidated with another department and eliminated all together.

Before you implement tax increases, or new taxes, do consider how many people the state can afford to lose in order to meet the "goals" of these taxes.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hackenberger

## Esther Mielke

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**From:** denise@nonessentialsalaska.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 7:25 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Your newsletter

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Good morning Colleen and thank you for the updates regarding the activities in Juneau. Your three points were all issues of interest to me personally and I would like to take a moment to comment on each.

You have so many people in your mental rolodex, please permit me to remind you of my background: Third generation Alaskan, with three of my four children and their children remaining in the state. Small business owner (second generation, my dad owned businesses in the Bristol Bay area beginning in 1938). Worked for years in health care system in rural Alaska. I am wholly dedicated to and invested in the State of Alaska and the community of Palmer, where I now reside.

As regards the decreased PFD - you are absolutely correct in that it has had an impact on the economy and being in small business I did feel the pinch in the fourth quarter, and the diminished sales continue in to the New Year largely, I believe, based on the underlying sense of a diminishing economy and the loss of many of our more affluent customers who have either been relocated or left the state due to loss of jobs. What I am concerned with is where the acceptable alternatives exist. Will you and your colleagues be able to make the adjustments necessary to insure a balanced budget? These larger PFDs have had the unfortunate impact of creating a sense of entitlement that I worry about more than I do either the loss of, or the replacement of, the PFD. Please do your best to insure the financial security of the state for the long term.

HB-91 was a mess from the get-go and I am pleased to see some action to reverse the debacle. Now, in an economic downturn with a heroin epidemic at our door, it is unacceptable to ignore, fail to sentence or release criminals. My greater concern is the fact that we have so few alternatives for the actual "treatment" necessary for those who commit crimes to support drug habits. This may or may not be a consideration worthy of your contemplation: The prison that is closing or has been closed at mile 58 near Sutton could be offered to the consortium that makes up Alaska Native Tribal Health. Between the Consortium and the profit making arms of the various corporations they are exceptionally well funded, live in a pretty rules free world in terms of their ability to invest in programs/projects, and have an ENORMOUS and growing mandate to find solutions for their drug dependent clientele. They could create a two year treatment program and unlike the state which suffers under the mandate preventing them from creating anything that constitutes competition, they could provide rehabilitation while providing training in everything from culinary arts to fly tying. Many of the people that are on the streets and in the throes of this addiction have never created anything in their lives - they are unemployable and will never climb out of their situation without adequate treatment and a skill set that enables them to enter the job force or, in the case of those that choose to return to the bush - create an entrepreneurial alternative. Two additional points. The treatment has to be long enough to insure they have broken the cycle, two years minimum. When they sign in, it is in lieu of prison. The State of Alaska should absolutely not enter into an agreement that demands one dollar of repair or preparation of the facility....that can be left to those that take it on, and it will be an excellent opportunity to provide haz-mat training, carpentry skills, painting, the list is endless. While I am not confident of this, I wonder about such an entity's ability to treat both Native and non-Natives?

Third relates to the fuel tax. I agree that the Mat-Su will be disproportionately hit and that would be unfortunate for working people. I sure wish that, hand-in-hand with opposing the tax we could somehow improve the rate of ride sharing to get some of those vehicles off the roads. I have done a dozen observational surveys over the past year and a half, timed throughout the day from 5 am to 7 pm, insuring a minimum of 500 vehicles are included each time. It is a sad truth that of those vehicles going South during those hours less than 1 in 20 vehicles have two or more people in them. Most people going from the Valley to Anchorage are going to work within a relatively small radius, what do you think 7 miles? Thousands of the cars going up and down that road could remain parked if we could somehow encourage ride-sharing. When I ask people about it their responses vary: "I like to be able to go out during my lunch hour", "I like a particular radio station" "I have to get home to fix dinner".....it is hard to over come the insular but I like to believe that perhaps taxing the hell out of people is not the only way to help institute change.

Carry on. You have a big task and I hope that there are many willing hands there to make light work of it all.

**Esther Mielke**

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**From:** Gary Ellis <zetaarms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** HB60 Motor Fuel Tax

**Categories:** Public Testimony

Dear Rep. Sullivan-Leonard,

I will be unable to attend the public testimony for HB60, the Motor Fuel Tax bill, but I wanted to say that I am strongly opposed to this measure. In my opinion, it will do nothing to address the cause of our current fiscal crisis (an unsustainable budget) and will only exacerbate the problem at the expense of everyday Alaskans.

I strongly encourage every member of the House of Representatives to oppose HB60. Though it may seem like the public isn't paying attention, I can assure you that we are, and any notion of raising/creating taxes, or using/restructuring the PFD will be deeply unpopular.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Ellis, P.E.

(907)-982-6422



## Esther Mielke

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**From:** Jay Schmidt <jschmidt@beringstraits.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard  
**Subject:** Taxes  
**Attachments:** scan (4).pdf  
**Categories:** Public Testimony

*Good Morning Colleen:*

*Congratulations for your service to our great State. I have just attached a copy of a rental car agreement that I needed while traveling*

*to see my folks. I have attached a copy of the receipt to show that there are many fees / and Taxes attached to any rental car in any State in*

*the union. My point is we cannot keep cutting the budget it will not solve the issue at hand. Please think about how much can you really cut and*

*still have a workable State. I believe that its time for Alaskans to start paying for the services we receive. This is not new concept to the lower forty eight states.*

*Have a great day thanks for your time*

*Jay Schmidt*

Motorola Federal Manufacture Representative, Alaska

Arcticom LLC. I SBA 8 (a) Certified

A Bering Straits Company

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RA 440760131      Bill 0  
Rental 30-JAN-2017 02:33 PM  
PALM SPRINGS ARPT  
Return 01-FEB-2017 01:33 PM  
PALM SPRINGS ARPT

Vehicle # HR296125  
Model FUSION  
Class Driven FCAH      Class Charged SCAR  
License# 7WBC031      State/Province CA  
M/Kms Driven 96  
M/Kms Out 3  
M/Kms In 99

Charges	No Unit	Price	Amount
T & H	2 Days	69.41	138.82*
UNLIM M/KM	0 M/Kms		0.00*
CUST FAC CHG	10.00/RNTL		10.00
CONCESSION RECOUP FEE			15.67*
TOURISM FEE			4.86
VEHICLE LICENSE RECOVERY			2.20
SALES TAX @8.750 %			13.52

Total Charges      USD 185.07

Deposit      Visa 2779

Amount Due      USD 185.07

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Emerald Club rental credits will be  
posted within 24 hours  
We hope you enjoyed driving your  
upgraded Emerald Club vehicle.  
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