



February 28, 2017

To: House State Affairs Committee members  
Re: HB 127 and HB 118

Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins, Vice Chairwoman LeDoux and members of the State Affairs Committee,

Tanana Chiefs Conference is an Alaska Native non-profit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. We are the traditional tribal consortium of 37 federally recognized tribes within 42 interior Alaskan communities. Our work is involved in the areas of health services, cultural and natural resources, and tribal development. TCC works closely with its membership to carry out its mission.

Fourteen months ago, Tanana Chiefs Conference celebrated the release from incarceration of the four men known as the Fairbanks Four, Marvin Roberts, George Frese, Eugene Vent and Kevin Pease. These men had maintained their innocence for 19 years and were partially vindicated after a five week trial when the state of Alaska traded the keys to their jail cells for the release of any civil liability in the prosecution and investigation of their cases. These four men can not seek compensation through the court processes available to most people. The State also did not provide these boys with any type of reparation to transition back into daily life; literally they are left with the shirts on their backs. Despite their proven innocence, the difficulty of reentering society is profound for the wrongfully convicted; the failure to compensate them adds insult to injury. Society has an obligation to promptly provide compassionate assistance to the wrongfully convicted

The process to guarantee true justice will be a long one. To ensure that no more Alaska Native men and women are falsely imprisoned, wrongfully convicted or victimized by the Alaska criminal justice system, many things must be examined and rehabilitated. It will involve oversight and training of law enforcement on false confessions, custodial interrogations and preservation of evidence best practices. It must include examination of charging and sentencing disparity as it applies to both rural and urban Alaska Natives and all Alaskans. Prosecutorial misconduct and the mechanisms for accountability of State officials need to be codified with real and meaningful sanctions available. Eyewitness identification reform, access to post-conviction DNA testing, these reforms and subsequent change in law is often based on the work of Criminal Justice Reform Commissions similar to our own. Tanana Chiefs Conference will be seeking all of the reforms above, this year and every year until lasting change is achieved. We ask for your support in our endeavors.

**SUBREGIONS:**

**Upper Kuskokwim**

- McGrath*
- Medfra*
- Nikolai*
- Takotna*

**Lower Yukon**

- Anvik*
- Grayling*
- Holy Cross*
- Shageluk*

**Upper Tanana**

- Dot Lake*
- Eagle*
- Healy Lake*
- Northway*
- Tanacross*
- Tetlin*
- Tok*

**Yukon Flats**

- Arctic Village*
- Beaver*
- Birch Creek*
- Canyon Village*
- Chalkyitsik*
- Circle*
- Fort Yukon*
- Venetie*

**Yukon Koyukuk**

- Galena*
- Huslia*
- Kaltag*
- Koyukuk*
- Nulato*
- Ruby*

**Yukon Tanana**

- Alatna*
- Allakaket*
- Evansville*
- Fairbanks*
- Hughes*
- Lake Minchumina*
- Manley Hot Springs*
- Minto*
- Nenana*
- Rampart*
- Stevens Village*
- Tanana*



House Bill 127 and 118 are important first steps in ensuring the integrity of our criminal justice system. Currently, the federal government, the District of Columbia and 30 states have compensation statutes. Twenty states do not. Alaska is one of those twenty. This is not an honored distinction. Please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Tanana Chiefs Conference

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Joseph".

Victor Joseph,  
President/Chief



**LEADER** in All We Do

March 7, 2017

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
Chair, House State Affairs Committee  
State Capital Room 411  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Doyon support for HB 127, An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for overturned criminal convictions

Dear Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins,

This letter is a written statement of support on behalf of the Doyon, Limited Board of Directors, our employees, and shareholders for HB 127, "An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for an individual whose conviction has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent fund dividend because of a conviction that has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed."

Doyon is one of the thirteen Native regional corporations established by Congress under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. Doyon's mission is to promote the economic and social well-being of our present and future shareholders, to strengthen their Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

Just over a year ago, Doyon celebrated with Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Interior Alaska Native community the release of Marvin Roberts, George Frese, Eugene Vent and Kevin Pease from incarceration. These men, known as the Fairbanks Four maintained their innocence for 19 years and were partially vindicated after a five week trial when the State of Alaska traded the keys to their jail cells for the release of any civil liability in the prosecution and investigation of their cases.

Doyon also recognizes that the Alaska Permanent Fund is one of Alaska's greatest assets. While most Alaskans have benefitted from the vision of Governor Hammond and the Alaska State Legislature who originally enacted the permanent fund dividend program, the Fairbanks Four have not. HB 127 would allow for Alaska's wrongfully convicted to participate in the dividend program that continues to benefit all Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for the work you do on behalf of Alaska. If you have any questions regarding Doyon's support for HB 127, please contact our office at 907-459-2092.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Schutt  
President and CEO  
Doyon, Limited

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Morgan VanHatten <morganvanhatten@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 11:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 118 and HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the state of Alaska:

I'm writing on behalf of those who have been wrongfully convicted for crimes they didn't commit. The depth of what these people have gone through is indescribable to say the least. They have been cheated out of time that can never be gotten back. It's important to let those people who have been wrongfully convicted know that they haven't been forgotten and we are all still fighting for justice. It's only right that the state pass HB118 and HB127 so that people like the Fairbanks Four can go on to lead healthy, productive lives and inspire others that through faith and the right people, anything is possible. I've always been a supporter of the Fairbanks Four and hope that you, Mr. Kawasaki do everything in your power to see that these young men get compensation for their time served. Thank you for all that you do for our state.

Sincerely,  
Morgan King

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Jackie & Ed Debevec <akdebevec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Scott  
I strongly support HB 127. I see some of the folks who have been incarcerated and any assistance we can give them to be successful is a plus for them and our community. It is also just the right and fair thing to do.  
Thanks for spending time on creating it.  
Jackie Debevec

Sent from my iPad

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Mary Ann Borchert <maborche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 9:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Friday, February 24, 2017 10:01 PM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I strongly support HB 127. For those who have been wrongly convicted of a crime, we need to stop treating them as criminals after the conviction has been overturned.

Mary Ann Borchert, Fairbanks

---

Mary Ann Borchert  
Educational Consulting  
2450 Locksley Ct.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907-479-2087 (cell 907-888-2972)

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Hari Atma Khalsa <giving2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; housefinance@leg.gov  
**Subject:** PFD's for the wrongfully convicted

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Rep. Kawasaki, House Finance Committee,  
I live in Wasilla, Ak. I am a registered voter in Ak. I believe the wrongfully convicted should have PFD's.  
Thanks for all you do.  
Humbly Yours,  
Hari Atma Kaur Khalsa

--

Hari Atma Kaur Khalsa  
Brighten Your Life Coaching  
Professional Health/Life Coach  
[brightenyourlifecoaching.wordpress.com](http://brightenyourlifecoaching.wordpress.com)  
<http://www.breathoflifecenter.yolasite.com>

*greatest wealth is health*

"When you don't go within, you go without." Yogi Bhasan

February 27, 2017

Representative Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Repayment of Withheld Permanent Fund Dividends for Eugene Vent, Marvin  
Roberts, Kevin Pease, and George Frese.

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

I am writing this letter to encourage you to keep up the fight for our boys and others whose sentences were commuted for any reason by the State of Alaska. I know each of the Fairbanks Four and am related to two of them: Eugene Vent and George Frese. Eugene is my late brother's boy and George is my sister's son.

We, now including the State of Alaska, knew that the facts of the case simply did not support the conviction of those arrested and charged with the horrific crime against John Hartman. They spent way too many years locked up for a crime they did not commit.

Specifically in Eugene's case, I would remind the Legislature that my nephew's confession was obtained under duress and when he was very young. As a result he and the other boys lost a major asset held by all Alaskans and that is the Alaska Permanent fund payment.

I have witnessed Eugene and George mature over the years and today with wisdom beyond their years, they continue to make the best of a bad situation by holding down jobs and contributing back to society and their community of Fairbanks. I believe they all deserve a chance to be called real Alaskans, citizens of this great state and honored with repayment of the Permanent Fund Dividend withheld for the past nearly twenty years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Annie Huntington-Kriska  
9352 Morningside Loop, #2  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** jody hassel <jodyhassel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Please pass HB127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This is one of the things the State of Alaska can do to help the wrongfully convicted reestablish a normal life. The Fairbanks Four deserve and need our help. Thank you for your time Scott!

Sent from my iPhone

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Julian Thibedeau <jrthibedeau09@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves, among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years, with nothing but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Sent from my LG Mobile

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Alicia Hill <a.hill90@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Cc:** Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
**Subject:** HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To: Rep. Kawasaki  
Cc: House State Affairs Committee

Please accept this letter of support to pass HB 127.

The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I was only 11 years old when the story of the "Fairbanks Four" began. I heard everything people had to say about us Natives. For years after this, I did not feel valued as a native person. I was nearly 30 when they were released. I cannot even imagine the horror of spending nearly two decades in prison for a crime I did not commit. Now these men: Marvin, George, Eugene, and Kevin have been freed and have had to begin lives that were wrongfully stolen.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alicia Hill

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** emerson <emersonheads@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Public record comment

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, ( please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite me being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three season, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads  
1334 Overhill Drive  
Fairbanks AK 99701  
907-460-8950

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Princess Lucaj <princesslucaj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Cc:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely & with gratitude for your public service!  
Princess Daazhrai Johnson  
Fairbanks, AK

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Tonya Garnett <tonyagarnett@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** HB127

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,  
Tonya Garnett  
tonyagarnett@hotmail.com  
907-388-3805

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** CLARISSA GUNTER <cgunter2014@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support letter

To whom it may concern:

I believe it is very wrong to be accused of such horrible crimes that the Fairbanks Four were accused of. First your name is smeared all over the news papers and everyone is judging you. Then to sit in jail for 18 years for a crime the Fairbanks Four did not commit. Their whole lives were destroyed by this. At the very least they can be compensated for the pain and suffering they had to endure for 18 long years! They never got to learn a trade or go to college and starting life over in your 30's is not easy. They have endured enough pain and suffering they should at least be compensated and get their dividends from the past years.

--

*Sincerely,  
Clarissa Gunter*

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Christy <christy\_moses2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:46 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Thank you,

Christy Shank  
907-388-4439  
1607 27th Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK  
99701

Sent from my iPhone

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Valerie Webb <VEW@shanwil.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** HB 127

Hi All,

I support HB127! Thank you to whoever drafted this bill and brought it in front of you all. Please help this bill become a reality.

Thank you in advance,

Val



*Valerie Webb, C.P.G.* | Senior Geologist  
2355 Hill Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

[www.shannonwilson.com](http://www.shannonwilson.com)

Phone: (907) 479-0600 Fax: (907) 479-5691  
Direct: (907) 458-3152 E-mail: [vew@shanwil.com](mailto:vew@shanwil.com)



**Excellence. Innovation. Service. Value.**  
We Help Our Clients Achieve Their Goals.

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Travis Anderson <travisnicole@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Pfd

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this ☺

I hope you have a wonderful rest of your day!

-Nicole and Travis Anderson

**Ashley Strauch**

---

**From:** Lou Brown <loubrown1952@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB127

February 28, 2017

Dear Legislator,

One of the things the State of Alaska can do to help the wrongfully convicted and help them reestablish a normal life is to pass HB127 which seeks to pay PFDs to Alaskans whose convictions were vacated, reversed or dismissed. It seems apparent that when an individual has been wrongfully convicted, reinstating their right to receive the PFD is the least the State can do to try to make a wrong right.

Thanks for considering my thoughts on this important matter.

Lou (Linda) Sue Brown

2630 Home run

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[loubrown1952@gmail.com](mailto:loubrown1952@gmail.com)

--  
Lou Brown  
2630 Home Run  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 479-5629  
[loubrown1952@gmail.com](mailto:loubrown1952@gmail.com)

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Christin Anderson <mushroomchristin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** I support HB 127

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more."

I have met nice people who were incarcerated and released with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Everyone deserves mercy, and I believe that giving them their PFDs would be a step in the right direction, even more so for those who were wrongfully convicted.

Thank you,  
Christin

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Sheryl Reily <sherylmareereily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:14 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** Support for HB 127

Dear Representative,

I am writing in support of HB 127 which will enable wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration.

It the right moral choice and it will help them rebuild the lives that have been wrongfully taken from them by the State.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Maree Reily

---

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Audrey C Bifelt <bifeltac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB 127, to restore PFD payments to those wrongly convicted and incarcerated. Denying the PFD isn't right so please support HB 127. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Audrey C Bifelt

PO Box 49

Huslia, Alaska

99746

**Ashley Strauch**

---

**From:** Willow Bowen <bowenw@doyon.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB127

Dear Scott -

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction. On the contrary, restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127. Thank you for your consideration.

This may seem like something small to our legislature in light of other issues, but to the Fairbanks Four, who have already suffered and lost much more than just 18 years of their life, it is a small token of restoring their faith in a broken system, and ours too.

Sincerely,

Willow Bowen

Fairbanks resident

**Ashley Strauch**

---

**From:** Mona Nollner <Mona.Nollner@tananachiefs.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** letter

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Mona Nollner, Thank you for your work on the bills to seek compensation for the Fairbanks Four. These men are very important people to me. I realize this may be an uphill battle due to the current state budget and other factors. If there is anything I can do to help with these bills please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and best wishes this session.

Respectfully,

Mona Nollner

1223 26<sup>th</sup> Ave

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

907-712-4915

.....

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Emily Carroll <emilysidneycarroll@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:32 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** FAIRBANKS 4 HB127

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Emily Carroll. Thank you so for your all work on the bills to seek compensation for the Fairbanks Four.

These men are very important to me. One in particular happens to be one of my really good friends. These guys have been robbed a life time, no amount of money could ever fix or even come close to making what happened to them right or okay. These guys never got to have a chance like most of us in life and lost so many years and missed so much time with family they can never get back.

I realize this may be an uphill battle due to the current state budget and other factors. if there is anything I can do help with these bills please do not hesitate to contact me.

thank you for your time and best wishes this session.

Respectfully,

Emily Carroll

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** Dorothy Shockley <shockleyd907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:45 PM  
**Subject:** Re: HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 12:42 PM, Dorothy Shockley <[shockleyd907@gmail.com](mailto:shockleyd907@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Rep. Kawasaki and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 127. It is the least the state can do to compensate the wrongfully convicted.

I urge you all to pass HB 127 and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Respectfully,

--  
Dorothy Shockley

--  
Dorothy Shockley

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Edwin Bifelt <edwin@zanehillscapital.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:58 PM  
Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool;  
Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Neal Foster  
**Subject:** PLEASE SUPPORT HB 127! PFD's for the wrongly convicted  
**Attachments:** Edwin Bifelt\_HB 127\_Letter of Support.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good Afternoon House members,

I urge you to support HB 127, which allows back pay of PFD's for those wrongly convicted. This is a direct benefit to the 'Fairbank Four'. As Alaskans I think we are all well aware of this case.

As a resident of rural Alaska, a business owner and strategic consultant and a city council member for the City of Huslia - I wholeheartedly support HB 127. I ask that the House please pass this bill in the first session.

I know you are all facing an immense and sometimes incomprehensible challenge as we face a growing state budget deficit. There is no 'easy' answer to this challenge, and the reality is (which we saw last year) there may not be significant progress this year. But this bill is an opportunity to 'get it right', at least once in this 30th Alaska Legislature. I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of these four men, that literally lost half their lives.

As a finance MBA I understand that in reality the effects of this compensation have little effect on the long-term fiscal solvency of our state. In addition this is a 'case' that is heavily embedded into the consciousness of rural Alaskans, Alaska Native's and many throughout the state. Your support will definitely be appreciated from all parts of the state.

As a person of logic, I think we all know there wont be very much 'wins' in this 30th legislature.. This is a chance for all of us to get a win.

I apologies for such a late letter of support. If you need any further info please contact me anytime. God bless you all.

Best Regards,

**Edwin Bifelt**  
Owner/Principal Consultant

**Zane Hills Capital, LLC**  
phone: 907-829-2248

[www.zanehillscapital.com](http://www.zanehillscapital.com)  
[www.twitter.com/zanehillscap](https://www.twitter.com/zanehillscap)  
[www.facebook.com/ZaneHillsCapital](https://www.facebook.com/ZaneHillsCapital)

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** liisarae@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127.

Liisia Edwardson  
PO box 132  
Tanana, ak 99777

Sent from my iPhone

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Tillila Beetus <tilbeetus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Cc:** Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
**Subject:** HB 127 - E. Vent testimony

Hello, this is Eugene's testimony for your consideration

### Eugene Vent

February 16 at 8:15pm · I don't post often, but lately I have been thinking about how life is out here, getting such a late start at adulthood and the struggles that come with it, I am a thirty seven year old Native man and just now getting the opportunity to find my destination, yeah, I heard it all... People tell me and the other three guys (Kevin, Marvin and George) that we deserve to be compensated or given millions for eighteen years of wrongful imprisonment... Now that I began working full-time, *I like my job... But everyday I catch that feeling of having been robbed of the most important years of my life, I appreciate all who are arguing for compensation... Scott Kawasaki, Bill Oberly and countless others, and now I am pleading that the people, citizens of Alaska once again rally behind this cause, that's what will make the difference, please come together and unite and demand compensation for 'The Fairbanks Four' It's only right, and now I believe that more and more as each day passes by, this type of Justice will only help reassure all Alaskans that these great examples of Injustice, our example... will be that much more less likely to happen, it is not about the money, but about accountability... and I hope we can all agree that what's right is right.*

Til Beetus  
907-378-2541

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Sharon Alden <fwxsca@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Cc:** Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am writing in support of HB 127

Those wrongfully incarcerated should have their Perminant Fund Dividends restored. This money will help those getting out of jail to restart their lives.

Thank you

Sharon Alden

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Pam A. Miller <pammillerarctic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support HB 127 Pay PFD's to those wrongfully convicted.

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 6:57 AM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Scott,

Thank you for introducing HB 127, a bill to pay PFD's to Alaskans whose convictions were vacated, reversed or dismissed.

This is an important bill towards the path of justice for the Fairbanks 4 and many others who have been wrongfully convicted.

I remember the great joy at the David Salmon Tribal Hall the day that all 4 of the men were reunited with their families, their communities, and the great burden that felt lifted that day after 20 + years.

But now these amazing, strong men continue to face the effects of their wrongful convictions that are far reaching into the future. This is far more than lost wages, benefits, or paying into Social Security or retirement systems for decades, savings, but also skills honed over years and years that deepen as they are shared with colleagues, mentors, and young people.

There is also the greater security that comes from building a life and along the way figuring out that fine balance of the work world and family, and how to grow a socially and culturally sustaining livelihood rooted from time in those special places hunting, fishing, harvesting, and more.

I strongly support those wrongfully convicted from receiving their past PFD's value with inflation to today for the years they were considered ineligible due to incarceration.

This bill is a small first step of the full compensation the Fairbanks 4 and unfortunately many others should be provided for the tragic time they lost.

Thank you for representing Fairbanks and the values that I trust all Alaskans share of justice, decency and plain old willingness to do right by people.

Best Regards,

Pamela A. Miller

1800 Musk Ox Trail

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907-441-2407

[pammillerarctic@gmail.com](mailto:pammillerarctic@gmail.com)

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Lindsay Monty <cold\_rain\_nsnow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Supporting HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Due By:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 6:57 AM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mr. Kawasaki,  
I'm writing in support of HB 127, so that people who've been wrongfully convicted can at least recover PFD funds to try and begin a normal life. This is just one way to rectify the unimaginable injustice of wrongful imprisonment. Please put yourself in another's shoes and vote in support of HB 127.

Thank you,  
Lindsay Monty  
Fairbanks, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** chuck hugny <chugny@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

Hi Scott, I wanted to encourage your support of HB 127 that would allow wrongfully imprisoned individuals "back payment" of their PFD's they missed while incarcerated. I do have a personal stake in this a high school teacher of Marvin Roberts, on of the Fairbanks four. It was always my assertion that Marvin was not capable of such a crime. Comments from other former students who were with Marvin that night only cemented my view of his innocence. As you are well aware he, and the other three young men, spent 16 years unjustly behind bars even after the true murders came forth. Marvin is making the best of a very bad situation. When our justice system fails in such a life destroying way I feel it is only just for them to be awarded the PFD's that would have rightfully be theirs!

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Charles " Chuck" Hugny  
Mile 315 Parks Highway  
North Nenana AK. 99760

Phone 1-907-750-5463

Sent from my iPhone

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** emerson <emersoneads@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public record comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, ( please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite me being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three season, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads  
1334 Overhill Drive  
Fairbanks AK 99701  
907-460-8950

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** Don Ross <evrevross01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 4:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Rep. Kawasaki,

Restorative justice is a theme worthy of support. Your bill is a part of that process. The best of luck with it.

Yes, to creating a culture that cares for one another and the earth.

Peace Rider Don  
2532 Roland Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** Rosie Ashby <ashbyrosie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 1:23 AM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp  
**Subject:** I support HB127 for Fairbanks Four

To whom it may concern,

I'm an Inupiaq Alaskan resident, who receives the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend; and know that each year that really helps keep up with costs of living up here in bush Alaska. Where costs are higher because of our remote areas. Rent/mortgages costs take a high amount out of our monthly incomes. Groceries cost for the month aren't pretty. Gas prices are high. Not to mention retail on our necessities of warm winter gear. These are all the things this bill I know may help the Fairbanks Four with. So I just want to take this time to show support. I highly support the bill being passed. They should have a right to their Permanent Fund Dividends that were not paid. Thank you for your time and God blessings. Taikuu!(Thank you in Inupiaq.)

- Fellow Alaskan just wanting to show support

## Ashley Strauch

---

**From:** Billie Buckingham <ncountry@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127.

Thank you,  
Billie Buckingham

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** Lorraine David <lbdavid1954@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** House Bill 127

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

This letter is written in support of House Bill 127. These four young men who were wrongfully convicted deserve some compensation to begin the hard task of adjusting to being out of prison to continue their lives in a changed world.

Life is hard as it is in the villages with everything so expensive and not enough jobs for everyone. The permanent fund dividend is something that all Alaskans look forward to every year to survive.

These four young men are good men and deserve a new start in life and the money from the permanent fund will be a fantastic start for them.

Thank you very much for proposing this house bill.

I wholeheartedly support House Bill 127 and pray that it is passed.

Respectfully,

Lorraine

Lorraine B. David  
3228 Edby Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-378-1574

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** Billie Buckingham <ncountry@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Louise Stutes  
**Subject:** HB118

Dear Representatives,

Please support HB118. The State of Alaska has taken 18 years from Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, George Frese and Kevin Pease. They can never regain that time, but you can pass this bill and give them a small start in a new life. Imagine being forty years old and having no work experience, or social experience, and having to make your way in the world. Please do the right thing.

Thank you for your support,

Billie Buckingham

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** emerson <emersonheads@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Louise Stutes  
**Subject:** AK house Bills 118 and 127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, ( please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite my being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three seasons, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads  
1334 Overhill Drive  
Fairbanks AK 99701  
907-460-8950

**William Jodwalis**

---

**From:** Joy Bailey <jb@sei-ak.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB127

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Rep. Kawasaki –

I would like to express my support for HB127. I believe citizens who have their convictions overturned, revoked, dismissed, etc. should be entitled to Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they were disqualified from receiving them by those same convictions.

Respectfully –

Joy Bailey

1218 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-322-7663

joymail001@yahoo.com

## William Jodwalis

---

**From:** H. Watkins <hmdw@usa.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** HB127

Dear Rep.Kawasaki,

I am writing in support of bill HB127 which you introduced recently.

After a lengthy hearing in 2015, a court vacated the criminal conviction of four young men who were were incarcerated for 18 years for the murder of John Hartman - a crime which it is highly likely was committed by other people known to the criminal justice system.

That the four young men chose to accept a rotten deal to not sue the State of Alaska or anyone else for their lost years is the measure of their strong desire to return to their families and 'normal life' without further delay.

Anyone institutionalized for a long time has a lot of adjustments to make and these young men need all the support we can give them to become settled and productive citizens. Making provision for them to receive the money from the PFD's that were unable to claim earlier would be a step in the right direction.

I thank you for introducing this bill and ask that our legislature will give it the support it needs to pass speedily.

Sincerely,

Helen Watkins  
School Counselor (Retired)

Reply to hmdw@usa.net

"Nature never repeats herself, and the possibilities of one human soul will never be found in another."

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton