

HB 57
OPPERATING BUDGET
OPPOSING
DOCUMENTS
March 3, 2017

#45

David Michael Smith

Eagle River

Issue: Cut spending and salaries

It is entirely unacceptable to appropriate the bulk of the PERMANENT Fund Dividend account for the sake of feeding a government run rampant and refusing to live within its means. Cut spending and listen to the will of the people. This bill is a violation of the will and trust of Alaskan's and is a blatant slap in the face to all of us who live and work in this state.

CUT SPENDING! CUT SALARIES! Stop cutting into what you see as free money.

David Michael Smith

Eagle River, AK 99577

#46

Lacey Libby

Issue: Be fiscally responsible

House Finance Committee,

There is a simple problem in the government right now; overspending without having the revenue to pay for it. There is another problem; legislators are unwilling to make meaningful cuts to the size and scope of government. Your job is to be fiscally responsible at all times but especially when there is less revenue than the state has become accustomed to. I am asking you to have the courage to make these cuts to protect the citizens of our state from being forced to pay for the insatiable appetite for government funded programs and overspending. I am asking you to STOP looking to the private sector and residents of the state to shoulder the burden of paying for things that should simply be cut. Have the respect for the hard working Alaskan residents by committing yourselves to spending LESS and making the difficult decisions to cut programs because there is a simple explanation, the state does not have enough money to pay for everything. Don't go looking for other sources for the the money (ie Alaskan residents with jobs), just STOP spending.

1. Say NO to medicaid expansion.
2. Say NO to paying for the AGDC, let private enterprise pick up the project if they want.
3. Say NO to a state income tax.
4. Say NO to a motor fuel tax.
5. Say NO to capping the dividend.
6. Say NO to anything that will increase the spending and / or growth of government.
7. Say NO to taxing oil and gas companies out of Alaska, causing high paying jobs to leave our state.
8. Say NO to taking money from the PFD earnings reserve to pay for things that we cannot afford and ought not fund.

1. Say YES to systematically cutting funding for programs
2. Say YES to making the government smaller
3. Say YES to a lower baseline for government spending
4. Say YES to capping government spending
5. Say YES to charging people that use the Medicaid system to fly in to main cities for treatment and then do not go to their appointment. There has to be repercussions for the abuse of these state funds.
6. Say YES to finding every unethical and wasteful dollar that is spent in the government and stop it immediately.

7. Say YES to supporting hard working Alaskans, not just the Alaskans with their hands out wanting something for "free" from the government.

8. Say YES to allowing public input and vetting of all bills, not just stuffing a bunch of them together and trying to ram them through the house in a truncated timeline.

What you are suggesting is not a fully funded budget. You will drain our savings. We know what you are doing, stealing from the PFD earnings reserve so you can pretend that you have a fully funded budget. It's not right. It may not be illegal but it is unethical.

The blatant disregard for proper public notice so we can be involved in the budget process is appalling at best. While we are all working during the day (not watching gavel to gavel or akleg.tv because of course it is not allowed during working hours), you are using your seclusion in Juneau to try to sneak things by us. It won't work.

Your job is to listen to Alaskans. This is not a partisan issue, this is a common sense budget issue for all Alaskans.

Thank you,

Lacey Libbey
Small Business Owner in Wasilla, AK
Born & Raised in Alaska Since 1984

#47

Michael Connors

Issue: No income tax, Use PFD, Cut Education

Please do not introduce a state income tax! We should not tax work. We want people to work. Property taxes will already rise. Do not burden the workforce further.

Please use the permanent fund to fill budget gaps. Reduce the PFD to zero in lean times if necessary. This is free unearned income distributed in a manner not based on merit or need. Fund government services instead.

Pass a constitutional amendment allowing government to fop into the principal during lean times.

Cut educational funding. There is smoke money in this field. Athletic teams regularly charter aircraft to fly around to common no regional games at great expense. Special ed teachers charter regularly. Cut the educational budget.

Add a sales tax if must be. That is discretionary. But do not tax income!

Thank you

Michael Connors

Sent from my iPhone

#48

Kathleen Shoop

Issue: Cut the budget, No PFD

Dear Alaska House Finance Committe;

Your recent shananigans are hurting the economy of Alaska. You are not listening to Brad Keithly who provides a sensible and accountable, reasonable solution to save the PFD for Alaskans. ISER offers the same logical and advise and you still chose to ignore.

Alaska simply can not afford the Government we have. Our economy is in dire need of improvement and when you extract money from the PFD the result drags the economy down and causes human misery. By moving PFD money to government you are destroying the Alaskan economy.

PLEASE do not take 4 billion from the PFD and give it to the government.

PLEASE focus on the effect on what is best for the Alaskan economy.

PLEASE do more to reduce government spending.

Kathleen Shoop

#49

Gary Moore

Issue: No PFD

Keep the Permanent Fund in tact! REDUCE spending and no new/increased taxes. Go with Dunleavy's budget..... but Democrats Keep your hands off !!!

#50

Dan Vanblarcom

Issue: Cut spending

My name is Dan I have three children with a wonderful wife. We have been struggling with our financial situation due in part to loss of my good paying job over a year ago. We are doing everything we can to teach our children that we can overcome hardships when we work hard. It is already been very hard to find the money to support our family. What our state is doing to ours and so many other families is unfair and irresponsible, by putting the debt of ridiculous spending on the backs of our children is insanity.... we want our voices to matter.. as a family of Alaskans we have to think of the future, not throwing our future away!!

Dan Vanblarcom

#51

Benjamin Holbrook

Delta Junction

Issue: Cuts, No PFD

Good Morning from Delta Junction,

I just wanted to say that I am extremely disappointed that OUR PFD is in the crosshairs again! Please do what the rest of us have to do when we are personally short on money. We tighten our belts and make the necessary cuts until the budget is balanced. The last thing I do when I am short is to reach into my neighbors wallet and take what I need from him! Please do the right thing and make some cuts, not dip into OUR PFD!

Sincerely, Benjamin Holbrook

#52

Sally McMahan Pollen

Palmer, AK

Issue: Cuts, No PFD

House Finance Committee,

I want to thank those of you who are standing up and making your voice heard on behalf of the residents of Alaska. If I don't hear/see that you have posted against the taxes and the continued squeezing for more \$ from our PFD, I don't know if you are in favor of it or not. I'm another outraged resident wondering why you don't make deep cuts in the state budget instead of reaching deep into our pockets. The Dunleavy Plan would balance the budget in 3 years and leave the PFD to needy residents who would spend/circulate that money in the Alaska economy. Dunleavy's plan does not call for taxes, but I, for one, would not be opposed to a state sales tax. The administrative waste from the Department of Education is one place to consider cuts as well as a multitude of other places. I encourage you to look at government redundancy.

A disappointed super voter,

Sally McMahan Pollen

Palmer, AK 99645

#53

Elyce Santerre

Chugiak, AK

Issue: Cuts

You have not yet begun to cut in ANY meaningful way. I strongly recommend you find more cuts before you start looking at revenue streams (taxes, reducing PFD). You may need to do both, but we've all seen how the legislature operates. Just look at your proposal to take more out of the earnings reserve than the actual deficit. Talk about thumbing your nose at Alaska voters! -- Elyce Santerre, Chugiak

#54

Ivy Beck

Issue: No PFD

I am emailing to let you know that i, as a voter, am not ok with you raiding the PDF. This was set up for Alaskens and not for the legislature to dip into. If you go through with this, you should be sure that you WILL NOT get reelected.

- Ivy Beck

#55

Kathleen Muller

Issue: Day Habilitation

I am very concerned about the legislators trying to cut our Day Hab hours down to 8 hours a week. I do not believe this is the right way to assist people with disabilities. We have a right to be able to go to Day Hab. We cannot stay home all the time. We are real people just like you are. We have the same needs as you all do. Some individuals with disabilities enjoy going to Day Hab 5 days a week, sometimes 6 days a week, and really look forward to going to this. Most of these people need these activities all the time, just like the Special Olympics. I, for one, like to go to Church every Sunday. You people need to open your mind. Cutting these hours makes it seem like you don't care about us. We did not ask to be born this way. We are unique individuals. How would you feel if I did this to you guys? I have been here in Alaska for 25 years, and I thank you for every service I have received on my waiver. I need these Day Hab hours, because I need to get out of the house, because I get cabin fever. I love to go for walks. I like to go shopping. I am completely disabled, but my brain works just like yours.

Sincerely

-Kathleen Muller

#56

Mike Sallee

Issue: Oil taxes first, no PFD or income tax

The fact that Alaska is not a high risk, unstable country should translate into Alaska being paid top dollar for its oil. Instead Alaska is getting the lowest return for its oil among the countries in which multinational oil companies are operating. As a result Alaska ends up subsidizing the multinational's less profitable operations elsewhere during times of depressed oil prices. The fact that oil production has been gradually increasing in Alaska over the past couple of years is evidence enough that oil companies are making healthy profits on their operations in Alaska.

No dipping into PFD earnings or state income tax until Alaska gets paid what its oil is really worth!

#57
Karen M. VanReenan
Fairbanks, AK
OCS

House Finance Committee

3/2/2017 – Operating Budget

I am completely alarmed by the actions of OCS Director Christy Lawton.

Christy Lawton is asking the legislature for more money for 22+ New Social workers. The reason why I am alarmed for this request to get funding for new hire frontline social workers is as follows.

1. Christy Lawton as OCS Director is not and has never been in compliance with federal regulations regarding OCS funding on a federal level.
This shows complete arrogance and incompetency.
Christy Lawton does not even follow OCS motto on PRESERVATION OF THE FAMILY.
2. As state of Alaska social workers, they are all mandatory reporters for abuse or crimes against children. yet when my grand nephew was assaulted by his foster placement with bear spray, a death threat to kill him and the foster mother, not one social worker removed him from the home or even bothered to file a police reports.
3. Several social workers covered up crimes against my nephew. Sarah Alden stole my nephew's cell phone that had video of a huge pile of crystal meth that my nephew recorded as proof of the drug activities that went in in the home. Sarah Alden told us that she took the cell phone and erased the pictures and videos of the drugs in his placement home. Sarah Alden has never returned the cell phone to my family. The cell phone was bought as a birthday present and was stolen by OCS state employees Sarah Alden.
3. Jaylene Day, Sarah Alden, Nora Slow, Nicole Haverlik are just a few social workers known to have hidden evidence of a crime against a child. All of the above were told of the drugs, alcohol, domestic violence in the home and the death threat to the 10 year old child.
Jaylene Day said that she investigated and found my nephew to be in a " SAFE DRUG FREE HOME".
Yet the child was only removed after the state troopers made another visit to the home on another domestic violence call.
4. Christy Lawton has social workers and supervisors that are operating in ways that are borderline criminal and don't follow any state or federal laws. This criminal activity needs addressed soon before more children are hurt under Christy Lawton authority.
5. more New frontline social workers is not the answer to the ongoing problems within OCS. If MS. Lawton can't keep her social workers she has now from committing crimes against children, do you really think that Christy Lawton will train 22 New Social workers to obey the law? Up think not.

How can the Alaska legislature just keep funding OCS with money to destroy families when you all know that OCS is not in federal compliance to receive funding on any level.

Karen Van Reenan

I am worried about what will happen if you fund 22+ more social workers that will in the long run be over zealous criminals that run a state agency in such a criminal matter.

And to pour salt in our wounds our very own Alaska legislature takes money from the permanent fund dividend to fund such a agency as OCS.

I am against the funding of new social workers! You need to clean up the mess of social workers that exist now.

I am against funding OCS in any manor. REAL CHILD ABUSE IS reported to the police and prosecuted as such.

Overzealous social workers are destroying the family unit by doing their jobs. on their own personal feelings and taking children for themselves or their friends to adopt.

I do have all the proof of everything I talked about in this email. And proof of other crimes committed by OCS social workers that I have not told you about. Like perjury.

Do what's write for families in Alaska and DEFUND OCS NOW!

Regards,

Karen M. VanReenan victim of OCS Fairbanks Alaska

Po Box 73934
Fairbanks Alaska 99707
907-888-0039

#58

Candace Berman
Homer, AK
Issue: Day Habilitation

Date: March 2, 2017

Hello, my name is Candace Berman. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion to the State of Alaska House Finance Committee. I am here to advocate for the senior citizens and those with physical and intellectual disabilities that are part of the fabric of our communities.

The recent proposal by Commissioner Val Davidson to cap Day Habilitation at 8hr per week, as part of the Waiver services funded by the State, through SDS, is a measure that I do not support, because it is very detrimental to the well being of the most vulnerable of our citizens.

Decades ago, when the State made the wise decision to close institutions that detained individuals that had disabilities, the conclusion was that it was best to accommodate those individuals in the community and provide the supports needed for their health, and safety. This is a decision that has met with much success, and demonstrated respect and dignity for people of different abilities.

With this new proposal to cut these services to only 8 hrs per week, there would not be enough coverage to insure safety in the community. Skills building of all types are taught through Day Hab services, as well as providing the essentials of assisting a person to navigate tasks and activities, and physically get around in the community. These interactions and teaching of social skills is essential for successful integration with the community. The building of these social skills, and accompaniment by another individual helps to insure their safety because they are very vulnerable to be taken advantage of by others. They might also otherwise make poor choices that could lead to involvement with law enforcement and the penal system which is inappropriate for them, and more expensive for the general public service system.

For our senior citizens it is also very important to safely assist them to still be part of their community. Alaska is a state with the original generations for citizens now becoming our aged, and needing our help with their daily living tasks, including safely accessing the community. I'm sure that none of us would want to see our parent in the position of trying to navigate treacherous ice conditions alone, and be injured, because they had no assistance to get to a medical appointment, pick up a prescription, or enjoy the company of others at a community event. We owe them more respect and care than is being proposed.

We need to show respect and care for all citizens, especially our most vulnerable, in order to have healthy communities in total. All of us will at some point reach at least one of these described populations, and I'm sure we will know what the vulnerability feels like at that point.

Thank you for considering these thoughts, and the negative impact that this new proposal could have.

Candace Berman

#59

Mary L. Stephenson

Ketchikan, AK

Issue: Government is out of control

Mary L. Stephenson
Ketchikan Alaska

March 2, 2017

Millions of people around the world took to the streets on January 21st with the message – the system is broken. Their issues resonated from the steps of Washington DC to Alaska's state capitols located in Juneau and Anchorage. For Ketchikan, we had a record high with - 225 people!

Anytime a new administration proposes an increase for defense and security spending by \$54 billion and cut roughly the same amount from non-defense programs starting with the EPA - this should raise a red flag of concern: Ketchikan's lifestyle and economy is centered on air, land and sea environmental programs.

We-the-people continue to struggle with our household budgets, while social services try to sustain itself with the revolving door of dysfunctional individuals, and the city officials 'adjust' fiscal responsibility back onto the taxpayers and local industries.

Each new generation inherits the challenges when they take a seat at the table. Across the nation, our legislators, many of whom have made lucrative 40-year careers, have not been held accountable – as evident with Alaska's \$4Billion deficit.

The saying, ***'we the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful'*** comes to mind as our leadership is trying to justify tapping into the Permanent Fund (valued at \$55Billion) to pay the \$4Billion deficit. I would not be opposed if we, PDF shareholders, lent the money so that Alaskans could be debit free for this and future generations. However, the Governor and this Finance Committee feel they are justified taking from OUR savings account - instead of working out a 'loan with interest'. We are only enabling this dysfunctional body of ***'ungratefuls'*** with a reward they have not earned. Whether a parent, business owner or college student – what's yours is yours and what's mine is not yours – is not a win-win solution.

Unlike any other state in the Union, the Alaska State government operates with two 'state' capitols (Juneau and Anchorage) thus duplicating operational expenses: buildings, utilities, maintenance, security and payroll. State-wide projects continue to come in late and over-budget, incurring interest rates and penalties. Or reward contractors with end-of-job bonus if completed on-time. Losing trust in the process to harvest forests beyond the agreed acreage stated in the contract with its only response "oops! we were not keeping track of the boundaries".

To finish the quote: ***'we, the taxpayers, have done so much, with so little, for so long, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing'***.

Thus, the town hall meetings of angry constituents are justifiable as millions of dollars spent to get the candidate elected with little in return.

Thank you.

#60

Anthony Baiocchi

Issue: PFD

To the chair of the committee, I want it known that I stand opposed to the Progressive "ginning" up a false flag assault on the rights of Alaskan citizens. First by not allowing a citizen vote on the PFD and associated legislation.

Quit lying about the states fiscal situation and stand down from the those actions in conjunction with the "Progressive Media".

I am in favor of "common sense" legislation as espoused by Sen.Mike Dunleavy, Representative Cathy Tilton, and Senator Shelly Hughes.

You need to actually reduce the Budget-not pretend to. You need to utilize the constitutional budget reserve if needed and cease the raiding of the citizens PFD and causing the loss of billions of dollars in economic activity. Putting undue burden on the less fortunate by such an ad hoc movement that will cost the government more because of increases "entitlements "because of their incomes being lowered.

Or are you trying to subjugate voters into "Kissing the hand" of their false benefactor's

For you see we are the citizens and you are representatives. You are not Caesar.

Things that are done in the dark will come to light. We see you.

You cannot tax your way to prosperity.

Sincerely, Anthony M. Baiocchi

An Alaskan citizen.

#61

Laurie Deakins

Medicaid Waiver Coordinator

Issue: Day Habilitation

Hi there, I am a Medicaid Waiver care coordinator. I started this work in 2009, and prior to that I worked with people with disabilities in several different agencies in three different states. In New Mexico I was an eligibility worker for Medicaid, food stamps, and TANF. Waiver Medicaid applicants were the clients we most enjoyed serving. To be honest, we were suspicious of other folks seeking assistance, especially able bodied individuals. But when it came to Waiver applicants, we couldn't process their cases fast enough because we knew they legitimately needed assistance and services.

As a person working directly with people with disabilities, I see the direct benefit of these services. All of my IDD Waiver clients receive day habilitation services. This is often their only access to the community. We are constantly working toward community inclusive for these folks, and doing everything we can to help them avoid isolation. Capping day hab at 8 hours a week is a huge slash. Most of my clients receive far more many hours than 8 hours per week. If a cut is necessary, I would recommend cutting it to 42 hours per week. This would allow folks to get out at least 6 hours a day, every day.

Please consider finding another way to reorganize the budget rather than cutting day habilitation services.

Thank you,

Laurie Deakins, Care Coordinator

Care Coordination Resource

#62

Susan Musilli
Ketchikan, AK
Issue: OCS

Hello,

due to illness, I am not able to come for public testimony today. I nonetheless, would like to oppose blindly giving a raise to OCS, when the state is trying to create a workable budget. We must all live within our means. The problems within OCS, are serious, and definately need to be addressed. The answer, is absolutely NOT more money, spent, but wiser use of money, and transparency in their practices. Many intelligent people are willing to help, if only someone would listen. Sweeping unpleasant things under the rug, only works for so long. Sooner or later, someone needs to clean house.

Susan Musilli
Ketchikan, Ak.

#63

Buzz Kelly

Issue: PFD

Dear House Finance and to those working on the operating budget,

It is my understanding that money suppose to go to the PFD (\$54M?) was diverted and some other money was taken out of the PFD. Is that correct?

I do not support the use of PFD money for anything but PFD. The PFD is about to get squandered away and in five years we will be in the same financial hole but the PFD will be gone.

Walker has already cut my throat with the PFD limit. It appears he doesn't have the brass to make some tough necessary cuts. I am looking forward to seeing him blown out of office.

How much did OCS just get?

Keep cutting spending. A state tax? Were any of you here during the 80's? I was and it was ugly. Dozens of businesses offer PFD specials but thanks to Walker there will be far fewer businesses doing that. Way to gut punch the economy Walker. A state tax will be yet another gut punch.

I urge you to leave the golden goose (PFD) alone. Also please do not come to me for yet another tax burden. Legislators and social programs need to have budgets cut back more yet.

Thank you,

Buzz Kelley

#64

Gregory S. Pugh
Chugiak, AK
Issues: PFD, Taxes,

Elected officials,

My name is Greg, and I am an everyday Alaskan in district 12. I want to say this email is for the record of my testimony/statements against any taxes from Alaskans in anyway. I especially am disturbed by the fact that our elected officials seem bent on breaking the private sector to uphold bloated government and public sector. In addition, I am completely baffled that any elected official would try to bypass the process of open transparency and try to attach 4 billion away from one place into an overall budget plan of the state. HB 115 is not only disastrous but it bends working families that are truly hanging by a thread now to sustain their homes and families. To reach back to families and tell them they need to sacrifice their home budgets for the sake of more government is truly an insult if not criminal. Just with my family of four, the removal of half my PFD, Income tax, Fuel tax, and all other fees that will rise from the state, you elected officials will hand me a 7 to 8 thousand tax that I will have to absorb from my family. You hear this right! You are asking for my family to release 10% more of our income to hand over to more government so government can employ more people that want to take more money from the private citizens of this state. You do understand that 10% of my income will be devastating to my family and reduce us to even cut more of our lifestyle and prevent myself and my wife from placing money away for retirement, savings, or education future for our children. 10% withdrawal from our income will do nothing but cut our buying power to invest in the economy but literally forced into survival mode month to month and hope we can stay above water.

I am not speaking at indirect income remove but direct income removal. You understand that when you tax any part of the economy then that tax is passed to consumers. No business regardless of sector will sustain a tax and pay it from their overhead but will transfer that burden on consumers. Thus, you not only take from the families direct but indirect the families will pay more for gas, supplies, shipments, and every other product that is purchased in this state. I simply cannot believe elected officials with any education cannot understand that you cannot tax any economy to prosperity. You cannot break the private sector to prevent the public sector from breaking. What I am seeing and hearing from this body as a whole is nothing more than a money grab from the private sector to ensure government continues to grow.

Please do not write me back and tell me that state government has cut because we all know that is not even true on any level. By the end of this year, public sector jobs will be the top tier annual income recipients in this state and it is not even close. Now that annual income does not take in consideration retirement plans and medical plans the taxpayers are being asked to pay. Essentially this body is saying, "Greg we are taking from your family to pay for someone else we think is higher value than you or your family". The private sector cannot even afford medical cost and you expect us to pay for public sector medical cost at the peril of our own lives. I cannot believe that anyone in this body thinks that government is efficient and unsustainable and should be reduced to current revenues of affordability of Alaskans. Just with my family, if HB 115 is used, I will be paying over 55% of my annual pay on taxes local, state, and federal. If anyone think that is ok, then you truly do not believe in liberty and republic but rather socialism and dictatorship from the government down to the people instead of the bottom up. No question I am angry and I am frustrated to watch people who are elected think that families across this state really want taxes as a majority voice. I cannot see any town hall meeting that I have

been two in the last three years in the valley, Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Eagle River where the majority of people want taxes. I know just last week at a town hall in Chugiak that over 150 people filled that room and testimony for over three hours happened and overwhelming the voice was no new taxes until government is under control. Yes, there were people who advocated taxes, but rest assured that 2/3 of that body wanted nothing of taxes.

It is long past for elected officials to listen to Alaskans that are not paid lobbyist or paid "so called" experts. The silent majority are screaming to the top of their lungs and many of them want reform in government that benefits all Alaskans not just a particular sect of society or special interest. Government was never designed to help all people in their personal lives nor give money to people for personal choices. Government was never designed to be an economic engine but rather the oil to foster the engine to run. We need government to be a voice to pursue happiness not the tool to stop pursuit in its tracks. We need leaders in Juneau not mangers or special interest activist and we need elected officials to boldly stand for all families regardless of party. As a state, we must ask ourselves do we want to tax our next generation to the point where they will never know debt free living or know that their hard work will not be removed from them by the government. I oppose any taxes until the government can show me that they will curtail their spending habits and return control of government back to the people.

Thank You,

Gregory S. Pugh

#65

Judi Shortridge

Issue: PFD, taxes, Cuts

Hello,

I am a working Alaskan. I am very much against an income tax. It makes no sense to give me a Permanent Fund Dividend with one hand and tax me with the other. If a tax must be implemented (and I still see much waste in the budget in the form of subsidies given to many groups [villages] that should be self-sustaining or, at least contribute SOMETHING), a sales tax is a more fair taxation. Those who are taxed, keep being taxed and those who aren't (who use most of the services), continue not to be. This is wrong! What you don't earn yourself and is given to you is generally taken for granted.

Judi Shortridge

#64
Carolyn Clift
Issue: OCS

Dear Representatives on the Finance committee:

Please put my statements here as part of the record for testimony for House Bill 57.

I would like to address the budget items for "Children's Services."

The Office of Children's Services(OCS) is a Failure. They are number one in the nation for the "Child Removal" Rate. By their own data, they have shown that the majority of children are never re-united with their biological parent(s), despite the fact that federal statute requires that rehabilitation efforts are documented, in every case. Over \$30 million is budgeted in the three line items for Foster Care.

Here we see that the OCS is asking for an increased budget and budgeting \$55 million for case workers. It would be unnecessary to have so many open cases if the children were re-united with their parents.

There are only 13.6 million dollars budgeted for Family Preservation, which should be the biggest category.

In comparison, there are \$37 million dollars budgeted for Subsidized Adoptions and Guardianships. That is nearly three times the amount as Family Preservation. We know that there are federal funds attached to having more and more adoptions every year, but this is not in the best interest of Alaskan parents and children.

I would like to also suggest that OCS workers read the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution, and read and understand Article I of the Alaska constitution as part of their million dollar training.

Please do not increase the budget for OCS until they can show that they respect Alaskan parental rights and can show that the majority of the children are either left in their parents care, with rehabilitation if necessary, or returned to their parents or grandparents. If there is immediate danger to the child, arrest one or both of the parents; and if there is no immediate danger, leave the children in their parents' care.

Thank you.

YOURS TRULY,

Carolyn "Care" Clift

#65

Gerald Van Bruggen

Issue: PFD

To Whom It May Concern,

I am against the proposals to reduce our PFD,s by any amount at all and to stay with the formula in statute presently. Governor Hammond set this up so Alaskan residents would get a piece of the pie instead of crumbs as you propose.

Right now the average earnings over the past 3 years is 6.83% on the total \$52.8 billion. Our full dividend amount accounts for roughly 2.65% on the total 52.8 billion and you want to reduce it to 1.325%. This is not right for we the people of Alaska. And to top this off you want to draw 4 billion which is 7.57% of 52.8 billion. You add those 2 together for 10.22% of the total PFD fund. That is not sustainable.

I believe that government should be limited to the remainder of the 3 year percentage earnings average which is 6.83% minus the full dividend payout which is roughly 2.65% which would leave government with 4.18% of 52.8 billion fund balance. This also would hopefully leave enough there to continue full dividend payouts without jeopardizing a declining amount.

This years dividend may be my only form of income this year due to slow construction in the Fairbanks area. If you reduce the PFD payout you will be taking 50% of my yearly income of which I am embarrassed to admit but was true for me last year in 2016.

Back in the early 80,s the state income tax ceased to exist due to the fact that government took all the money coming in from mineral royalties minus the 25% I believe goes to the PFD fund. The remaining 75% belongs to all the people of Alaska as it says "for the best use of the people". The government has since the 80,s ceased that money for their own use on behalf of the people. You have inflated government so much over the years and it should be cut back to represent the times we are in.

So I stand for full PFD payouts and a controlled draw by the state which will not jeopardize our continued stable but not declining PFD payouts.

Thank You, Gerald Van Bruggen

#66

Jennifer Todd

Issue: Cuts, PFD

I request that the House Finance Committee consider making more budget cuts before looking into sales or income tax and capping the Permanent Fund Dividend. I think there are plenty more areas to cut from, although it may be difficult. Even small cuts will eventually make a difference. Based on comments from some of the committee members, I fail to see that enough cuts have been made to justify any kind of tax. I also think that implementing a sales or income tax is a decision that should be made by the public, since it directly affects our lives.

Jennifer Todd

#67

Robert Yerkes

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Cuts, No taxes or PFD

Dear House Finance...

I have been watching the House antics on gavel to gavel. What you are doing is not in a financially sound manner. You are raiding the permanent fund reserve account without making the necessary cuts to the State of Alaska operating budget. I support at least \$250 million in cuts to state government this year before you think about new revenue. This has not happened ... looks to me you are growing state government.

No new taxes, leave the permanent fund reserve account alone until you cut at least \$250 million this year out of the state operating budget. The state budget has gotten fat on oil dollars over the last 30 years and now some legislators think this is normal...it is not. CUT!!

If you cannot figure out which State departments to cut, do this....

Cut all departments 7% except the State Troopers and the Department of Fish and Game, for the next three years including this years budget. You know there is 7 cents on the dollar fat in State government.

That should give you the \$250 million per year in cuts referenced above.

No new taxes but a PMV draw on the Permanet Fund(with the \$1,000 dividend protected) for this year.

I'll be watching you on Gavel to Gavel....everyone I talk to says this is the **least** you should do. These people are not happy with what you are proposing.

Robert Yerkes

Anchorage AK

#68

Connie Bell

Petersburg, AK

Issue: Tighten our belts

To the House Finance Committee,

I'm happy for the chance to share my concerns on the State Budget.

There are of course many needs in our extra large state but I'm of the opinion that our biggest and most urgent concern should be the balancing of our budget, it's the right thing to do.

In order to do that we need to tighten our belts, live within our means and wisely spread the sacrificing required around, moving through this together onto better days ahead. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Connie Bell

Petersburg

#69

Yolanda Bryant

Wasilla, AK

Issue: PFD & taxes

To the House Finance Committee,

I'm happy for the chance to share my concerns on the State Budget.

There are of course many needs in our extra large state but I'm of the opinion that our biggest and most urgent concern should be the balancing of our budget, it's the right thing to do.

In order to do that we need to tighten our belts, live within our means and wisely spread the sacrificing required around, moving through this together onto better days ahead. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Connie Bell

Petersburg

#70

Nick Farstad

Issue: Cuts, PFDs, Pay raises

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to express my concerns about this year's budget.

I can not support the governor's request to freeze non union workers wages and would hope you feel the same. Some non union workers have already had their hours cut and are taking furlough days or both. Why should they carry the burden while union workers continue to enjoy cost of living increases?

I also cannot support any new taxes or using the permanent fund to balance the budget.

All departments need to learn how to operate more efficiently.

You can continue to cut their budgets all you want, but until they learn the definition of (efficient), the money will keep being flushed down the drain!

Please take the time to look into how state agencies are being managed before making the citizens pay out of their own pockets to make up for the waste that is happening.

Sincerely,

Nick Farstad

#71

Dan Vandermeer

Issue: Cut spending

Cut spending.

Dan

#72

Perry Klein

Ketchikan, AK

Issue: Cuts, No taxes, PFD

Is it true that your caucus is recommending an increase in state spending while at the same time recommending state income tax and additional harvesting of the pad?

You realize that the state of Alaska outspends almost all of its state peers in regards to state government relative to population. We are one of the leaders in federal funding per capita as well, (my tax dollar).

What is wrong with you? We have been spending above our means for years and you are not cutting? Like it or not the state relies on oil revenue for the bulk of our operating budget. You aren't going to move the dial on that in a short time frame, i.e. The next five years. You need to get state spending back in line with state income, not the other way around.

What a disgrace.

Perry Klein

Ketchikan Ak