

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

PATRICIA BRAVO

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

~~Finance Committee~~ HB 115

COMMITTEE:

Finance Committee

DATE: 3/20/17

I was in Anchorage when the Permanent Fund was established and my understanding was that it could not be touched by the State for budget financing and was there for the residents of Alaska and could not be used to run the State - even in this fiscal debacle. Use our income tax which would be more fair as it addresses the rich as well as the average citizens and would not harm the poor, the aging, and the small ~~state~~ villages.

Do Not Touch Our Permanent Fund

: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115 Dear Alaska House Representative, A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Janese Hayes
Ketchikan Alaska

Dear House Finance Members:

This state must simply get its wasteful spending under control before there is any thought of a personal state income tax.

For example, we had an opportunity to view the result of 100's of \$millions of state spending in a partial rail bed snaking through the marshes and forests near Big Lake. Reportedly called the Point MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, this unnecessary project, had it been completed, would have taken revenue away from the Anchorage Port and would have created more expense for the Alaska Railroad which is already laying off employees. Hopefully Alaska will not waste any more money on this boondoggle and it will only serve as another example of wasted state spending.

Another example is the tens of \$millions that the state spent on the interconnection of the Fire Island Wind Project with the result that Chugach Electric consumers now pay more for their electricity every month. These outrageous electric energy costs, some of the highest in the nation, result in everything costing more in Anchorage; food, clothing, services. Why the state would spend tens of \$millions to make everything cost more is unbelievable but obviously happened.

And one of the latest funded boondoggles, Governor Walker's project approved by the legislature to spend 100's of \$millions of state money on a project to ship liquefied natural gas to the Interior via trucks at a cost higher than what heating oil costs. Simply providing an energy rebate to all Alaskan households would have had much greater benefit. Although the goal of bringing lower cost energy to the Interior is admirable, if it requires a half \$billion of hidden state funding including a desperate act of the State buying utility companies to hide costs, it is totally fraudulent. Any unspent state money on this Interior project should be withdrawn and applied to the current deficit.

These are only three projects, approaching a \$billion dollars of wasteful state spending, that could have headed off the current deficit. With the State continuing to waste money with no regard, there should be no personal state income tax. There are still a huge number of boondoggle spending projects ongoing.

Sincerely,

Mark and Lucy Teitzel

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115

Please, stop this madness! No new taxes and stay the heck out of the PFD!! We will be voting soon.

C. Lester

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than the government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. We are paying attention and we do understand quite well the game that is afoot.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, fix our family vehicle, stock up on groceries and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Brandi Wadkins, household of five
Soldotna, Alaska

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! There are better ways to deal with State Government. You each would not do to your own house what you are working at doing to the State house.

I and my family, are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. The Alaskan people better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in the Alaskans pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund our children’s’ college education, pay heating bills, pay medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Sincerely,

Judith A Hammonds

Willow, Alaska 99688

I DO NOT mind paying my fair share of taxes.

I OPPOSE ANY AND ALL new taxes (income or sales) as long as we keep giving money to the oil companies. The proposed income tax is supposed to bring in \$650 million. Payouts to the oil companies are \$700 million. This situation just will not do!

I OPPOSE having new taxes that will last indefinitely and can be squandered by the legislature after the budget deficit is gone.

I will support an income tax and/or a state sales tax, IF AND ONLY IF:

1. the oil company subsidies are reduced to ZERO, AND
2. the income and/or state sales taxes have a SUNSET CLAUSE of no more than 5 years, AND
3. no high ticket expenditures are permitted (e.g. Susitna dam, Juneau road to private mine, Knik Arm bridge) until new taxes are repealed, AND
4. the legislature and the governor are prevented from raiding the Permanent Fund and the Permanent Fund Dividend.

I am tired of the Republicans and Democrats blaming each other. AND I am tired of the Republicans' unwillingness to work with the Democrats to find a bipartisan solution to Alaska's budget deficit. The comments by Wilson, Tilton and Millett are total BS.

I have no party loyalty.

I VOTE!

I ALWAYS VOTE!

Michael Philo

Anchorage, AK 99516

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. We oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help pay our heating bills, pay our medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Jody Pryor
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! We, the Bickford family, is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We (and "we" are not alone!) oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. I do not appreciate the Blatant waste of tax money only for the government to turn around and tell us they need more.

If it stays in the pockets of Alaskans (who really DO need it!) it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, and manage it more appropriately; not cut the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaskan economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

If this bill goes through, I will see to it that I, and everyone I know, sees to it that every single current Alaskan Representative, Senator, and even the governor who voted for this is replaced as soon as humanly possible.

I will not tolerate thieves who claim to speak on our behalf.

Lloyd Bickford
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD.

We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Sincerely,

Christine Hamilton

Dear House Finance Committee:

I am writing to comment on HB115. First of all, what would you do if the Permanent Fund was not available? How would you resolve the budget issues? There are many more areas to cut, including your own which costs the state on an average of one billion dollars annually. The fund was not designed to pay for running the state and it should not be used for this. No doubt, many look at this pot of money with greedy eyes, but it should not be touched. This is what the citizens of the state want, so please listen to them. Families rely upon their checks from the Fund and additionally, at Dividend time the state economy is greatly boosted.

Instead, institute a 10% flat income tax and a seasonal sales tax. Taxes are how the rest of the 49 states raise money to fund government. A flat tax is simple. It is a consistent tax rate applied to all tax brackets and everyone would pay the same tax rate regardless of income. The flat tax would be imposed on wages only, with no tax on capital gains or investments. Due to its simplicity, there would be no deductions, no need for tax preparation services or an army of people to process returns. The seasonal sales tax on lodging should be around 10% and a seasonal sales tax on other items should be around 3%. The 35% of slope workers would finally pay something back to the state.

Additionally, please consider an exit tax for anyone who leaves the state. Canada has one which is around \$10, but with all of the slope workers and tourists, ours could be higher, say \$50. It would be innocuous; just a fee added onto a plane ticket.

Thank you for doing the right thing for the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Printz

Dear Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. We oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We know first-hand what a terrible job state government does at spending money.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Laurie Johnson

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I are adamantly opposed to House Bill 115. It is unbelievable that spending cuts aren't on the top of the list

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Kathy Conn

Blessed beyond measure!

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than the government. We have heard on the radio and read how the government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

The government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not the government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Candace Smith
Salcha, AK 99714

EMAIL: housefinance@akleg.gov,

Subject: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be

Eric Marston

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

I could write my own letter on this subject, but this form letter pretty much sums it all up!

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB11

Peggy I. Marsh
Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683

who ever votes for this bill along with Walker I will vote to remove them from office

Dwight And Linda Hunter

Anchorage. Alaska

99508 we are both registered to vote in Alaska

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

I could write my own letter on this subject, but this form letter pretty much sums it all up!

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB11

Kenneth L. Marsh

Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683

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March 28, 2017

Members of House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99824

Dear Committee Members:

We are opposed to HB115 because it places a large burden on our family budget given the fact that other measures for reducing the budget and revenue enhancement have not been addressed.

The rate set in the working draft legislation will remove over \$7000 from my family budget. This is money I will not donate to schools, youth organizations, or other charities within Alaska, or spend in stores in our state. This is removing money from the private economy to benefit the state government, when the State has yet to demonstrate appropriate reductions in the budget other revenue enhancements.

Many have advocated for an income tax over other revenues because the taxes paid to Alaska can be deducted federal taxes. This is not true for all Alaskan's, and one group this may negatively impact are retired and elderly who have worked hard to pay off a mortgage and claim the standard deduction rather than itemize ones taxes. Further, having no exclusion for capital gains, trusts, and estate taxes is completely counter to supporting those who have made Alaska a home for life versus only living here during ones working years. I fear this proposal will further damage the economy by driving retired and elderly south.

The operating budget as proposed by the House in HB57 does not show the restraint in spending to justify taking money from family budgets through an income tax. While HB57 as approved by the House may be smaller than many prior year budgets, it is larger than the Governor proposed and does not demonstrate the reductions in state spending to support new revenue coming from our family budget. We believe many of the increments are unnecessary given the budget crisis, and most should have been denied.

We are not opposed to revenue enhancements, and specifically we support: fixing oil tax credits; increasing fuel taxes across the board and bringing Alaska in line with most other states; utilization of PART of the PF earnings reserve; and implementation of a statewide sales tax.

This income tax proposal currently under discussion in the House Finance Committee in HB115 is punitive to our family budget. Further, an income tax that plays such a significant portion to solving the budget crisis, without taking into account multiple other approaches at a greater level will bring further hardship to

the economy by hurting families who have dedicated their efforts to making Alaska a lifelong home.

Les & Deborah Morse
Douglas, AK 99824

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not the way to solve the budget problem. By virtue of Alaska's unique constitution the State's resources belong to the people, not the state. Consequently, do not fool with the PFD without a public vote!

Whether it's in our house or the house of representatives, the way to solve the budget is to live within your means. I'm asking you to be more patriot and less politician on this issue. Do the right thing and manage the state budget with wisdom and the permanent fund likewise. Vote No on HB115.

Keep in touch,

Evan Swensen
Anchorage, AK

NO MORE TAXES INCLUDING THE MOTOR FUEL TAX!!!!!!!!!!

GIVE US BACK THE REST OF OUR PFD'S THAT OUR SORRY EXCUSE FOR A GOVERNOR STOLE FROM ALL ALASKAN'S!!!!!!!!!!

YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS HIM IF YOU GO ALONG WITH HIM!!!!!!!!!!

Walter Martin

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

-Mark Norman

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People's Fund and PFD. The reason is simple. I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children's' college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska. Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

I am imploring you not only as an individual, but also as an educator in this State.

I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is.

Vote NO on HB115.

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Vikki McConnell,

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

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Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Most Sincerely,

Nicole Harrell

Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear House Finance Committee,

This is the second time this session that I will be writing to the committee in **opposition** of a state income tax and in **opposition** of cutting the PFD. There is no doubt that a state income tax and reducing the PFD amount will hurt the private economy and families of Alaska. Small businesses, like the one I own with my husband will be negatively impacted.

1. Keep the PFD as it is, I oppose cutting or "restructuring" the PFD in any way. I believe the ISER analysis that concluded that cutting the PFD reduces overall Alaska income, increases poverty and increases income disparity more than any other fiscal alternative available to the state.
2. I believe my family is better at spending money than the government. We make prudent decisions and waste very little in our personal budget and we certainly do not have a subsidized personal lounge or a gourmet chef for our day-to-day meals.
3. When spending exceeds revenues, you are obligated to make budget CUTS. Do not shift the burden of paying for government programs, oil tax credits, excessive state personnel costs, subsidies, bloated education spending to the middle and lower class residents of Alaska. I am in the middle class, my entire extended family is in the middle class. We are asking you to provide the core government services that you are constitutionally obligated to do and **THAT IS IT**.

A well-known, and timely quote from the very reasonable man, Denis Prager said, "The bigger the government, the smaller the citizen." I believe his statement is true. I believe, if left to your own devices, there would never be enough money to satiate the appetite for more government spending. Luckily you are not allowed to make the decisions without hearing from the people you represent. I wholeheartedly oppose a state income tax and any restructuring of the PFD. I am not a small citizen. I have been a resident of Alaska since birth 32 years ago and my voice counts. My vote is to keep the government small.

Sincerely,

Lacey Libbey

Resident of Wasilla since 1984

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy families, not government. You can not expect us to cut our budgets when you can not do the same. These cuts could mean the difference in the very survival for some families.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD ***as it is***.

Davina Stuart

It is not right that you are considering an income tax on hard working Alaskan and their families. Why punish people who actually go to work everyday while so many refuse to. A sales tax would be much more fair so everyone can make choices wether they can really afford to buy things. And this in addition to stealing our PFD's. How about we dissolve the PFD and pay out a one time payment to all eligible Alaskans and take the rest and you can have it spent and gone within five years. I've never believed in this option until now because you are all guilty of self serving decisions you make with no regard for all Alaskans.

Robin Neel

You are doing irreparable damage to all small businesses in Alaska by stealing the permanent dividend fund from us. I know this is a hard concept for Democrats to accept but money in the economy helps us all. Please continue to cut the budget, even if you have to do it over several years. No program should be sacred

Thank you,

Bill Iverson

Alaska Outdoor Council, President

I have been an Alaskan since 1947. Imposing a State Income tax would be harmful and I oppose it . I will move out of the state if that happens. Legislators should live within their means and quit giving things away . Jane Sparks Palmer AK 99645

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am not your typical letter writing-complaining citizen. I rarely do this, so I hope someone listens. I am writing Governor Walker a similar email as well as Rep. Johnston and Senator Giessel.

I am an airline pilot and also a representative for our domicile here in Anchorage. As airline pilots, we can choose where we live. I have spent many hours counseling our members on the benefits of living in Alaska. My family loves it and I think we have been a good addition to this community. My boys are both Eagle Scouts, my oldest daughter is attending the University of Alaska for her Masters in Special Education and my younger daughter is finishing her RN at UAA. Our union and company have donated countless hours and thousands of dollars to the community. I believe in humility, but I have to say we are people that most communities would value both from a social and economic standpoint. Our member's income range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 per year.

That's a lot of money and we are grateful, but we have all worked very hard to get where we are. We spend that money here in AK!!!! We buy houses, planes, boats, cars, groceries and go out to eat at places like the Southside Bistro and the Rustic Goat. I could ramble on here but you get the picture.

Our companies just purchased 14 Boeing 747-8 aircraft and have options for 14 more. These jets list for \$387,000,00.00 each. They have told me that the first 14 aircraft will be based here. That more than doubles our 747-crew base here. I am helping train these new pilots as you are reading this. It is an exciting time for us.

My phone is currently ringing off the hook and I am attending event after event meeting our current and new members. Many are considering a move to Alaska. They want to know what I think. I think it's amazing, but it is very expensive; housing, food, cold weather gear and what about those last minute airline tickets when Grandpa dies. It's crazy money, but our work quality of life and this great state make it all worth it.

I can tell you that this progressive income tax is the tipping point for me and I intend to share that with my members. I would be remiss if I did not. There are many other more equitable ways to raise money. I would consider paying sales tax with the tourists and everyone else, but only after we take a long hard look at what we are spending. I am personally not going to be able to spend the way I do today when I retire. I realize that and I am planning for it. The golden oil spigot is drying up and we have to adapt. How about investing the rainy day fund in education and new industry instead of passing it out for the brown jug and weed shops. We all need to suck it up a bit while we look for ways to help find new opportunities. Ted Stevens International Airport is one!!! It is in a great geographic location.

I would like to retire and spend my last days in this great state. I also have a fiscal responsibility to my family. I already pay an exorbitant amount of money to live here. How can I in good continence spend another \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year in taxes when I could move somewhere that it cost substantially less to live and has no state income tax?

You may think this letter sounds threatening. That is not my intent. I am simply trying to help you understand some of the outcomes of your vote. What I have told you above is the decision making process my members are going through today. Additionally, many of the people in the petroleum, fishing and even medical industries have similar options. Please don't push us out. I love it here.

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Jackson, Jr.
Anchorage, AK 99516

Please save our PFD and no taxing!

State tax would ruin my self employment business!

VOTE NO HB 115 please!!!

--

Leslie Sharpe

This bill needs to be shut down from the get-go it's not only over-reaching but downright robbery this is exactly what most alaskans were afraid of when you start talking about a state income tax is digging as deep into the pocket of the individual as possible till there's no more left a dig. It's actually time to cut the budget as much as possible get rid of all that frilly stuff out there and get down to the Bare Bones of it.

Gerry Keffer

This is a burdensome tax bill, especially in light of the fact that you refused to consider any of the budget cuts offered by true Republicans. It will really hurt retired people, like me and my husband. I was born here and lived here all my life. Please don't make it any more difficult for us to stay here.

Suzanne Benson

[Eagle River, AK 99577](#)

I am opposed to any proposed State Income Tax.

Please take a moment to consider the 2nd and 3rd level effects of such a measure. Our economy is already struggling with the loss of oil revenue. Jobs on the slope have been lost and people have taken a reduction in salary to keep their jobs. Through the rest of the economy, wages have been relatively flat for years, meaning inflation has eaten away at disposable income. Last year, the PFD was reduced, dealing a further blow to disposable income for most families.

I am personally seeing, in my professional capacity, businesses that were weak 2 years ago are folding now. Those that were strong, are now on the brink as customer traffic has greatly diminished. I went to the MatSu sportsmen show this past Saturday. I've never seen such a poor turn out of vendors and customers. Our economy is hurt and any additional downward pressure on disposable income will cause severe damage.

That is exactly what an income tax would do – serious downward pressure on disposable income when we can least absorb it. If instituted, more businesses will fold, more employees will lose jobs, no pay raises and possibly more pay reductions for those that keep their jobs. Those that can, will leave the state for someplace with a brighter future. Your current estimates of revenue generated are likely over-optimistic as all of these economic reactions will decrease the revenue generated by the tax.

It has been proven that you cannot tax your way out of a bad economy. While I understand you have a budget deficit to deal with, heading in the direction of an income tax will destroy an already floundering economy. Please don't do this.

Respectfully,

Donald Vieira

How many people will need to be hired to run this program? How much will it reduce any income gained?

Reasons people live in Alaska is to avoid taxes and get the PFD. By eliminating both you will be reducing the population and thus tax base.

Jeff Deitz

Let me clearly state that I oppose HB 115, which does little to reduce spending and imposes a significant income tax on many Alaskans. Over the last six weeks I have continuously heard members of the House Finance Committee state that the tax burden would be "very small". Yet in an article that appeared in the Juneau Empire on March 26th, a couple making \$250000 a year would pay nearly \$11000 under HB115. I guess the Committee needs to define "very small". In addition, I have read in several places that even with HB 115, Alaska would have fourth lowest tax rate in the US. That is simply wrong! Seven other states have no state taxes at all and 3 would have lower rates. HB 115 jumps us over 10 states with one piece of legislation!!! Not something to proud of.

We have all heard the statement that we cannot cut our way to a balanced budget. HB 115 takes a different approach. The bill makes no cuts and instead taxes our way to a balance budget. HB 115 simply justifies additional spending, by shifting the burden to pay for the spending to a small portion of the Alaskan population. HB 115 is very shortsighted and will prove to be very harmful to Alaska over time.

Richard Carlson

I have little faith that anyone will read this, but I adamantly oppose HB 115.

Taxes are totally UNNECESSARY!!! Why tax us when you made no attempt to reduce the budget to a sustainable level? In fact, you try to deceive us by telling us you reduced the UGF by 44%. That is like saying I reduced spending in my checking account by 44%, ignoring my savings and jumbo accounts altogether. The story changes dramatically if you include all state accounts... no cutting in state spending. Really, you need to be honest with us. Trust is gone...

Carol Carman

<>< <>< <><

God grant me....

Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

Courage to change the things I can,

and Wisdom to know the difference.

I am opposed to HB 115 as currently proposed, unless/until:

- 1) Additional reductions are made to the state operating budget
- 2) A cap is placed on future state spending
- 3) No unstructured transfers from the Earnings Reserve Account (ERA)

While I recognize that a personal income tax may be inevitable, the following must occur:

- 1) Additional reductions are made to the state operating budget
- 2) A cap is placed on future state spending
- 3) Any state income tax must adhere to the simplest formula possible, ie a percent of an individual's federal tax liability, preserving any and all deductions recognized under federal tax law.
- 4) Any state income tax must apply only to income earned in Alaska.
- 5) The minimum state income tax should be significantly higher than the present proposal (\$25). I would suggest \$100 per person with earned or unearned income.
- 6) The cost of creation of a new division of state government to administer income taxes must not increase overall state operating budget, but must be funded by reductions in other state operating expenses and/or reduction of staff in other state positions.

We face hard decisions, but must not open the checkbook for free-spending in the future by drawing on the ERA without limits and creating an income tax without reductions in state spending.

Sincerely,

Lyndon Ibele

Anchorage, AK

Legislators,

we have been in Alaska for 22 years. We have been a business owner since 2006. We have had many expenses increase in the past ten years; increased payroll taxes, ballooning healthcare insurance premiums, rent increases, and increasing payroll costs. We have gone through every item in our business to find cost savings so we have not had to lay off any employees. We have managed to continue to provide health insurance, despite skyrocketing premiums, even though we have less than 50 employees.

We are livid that you are even considering an income tax. You have no idea how hard it is to run a small business in Alaska. HB 115 is a bill to add another tax burden on my business. We are going to be forced to drop our health insurance coverage and possibly drop employees. It is time for everyone in the State Legislature to do what the rest of Alaska does: tighten your belt, cut expenses, and balance the budget without increasing taxes on hard working Alaskans. Vote NO on HB115

John & Sandy Powers

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a Senior Citizen looking at my 73rd birthday in April. I want you to know that I do not support any Personal Income Tax bill and I particularly find this tax bill to be a nightmare to me and to any Senior Citizen who lives in the State of Alaska now or for the many years (52 years) that I have called Alaska my home. I also do not support violating the Permanent Fund or the Dividend to continue spending at the level the State thinks it needs to spend. I am for cutting spending to the bone, just as I had to do when my late husband passed away and I was left with all the bills we had created together but with 75% fewer dollars upon which to do it.

I was advised that the head of AARP is convinced that this tax will not hurt senior citizens, but I don't see it that way so I am going to give you a rundown on my personal expenses, not including anything except those expenses that I must have to live on without aid.

Gross Income: \$1800.00 My government pension

Less: Medicare: 122.00

Less: Income tax WH 144.00

Less: GEHA Health ins. 125.00

Less: Mortgage plus Ins 852.00

Less: Gas 133.00

Less: Electricity 126.00

Less: Trash 55.00

Less: Water 68.00

Less: auto Ins 46.00

Total: \$1800.00 minus \$1671.00 Living expenses equals \$129.00 to purchase Gasoline for car, groceries, clothing, and any other expenses I have. There is no room in that figure to allow for State Tax WithHolding nor did I figure in the PFD because it is volatile and may Change from year to year depending upon the whim of the Governor.

I currently have to work a part time job so that I can afford to purchase the other necessities of life like food, medications, co-pays for doctor's visits, clothing, gasoline or telephone, etc which I did not figure in because I was just showing the per month actuals that I am guaranteed for income and for expenses.

I would hazard a guess that I am not the only Senior Citizen whose income and expenses look like the above and I would be interested to see how the head of AARP and Mr. Seaton and the others in the Legislature figure out how we can take on another payment in State income tax With Holding.

--

Phylis K. Silverton
Wasilla, AK 99654

HB 115 is a bad piece of legislation. Each of you, (not your staff) please read Bethany Marcum's letter to the editor published in the Peninsula Clarion on March 24th, 2015.

We do not need an Income Tax! We do not have a revenue problem, **We have a spending problem.**

We do not need to restructure the Permanent Fund or cap the PFD to save it! If you do not have enough **courage** to require budget reductions by eliminating redundancies and creating efficiencies, then the best compromise is HB 26.

Will reducing spending be hard, YES, but that's what we elected you to do.

Pat & Myrna Cowan
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Finance Committee:

I am writing in regards to the budget. First of all, what would you do if there was no Permanent Dividend Fund to use? Would you look to yourselves and your staff to cut expenses? After reviewing the LBERS report of 2016, I computed that the Legislature costs the state at least a billion dollars a year (including staffing). Your per diem, moving expenses, meal tickets, plane tickets, vacations, health club memberships, and private chefs definitely are areas to cut in your workplace. Removing the LIO in Anchorage would be a huge cut. We are the only state with two legislative offices. Why is that?

Would you actually take the time to reconfigure oil tax credits to the state's advantage? Once the door is opened to the Fund, it will disappear through boondoggle projects because that is what government does. A lot of community members with financial backgrounds have made viable suggestions, but you don't listen to them. Why?

Government is still too large, but the lure of using the Permanent Fund is too strong to self-reflect and to find more areas to cut that would exclude schools, police, and taking care of the elderly. What if you totally removed the Fund from the scenario. Then what would you do?

Regarding taxes, it makes more sense to institute a 10% flat income tax and a seasonal sales tax. A flat tax is simple. It is a consistent tax rate applied to all tax brackets and everyone would pay the same tax rate regardless of income. The flat tax would be imposed on wages only, with no tax on capital gains or investments. Due to its simplicity, there would be no deductions, no need for tax preparation services or an army of people to process returns. The seasonal sales tax on lodging should be around 10% and a seasonal sales tax on other items should be around 3%. The 35% of slope workers would finally pay something back to the state.

Additionally, please consider an exit tax for anyone who leaves the state. Canada has one which is around \$10, but with all of the slope workers and tourists, ours could be higher, say \$50. It would be innocuous; just a fee added onto a plane ticket.

I do not have confidence that you will do the right thing because it is too easy to use the Fund, and I believe that most voters feel the same way. Once it's gone, which will only take a couple of years, then what will you do if your spending continues at the current rate?

Thank you,

MaryBeth Printz

Dear Finance Members,

(1) I was in favor of the initial income TAX bill [a flat % of IRS tax]

Now I'm not because of the complexity.

(2) Agree with need for < \$ 2000 dividend and use of PF earnings to help pay for government. Hope house and senate can come to agreement.

But, no matter what there are re cuts, In Tax, etc, I fear AK will have to use some of budget reserves. Then, the house minority can hold everyone hostage to get the 3/4 vote.

--

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

As a forty-two year resident of Alaska and one who voted to establish this fund under Gov. Jay Hammond I strongly advise against a State Income Tax. We established the APF to improve our infrastructure: roads, railroad corridor, utilities including access to our neighbors living outside the several city limits. Past and current State Government have seen fit to ignore these improvements during many periods of substantial oil revenue and allowing no consideration for our future. Now they want to take away some of our earned income by legislating a State income tax; when once established will recur year after year. I strongly agree with others who say " take a portion or all of the interest earned by the APF annually". Past years have shown it to be substantial. Reduce the PFD to \$1000.00 per resident annually. This plan may take time to solve all the State's debt problems, but it should create an atmosphere of conservative, responsible spending by the State legislators. Thank you for listening.

Richard Grant

March 15, 2017

Dear House Finance Committee,

I know I'm a small voice in this big state but I want to be heard LOUD when it comes to our State's financial situation. I do not believe state income tax is the answer to our problems. I believe that if the state would have put a cap on spending years ago we wouldn't be in the situation we are now. But now WE, the residents, are going to pay for all the financial woes the government put upon us. Taking the perm fund and adding a state income tax will be so detrimental for many Alaska whom are basically living paycheck to paycheck. An added tax bill will put some people in poverty level and I hope that you will reconsider this action.

If you need to tax the people, PLEASE do it in the means of a state sales tax. Just a couple percent increase would help dramatically especially in the summer when the state is full of tourists. Ketchikan is expected to have over a million tourists this year!! This one town could help a lot with a boosted sales tax. Also, once the marijuana stores are up and running you can overtax them too like the state does with alcohol and tobacco. You have not even considered this as future income.

Ketchikan has a very high rate of property tax and mine alone went up \$500 this year. Can I afford that, yes, but I have to cut something else out of my budget to make this work. The state doesn't follow this simple plan, they just spend, spend, spend, and then put the onus on the hard working Alaskans to clean it up.

You can't tell me that the State didn't know that the oil prices would eventually go down and they may be in a financial crisis if they don't stockpile some money for when that happens! This beautiful State for which I was born and raised in has less than a million people and so for the deficit to be what it is for that few people doesn't seem reasonable. And if you keep taxing us it's just going to get worse as people move out of Alaska.

Please, listen to the voices of the people. Think about this: tax the marijuana industry, initiate a state sales tax, put a cap on spending, and wait to see what the new oil find will bring to the state. But don't target the Alaskan residents, they are didn't do this.

Thank you for listening.

Darlene Breitreutz
Ketchikan, Ak 999901

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

What are you people doing?

Don't you know that borrowing from Peter to pay Paul is not a solution.

It's time to stop making property owners to cover the debt. Start cutting pay of our representatives. Stop combining to get a ruling to pass. If something can't stand alone it isn't meant to be.

You people are suppose to be representing your constituents. Why is it what will benefit you instead of the people who put you in office. Your secret meetings. Can't get things done during the regular sessions so you have to go into extra sessions. This is not acceptable.

I am sick and tired of your secret meetings.

Last night you should have been listening to the Presidents speech.

It's time you start truly listening to the people you are suppose to be representing.

This democrat/republican fight needs to stop. It does not help our state or city.

Stop it now.

Sharon Miles Clark

I do not support hb 115. I do not support state government taking our PFD money in any capacity, and I do not support the way our PFD was cut in half. I support state government reducing it's own expenditures by at least half. I can barely continue to run our tour operation with all the insurance, permits, fees, taxation... we aren't even able to provide an affordable health insurance plan for our employees.

I support the state selling land, and timber, building the gasline Walker said he wanted to build, get more oil flowing through our pipeline, refine our own fuel so we can afford it, fix our roads, manufacturing..... state government is wasteful, it needs to be fixed, not rewarded for lack of ability by taxing and spending. NO ON HB 115

John Nettleton

Please stop cutting our pederson.

Cindy Himmelberger

Ketchikan AK 99901

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, My family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Linda Goss

Fairbanks Resident over 60 years

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

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Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Janette Herrin

I agree with Gov.Hammond saying the greedy politicians are to keep their hands off.

Most locals need that little extra push n besides we pay tax on it. My 2 cents.

Thanks Nettie McDaniel

If there is to be a state income tax let it be simple. Let's not create an accountants playground. My understanding is the current bill has no fiscal note attached. Let's not creat a mini IRS where all the personal taxes float the operation. It makes absolutely no sense to hand out PFDs with one hand and collect taxes with the other. It should be noted that the fiscal gap has been common knowledge since the Heckle administration and ignored by the legislature. Further if we are to be asked to tighten our belts so should the legislature.

Please vote no on HB115! So many people in our state depend on that money. When Alaskans get their PFD it goes back into the economy in our state. The people are also tired of being taxed. No state income tax.

Thank You,

Karla Hudson
Kasilof, AK 99610

I do not agree with the proposal to institute an income tax as a means to pay for Government Services. Why should the rich (which I am not) carry the highest burden of taxation for Government Services, when they are more than likely not the highest user?

A Statewide sales tax on all goods and services is a more equitable approach. Also, this approach taps into the tourists who spend thousands of dollars in Alaska each year. These same tourists that benefit from the Government Services Alaska offers.

Cory Shouse

I think if you are going to instill a State tax, then you shouldn't CAP it because of high income. After all, they would be paying the most and our State could get out of debt, quickly.

The way to charge income taxes is to do it at one rate straight across the board - no deductions, no exceptions, NO REFUNDS!

Then when it comes time to "do their taxes" it would be really simple - BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO DEDUCTIONS, nothing to 'work out'. We could all use the 1040 simple form! It was already deducted out of their income and is NOT being refunded! This would work really great for Federal Income tax, too.

Could you imagine - Everyone (businesses, too) making any amount of money at all, paying 5% tax and NOT being refunded ANYTHING?

Wow!!! The rest of the world would be wondering how we got out of debt so quickly!

Unfortunately, there are too many greedy people making our laws!

Thanks for letting me comment.

Cathy Shaw

I am writing to express my disappointment in this poorly crafted and ill founded Bill. This will create such a hole in our economy that this State will slide further into the recession.

This bill needs to be withdrawn and your Dept. Of Revenue staff need to go back and get educated on how to balance a budget. It also starts with taking laymen such as yourselves out of the House and replaced with candidates who have a clue what it takes to balance a State budget.

I strongly urge you to consider a sales tax, while stop being blackmailed by the cruise and oil industries and go back to taxing them. History has shown that other states that have not backed down have Not suffered losses.

Please kill HB 115.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Walser

Please do NOT consider an income tax before a sales tax. A sales tax would be more appropriate because EVERYONE needs to pay something in this state. Income taxes always result in a class of people paying nothing (and often getting money shifted to them from other taxPAYERS). That is not "fair" and not appropriate allocation of the costs of government. We all need to have some skin in the game by contributing something. A sales tax can ensure that, while an income tax would not.

Ian Wheelles

99507

HB115

I am STRONGLY against the passage of HB115 or any other proposal to create a State Income Tax. My husband and I are 38 year residents of the Mat-Su valley and live on a fixed income. Your committee should be working on further cuts to the operating budget to include elimination of funding the natural gas pipeline and implementing a total hiring and pay freeze for ALL state agencies.

Till Representative Olson pays his moving expenses; don't tax us, the residents.

Jackie Muncy

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please DO NOT consider an income tax! It is not necessary and will only drive more people to leave our state, and retire to the lower 48. Spending cuts and capping the PFD are the only things that make sense to help our fiscal crisis.

LS Phelps

With regard to the subject plan established through the House to utilize PFD earnings and institute an income tax to run state government, I provide the following public testimony. First things first, it makes absolutely no sense to provide a PFD Dividend and apply an income tax. The idea of providing a dividend and taxing income is like handing residents a check and at the same time digging money out of our wallets. Not to mention the administrative cost alone to disperse PFD checks. This idea has politics written all over it! Politicians don't want to be voted out of office for taking away a PFD check, so to mitigate that risk the idea is to provide a check then tax our incomes. Makes no sense!

Before we go to utilizing PFD earnings and consider an income tax, I want to see 30% in overall cuts to State spending. Our State Government is too big and has grown out of control. We hired all the government politicians in this State to do the heavy lifting for the people. That means do the hard work of making the cuts to services necessary to bring spending into balance with revenue (revenue by the way is a funny way in government speak to say taxes). 30% in cuts broadly or specifically or both over say the entire 2015 budget as a benchmark. Once that is complete and put into motion proceed to utilize PFD earnings to pay for State Government services.

Regards,

Randy Barnes

Sir- Cutting to the chase because time and patience is limited.

Have Salary reductions and benefit reductions been discussed and implemented?

Has the AK Congress elected to pay their overtime due to poor performance during the normal session?

Have frivolous UAF/UAA studios been eliminated?

Have the high schools sold their laser cutters, 3d printers, or tablets?

Rural Schools that fail to meet the minimal student population been closed yet?

What revenue is being collected on the Tanana Valley School closing after an enormous amount of money was spent on its roof and façade?

How much funding is the state land sales producing? Lets crank it up a notch!

When my family runs short of funds it is expected that we rein in spending. My state government should be no different. I do not support the infusion of funds through personal tax or raiding the pfd until we have squeezed this lemon we call the AK state government for every drop of juice. Even after that last drop falls, I want assurances that politicians and special interests are limited from expanding their spending. For instance that education bonus of 400 millions dollars a few years back that Fairbanks citizens are now paying for as the money was spent and yet the NEA and teachers wanted us to pick up the tab. When boom times return the AK government should be limited in increasing their spending and a refund be sent to citizens not special interest groups like planned parenthood or NEA.

Thank you

Chris Bye, concerned and over taxed taxpayer

Dear well meaning Pundit Politicians, thanks but NO THANKS!

I agree with Greg Pugh.

Legislating poor management is not your jobs.

But giving away the farm with so called "Financial Incentives" is yours and that goof Randy Hoffbeck. The Gov's sidekick. You know the "Sharpe Dressed Man".

I'm a NO on HB115.

Alaska Bust/Boom 4.0

Sand Lake Super Voter,
William Reiner

To Whom It May Concern,

I have read the Democrat's proposal to collect an additional income tax on Alaskans.. So, if I am single and I make between \$50,000-\$74,999, with no children, I will be taxed \$867.00? If I were married with 2 children I would only be taxed \$233.00? Well, what if I quit my job and I make zero dollars? What would I be taxed? Not only is the proposal illegal, but it is also discriminating against hard working Alaskans who are not looking for government handouts. You spent the money and now you're looking for a bailout from hard working Alaskans. Take the money out of your own pockets instead of putting your hands in mine. We are already paying too much in taxes as United States Citizens. If this bill goes through, I'll be filing a lawsuit against Alaska. All of you so called legislators need to look in the mirror and you will realize that you created this mess. Not us. Step down already. It is time for term limits in Congress. I am not your personal bank account.

Julie Parker
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Please oppose the HB115. I do not believe we should implement an income tax when we have not reduced the cost of state government. Why haven't we frozen wages, reduced administrative overhead and streamline agencies? Until this is done, the government does not need additional revenue.

This tax will hit the working people that make provide the state with the economy that it does have. Please, stop this bill from moving forward.

Respectfully,

Julie Anderson

Honorable Legislators-I write concerning House Bill 115, a bill most appropriately described as another effort of government to skim money from its citizens. Here's my message: government, keep your hands in your own pockets and DO NOT INSTITUTE A SALES TAX. Government needs to balance its own budget and not assume it has the divine right to increase spending (and taxes) whenever it feels like it. Hard choices have to be made, just like in any family. So make them in order to save money, and do not institute a sales tax.

Thank you.

Rudy Poglitsch

Wasilla, AK

I would hope that your tax proposal would also reflect changes in the current budget that shows drastic cuts in legislative spending and perks.

We cannot afford to pay any tax, we cannot afford to lose our dividend, it buys us fuel for the winter months when we have our biggest bills for heating. We do not have a back up wood stove, fuel oil is our only source of heating.

We are retired, in our 70's and on a fixed income and just can't afford any income tax which is true with most people in Alaska. Those who are younger usually are seasonal workers, either construction or tourism.

If you need to increase the income of the state, may I suggest that you start selling off some of the State owned land that is not in use and is just sitting idle. Get rid of the current welfare system that allows people who are able bodied and can work to sit at home and do nothing. Stop spending on things that are not in the best interest of Alaskan's. Maintain roads that need maintained but stop the expansions, we just don't have that kind of traffic that people need to constantly deal with never ending repairs and maintenance on roadways that are not necessary. Keep up the ones we have, don't worry about adding more to the cost of maintenance.

Get rid of the plea bargaining in the court system. Give criminals their punishment and make them serve the time for their crimes. We're tired of seeing the same criminals on the streets year after year. They make our communities unsafe. They cost so much in taxes to keep them. Put them on supervised road gangs to repair the roads....to paint buildings to do maintenance....cut the cost of union labor and make them pay their way as well.

Cut the staff at the State level. Not all of these departments in the capitol need to maintain staffing at the level we now have. Cut back or have a "reduction in the work force" to make the cuts you need. Stop putting it on the back of the people who aren't making enough to survive now, and put it on the backs of these legislators who "don't apologize for the salaries and benefit packages" they enjoy BEING ELECTED SERVANTS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES....they are NOT full time employees, they deserve no extra compensations...this is supposed to be a way to give back to the community, your experience and expertise to help the State, not to run it dry by taking as much as you can from it and leaving.

A former president said that on a politicians salary for their job, if any of them become wealthy, its because they're crooked....they've used their position to better themselves, not their nation...that, too, applies at the State level....we didn't elect people to represent us, just to make them wealthy....if that was the case, we'd all be running for office and a lot more of you would be out of a job.

FOR ALASKAN'S....no income tax, leave education and law enforcement budgets alone..... no more sales tax, stop stealing from the PFD, leave it alone....FIX YOUR OWN MESS.....you created the spending spree that needs changed....cut YOUR

benefits, make State employees use their air miles to go back and forth to Juneau, we didn't authorize the families and those elected to use business miles for pleasure. Better yet, get State travel cards and make them use them for official travel and make them turn them in when their terms are up.

Just a few suggestions

Joann Erickson
North Pole, Alaska

I am STRONGLY against the passage of HB115 or any other proposal to create a State Income Tax. I am a 38 year resident of the Mat-Su valley

and have to live on a fixed income. Your committee should be working on further cuts to the operating budget to include elimination of all funding of a natural gas pipeline and implementing a total hiring and pay freeze for ALL state agencies.

Frank Muncy

Palmer, Alaska

Personally I oppose use of the PDF funds for your budget.

I don't mind if you cap the amount given and keep the rest invested and sitting and growing.

I do mind you using it for budget purposes. I have to balance my budget at home and decide what I can and cannot have.

I also object to you hitting below the belt and telling us- oh we are spending it on education and school-

You have new people in office- lets' see some new ideas and spirit of the last frontier- you can do better than rob the bank.

When I moved here in 1974 there was an income tax- I don't mind that either- you could have left it at a minimum \$50 per person or something instead of throwing it out when you thought we were safe with oil.

I believe in t penny tax on fuel for roads and where ever you can put one that helps the tourists pay for all the infrastructure they use when they pass thru here each year, since we want to be a tourist state.

Putting the burden on the backs of the few who live here, and actually work, and pay into the system- is sad.

Janice Melvin

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, My family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Collins Family

Wasilla AK 99623

WHY an income tax BEFORE a sales tax that EVERYONE in the state will pay into?

Instead, HB115 taxes EVERY revenue gained by hard working Alaskans who ALREADY pay federal and local taxes for those who don't work due to fixed incomes because of age or disability and the MANY in this state with no work opportunity (the bush communities).

These folks simply will never be able to contribute to the money pool and the state is too small for the incomes of those who do work to support. A LOT of folks here in AK are low income/seasonal even though they do work - you guys know this and yet want to go after incomes before anything else.

Lets not even mention the large pool of homeless and addicts we support... Or YOU guys with your completely inappropriate "benefits" of slush funds, per diem, subsidized cafes (when you already get per diem - double dip right there) and "over time".

Also, your inefficient travel-for-work ethics, your fancy LIO offices where you apparently can't do video conferencing from since you have to fly all over the place to do business, BAD state business decisions (HELLO CORRUPT OIL TAX BENEFITS), BAD infrastructure decisions (bridges and roads to nowhere), lack of support for small business and other revenue streams, lack of fighting fraud with our money (to include your own expenses), etc.

So, NO, I do not agree with an income tax until the above is addressed FIRST! As well as trying a sales tax that EVERYONE pays into including our many visitors, seasonal workers, visiting executives, YOU GUYS, and slope folks who buy stuff while here in AK. Even thieves buy stuff so let them pay into the pool.

The PFD is far more than a "give-away" to residents. I'm OK with that being capped. However, fight the fraud in this program! And keep in mind that many put the money for their kids into college funds, many support non-profits doing excellent work for our community's less fortunate since you guys can't figure that out, the environment, public education (PBS), etc. Not to mention it being a garnishment opportunity for child support and debts owed to the state and businesses who have lost revenue from folks who are derelicts.

The feds, and now our state, are cutting OUR money we pay you to manage for us and the fundamental services we pay for left and right while growing private, political friends and coffers. Do you sleep ok at night knowing Girdwood has no troopers while you gather per diem while sleeping in your own beds at night?

Until this corruption and inability to focus on AMERICAN and ALASKAN people's needs is stopped, I must admit to being sick of paying taxes these days. I don't like wasting money but it sure seems like my money is being wasted by you guys. I live within a very small budget because that is smart. Why can't you guys be smart and live within a budget?

Oh, and thanks for letting us know the new PFD cap is \$250.00 over what it was originally planned to be. Not that that's a nice \$250.00 now that it will also be taxed by the state. Gee, thanks.

Although feeling really HOT about this at the moment (along with all the BS from the Feds - the newest being that my money will now go for school vouchers instead of public school when we can see the failures of home-schooling), I do submit these thoughts with respect.

Rebekah Riley

Wasilla

How many times do the people have to say "no" to an income tax before you listen?

Elyce Santerre

Dt. 12

To Whom It May Concern -

I am a life long Alaska resident, my only absences being for undergrad and post-graduate education. I am raising my family here in Anchorage and I have great love and commitment for the state of Alaska.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE any consideration or implementation of an income tax on the State's residents. Both my husband and I work full time and put our two young children in daycare in order to go to our jobs. This is not cheap. We work full time, and often overtime to provide for our family. Every dollar has a purpose and is assigned to pay some manner of bill or debt. I have excruciating student loans from post graduate school and work in public service for the betterment of the state, which comes at a cost in the form of giving up a higher-paying job in the private sector. Taxing our income from our jobs represents a burden that at this point we can't afford, and I would be hard pressed finding a family similarly situated that would be able to afford an income tax.

We treat our PFDs as "extra" money, and stash our daughter's money in trust for them. We do use the PFD for fun or more extravagant purposes - which we do not do with our earned income. We can do without the PFD - but we cannot reallocate our income or suddenly procure extra money beyond what we are granted in the very occasional and sparing raise or longevity bonus. We do not feel as though we "earn" the PFD; rather, it is a nice little bump every year that allows us to splurge a little bit.

Again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE an income tax and would not vote for an incumbent candidate who supports such a tax. I too want to solve this state's budget crisis, but taxing hard working Alaskans of the money they make by going to work every day, missing time with their children, and spending bundles on daycare costs is NOT the way to achieve that.

Chantal Zeiger

I am writing to express my opposition to the income tax proposal in House Bill 115. While I could support some additional revenue measures the institution of an income tax is not one of them. The sales tax option is a much broader tax and would require everyone to contribute. A greater portion of those with taxable income are not the primary draw on state services. The state needs to begin setting rates and fees for what people are using. This way the users are paying for the services they use. Communities and boroughs who are not taxing their residents need to do so first before utilizing general funds. The income tax proposal is not the appropriate answer.

Zaramie Lindseth
Anchorage Voter

I am writing to express my disappointment in this poorly crafted and ill founded Bill. This will create such a hole in our economy that this State will slide further into the recession.

This bill needs to be withdrawn and your Dept. Of Revenue staff need to go back and get educated on how to balance a budget. It also starts with taking laymen such as yourselves out of the House and replaced with candidates who have a clue what it takes to balance a State budget.

I strongly urge you to consider a sales tax, while stop being blackmailed by the cruise and oil industries and go back to taxing them. History has shown that other states that have not backed down have Not suffered losses.

Please kill HB 115.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Walser

We had an Alaska State Income Tax when we first moved to Alaska, plus an annual School Tax (different than what we paid in our property tax). It was horrible and very hard on young families. Haven't we learned from our mistakes!

Find another solution.

Kind Regards,
Toni JM Jones

I don't agree with HB115. I've read it is so complicated that you need an accountant. Many people can't afford to pay in the hundreds for an accountant to help them, if they have working teens and children's PFD the more you add the more the accountant will charge.

The cost of living here is already so high adding an income tax and requiring to pay accountant fees will hit people with low incomes the most, People on disability, the elderly and the working poor.

I would like to see a sales tax before an income tax instead, most would prefer a sales tax.

It seems like Governor Walker doesn't take into thought what most Alaskans want and how he's hurting some of the state's most vulnerable.

Not allowing people to use pick,click,give as a tax write off will hurt the popular program as well.

Please do not support HB 115.

Kenen Duke

House Finance Committee;

On behalf of the Hispanic Affairs Council of Alaska(HACA) an Organization representing Latinos and Hispanics statewide.

We wanted to convey our opposition to House Bill 115 referencing individual income tax.

This bill not only impacts the quality of life for Alaskans. It also impacts the spending and saving capacity for individuals where a majority of the workforce earns minimum wage.

We are certain that less money in people's pockets will equate to less spending -further impacting small businesses, home ownership etc.

Of greater concern is our recession we are currently in combined with high unemployment rate. Taxing individuals with an income tax will be detrimental vs instrumental to the hard working Alaskans and the businesses that make up the backbone to our great state.

We understand our current financial state situation. However, we are confident that you will recognize that an individual income tax is not the solution.

We thank you for your dedication to our great state and for taking the time to read our concerns. We ask that you not vote on this Bill.

Respectfully,

Norma M Lucero

I have lived in Alaska for some time now and highly disagree with income tax, I moved away from a state that took advantage of the income tax and royally abuse it every year. Needless to say I don't NEED to give more of my hard earned money away in the name of taxes.

Take my PFD!!!!!!!not my pocket change, we average working class have a hard enough time staying ahead on finances without state government trying to pick at my paycheck.

Billy Callaway

No income tax please. It is especially hard on retired citizens on fixed incomes.
Cut spending yearly and use the pfd to run govt but only after 10% across the board cuts.

Marcia Fischer

Alaska House Finance Committee,

I would like to testify to my opposition to House Bill 115, on the grounds that it continues to pay out a dividend and institutes a new tax on those who have an income.

I wholeheartedly agree that all Alaskans should be vested personally in the financial security of our state. However, the solution that I could support includes immediately discontinuing dividend checks. Using the earnings only of the permanent fund, after inflation proofing the principle, to provide income to a smaller state government. This can and should be the baseline for our state budget solution. If we find this is not sufficient, only a modest sales tax will ensure all Alaskans bear the burden of our state services.

Thank you for the chance to comment, we knew this day would eventually come. Let us now act as Alaskans and live within our means.

Russell Taylor

Lifelong Alaskan 37 years – Kenai

Registered voter in 30-210

I am against HB115. The Governor and several members of the Alaska legislature need to realize IT IS NOT THE WILL OF THE ALASKAN PEOPLE to allow the taking of the PFD and/or the addition of a state income tax particular when little if any effort has been made to cut the budget.

Alicia Fitzpatrick

To whom it may concern,

It makes no sense to have an entire department and the cost that accompanies it to hand out money to Alaskans and put an entire new department and the cost that accompanies that to collect money back. How much would we save if we had neither?

PDFs had their time and place and that is no longer the case. I understand the public outcry. They do not see government cutting back or spending their money wisely.

That being said -

Flat Percent based off your federal filing is the most common sense approach to a state income tax.

DO NOT MAKE IT COMPLICATED. Use the same set of rules.

I would much rather see a STATE SALES TAX than an income tax.

Melanie Nixon

I'm writing to express frustration and disappointment over the proposed income tax. I fully understand that we are in the midst of a fiscal crisis. Pressure to resolve this immediate shortfall supersedes long sightedness it seems. Although I didn't like it, I was understanding of the PFD cap. In lean times we all have to give something, I accepted the PFD cap and took my opinions with me to the voting booth. The proposed income tax is not a pill I can swallow for the sake of our family, for the sake of our future. My husband and I have worked diligently to seek a better future. We completed degrees in order to achieve better jobs to be able to be self sufficient and independent. We climbed that ladder by blood, sweat, tears and student loans. We never tapped a social program for support. Every month we pay back that loan and save the few pennies that are left after the essentials in order to cover it when that unexpected doctor bill arrives or the kids' need school clothes. Applying a unilateral tax with no ability to deduct would be an overwhelming burden. In essence we paid for our good jobs, but now we are going to pay twice. A family of 6 living on 105,000 a year isn't a life of luxury, it's a life of careful planning and accounting for every cent. This bill is paying for the tax breaks huge corporations receive on the backs of hardworking Alaskans. It's a corrupt ideal to make the needs of these giants paramount while Alaskans, who make this state great, face the reality of uprooting their families to find a place where they can financially survive. If there is to be an income tax make it a small percentage and apply it across the board to all income brackets. Allow deductions for all children and other expenses that reduce our bottom line. Being taxed at a higher rate because I worked hard and paid my way through college in order to achieve more is a benefit to society not a reason to target me and my family. Thank you for time and please do the right thing for the people in this state.

Caitlin Allen

Please don't start a income tax on our PFD say no you folks are working for us the people of Alaska and you guys created your financial mess find another way to fix it and stop raiding our perm fund.

Douglas Bolton

Hello,

As a life long Alaskan I am firmly against any income tax or using the PFD to cover the fiscal gap. The state should be more fiscally responsible and reduce spending to improve our financial status just like any individual has to. Start cutting the fat at the top and reduce the misuse and over spending.

An income tax and/or reducing the PFD is a burden too great and many Alaskans are just getting by or living in poverty would mean cold homes and less food on the table. The legislators and governor need to do what's best for the people, not what is best for their own pockets and their friends and do what's is best and right for all Alaskans and an income tax and taking the PFD for government is NOT right.

Sincerely,

Jessica Veldstra

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent or changed. We oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help pay our heating bills, pay our medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government MUST cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Shelton Pryor

Anchor Point, AK 99556

I am vehemently opposed to this bill! We don't need an income tax. I have no problem with using the PFD funds for budget purposes if it's necessary. Take it all if that's what it takes. There's clearly more spending cuts that can be made, and those need to be made, a consumption tax put in place, and a state lottery, before an income tax is even considered.

In my last year as a state employee (2012), I believe the state budget was put in place based on \$60-some per barrel of oil. That provided full funding, I believe. The current price of oil is in that same neighborhood now. Why do we need to spend so much more than we managed just fine with in 2012?

....

Don Brand

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Ben Franklin

Subject: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I, Naomi Maxie and family are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is.

We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. Me and my family are better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, me and my family are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Naomi M. Maxie & Family

Kwethluk, AK 99621-0235

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is convey my opposition to any income tax. As a small business owner in the construction industry we are suffering from a down economy and less job, cutting back employment opportunities and reducing the forecast of future spending to try to survive this down economy. Not Only do we already pay a high cost for the privilege to work such as workers compensation and general liabilities our health care costs are through the roof. What was once a \$700 a month premium for health insurance with a \$10,000 deductible is now a \$2000 premium with a \$13,000 deductible , so I have to pay \$37,000 out of pocket every year before I could possibly get any benefits. To top that off a state income tax will further push us into an economic hole that could end our ability to remain small business owners. I'm sure we will see many companies close shop in the next 3 years.

We simply can not tax our way out of this hole. And especially when there is such a down turn in the economy its the kiss of death. Government needs to do what private industry does when times are tough
~ GET SMALLER REDUCE SPENDING !

--

Christina Eneix

Anchorage, Alaska 99518

If you want to see Alaska's future crumble-institute this income tax.

Adding this to already excessive property tax rates and property prices in Anchorage (Alaska's economic driver) along with a depressed economy and a weak job market will surely incentivize workers to leave the state in droves. These are the people keeping Alaska afloat by putting their hard earned money back into the local economy and not being a drain on the state (like many people who depend on the permanent fund).

I, for one would rather see deeper budget cuts to return state government spending to more manageable levels and a more creative use of the permanent fund to shore up the State budget rather than add a punitive income tax on hard-working Alaskans that already pay more for goods and services than the rest of the country.

Dan Lasanen

Anchorage

My name is Desiree Cook. I live in Wasilla. We own our home and have 4 kids. We are one income family as I am stay at home mom and student at UAA. My husband works on the slope and is also a student at UAA. We do not mind contributing to our state's finances through a modest income tax as long as this plan also taxes all the people that come to our state for work then take their earnings back home. However, I am strongly opposed to restructuring the PFD, making any caps or allowing government to dabble in the earnings. This is same sentiment that I had when Gov Walker took half of our PFDs last year. If you have any questions, my phone number is 907-687-7499.

Thank you for representing the wishes of your constituents,

Desiree Cook

As an Alaskan resident since 1981, I have strong concerns with our current state fiscal crisis and long-term economic outlook. The current budget proposals being evaluated by the House to close our fiscal gap include an income tax and a restructuring of the permanent fund dividend payouts. These options may help close the deficit in the short-term, but they do not solve the problem of declining revenue from decreased oil production (tax base) and drop in commodity price. The income tax proposal will add an additional layer of government spending that will be difficult, if not impossible, to remove in the future as it would eventually result in lay-offs which would directly impact state employees with a vested interest in maintaining a permanent income tax in order to keep their jobs.

Over the last 36 years, I have watched the state struggle to manage finances both in lean times and in times where we've had excess funds where state spending grew exponentially. I'm not an advocate of increasing taxes without first cutting spending on large projects we can no longer afford since taxes have a direct impact on GDP growth. If the addition of tax revenue is determined to be the only viable option to maintain critical state services and avoid entering another huge recession, I would prefer to see us pursue a sales tax. While the legislature is reviewing budget proposals, I would ask that you strongly consider the following key points that make a sales tax much more attractive than an income tax:

- Implementation of an income tax would require all Alaskans to take an immediate pay-cut regardless of spending habits which will have a negative effect on economic growth and development driving us further into a recession; basic economic principles tell us that an income tax equates to lower wages and less capital in the private sector meaning fewer job opportunities
- Implementation of an income tax would require development of a complex tax code geared more towards social engineering with special interest subsidies to change behaviors rather than a simple tax code focused solely on generating state revenue
- An income tax will likely result in a further decline in the number of state residents (population tax base) as wages in other states without and income tax incrementally become more competitive along with a lower cost-of-living
- A sales tax maintains privacy for Alaskans without disclosure of federal income tax records and eliminates the need to setup yet another new database with complex security rules to manage these data
- A sales taxes can be scaled up or down easier than an income tax depending on the current economic environment and would also provide the opportunity for seasonal tax relief
- A sales tax would draw on a larger population base for generating revenue from all individuals that consume products and services within the state of Alaska rather than focusing on individuals that work in the state
- A sales tax would require fewer resources to setup than an income tax with many Alaskan communities already having sales tax management tools and infrastructure in place
- The overall cost of implementation for any new tax needs to be included in the economic evaluation along with an estimate of the required increase for state employee headcount to manage each program with full public disclosure of the findings

Thank you for representing District 10 and considering all options to address the state budget concerns.

Regards,

Casey & Jennifer Ayers

Wasilla, AK 99654

Income Tax will get you voted out. No more money for you to waste.

T. L. Narco

Honorable members of the House Finance Committee,

Please do not institute a state income tax. Take all of our PFD dollars if necessary or consider a sales tax, but I am firmly against a state income tax.

Respectfully,

Shawna Hill Wilson, ANP-C
Anchorage, AK 99508

You should cleanup your inefficiencies and stop ripping off the people you are beyond horrible tax the fucking oil industry

Matt Romens

Dear Alaska House Representatives,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do NOT take the PFD without a public vote. Have you thought about adding a Pick, Click, Give for the State, then for those who don't oppose the PFD being cut, they can contribute to the State.

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting or the restructuring of the PFD in any way. The PFD belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People's fund and PFD.

For some the PFD is not necessarily a MUST have to survive, but for many of us we depend on those funds to help us through the winter with heating bills, property taxes, prescriptions and many other costs.

Please vote against HB115.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Terry Webb
Wasilla, AK 99687

Insane to institute an income tax while still giving out a PFD. If it must be done give a 1-2 year buffer period. Do not make the income tax effective for this year.

Thank you,

Barrett Taylor

To Whom it May Concern:

I am viaheemently opposed to HB 115

The residents of Anchorage have already been hit with a recent property tax (mill rate) increase, and a reduction in the permanent fund annual dividend.

Since we are in a recession and have the highest unemployment rate of any other state besides New Mexico, I believe the state income tax that is being proposed will be crippling to Alaska residents.

The broad scope of taxation is not in the best interests of Alaskans, it is only in the best interest of a government who is grasping for anything it can get it's hands on to dig it's self out of the deep pit of dispair that it created.

Individual citizens should not be punished through over-taxation to pay for years of mismanaged funds by our government.

I vote no on the state income tax as it is proposed. The government is trying to create a safety net for themselves in case Fed Taxes are lowered at the expense of our residents.

There are fewer and fewer reasons to stay in Alaska for many residents, mostly due to the mismanagement of government.

--

Lora Reed

To whom it may concern:

Governor Walker was elected with the promises to not instate an income tax or take money from the PFD. He has lied about his position on both issues. The State of Alaska's budget continues to grow as many Alaskans, including my family, have had to make significant budget cuts due to the 2008 recession and the declining price of crude oil. It is an insult to the struggling families to raise taxes and not cut the states spending. I stand strongly against HB115 and will not vote for any representative that votes in favor of the bill.

Thank you,

Jessica

Hello,

Please consider the following my public testimony on the issue of an income tax. As a 45 year resident of Alaska, my thoughts on an Alaska tax are absolutely NO INCOME TAX! I would say YES TO A SALES TAX!

Even my 17 year old son, born and raised here and works in the tourism business at the Riverboat Discovery here in Fairbanks says to have a sales tax. He says the tourists are "used to it," as many are from states with sales tax.

Please, no income tax!

Diane Ludwig

Fairbanks, AK 99708

To the legislators of the House Finance Committee:

I moved to Alaska in the fall of 1982, the first year Alaskans received the Permanent Fund dividend checks. I distinctly remember the amount was \$1,000. As a young adult, I thought, how cool is that, receiving money just for being a resident of the state of Alaska! Over the years, I've married, raised three children who continue to reside and work in Alaska, and retired from the field of public education last June. I've seen the ups and downs of the Alaskan economy, listened to the pundits' suggestions, and have an opinion to offer on the subject.

I believe that before any income tax is instituted, the Permanent Fund dividend checks must be eliminated. The intent was for the monies of the Permanent Fund to be used for state government when needed. The need is now upon us. For working people, the federal government taxes the Permanent Fund check to the tune of about 30%. I believe it is better for the state to keep those monies from going to the federal government, and use the money within the state.

Respectfully,

Charlotte Vilce

Insane to institute an income tax while still giving out a PFD. If it must be done give a 1-2 year buffer period. Do not make the income tax effective for this year.

Thank you,

Barrett Taylor

Hello,

I am a retired Federal employee since 2012. Lived in Alaska for 43 years. I am very strongly against a state income tax, especially the progressive rate that was introduced by Gov Walker.

My son went straight from high school to AVTEC's Industrial Electric course. He got hired locally here in Soldotna and had his student loan paid off in a year. There were some hard times for him but he became a journeyman. He is 29 now and an Electrician 3 at Tesoro in Nikiski. The idea that (under SB115) he would have to pay \$6000/year or more is ridiculous! Throw in Obamacare where before he got hired at Tesoro cost over \$1000/mo with \$7,000 deductible and you have unbelievable Government overreach.

If this passes there is going to be a major out-flux of jobs and residents..

Sincerely,

Mark Kytonen

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: like food, pay my heating bills, my high mil rate, and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska. So far Alaska's government has proven it cannot be trusted with money and needs to be reined in and restructured itself. Believe me when I tell you we Alaskans are watching you very closely to see who needs to be cut and who needs to be maintained. We have no illusions that any member of Alaska's Congress is better equipped to govern than any other Alaskan. You are not on our pedestal. We are looking for people who go to their constituents and get input on how we want our government run, so be careful.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115, and I mean it!

Charlene Carney
Palmer, Alaska 99645

So I have almost zero faith that this congress or governor will do what is right That said I still want my opinion to be heard

maybe you found yourself in a mess you did not create you cannot spend and steal your way out of this 'crisis'

At what point did you lose your common sense and reason do you think government finance operates differently than everyone else

Stop the theft and CUT the budget, which I know you already failed to do....i know you don't give a darn what any Alaskan thinks, you have made this evident by your failure to fix the problem that you have made, you are failures....

There is a God who sees knows all things May He take into account your treachery Against the people of this state

The PFD was clearly and unarguably for the people not the Government, not the legislators, Not the governors

Kathy Cotton
Delta Junction AK

Dear Elected officials,

“We the people!” There are no more powerful words in our society than these words. The people’s voice is the cornerstone to every part of our society regardless of money or stature of a person. We are not like other countries in the world where the people simply accept what government gives them and hope the government is generous. I oppose any taxes of any kind until state government has been structured where the people can afford the level of government with current revenue the state receives. The people of our nation stand on liberty and freedom individually instead of dictatorship or socialism. Our state since the first governor (William Egan), has demanded that the people of Alaska know that their government was nothing like any other state in the nation. When our state drafted our constitution, and approved that document, it is clear that the people’s voice would always echo from the lands of this state and have the ultimate authority how our state supports Alaskans. I wished I could say that our state is honoring that commitment today, but I simply cannot see that occurring any longer; especially with the notion that taxing Alaskans and the spending of this state over several decades that has driven people away from this great state and generated those left as forgotten and ignored.

I speak the words above first as a platform to my email today to the house body of our state in regards to the HB 115. The people of this state should be heard and the government should be trusted to act on the voice of the people not simply appease in public forums but in action. I could simply write about the adverse conditions that Governor Walker’s reduction of the 2016 PFD has made on individual household funding, economy, stealing, or even placing some areas in this state on the brink of collapse. The PFD belongs to the people not just elected officials and any form of PFB structure should be brought to the people for vote at the ballot box. The PFD affects every Alaskan and every Alaskan should be heard fully by vote to any changes to the PFD. The "P" stand for permanent but for it also stands for people's dividend fund and not the government. Just taking the PFD in half alone has taxed a family of four at 4,000 dollars. In addition, taxing more on families with income tax, sales tax, and other taxes would give an average Alaskan family over 7,000 to 8,000-dollar burden. Where are those families getting this income or your view extra income they have available to them? Where do you people live and not noticing that Alaska is in a recession, people are losing their jobs, unemployment in this state is still almost 7%, and companies are not investing in our state on any major level in any industry. Why should Alaskan families be asked to sacrifice their well-being and government offer not one sacrifice or not even try to reduce true government spending not just smoke and mirror reductions. I could dig deeper in these areas and I know the senate and house have heard all of these in great detail in committees and in public town hall meetings across this state. Personally, I have heard the outcry of the proposed taxes at my place of employment, social media, church, restaurants, and other places that my family are exposed. Just this week a Dettman pole revealed that a majority of Alaskans do not want any taxes until government is reduced to a place of sustainment. It simply has been a tragedy in the voice of the people in which I interact on a routine basis and a majority of them have no idea where the reductions have happened, why more reductions have not occurred. It simply has been disappointing to my circle of influence that our state government would turn their backs, close their eyes, and plug their ears of the people they serve. Furthermore, our elected officials think they have a right to be punitive to people at the sweep of a pen or one person sub-committee.

Breaking the backs of Alaskans to balance an unsustainable budget in government is not what our founding leaders of this state would have tolerated or accepted. Alaskans have always been a free-spirited people and we always side on liberty and freedom that this great land has provided each one of us in so many ways. The affordable level of state government is simply a reflection of the commitment that was made to Alaskans many years ago, that we would always come first

regardless of the circumstances we found ourselves. The word taxes or fees in that name of helping Alaskans is simply not a slogan or passive identifier. Rather it signifies a deep understanding between the people and government that we are in this together and everyone will always benefit from the resources of our state. To unilaterally take that commitment from the people makes it clear that government no longer wants to walk beside the people of Alaska but rather remove its commitment in a divorce without any ballot box cast from the other side. The tax mentality will reflect our values of this state more than just money and show our future generations that they will no longer be debt free in their lifetime and government will be the one that wins every time and the people will be losers. What is about to happen is the state government officials will be picking winners and losers and the losers will be the private sector and families barely hanging on in this deep recession. It reflects who we are and what we are like no other state in the union. The income tax will stand as a reminder that all Alaskans do not matter regardless of who you are, where you live in this state, or what your ethnic identification. The income tax or any other tax does not unite Alaskans like no other issue and it assures the next generations that common ground cannot be found because we do not desire to reach across caucus lines for the mutual benefit of all Alaskans. The idea of taxes is too large to be decided in the halls of Juneau and must be taken to the streets, the villages, the cities and towns of this state. Every voice in this state must have a say on something that truly speaks to everyone in this state. The idea of taking money from the people must be heard by all voting before Governor Walker's pen touch the lives of so many. This issue is about restoring confidence in our government and the people witness that government does not have the final say, we do!

Like so many Alaskans before me, I stand and shouting from the Matsi of my home in a state that I love hoping that our elected leaders will once again turn around and open their eyes, open their ears, and open their voice to advocate for the most precious resource we have in this state and that is life. The life of people is the heartbeat and backbone to this state. Please restore our faith and hope that government is truly for the people of all Alaskans and your commitment to us is first priority. We need to invest in our state by opening our resources not killing our private sector to uphold the public sector. We hear all the time that we all share in this state pain of budget, but I see very little sharing of job loss and cuts like the private sector has already seen and felt. Just today, we see that Alaska has the largest unemployment in the nation. With that news, the private sector in this state has taken 65 to 70% of that employment loss and it still keeps coming. The public sector is not even a fraction of that loss and frankly it is frustrating to see our elected officials would rather kill one part of society entirely so another sect of society can flourish. If we are all to accept the pain, then it is well time the government cut as the private sector has done and continues to do and we will have enough revenue to afford that level of government without touching one dime of the PFD and more taxes. If you want to kill the economy and keep our current recession going and stop growth, then passing these bills and other tax bills will accomplish that mission. Please be leaders and not managers and do what is right for all Alaskans not just the campaign funding you receive from special interest groups.

Thank You,

Greg Pugh

District 12

I am very much opposed to an income tax, but this proposal is beyond the pale!
Until government gets its spending under control, there should be no increased revenue.
You might start with cutting legislative perks including retirement benefits. All legislation should apply to government employees as well as the general public. What was originally intended as a citizen has now become a new elite with little or no conscience in many cases.
Also , keep your hands off of the permanent fund dividend. If you make changes, and I include the Governor in this statement, allow a public referendum. You'll find out what the public thinks about it.

Sincerely,
Ron Williams
Big Lake, AK

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the public hearing today but I would like it to be clear that I DO NOT support HB 115.

Governor Walker was elected with the promises to not instate an income tax or take money from the PFD. He has lied about his position on both issues. The State of Alaska's budget continues to grow as many Alaskans, including my family, have had to make significant budget cuts due to the 2008 recession and the declining price of crude oil. It is an insult to the struggling families to raise taxes and not cut the states spending. I stand strongly against HB115 and Mr. Guttenberg, I will not vote to reelect you if you vote in favor of this bill.

Ben Callahan
Fairbanks, AK 99712

The permanent fund was created for the people of Alaska !!!!! not for the government of Alaska !!!!! The restructuring plans for the permanent fund only hurts the people and the state of Alaska and should be left alone !!!!!!!!!!! And return the other half of the permanent fund the was already STOLEN or start looking for another job !!!!!!!!!!

Gordon Dimmick

Find more areas to cut the budget! Like maybe the secretaries Secretary and there secretaries! Lay off or FIRE those that are not essential! 5 pennies = \$.05, two nickels = \$.10, five dimes = \$.50, and so on. It all add up! Eventually you'll save a million here and a million there. EVERY PENNY COUNTS!

KEEP YOUR DIRTY GRUBBY HANDS OFF THE PRD!

Fire the Chef & get rid of per diems! Go to McDonald's, KFC, or brown bag your meals!

You work for ME and all the Citizens of Alaska, WE DO NOT WORK FOR YOU!

Tina Allen

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative, A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My Wife and I are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. We oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My wife and I are better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. Spending money on the natural gas pipeline has been a colossal waste of money for how many years now? It is a “pipe” dream that it will ever be completed. It is not commercially viable. But yet, the Governor keeps spending “our money” on it. It is becoming quite obvious to me that the Governor and the State Legislators are more concerned with spending state money to further their causes and help with their reelections.

If the Permanent fund stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, we are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Sincerely,

Harry Saunders
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

As a life long Alaskan I am against HB115. An income tax will drive the rest of the slope workers out to states that have no income tax. Most of the high paid workers live there already. CUT THE BUDGET!

Tom McCaughey

STOP stealing from our PFD'S and then trying to add a income tax on top of it! The math has been done and we the people of Alaska are being lied to by our own state government! STOP HB115 in its tracks and get us back on track before the thief Walker took our money!

Nycca Gonzalez
Wasilla alaska

To:

The House Finance Committee, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, Majority Leader Christ Tuck, Minority Leader Charisse Millet, Representatives George Rauscher and Delana Johnson and Senator Shelly Hughes:

I would like the following entered as testimony for the public hearings that are scheduled today, March 29th, 2017.

I am, again, stating my opinion on cutting the PFD, initiating an income tax and furthering the use of PFD funds to supplement the Alaska State budget.

I am ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO HB 115 and expect a NO vote from the legislature and my representatives on this bill.

I am a small businessman and am opposed to any type of state income tax or any further use of the PFD for government budgeting purposes. I am opposed to an income tax because a large number of people that work in this state do not live here and would not be subject to the income tax. I believe it is unconscionable for the state government to ignore the promises of past governors insuring that if the PFD was ever to be interfered with that the people would be guaranteed a vote on this matter.

It is my opinion, any tax, under the constitution of both the United States and the State of Alaska requires a vote of the people. The fact that the governor stole part of our PFD last year does not mean it is legal. Apart from the fact that Governor Walker promised in his campaign that he would not take the steps he has with the PFD, it is wrong for the government to continue to allow this taxation without a vote and to continue to ignore the will of the people.

We do have to have a stable fiscal plan, however, that plan has to be formulated like any other business. Live within the income. Regular businesses do not have the luxury of adding a tax to their customers.

The government of this state needs to reduce the expenditures of the State and reduce or eliminate the salaries of those in government. The governments job is to live within their means. The government cannot tax the people because it lacks the intelligence to manage the government like this same government expects anyone else to manage a business. When an entity doesn't have the income to meet expenses, you reduce expenses and lay off employees.

The permanent fund has always been allotted to the citizens of this state and the State has not had any problems making expenses until Governor Walker and his administration stepped in to office. When the governor states that funds are running short and then authorizes \$800,000 for a 'consultant' I find that the government is out of control.

We do not need a state income tax or more money taken away from our PFD or our small business treasuries. We need a government that will reduce expenses and reduce the footprint of the government not try to expand in during a time of economic downturn.

Several plans have been presented that prove that Alaska can reduce its' budget and still keep a good infrastructure in place so I don't see how any legislator can in good conscience support HB 115.

This bill will not encourage business or economic growth in this state and as a small businessman I believe that it will negatively impact this state. The 'fiscal crisis' as you call it was created by the current state government by not keeping the budget balanced over the past years and allowing expenses to escalate out of control.

I urge the legislature to reject HB 115 and with that process, cut all but absolutely necessary services and pork barrel projects, reduce the workforce in the state government, redirect current funds to high priority expenses, restore the PFD, refund what was stolen last year and insure that any proposals for an income tax go to the people for a vote.

My patience has expired with the overwhelming attitude of the House and Senate to ignore the will of the people of this State. You have all been told, time and time again, to balance the budget by reducing expenses and cutting non-essential programs and hand-outs. You have just refused a referendum that was presented and supported by the people for term limits and you refuse to reduce or eliminate the salaries, per diem and financial perks that each of you receive to SERVE the people.

The 'survey' that you are, supposedly, utilizing in your efforts to override the majority will of the people of this state was a very inaccurate survey and has now been flagged as fraudulent and extremely inaccurate.

I am fed up with all the legislators that refuse to be fiscally responsible with my money and those that voted to strike down referendums for term limits.

It is time for you to cut the salaries of EVERY SINGLE employee and member of the State government as a start. I find it ludicrous that the Governor of this State can convince the House and Senate to take away part of the PFD because the State needs funds to 'survive' and then place an \$800,000 per year 'consultant' that is an acquaintance of the Governor on the payroll. This government's frivolous spending is being noticed and people like me are getting tired of seeing our money thrown away on 'friends' of the governor and legislators and their associated companies.

The people of this State ARE watching and we are fed up with the kindergarten tactics that are being demonstrated by both the Alaska Senate and House on the budget, income taxes and the PFD. Solutions have been provided to cut government spending that would bring the budget under control without reducing the PFD, touching the PFD funds or implementing an income tax. It is time that you exercise that budget solution or send your budget, proposed PFD cuts and income taxes to the people for a vote.

Regards.

Alan Cruce

Palmer, Alaska

Please stop taking our survival funds, the earnings that we make have been just enough for us to make it through the year.

Every time there's an increase to the items we purchase, we seem to have to do with less or without.

Please vote No on HB 115

Regards,

Gerard Santana

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut and income tax is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Honestly cutting the budget and not playing shell games with Alaskas money is the way to solve the budget problem. Do your job and have Alaska live within it means! Do not take the PFD without a public vote or institute an income tax!

I am demanding you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a say in how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD. I also oppose an income tax on Alaskans!

The reason is simple. The community is better at spending the money in the form of a dividend and their saved money from not instituting an income tax, than government. Government is full of special interests, graft takers, unnecessary projects, positions, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. Some time ago an account was found by the legislature with hundreds of thousands of dollars in said account. Incidents such as this show our governments folly when it comes to the responsible handling of money. The Alaska State legislature is not responsible enough with the people's money to be demanding more of Alaskas wealth. Cut the budget, keep your hands off the PFD and keep your hands out of my wallet!

As a result, my family is demanding that you do your duty and

Vote No on HB115.

Leann McCaughey
Nikiski, Alaska 99635

There are other ways to fix the states finances. Do not cut the people's PFD and DO Not implement a state tax!!!

If petroleum products are the answer, I agree with increased taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and legalized marijuana sales.

Find another way to fix the state, because the states people need to help themselves before they can help the states problems.

Who voted for these people anyway???!!!

Angel Seafler

Subject: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! **BE FAIR! PUBLIC VOTE IS CRITICAL FOR ALL ALASKANS!**

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is.

[I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

[Signed] Dave and Marcie Curry

Nikiski, AK 99635

Governor Walker was elected with the promises to not instate an income tax or take money from the PFD. He has lied about his position on both issues. The State of Alaska's budget continues to grow as many Alaskans, including my family, have had to make significant budget cuts due to the 2008 recession and the declining price of crude oil. It is an insult to the struggling families to raise taxes and not cut the states spending. I stand strongly against HB115 and will not vote again for my representative if they vote in favor of the bill.

Concerned Resident,

Jeffrey Colvin

Representatives,

I just did some personal math on how HB 115(L) would affect my household pocketbook. Given my four exemptions and projected federal AGI, I'll owe roughly \$1800 in state tax and receive \$1875 in after-tax PFD income. When my kids move on shortly, I'll owe much more than my PFD's.

Question: How does it make sense for the state to incur the cost of administering an income tax program, but then create a nearly net-zero result with the cash flow resulting from the same program? All of the think-tank analysis ignores the fact that urban Alaskans pay enormous property taxes. To suggest that Alaskans have the lowest tax burden in the US is disingenuous. These studies try to paint a picture that low-income families bear a larger proportionate share of tax because their PFD's make up a larger share of their household income. The critical difference constantly ignored is that the "proportionate" income being removed from middle-class and higher individuals is income they actually earned -- not free money given to them by the State.

If everyone is simply going to use their PFD to pay their State tax bill, I'd rather you just keep the thing in the first place, save the administrative expense on the State's part, and remove the personal headache of having to plan for a State income tax bill.

If truly necessary, please apply the pain equally. That means a flat tax or sales tax. Don't punish hard work, planning, and a lifetime of good decision making and sacrifice by those of us who earn their income and deserve to reap the rewards of those earnings.

Thank you for your hard work.

Robert A. Gawrys
Eagle River, AK

Vote NO plz

JR Rivera

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple, my family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Pondador Dennis

Life time Alaskan resident with deep roots from my Eyak Native heritage.

Anchorage, AK 99502

Subject: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! [I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

JO Noble

PO Box 402

Nenana, AK 99760

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Thank you

Jo Ellen Noble

Nenana Native Village

Nenana, Ak 99760

As a 37 yr. resident of the State of Alaska, I plead with you not to consider HB 115 as a solution to the budget crisis. Alaska has a spending crisis, not a revenue problem. We spend nearly twice as much per citizen as any other state. The abundance of oil revenue in the past, has allowed city, borough and state government to grow out of control. We cannot continue to prop up this bloated government by increasing taxes. Our local property taxes have risen nearly 50% in the last 5 years. We must continue to cut every way possible. Re-negotiate lucrative government pensions. Consolidate small rural schools with no tax base to support them. Many of the government services provided should be transferred to the private sector. DRAIN THE SWAMP

Roy Whitford

Sterling, AK

Hello,

I do not support the HB115 and the taking of our PFD cut and to support you all. Cut your premium and move to Anchorage and save money.

Kenny Morse

Use the permanent fund instead of imposing an Income Tax. It does not make sense to create another government bureaucracy to implement an income tax when you are trying to cut the cost of Government.

Peggy Frost

Mike Frost

Soldotna, AK

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government. Also BIG OIL NEEDS TO PAY IT’S FAIR SHARE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Byron & Mary Whitesides

Ketchikan, Alaska

Governor Walker was elected with the promises to not instate an income tax or take money from the PFD. He has lied about his position on both issues. The State of Alaska's budget continues to grow as many Alaskans, including my family, have had to make significant budget cuts due to the 2008 recession and the declining price of crude oil. It is an insult to the struggling families to raise taxes and not cut the states spending. I stand strongly against HB115 and will not vote in favor of my representative (David Guttenberg) if they vote in favor of the bill.

Ax Baddler

I DO NOT support HB 115. I support a sales tax of 2-3% over an income tax, (especially one this grabby). Those pennies add up quick and can be reduced when it accomplishes what the goal is, (which I know would never happen!!!) Look what the basketball crowd was spending just this past weekend when they hit town, not to mention AFN meetings and tourists!!! If the welfare recipients are worried, then make an exempt card for them. First the Governor takes the PFD down to \$1,000 then you want more...not happening!!!

Patti Barber
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

FLOR F KUZMIN

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. Our family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay our heating bills, pay our medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Armstrong and family

Fairbanks, AK 99709

I am voting NO on HB115.

Bonnie E. Thumma

Alaska resident since October 9 1982.

Governor Walker was elected with the promises to not instate an income tax or take money from the PFD. He has lied about his position on both issues. The State of Alaska's budget continues to grow as many Alaskans, including my family, have had to make significant budget cuts due to the 2008 recession and the declining price of crude oil. It is an insult to the struggling families to raise taxes and not cut the states spending. I stand strongly against HB115 and will not vote again for my representative if they vote in favor of the bill.

Amanda Coolley

Please do not attack the Permanent Fund or view it as a source to pay for state government.

Income tax is far preferable.

Best of all, squeeze the oil companies much harder, they're the ones with the most juice, siphoned off from the rest of us over the decades.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Chris Prussing
Juneau 99801

SPONSOR(S): H-FIN Co-Chairs: REP SEATON, FOSTER

Dear Alaska House Representative:

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! [I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed

I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family relies on the PFD and we know that we can spend the money more wisely than Government. We read and hear what you intend to spend the money on and it's wasteful.

If the PFD stays in my my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

My husband and I only have our Social Security as income. It doesn't even begin to cover our living expenses. Most months we have to choose between paying our bills and buying food. While we haven't starved our diet is deprived of nutritious food such as fruit and vegetables. We rely on our PFD each year to pay our property taxes and buy groceries for our pantry. With the cut last year to our PFD's we were only able to pay our taxes, we could not stock up on groceries for the winter. We are at the point that any increase in expenses we cannot bear as I have our spending down to the cents in most cases. The PFD helps us to not only pay our taxes and buy groceries but get caught up on any outstanding bills.

Because of the high cost of living in Alaska we have even discussed leaving the state after almost 37 years. Alaska has been our home, we have raised 3 children here but utilities, food costs and property tax assessments are driving us away. My husband is disabled and I also cannot work any longer because of physical limitations so we are currently "stuck in a hard place". Our story is one of so many who rely on the PFD for our very basic needs not Hawaiian vacations.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Kim and Debbie Seymour
Homer, AK 99603

I oppose the idea of taking away our dividends and propose taxes. We are entitled to the dividends as residents of Alaska. A lot of people are depending on the dividends to help our families. If you take away our dividends you will be hurting a lot of families and perhaps many families would consider to move from Alaska.

Rosita Butler

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. **Vote No on HB115.**

Irene R Nelson

Kenai, Alaska 99611

Please work to pass a REASONABLE version of HB 11.

It's been proven that a retirement incentive will save the state money. But requiring the Departments to eliminate those jobs left by long term employees is unreasonable.

I understand the need to pay for those three years of benefits, creating an indebtedness. That we should be able to pay from our SBS.

It's the job cut that makes no sense. We didn't promote to these jobs because they are expendable. We promoted to these jobs because they are vital.

Please revamp this HB11 so that we can use it!

It pays for itself. We pay our benefits and retire. Or we can't afford to retire and the state pays for my range 20L when they could save thousands on my job alone and pay for a range 20A.

It's basic math that makes sense.

Let me retire, and let someone take my job that will have a new opportunity to help the state grow.

Thank you

Darcy Stetson

Juneau AK 99803

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the state for 37 years and have never been more disgusted at the money that has been wasted at the hands of our legislature.

I own a small business and I know that if I ran my business the way that you have run our state and if I had wasted as much money on a much smaller scale my business would NOT be able to keep its doors open. When my business is flush with cash I put it away and I still spend responsibly, and I save for the years like this one, 2017, where my business is down but I still pay the bills!!

I realize you were considering an income tax proposal, and I want to say I think it is a horrible idea for our state, and here are my reasons why:

I am a small business owner with roughly 30 employees, none of our employees are highly paid individuals, and this would impact them very very negatively.

Alaska is already a rough place to live we need an incentive to live here, NOT a penalty... I am not speaking for myself necessarily I am speaking to the tons of people I've spoken with about your proposal, and have gotten much feedback about this exact thing!

Not having an income tax is something that has brought people here and it's appealing, by implementing one you will be driving people away, Friends of mine who else has specifically said they will move out of the state if one is implemented... and if people leave our state you won't have the ability to charge an income tax, will you?

I do NOT feel that by interviewing less than 1000 people (less than 1% of our population) you get a good idea in a survey of what your people the citizens of Alaska want, I am here telling you that an income tax is a mistake.

Your target seems to be the people that are living outside and traveling to Alaska to work, but the much much larger target will hit us directly in the heart, and pocketbook of businesses and the employees who work there.

You have already taxed the dividend, more cuts are necessary, and if bringing a pension back to the state workers is even on the table then our financial situation isn't in as much of a dire Strait as you would like us to believe.

I was told I could call in today to a "secret number" and I already DO NOT feel like my voice will be heard, but this is my very feeble attempt to make it heard. If I could drive down to the state capital to share my opinion I would!

Please please start listening to us. I can honestly tell you myself and many of our friends family and coworkers feel that our voices are not being listened to. Maybe that will change today.

Thanks,
Lela Rosin
Kenai

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to REPRESENT US AS YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO DO and vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting or restructuring the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. We oppose HB115 restructuring of the People's Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple; my family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

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As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Darcy Stetson
Juneau AK 99803

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

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As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Yvonne Welch
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Elected Officials;

I am very disappointed and concerned in your lack of vision for Alaska. We are people who understand "tightening our belts" and making do with less because we seek the freedom and autonomy away from government intrusion. You are driving each Alaskan further and further away from our Alaskan dreams by refusing to trim back the fat of our state budget, tighten our belts and concentration on what needs to be done. I ask you, no I beg you, STOP your efforts to take away from individual Alaskans budget and cut back on what you are spending and wasting in our state budget. Stop the push for an income tax and for raiding the Permanent Fund! Please, please go back and trim lots more from your ridiculous expenditures. We have trusted you to take care of us, and you are not. Please do not pass this income tax bill out of committee. It's wrong and you know it.

Sincerely,

Dawn Grossmann

Delta Junction, AK

Subject: KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

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Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Travis Blakely

Wasilla, AK.

99654

NO to HB 115

Ricky Pascual

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my concern over House Bill 115. I absolutely and unequivocally oppose any sort of income tax.

There are a couple issues that need to be addressed: The State needs to rein in its spending. I realize it is a bit more complicated than managing the average household finances, but this should be something that is a paramount priority to those who represent us Alaskans - to be able to balance a budget and not go into a deficit. We have a 3 billion deficit, which is terrible enough, but especially so when Alaska is such a rich state with natural resources. This is a disgrace for those in leadership who have let the budget/deficit get to the point it is this bad. This is a gross mismanagement of funds.

Secondly, if there is no income tax, there must be some way to shore up the deficit - I get that. This is where the PFDs come in. I realize there are some just as adamantly opposed to losing or reduced PFD checks, but this is essentially "free" money. People didn't earn it. The PFD money should be used first before any taxes get implemented.

Lastly, if using the PFD doesn't do the job, then if any taxes need to be added in addition, then a (very small) sales tax should be considered instead. This doesn't unfairly burden hard working Alaskans, everyone has skin in the game, and allows an increase in revenue from tourists as well.

Regardless, before anything, reasonable and frugal spending limits need to be set for any government spending. "Live within your means" should not be just a quote for an individual, but really should be a mandate for government as well. The government is like a monster that you feed and feed and never gets full. There will always be special interests, pet projects, or other departments that "need" funding. That is why there needs to be checks and balances in place - so we don't overuse what we have, and there isn't too much month left at the end of the money.

Please, do not unfairly burden Alaskans with more taxes, and especially an income tax that unfairly burdens hardworking Alaskans. Vote no on HB 115!

Sincerely,

Rachael E. Neumann

Wasilla, AK 99629

I am writing to you to encourage you to vote no on HB-115 and to protect your constituents from a State Income Tax and to stop the raid on the Permanent Fund Dividend.

Until meaningful spending cuts are made in the State Budget, I am not in favor of punishing people for the unhealthy spending of the Government/Governor's Office. Once the spending cuts are made, then the time will be ripe to entertain other methods of gaining funding for Government Spending.

I know that you are new to the system in Juneau and I know that you are probably learning the ropes down there, but remember, Representatives get re-elected every 2 years and also remember that we will be watching you and how you perform.

--

Phylis K. Silverton
Wasilla, AK 99654

The tax bill currently submitted is not an appropriate measure for Alaskan Residents. We need to first learn to manage the money we have, not simply follow the more liberal approach of justly adding more funds to the budget.

If we don't demand our legislators first learn to budget we will end up being like California, lost in debt and no one to get more money from.

I am against HB115 !

Richard Green
Wasilla, AK 99687

Dear Alaska House Representative:

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed

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Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

John C Owen

Sally J Owen

Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Alaska House Representative,

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As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Daniel Smith
Anchorage, AK 99515

Dear Alaska House Representative,

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I am

asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

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As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Cynthia Ramos

Soldotna, AK 99669

I've lived in Alaska since 1975, my husband I have raised two hard working boys here and they are raising up hard working children. The word that is important is ""working""!! They all live in Alaska.

The worse thing Alaska did when we were flush was create the permanent fund, get rid of the income tax and the school tax, it turned us in to a well fare state, but that is water under the bridge. Our problem is spending every dime we get with no thought to the future, but changing culture is very difficult..every time we get ahead the state hires more people to spend it on with wages, health care and retirement packages the average worker or small business can't afford.

Income tax as proposed would destroy another segment of the economy and eliminate jobs by decreasing the amount of expendable cash the people that work have to spend on entertainment, travel, home improvements and yes that cup of coffee in those little shops.

We need to cut state jobs or if not the jobs reduce the benefits.

We need to increase fuel taxes, if you need to help people, exempt heating fuel.

If you must go forward with income tax 3% of federal amount paid.

Bring back school tax \$20 out of each persons pay check, January 1 and after every year.

Limit permanent fund to \$1000

BUT MOST OF ALL WE NEED A 5% SALES TAX our guests expect to pay it..we do when we travel.

Respectfully,

Kandace Moore

Talkeetna, Alaska

I oppose robbing the PFD fund and am opposed to this income tax structure. My families PFD's help us buy heating oil and groceries every year, we meet our budget because we cut our spending. Government should do the same instead of robbing us of our PFD.

While I could support a simple income tax, this tax bill is not one I would support. My husband worked for many years as a construction superintendent out in the villages, in charge of sewer and water installations. We saw so many 'outsiders' from the lower 48 working and then taking their income back home. They enjoyed working up here but did not help our economy during the off season. We have lived here and worked here for 40 years and spend all of our money here. Please kill this bill.

Thank you,

Tamara and David Reiser

Homer, AK

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please register my opposition to HB 115 in its original and latest income tax proposal.

1. Extreme taxation of workers to support free handouts for takers just doesn't seem right to me. The dividend should be eliminated for all before anyone should be taxed to support this travesty! (In my sincere and humble opinion as a 59-year productive resident.)

Dee Barbarick

Chugiak, Alaska

Dear Alaska House Representatives,

I'm a third generation Alaskan. My grandparents built the first modern home in Kenai, AK in 1952 which I live in presently with my husband and 3 kids.

The 2016 year was hard for contractors and 2017 is starting off worse for us! Contracts are scarce for the construction industry that my husband has worked 16 years in and we found ourselves laid off in September 2016. At this time we got a reduced PFD which we depend on to pay our \$1,000 borough property taxes on this old house and the 12 month payment for house insurance. The rest of our PFD's were put as credit on the utilities and winter gear bought for our 3 kids. This was a hard winter and we found ourselves for the first time ever on unemployment and food stamps at Christmas time with no credits left on any utilities. We still can't find work in any industry that can pay a wage of \$25 to support a family of 5. There is a grim report of more job losses in the construction industry which were feeling the effects of already. My husband's unemployment benefits have expired and there is no oil field jobs yet you want to give them tax breaks and the construction industry is grim too with no current work.

If you do not vote No tomorrow on HB115 I don't know if my family can make it in Alaska. The loss of work is hitting the working people hard and taking/capping/ restructuring the PFD AND adding an income tax would make life extremely difficult if not impossible. I find it sad that the private sector is getting hit so hard that it might find generation Alaskans leaving to stay afloat. I support the people voting on these issues since they will greatly affect us all.

Please I ask again Vote No HB115 tomorrow for the Alaskans who have stuck thru all the hard times.

Teea & Ronald Winger

Kenai, AK

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

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Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family and I are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Som Saraphanh

Anchorage, AK 99516

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

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As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

[Signed] Larry Platt

Gustavus Ak. 99826

Leave the PFD ALONE!

Nancy Crowden

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

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Signed

Alaska resident

Erica M. Edgmon-Jarman

Anchorage,AK 99503

I am opposed to HB 115. For a number of reasons.

First of all I believe that state sales tax would be a more fair tax. Because everybody from tourist, to the rich, the working Alaskan and to the welfare recipient all must pay the tax according to what they spend. I feel like our welfare programs are to giving. The amount of money a family can make and still qualify is staggering. Just like our state budget they don't expect to cut spending because someone else can pay for it...the working Alaskan or big oil companies!

I get that we want to capture the income from those who come to work here, but at least they come to Alaska make their money and leave. Verses taking advantage of our good welfare programs.

Next putting a capital gains tax on property being sold unless you "upgrade," taxes those who need to downsize because of personal budget, or those buying properties in distress and the elderly. Imagine a person would actually reduce their home to make their budget work verses losing it to the bank or asking for a handout!!!! Also speaking from experience my husband and I have bought foreclosed homes, repaired them and then sold them to pay off debt.

The PFD would cover your tax bill.

Most importantly I strongly oppose a state income tax until our government starts actually cutting our budget! I believe there are many programs that can and should be cut. You need to look at our state budget like you would your household budget and start cutting the things we can't afford. Just because you like your \$5 latte doesn't mean you need it. I agree with Cathy Titlon, "Before we ask Alaskans to pay for state government, we have a moral obligation to make sure we spend state dollars as efficiently as possible!"

Cut Alaska's spending! Because if Alaskans give you their hard earned money, you will just grow government more and more!!!!

To Whom it may concern,

A state income tax as proposed penalizes the hardest working Alaskans the most. It is not fair. Many of these individuals are putting the most money back into our economy and they won't be able to do so with the tax as proposed. They will donate less to local charities. They'll eat out less. They'll have much less money to spend helping businesses grow and flourish.

Any income tax should be a straight percentage across the board for everyone, which I believe is called a Flat Tax.

A better solution is to be more creative with the taxes. Tax the consumers and the tourists. A state wide sales tax would be much more just and favorable, especially if it was seasonable between memorial day and Labor Day with the highest number of visitors come to Alaska. A higher state wide bed tax makes sense. Nobody looks at the tax when they're booking a hotel room to come to a place like Alaska and it would do nothing to detour them from doing so. How about a higher resource, such as gravel, tax? We have a state owned railroad that loses money year after year, yet it takes tons and tons of gravel out of the Mat-Su Borough twice a day during the summer.

These suggestions, ideas, and opinions are my own. I am representing myself by the statements.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Teresa Beck
Palmer, AK

Greetings Alaska House Representative,

My name is Patrick McCoy and I along with my family are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting or what some refer to as “restructuring” the PFD in any way. A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

As a matter of fact you are in the position you are in because we have allowed you to be there. However if you are unable to come up with a budget without the PFD and or Taxes being on the table then it is quite possible you are unable to fulfill your duties, and therefore should consider stepping down or at the very least stall any major decisions during your tenure that have such a significant impact. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a voice on how it is spent or changed.

You may ask why I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD? The reason is simple. My family and I agree that we along with the residents of Alaska are better at spending the money than government.

Lets be frank. it is common knowledge how this government has been spending the States money by giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. Not to mention when you had the opportunity to lower the exorbitant per diem that you folks earn during legislative sessions you declined. In the past decisions like these could be made with no consequences, however in this day of communication that we live in, I assure you that the names of all those that chose on the side of cutting/restructuring the PFD will be circulated and not forgotten the next election.

If on the other hand the right thing is done and the Dividend stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things such as to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay heating, medical, insurance bills, or offset the other high costs of living in Alaska. As a matter of fact it could even be reinvested into the Alaskan economy by purchasing, automobile, snowmobile, boat, or some other non essential item to stimulate the economy.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, we are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote **NO on HB115**.

Patrick McCoy

Unalakleet, Alaska 99684

Dear Legislators,

I am writing for public record my opposition to HB 115. This piece of legislation if passed, would be devastating to the middle class. Its already clear you desire to take our PFDs which will cripple local economies and have a dire effect on families in villages depending on them for heat fuel and food for the winter. Now, you want to further take from people already struggling to make ends meet in a recession with one of the highest unemployment rates on record. People who have some of the highest health insurance rates in the nation, the highest costs to heat their homes, and high costs of groceries. This will break the backs of Alaskans. There is no incentive to work with this kind of progressive tax and certainly no justification to stay.

I watched you vote on HB 57 Amendments and you refused to cut anything, including a \$137,000 chef. There are more viable plans for the immediate future. Senator Dunleavy has proposed a plan that would not include income taxes at this time. Not only is HB115 going to destroy the private sector, it's going to grow the government sector with new positions to garner our wages. You will run out of people to take from with a plan like this.

I certainly won't retire here if you are taxing the sale of my home and my pension. It's impossible to live here on what I would have left. You are doing nothing to bring business into Alaska, you are driving them out. You are discouraging people to stay and with this model your resources to tap with become more scarce year after year. We owe it to our future to look at a more sustainable plan. We owe it to the generations of Alaskans who never dreamed their homes would be taken from them and their children would not be able to prosper here. Please kill this bill.

Julie Gillette

District 4

Fairbanks AK 99706

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jimijon Cash, I am a resident of Fairbanks and a Sole Proprietor small business owner. I am a one man operation as a Handyman Contractor and the sole provider for my family of five. We are a single income family and cannot afford additional taxes. As a self employed small business, I already pay Federal taxes in excess of \$12,000, in addition to borough and city property taxes.

I am strongly opposed to the state implementing any tax on residents before further budget cuts are made.

Thank you,

Jimijon Cash

Leave my divided alone cut your budget move the capital to the people and vote to keep our dividend ours
Singed

James Anderson

50 year resident born and staying in Alaska and fighting for our rights

> Dear Alaska House Representative,

> A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

> My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

> The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

> If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

> Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

> As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

> Eric, Amber, Jonathan, Paden, & Shandeigh Kraus

Eagle River, AK

99577

Dear Alaska House Representative, A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

[I am] [My family is] asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. [I] [We] oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. [I am] [my family is] better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my [my family’s] pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, [I am] [my family is] asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Amber Kraus

Retirees who remain in the state receive a 10% increase in pensions. This 10% is to encourage retirees to remain in the state instead of moving outside and spending their pensions elsewhere while assisting those on a fixed income to meet Alaska's high cost of living.

I urge the legislature to exempt the 10% increase from gross income. Otherwise any benefit now gained from the 10% will be erased and will be impetus to many to leave Alaska and spend their pensions elsewhere.

gary copus

Retiree, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

This PFD was grandfather in and was Not supposed to be touch by any officials especially not to be used by State Officials.

Eileen B. John

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending (saving) the money than the government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators as well as massive, ugly "art" in schools and public places.

If the PFD stays in my family’s pockets it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Sincerely,

The Herrins

Wasilla, AK

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Paula LaBreck

Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I am better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Signed,

Paige McHoes
Anchorage, AK 99501

To my fellow elected employees,

Regarding HB115, this is an oppressive, debilitating bill that will bring your Alaskan employers to their knees causing financial disaster for all hard working Alaskan families. As our elected employees why you feel it is necessary with this despicable bill to thief from every man woman and child of our great state. I ask you this why do you HATE Alaskans? Why do you HATE Alaska's children? Why do you HATE Alaska's senior citizens? Why do you HATE the very people who employ you and who pay the bills of this great state? Why do you want to oppress and throw Alaskans into poverty with this oppressive and corrupt bill? We are already in a recession! Make the necessary budget cuts and STOP your criminal behavior. Vote No on this corrupt, oppressive and greedy bill, HB115! STOP HURTING AND STEALING FROM HARD WORKING ALASKANS WHO PAY THE BILLS OF OUR GREAT STATE! CUT THE BUDGET AND FIX THIS HORRIBLE DEFICIT THAT YOU HAVE CREATED BY MISMANAGING HARD WORKING ALASKANS MONEY! STOP THE HATE FILLED HB115, AND BEGIN HEALING THIS STATE THROUGH NECESSARY BUDGET CUTS! STOP THE GREED!

Third Generation Proud Alaskan
Jessica Whaley-Milwicz

Dear committee I have been a life long Alaskan 34 years to be exact. I have worked in the construction and oil industry for the past 16 years I strongly oppose hb 115 it will have a negative impact on our economy and Alaskans financial well being. Alaskans particularly central Alaskans have the highest cost of living in the nation. Why impose more taxes on Alaskans when we can hardly afford cost of living during the winter months? There is better ways dealing with Alaskas deficit then adding a state income tax. Cut spending would be the obvious, and tax non residents who work here for construction season and the non residents who work on the north slope. I have worked up north for the past 11 years and Alaskans working up there are the minority. It is safe to say that 60% of the work force up there is non Alaskan workers. That is money made in Alaska that is being spent outside in the lower 48. It is a privilege being an Alaskan however it makes no sense to live in Alaska when cost of living is so high and now a potential additional cost.

Thanks for your time

-shannon denning

North Pole AK

This entire process seems like a work of fiction.

How dare you consider such a move as an income tax without cuts to spending....real ones not the cosmetic surgery you have been practicing.

The newly revealed vampirish plan by this disappointment of a governor is the worst abuse of power yet rivaling the PFD theft.

(You are not transferring mineral rights to the people who own the land but you will steal the royalties held in common.)

Since half of the people in AK will not be paying tax you are doubling down on those of us who do. Shame on you.

Who can afford to live here?

It is time to protest and start a movement to resist paying such a tax.

It is time to vilify those who have brought this about and remove them from office and from the polite society of those who will suffer from their stupidity.

Triple gas tax, add a school tax, tax your tires.....what is next? Pay toilets?

Back to the drawing board. Be accountable. The sacred cows you need to kill should not look so much like the people who elected you.

Kathleen LaMantia

Anchorage

This is a testimony for HB115: Please no income tax for State retirees. There are a lot of us who are barely making ends meet with only a state retirement income.

Thank you,

Dorie Wassilie

I am AGAINST this bill. It makes absolutely NO SENSE and in all honesty is absurd! Why don't you simply take the entire PFD? under this bill I get \$1250 PFD and then I pay that same \$1250 back to the State, where does that make sense to you all? Where does an increase in State employees make sense? Employees to pay me a PFD and then more employees to collect it back. Further, not everyone will pay a income tax. That is wrong. If an income tax is necessary (it isn't as spending is still too high) then everyone no matter the income needs to pay. Everyone needs to pay a user fee, it's only fair.

Seems to me you are trying to protect yourselves from your constituents at the next election so you all can say you saved the PFD, when in reality you ended it as it is now and restructured it but call it a PFD to get votes down the road, ABSURD!

You need cut spending and cut State employees before I will be fore cutting PFD or paying an income tax (but certainly will never be fore both at the same time). When you cut State employees start with upper management not the actual workers who perform the services!

Kevin Irvin

Wasilla, AK

Legislators,

I would like to go on record, both for myself and my husband, John, as supporting a state sales tax. We would also like to share our lack of support for restructuring the Permanent Fund and anything but a flat income tax. A small, flat income tax would allow for simple accounting, as well as fairness toward those of us in Alaska who earn our livings. A statewide sales tax with NO exemptions would be helpful for obvious reasons, though may scare those of you whose voters survive off of government subsidies. Restructuring the Permanent Fund is an oft-abused issue that needs to be laid to rest. Most importantly, consider prioritizing all budget items, drawing a line where the money runs out, and making this visual available to Alaskans.

Thank you for your time. I trust you all to make logical, responsible, and emotionless decisions.

Best regards,

Vanessa Reinhardt

HB 115 is a dreadful proposal. Sucking the life out of the PFD program while burdening residents with an income tax is idiotic. Leave our PFD program alone. Like Alaska residents, our State Government should live within it means. If you need more money, reduce expenses or (crazy idea) stimulate the economy to generate more income. Alaska's riches are only matched by our States out of control spending. Alaska easily spends two times the national average per capita with little to show for it. I'd appreciate you focusing on a productive solution.

Allen Thornhill

As a resident since 1970, I have experienced both the income tax and the beginning of the PFD. At that time, we also had a "first employment tax" that was dedicated to education and covered everyone's first job in the state.

Renewing a modest income tax like the one in the bill, at this time when we need state revenue to keep essential state service is going makes perfect sense to me.

My only suggestion for the tax would be that the rate be subject to review every four years:

Further, that any such mandated rate review should never again allow the income tax rate to fall to zero, or allow the income tax to be sunsetted without a three-quarter vote of the legislature.

Finally, regarding the PFD:

My hope would be that we started imitating the Norwegian model – that is, (1) limit a cash payout only to adults over 18;

(2) any cash payout to \$500 per individual – with any added dividends the legislature wishes to provide above that amount put into special, individualized "State Services Dividend Accounts"

(3) that the legislature create individualized State Services Accounts to let residents assign any PFD dividend amounts exceeding the \$500

ru legislature create dividends for those under 18 B said aside in a special PFT account that can be only be accessed with the juvenile turns 18;

Clay McDee

No No NO. This is insanity!! You want my hard earned money yet I can't even get to work because I don't live on a Priority 1 road!! SO NOOOOO on SB50 too. How do you expect us to even have an income if we can't even get to work? To think that studded tires is a luxury is completely moronic. In order to use the priority 1 road you have to either use a priority 3 or a priority 2. The legislature needs to get their priorities in order and my income needs to stay out of it.

Less Bess

Dear Representative's

Thanks you for allowing me to add to the discussion.

State budget deficit. We get it! We have known this for years like you that there is a financial problem. We knew years ago.

We watched for years as the minority in office would force an increase in state spending to get the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to make the draw. We say everyone add a list of special programs that only a few wanted.

We asked for decrease in state spending outside of capital projects. When our total spend is larger today than last year then there have been a lack of rightsizing state government through the years.

Now we are told that no part of this state spending can be cut. They tell us we can't live without any these state functions. With no explanation, why we can't live without? Then they ask what would you cut?

What we don't have to answer these questions is what all these state organizations do, how much each cost, and the value of these programs to answer. Is the yearly cost increasing? Any efficiencies being added to the program? We only hear that we need more money, but never anything about the value.

Until there are answers to these questions our only answer to these types of questions is to cut across the board all departments 5%/year for 3 years.

Then we can evaluate choke points in gaps between needs and affordability.

At this time;

I do not agree with any additional school tax.

I do not agree with any new State Income tax.

I support continued reduction in state spending across the board.

I agree somewhat with cutting the size of the dividend distribution to reduce the size of the draw.

I support increase in fuel tax and studded tire tax.

I support increasing or adding a tax of fish harvested in Alaska waters.

Sales tax on large items (>1000\$) is open for discussion.

Thanks for your time with these comments,

Steve Carhart

To whom it may concern,

I do not support HB115 because it institutes an income tax while continuing to pay out a dividend from the Permanent fund. In addition to lacking means testing, the dividend is an inefficient use of state resources as a significant portion (~15% on average) leaves the state via federal income taxes.

I am happy to support a broad based tax after the dividend is completely eliminated. This broad based tax could even be used to expand government services beyond their current level to offset the effect on lower income households of losing the dividend. This expansion could take the form of means tested housing assistance, food assistance, or home heating subsidies to name a few.

Kind regards,

Adam Lewis

Anchorage

Good afternoon,

My name is Katherine Harris, and I got this email address from the Alaska Dispatch article published today. I would like to respectfully offer my opinion, which is that a sales tax would be more fair and mean that all residents of the state contribute to our fiscal well being, and not just those who pay Federal taxes. A large portion of our population here doesn't pay Federal tax, and that will leave only those citizens who do pay that bearing the burden of helping the state to balance its budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely

Katherine Harris

I am dramatically opposed to any new progressive rate system of taxation based upon income. Cur the PFD before you impose any new tax. I will remember all of those who voted for any form of income tax, and will work to make sure that they are not reelected.

M. Zukowski

Hello,

My name is Erik Bakke and I live down in Homer. I'm writing to express my opposition to HB115, specifically the plan to institute an income tax. In brief, here's why:

- * The budget cuts in recent years have simply removed the *growth* in spending of the previous decade. We can, and should, further cut the budget before instituting crippling income taxes on Alaskans.

- * There is no sunset provision. If the real reason we need this tax is that oil revenues are down, then surely when oil revenues are up again, this tax will be rendered unnecessary and should be repealed.

- * It continues the progressive income tax, inequitably distributing the burden of government, and penalizing increased productivity. If the estimated revenue from this plan is \$655M per year, a far simpler and less costly to implement solution would simply be to bill each of the approximately 550,000 resident adults \$1,190 per year.

- * It relies on the threat of force, extorting money from the citizenry. One alternative could be a new system by which residents may freely contribute to government agencies (perhaps even directly through income withholdings) at their own desired rate (including a rate of nothing), and the state then operates on whatever level of funding the citizenry has provided. Thus the government would no longer be guessing what the citizens want to fund, or trying to interpret the votes of individuals every few years which are influenced by many factors including, but not limited to, state spending and public programs.

Regards,

Erik Bakke

Homer, AK 99603

As a life long Alaskan I am totally AGAINST the state income tax and PFD robbery to fund an excessive government of only 700,000 residents. The alaskan government already receives 50% of the PFD earnings. How greedy are you anyway! Re-access the programs that are here and downsize and cut overhead!! Needs and wants.....

Sue Thorne

I am fundamentally opposed to an income tax for a variety of reasons, but the two most prominent are the fact that an income tax will result in half of Alaskans paying a tax while the other half reaps the lion's share of the benefits, and that the cost of State Government and State Services has not been significantly reduced.

I know that people will point to a specific reduction and claim that it is indeed significant, in part because cuts have been designed to cause the most pain, but the reality is that we are simply trying to reduce when fundamental change is needed.

Jeff Kilfoyle.

I am a retired federal employee who is a full time resident of Alaska. My income comes from a combination of Social Security, a modest federal retirement, my PFD, as well as capital gains and dividends from a variety of mutual fund and stock investments. My comments are as follows:

1. 4.75 % of the permanent funds market value is too high for the fund to truly be permanent. I have yet to find a financial advisor that recommends taking that much from a retirement account. The old rule is 4.0 % and recently the rule is somewhat below 4%.

2. I can stomach paying the State 15% of my federal tax bill. I don't like it though.

3. I will not stand paying 10% of my long-term capital gains to the state in addition to 15% of my federal tax bill. I include these long-term gains on my federal return and they would thus be taxed twice by the State. Once as 15% of my federal return and 10% again as capital gains in a stand alone manner. Thus my long-term capital gains would suffer a total tax liability greater than 20% (10% federal, plus 10% State plus another 1.5% captured by the State by way of the 15% tax against my federal tax bill) Unless you define long-term capital gains as gains from sources of investments wholly within the State of Alaska such as sale of a house, all my stock and mutual fund capital gains from sources outside the State would be captured by this tax. This is not acceptable. Please define capital gains as you do for the non-resident. I need to know your intention on this before I make a final judgement on the merits of this bill.

Mike McQueen

Copper Center, Alaska 99573

I'm an Anchorage resident and I oppose any income tax. I strongly support a statewide sales tax. This more fairly and uniformly taxes everyone regardless of income and including taxing outside visitors. And taking PFD earnings to help pay for government is a must with ANY tax. I don't want to pay taxes while everyone is still receiving \$2K dividend. Something needs to happen this session on these issues.

Mike Klebs
Anchorage, Alaska. 99507

House Senate Finance Committee-

Please use our PFD or cut spending to solve the budget deficit problem. I strongly oppose an income tax.

Alonna Brorson
District 28 - Anchorage
Anch, Ak 99516

You guys need to down size all these government positions, cut wages and expenses, get rid of your insolvent retirement fund, you need to cut programs that are "nice to have" but aren't a dire need at the end of the day, get back to the basics! I have to balance my household budget when are you guys going to step to the plate and make the tough decision needed and institute the cuts that need to be made to balance the government budget? We elect you for a job, if I don't perform at my job I get fired, if you guys don't make the cuts needed and decide instead to implement a State Income tax I will not vote for anyone who passed it.

If you think the economy is hurting already, let's take more money out of people's pockets so less goods and services will be purchased. Then small businesses start to go bankrupt and even more jobs are lost in this State. It's plain and simple high taxes discourage work and investment. We are already over burden with taxes and frankly I'm tired of it. Every interest group wants something, I work hard for my money and I'm tired of paying for it. Enough is enough you've already raided the PFD, it's time to go to work and make the necessary cuts to balance the damn budget and do NOT institute a State Income tax.

Sincerely,

One unhappy resident...Rachel Mentzel

No on Bill HB115

I strongly vote no on HB115.

James Ingram

To Whom it may Concern,

I am not in favor of HB 115 as it stands.

An income tax is not the answer to this problem, especially with one that would cost families up to 7% of their incomes. The truth of the matter is, even an excessive income tax, such as proposed will not solve Alaska's fiscal issues. You cannot expect a small percentage of wage earners to financially support the rest of the state.

Utilize the Permanent Fund Dividend earnings to balance the State's budget.

Thank you,

Blake Larson

Kenai, AK

I do not support this bill for the following reasons.

This is already a very expensive state to live in and HB 115 will only make it even more expensive for me and my family. In addition, you are taking money out of my pocket that I would normally spend in the local economy. If this bill passes I will be spending less in the local economy and so will the all the residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. This wil only hurt local businesses and most likely deepen the recession. This bill might help the state government operate but it will not help the people. Basically this bill will take my entire dividend and my wife's dividend plus I will have to write a check to the state to pay the remainder of my tax bill.

If the state enacts this bill and continues on their destructive course to steal my money, my family and I will find a more suitable state to live. The majority of individuals that I am acquainted with in my area are of the same mind on this topic. Especially retired and elderly folks who are on a fixed income. This bill will definitely take what little extra money they have and more! I can see in the foreseeable future that people will be leaving the state of Alaska.

Timothy Tessler

Please do not support the proposed tax plan. Take the entire dividend before you add to my tax burden.

Roger Meeks
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I am hopeful you actually read this email.

In **NO WAY** am I for having a state income tax. You and the federal government continue to find ways to put the burden on the middle class. We have had enough. With Alaska's economy already in a recession, adding an income tax to those that can afford to keep it going will do nothing but hurt. CUT THE BUDGET!!! If I have to live my life on a budget so should the state. It's going to hurt, yes but DO what needs to be done. I would rather a sales tax vs an income tax because then at least everyone is paying equally, including the tourists.

Marshall Elliott

Good Afternoon,

I do not support HB115. I believe a state sales tax is the only fair and equitable option, but only after oil tax credits are corrected, pfd earnings and distributions are used and the state budget is reduced even further.

Furthermore, I WILL NOT support any Alaska Legislator in the future who supported HB115.

Thanks,

John J McClain

Homer, Alaska

Sales Tax OK

Everyone bears the burden of the tax including our summer tourist. Even a seasonal tax that someone has suggested would work fine.

Income Tax NO NO

There are fewer people in Alaska making income and many that do not make income so consequently the few property owners are carrying the biggest load Of the tax burden.

Let the people vote!!

Steve and Dorris Stevenson

To whom it may concern,

The notion that our legislature would enact an income tax after rejecting potential budget cuts, AFTER taking away half of our PFD, which was not their money to begin with, is ridiculous. Alaska has long stood without income tax and been better off for it. Our economy weather the great recession much better than anywhere else in the USA.

The fact that you even consider an income tax, especially after heavily increasing the state budget, proves that you are just as bad as every other politician out there. Maybe consider cutting the budget and taking away some of the huge tax breaks that the oil companies are paying you directly to give them first rather than leaning more heavily on the good people of The Last Frontier to fatten your own pockets.

Very Frustrated Alaskan,

Dawson Taylor

We are against a state income tax. Especially if it taxes Senior Citizens Social Security and Retirement income.

The PFD is already taxed by the Feds. Will the state consider that income too and tax the PFD as well?

Take the PFD and vote ... NO... to a state income tax. But once the PFD fund is spent by the state don't come back to the middle class for more.

Thank you

Dan and Sue Mattson

Anchorage, Ak 99516

To My Esteemed Representatives:

I've learned a little about House Bill 115, and while some portions of it may yet be needed to solve our state's fiscal crisis, I am concerned and discouraged that consideration has not yet been given to reformulating our current oil tax structure. Especially after listening to senator Wielechowski speak on oil taxes yesterday morning, I cannot support any personal taxation until we've fixed this first.

I strongly oppose HB 115, and encourage you to set aside such thinking and tackle the more important issue first.

Sincerely,

-Mike Messick

Please do not support the proposed tax plan. Take the entire dividend before you add to my tax burden.

Roger Meeks
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please NO state income tax. The number of Alaskans who actually will be paying this tax is not going to bring the state the revenue it needs to fill the budget gaps. Lower income Alaskans who already receive non-taxable state benefits as well as file for a federal "Earned Income Tax Credit" will not pay at all. Those oil field and other workers who work in AK and live Outside will be splitting state income taxes with their home state, so that revenue will be low. I recently saw a study which showed that only about 250,000 Alaskans would actually pay any state income tax. NOT FAIR!

Taxes should be proportionate and just – not coming mostly and disproportionately from the middle income earners who seem to pay the bulk of everything. Most Alaskans are "willing" (since we have no choice) to pay sales taxes which catch all income groups proportionately and fairly. Sales tax also catches revenue from tourists. Luxury taxes for excessive purchases over a certain amount should be considered as well.

In order to protect the lower incomes from an excessive tax burden, and indeed all who live frugal lifestyles, essentials like groceries and medicine should NOT be taxed – as they are not taxed in a lot of other states.

Respectfully.

John & Karen Rockwell

Palmer, AK 99645

Good Evening,

I am emailing you all in regards to the current debate about the possibility of an income tax for the State of Alaska.

Obviously, we as a state do need some additional type of income to help supplement the low income from natural resources at this time. However, I feel that with our currently fragile economy, implementing an income tax would only further cause harm to small businesses here in the state.

Our state boasts such a high number of tourists from May-Sept, that we need to tap into that potential revenue source. In order to do that fairly, we need to implement a state wide sales tax. This will equally tax everyone in the state; to include those who don't necessarily list income for tax purposes.

We need to look at sales tax prior to income tax. Let's look at some numbers:

I feel the best starting rate for us to implement a sales tax in this state would be at 4%. With the average family for 4 on a one week vacation in the state, they easily will spend \$8,000.00. That will net the state around \$320, or roughly \$80/person. In 2014, the state estimated 1.96 million visitors in the state. If we reduced that for the sake of arguing numbers to 1.5 million visitors for cushion, the state would make an estimated \$120mil; this simply using very low figures (\$8k/family of 4 seems unlikely for 7 days). Once you factor in citizen spending rates, this state could gain an exceptional amount of revenue from a sales tax.

We must look at a sales tax prior to an income tax; we'd never make the money we could make from a sales tax, through an income tax.

Make the right decision for ALL Alaskan.

Thanks,
Michael Sweet

HB115 Version L: Written Testimony by Barry Santana 3/29/2017

I once again appreciate the opportunity to testify on the changes made to the original bill now called Version L. Although I support a POMV draw on the PF and a modest state income tax, **I cannot support this bill in its current form.** Here are my comments and suggestions for change:

Permanent Fund

- Do not change the percentages of Oil and Gas Mineral royalties split between the PF and the GF.

Leave the percentages at 30/70. Do not amend or add a new Section 6.

- **I strongly support annual inflation-proofing of the PF principal.** You have added 0.25% annual inflation-proofing, an improvement over the original bill (Section 10), but that is not enough. Angela Rodell testified in a hearing on SB26 on 2/16/2017 that she felt the PF “may” be able to self-inflation-proof at POMV draws up to 4%, but could not recommend passive inflation-proofing above that number.
- **Reduce the POMV draw to 4.25%.**
- I do not agree with the disproportionate split between PF and Govt. services. I recommend the **split of PF/Govt. services be 50/50** like Gov. Hammond originally Intended (suggested). This is the split in Senator Stedman’s new SB21.
- I do not agree with the inflation-proofing method in this bill (Section 12). I believe the provision to only inflation-proof the PF when the ERA exceeds four times the current POMV draw will only be triggered sporadically. **Market and real estate assets can be volatile, similar to oil.** A few years of low or negative returns and the value of both the PF and ERA will drop, even when considering rearward 5-year averages. In fact, Angela Rodell stated that no inflation-proofing of the principal occurs in the event of a sale. When an asset is sold, the portion from principal is restored but the portion from the ERA is restored AND the gain goes only to the ERA. I assume in a loss, the ERA takes all the loss, but I wouldn’t count on it. Did the legislature learn nothing from SB21 and lack of consideration of low oil prices?
- Let us hope that the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation protects the Alaska Permanent Fund **from the effects of this legislation and political tinkering.**

Income tax

- The change made in Section 17 **from federal tax liability to federal adjusted gross income makes the system much more complicated.** It appears to me, more difficult to create the regulations, administer and enforce them.
- Another issue is **fairness.** The federal code allows **deductions** on line 40, just below FAGI. It is intended to provide deductions for taxes paid (state income, real estate, sales, property etc.) to **prevent taxing tax.** It also allows mortgage interest to be deducted (to encourage home ownership), charity cash contributions, medical expenses (over 10% AGI), casualty losses, etc. The federal tax code also has a Standard deduction if you don't have a lot of taxes, interest, medical expenses, etc. that is derived based upon age and debilitating factors, like blindness.

- In a FAGI based state tax code, deductions also make the process **fairer for seniors**, and people who may contribute more to society through property ownership and charitable contributions. I believe that if you use FAGI as a starting point, deductions should be included in the state code. **At a minimum, Alaskans should not be taxed on their Federal income tax, Borough real estate and property taxes, and local sales tax.** It would also be most benevolent to give seniors a break on state taxes similar to the federal government.
- I understand that a state version of EITC (as discussed by ITEP) is not included in this bill. That said, the EITC will make a complex tax much, much more complex, require much more regulation, and enforcement and is just the wrong way to go. Please simplify rather than complicate this issue. A good first step would be to quit paying ITEP real money to generate these and other complications! In my experience, **models are best used to compare alternatives to evaluate known variables.** To expect a model based on 2014 tax data and other arguable assumptions to determine absolute tax revenue numbers is unrealistic.
- **Non-residents** should be required to file separately for state income tax purposes. They should **be taxed on any income generated in Alaska.** Most commercial tax software should be able to do this based on the state in which the income was derived.
- **Part-time residents (family or individual) should be taxed on any income generated in Alaska.** State tax may also be due in other states, but how do you separate it from a federal return for a state return? A simple proportion of residence time may not be valid.
- Please **concentrate your income tax efforts on simplicity**, which may lead you away from a reference to federal adjusted gross income.
- Please provide a **detailed cost estimate of expenditures to develop, administer and enforce** this effort prior to implementation or passage of a bill.
- **Minimum tax should apply to anyone who receives a PFD.** At your recommended minimum of \$25, that is two packs of cigarettes or less than 10 gallons of gas.
- I would like to see the **portion of the PFD used to pay state income tax reduced for federal income tax.** How can you reduce the Total Gross Dividend of the PFD from *1) Medical and Public Assistance hold harmless provisions of AS 43.23.075* and *2) Legislative appropriation of convicted and incarcerated felon and misdemeanor dividends*, and not a statute in the state tax code for income tax? State income tax and other taxes are deductible from federal taxes if you itemize.
- Consider combining income tax administration with the PFD

group. Thank you for considering my comments and suggestions on

HB115.

Barry Santana

Wasilla and Pedro Bay

That is a BIG NO! On House Bill 115. No income tax! The system got set up so the biggest source of funds [the Permanent Fund] that's stable and predictable is used to pay dividends and the really erratic, unpredictable source of income [Oil Revenues] is how we fund our essential services. It's just backwards.

Debra Seabol

Anchorage, Alaska

KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS – VOTE NO ON HB115 Hands OFF OUR FUND!

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! I and my family are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session, to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and/or changed. I oppose the HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I and my family are better at spending the money than the government. We have heard on the radio and read how the government is spending the money: giving cash credits to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidising a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators. If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

The government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. Kindly conduct SKYPE Conventions with out of state or foreign authorities. Save on Hotel expenses and fancy dinners. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for our families, not for the government. Rescind SB21 and Re-enact ACES and back date it to the introduction of SB 21.

As a result, I and my family are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

John J Kiernan Anchorage, AK 99502-1984

P.S. Most Industries, and many governments raise money by borrowing it against a Bond Issue. Why not issue AK State 10% Tax exempt Bonds against the money needed?

Please accept this quick note as one more additional opinion on a State Income Tax from a rural resident.

I have been self employed, running a business in Bush Alaska for over 20 years. I pay some of the highest costs in the United States (and nation) for: Electricity; Insurance; Workers Comp; Supplies; Gas; and other Utilities (propane, water). I don't get unlimited water, but pay almost 500 bucks a month for 1200 gallons each week. On top of that, I pay the City of Bethel a 6 percent for any Sales Tax for all goods and services.

Some say an income tax is needed to enjoy the luxury of all the things the State provides. Let me recap: We also have some of the worse roads, schools, parks and little to no infrastructure, in comparison to the rest of the State.

So the State -- much like a child actor who blew away all its wealth and surplus -- wants to impose a state income tax and do away with the dividend. Add that to all the other expenses of doing business in Bush Alaska and I say it's time to look elsewhere.

The worse thing you can ever do for this State is impose a Income Tax. It will drive away those who do the most and leave those who do the least. Speaking for those already working in Bush Alaska -- will be zero incentive for anyone to open and run a business here. Texas, Wyoming, Nevada, Florida -- are calling my name.

Jim Valcarce

Dear State Representatives,

I am writing to you, as my elected officials, to voice my opinion on HB 115. It is a shame that the notice to provide testimony did not get publicized until the day of the event and with fewer than a couple of hours to respond. The lack of planning by your office is one of the main reasons that our current state government is not running efficiently. With that said, I am in severe disagreement with portions of HB 115 and a substantial rewrite is required before I will support it or anyone who votes for it. A breakdown of my thoughts follow.

Point 1:

I am in agreement to cap the annual PFD at \$1,250 (or even \$1,000). The PFD comes from oil and gas tax revenues, which are at a decline do to the unequal tax credit system and loop holes that currently exist. By capping the PFD, we continue to keep funds in the coffers to maintain the government at a level equal to the current level; even if it is bloated. I am fully aware of the mineral rights in our State Constitution, and that is why I agree that Alaskan residents should continue to receive a PFD. However, perhaps we can make a few minor changes that would save the State some additional funds, such as allocating PFDs to full-time residents age 18+ ONLY (unless it is an emancipated youth where the funds are required to maintain their household). The only other option for a non emancipated child under the age of 18 is for the State to put the funds into a mandatory college education fund. If the individual does not use the funds for college tuition by age 24, the money reverts back to the State. This minor change can only help to decrease the State's financial deficit.

Point 2:

I highly disagree with a State income tax. However, I am extremely supportive of a State sales tax. A sales tax is FAIR to all Alaskan residents, as well as the folks who visit our state. Quit giving things away for free then trying to require the working class to pickup the slack. Several boroughs and cities have sales taxes that usually work to support their local governments. A sales tax will ensure that everyone pays their fair share. A State income tax, especially the one proposed in HB 115, is extremely biased and unfair; it hits the middle class with the majority of the financial burden. If you impose the proposed State income tax, my wife and I, who are engineers and middle class citizens, will be part of the majority group of Alaskans who bear the brunt of your proposed tax. How is that fair to us while you give the oil companies tax breaks?

I do not wish to judge others, because everyone's situation in life is different, but please consider that those who choose to live on minimum wage jobs versus pursuing a technical or professional jobs. Anyone can go to college or trade school to better themselves. If someone is "scraping by", they are already on federal and/or state assistance. As a burdened, middle-class taxpayer, I am sick and tired of picking up the slack because so many citizens refuse to better themselves and/or find gainful employment. The "entitlement" that is rampant in our country also thrives in our State; let's stop penalizing the working class and professionals who work hard every day to make our State great. Let's make things fair across the board for all who live, work, and visit our State with a State sales tax, not a State income tax.

If you vote to pass the proposed State income tax, I can assure you that my wife and I, along with many

other professionals in our State, will start looking for gainful employment outside of Alaska as well as pursuing any actions possible to hold a recall election against your seat. We love Alaska, but we refuse to live in a state with socialistic laws that penalize those who have worked hard to obtain their current financial status. Additionally, please rethink your proposed ideas to tax retirement funds and capital gains on the direct sale of your home. The IRS already does that, and it has a significantly negative impact on your tax return.

Final Comments:

While I am completely in agreement with Governor Walker that we need to reduce, and eventually eliminate, our State's financial deficit, I am asking you, even begging you, to do your job and listen to the voice of the people, which includes my comments in this email. I have been an Alaskan resident for twelve years, and I really do not wish to move out of this State due to a terribly unfair, burdensome, and oppressive State income tax. Our state already has a shortage of qualified engineers and other professionals; do you really want to increase the deficit of skilled workers in Alaska? **I urge you to vote against HB 115, and replace the idea of a State income tax with a State sales tax that is fair to all citizens and visitors to our great State.**

Thank you for all your hard work, and I appreciate your time in reviewing and considering my comments. I authorize you to use my arguments in session, if necessary, to show examples of other viable solutions to the proposed income tax.

Sincerely,

Billy Brookins,

Palmer

My comments are as follows:

1. Section on capital gains is unintelligible, I have no idea how much tax(in percentage basis) you are proposing to take from my investment capital gains. This section needs to be rewritten (to an eighth grade education level, please) so that the citizens of the state actually know what you are proposing, and put out for public comment again.
2. As a retiree, a significant portion of my retirement income is capital gains. It will be taxed as income by the income tax. Then, you propose to tax it AGAIN under the capital gains tax. My comment: ABSOLUTELY NOT.
3. No income tax without a sales tax. Last thing I read, there are only 300,000 potential tax payers in the entire state. Those who don't pay taxes should be required to contribute through a sales tax. They live /work here too. I don't really care if businesses are objecting to having to collect - businesses have to do their part, too.
4. Taxes need to have a 10 year sunset clause. They shouldn't be established in perpetuity.

Sincerely:

Meg Jensen
Copper Center, AK99573

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer and speaking for myself and my wife Sandy Coons

As it stands with HB 115, we will get a lousy \$2,000 of our mineral rights instead of the \$5,000 that by law we should be getting. So, per this tax legislation, we have to keep \$1,000 of that set aside to pay for the income tax of around \$1,000 we will be hit with. So, instead of \$5,000 back into the Alaska economy, into Alaskan wage earners, we Seniors, will instead increase the unemployment rate and increase the recession.

This legislature is bound and determined to deny us our mineral rights compensation and this Democrat majority House is bound and determined to tax us into oblivion! Even to the point that if I sell my car and I bet that goes to the generator I have up for sale as well, that I must show those sales as "earned income", even though that is my private property that I am selling to another private person!

Seniors and the "working lower income" people will be hit hardest. Those whom have been on the dole with Welfare, Medicaid expansion, EBT, etc.

will not pay a dime and will continue taking, taking and taking some more! The ones hurt the most will be those who work the hardest for better pay. For those people have spent hard earned money for solid

education and years of hard work and will pay the highest in taxes.

Obama, Bernie Sanders, etal are all for redistribution of wealth. This is Alaska, not New York!

Lastly all those whom have and will testify for this theft, I call on all of you to send \$1,000 to the State for your fair share!

I am sure this House majority will vote for this wholesale theft and demise of our State. My only hope is the Senate puts a total halt to this.

Mike Coons

Palmer, AK 99645

Honorable Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

I am purposely keeping this short so as not to waste your time, but if you'd like additional details on how I based my opinion, please let me know.

I am against an income tax until other options have been instituted, namely adjusting oil taxes. After oil taxes, I would agree to a statewide sales tax before agreeing to an income tax. Lastly, sales tax and income tax should have a sunset clause.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicola Murawsky

Seward, Alaska

I am against an income tax that would tax only the working and retired population of the State. I feel it is much wiser to give up a portion of my PFD to help fund government during these times of low oil prices. I also suggest that whatever plan is implemented, a five year sunset clause be included so any decisions made regarding this subject can be reviewed and modified.

Please show a little backbone and use the PFD for what it was originally intended, as a rainy day fund.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Wayne Wilken

Anchorage, Alaska

Alaskan since 1951

Hello, I am writing about the PFD cuts proposed. I understand that you need the money from somewhere but I would be willing to pay income tax if you did not take our PFD. This winter has been hard without the ability to pay for heating. We made it but barely. I had to support my mother and pay her last heating bill. It was not easy. I cut everything I could cut to pay for it.

Please don't cut our PFD.

Thank you.

--

Elizabeth Kandror

Fritz Creek, AK 99603

Good afternoon,

With regards to House Bill 115 which would institute an income tax and cap the PFD: no, no, no.

Alaska is in the midst of a recession. In what instance of history has a new tax, levied during a recession, ever actually made things better? The need to balance a budget is great, but shouldn't worsen the state economy. This is madness.

I know we all receive state services that no one wants to give up, but we need to pull together during this time and make difficult decisions.

In 2016 I lost my full-time job in the oil industry and was underemployed for 8 months. During this time I was going negative every month trying to pay my mortgage and feed my 4 kids. Now that I've been able to get a full-time job in a different industry I am trying to rebuild all the nest eggs I've blown through. I bristle at the concept of being burdened even more with taxes at the state level.

No income tax, no capping of the PFD. Give me breathing room to rebuild what I've lost.

Ron Yeager

Anchorage, AK 99516

To whom it may concern,

I wish I could stand in person for the public testimony, however I am at work trying my best to earn enough to pay on my husbands and my \$95,000 in student loans, our \$700 a month health insurance premium and other bills of necessity. Under House Bill 115 we would be paying over \$2000 in income tax and continuing to lose out on our and our two children's full PFDs. This would be at least \$6,000 dollars in one year, out of our pockets to pay for home heating fuel , kids college savings account..etc. Yet, those making under \$20,000 who probably do not have student loans, have free healthcare and qualify for food stamps ..etc will not have to pay a dime. This is just wrong. It makes a person not want to be a contributing member of society, or even a resident of Alaska. I fear that many middle class and those with money will be leaving our state. The cuts need to start in the Capital. Our leaders need not take special sessions and further inflate our already opulent waistband. Please consider rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Erica Dillard

Hello,

Alaska, as we are aware, is an expensive place to live. We have higher salaries to help accommodate this high cost of living, however it still is difficult for a middle class worker to support themselves, or even a family, one one income between \$50,000 and \$80,000 per year.

I fall into that classification. If it were not for my husband, there would be no way I could afford the roof over our heads with just one of our incomes. We live within our means, we budget, save for emergencies, and both contribute to retirement plans. We have been fortunate to not experience extreme hardships with the declining economy, however I have watched my family ride the Alaskan Economy roller coaster and land dream jobs only to lose them a year or more later due to the oil industry's decline and the ripple effect it has on every other industry within the state. Though we choose to stick by and ride out the tough times, I cannot and will not support not only a PFD cap, but also an income tax that will affect the working middle class more than anyone else.

How do you expect to grow the economy when your constituents cannot afford to contribute to its growth? Alaskans are already feeling the constraints, to introduce this tax during such difficult times will only feed the fire.

Every Alaskan I have spoken to about this proposition is against an income tax. Though we are all not in favor of any new taxes, I, and many others, would much rather support a sales tax over an income tax. Everyone pays with a sales tax, not just the middle class, not just the working class.

Please say no to HB 115

Thank you.

Hailey Williamson

To all,

Alaska House Bill 115 which proposes a state income tax is just as horrible of an idea as a federal income tax. Please see the reasons listed below.

- Taxes almost always increase and this income tax will be no different. Once it is law, there is no turning back. The government will always find justification to take more, i.e. in 1913 the top income tax bracket was 7%. In 2017, the income tax bracket is 39.6%. Moreover, everyone whose income below \$440,000 (adjusted for inflation in 2010 dollars) was only taxed 1%.
- Inherently, the tax punishes citizens who work harder, regardless of whether the fruits of their labor are from working multiple jobs or one well-paying job (well-paying jobs typically require advanced degrees and thus the hard work has been done prior to acquiring the job). Why disincentivize hard work?
- The state is already experiencing a declining population. This will further drive people out of the state, especially the ones whom are in higher tax brackets.

The House and the Senate need to drastically cut the budget. The Department of Health and Social Services has an enormous budget. This department along with transportation and education. In publishing, they say 10% of the words can be cut from a journal article without any loss of quality. The same can probably be applied to government. Cut these departments immediately. Budget cuts to the UA system haven't shown any appreciable drop in service and neither will cuts to these other departments.

Lastly, UA Statewide is a redundant branch of the UA system. It contains many of the same functions that each university already maintains independently. This department should be eliminated and all universities made autonomous. This would save millions!~, but I'm sure Statewide would induce fear and panic to save their jobs!

_A concerned citizen

Josh Alvey

It makes no sense to hire 60 state employees to take money from productive Alaskans and give it to other Alaskans. Why not stop the PFD and fire those employees

The minority has proposed enough cuts to offset need for income tax

Steven P. Kruse

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose HB 115 and urge a NO vote.

The legislature says it cut spending but the budget went up!
YOU DID NOT MAKE NECESSARY REDUCTIONS TO STATE SPENDING.
We're not stupid.

Before any taxes are levied you MUST:

- 1) CUT STATE GOVERNMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE LEVEL.
- 2) USE THE PFD (All of it if you have to).
- 3) SET A FAIR TAX STRUCTURE FOR OIL COMPANIES

If you want a tax let it be a sales tax.

The lie that we're somehow a low tax state is laughable.
Evidently, the \$6k I pay to live in the Anchorage cesspool must not count.

Cheers,

Maurice byers
Chugiak, AK 99567

Hi;

I would like to see all the PFD taken before a state income tax is brought in, or any new tax for that matter. I don't want to pay income tax when everyone doesn't pay it.

I Live in Kenai, Alaska and I vote.

Thanks

Milan Galey

Kenai, Alaska 99611

I am against any form of state income tax while there is still a cash dividend being paid. That would be a blatant form of wealth redistribution.

The dividend should first be reduced to \$0 and the money used to pay for state services which benefit all Alaskans.

Max W. Urish
Anchorage, AK 99516

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Josh Garvey

Homer, AK 99603

No income tax!! Learn to spend responsibly like normal people. Quit spending more than you have like responsible people! Quit expecting the working people to pay for those that don't want to work! Quit quit quit being wasteful and expecting us to pay for it! Do you damn jobs responsibly or get out of office! Thank you.

Jay Gurney

Palmer AK 99645

Dear Committee Members:

We are opposed to HB115 because it places a large burden on our family budget given the fact that other measures for reducing the budget and revenue enhancement have not been adequately addressed.

The rate set in the working draft legislation will remove over \$7000 from our family budget. This is money we will not donate to schools, youth organizations, or other charities within Alaska, or spend in stores in our state. This is removing money from the private economy to benefit the state government, when the State has yet to demonstrate appropriate reductions in the budget and other revenue enhancements.

Many have advocated for an income tax over other revenues because the taxes paid to Alaska can be deducted federal taxes. This is not true for all Alaskan's, and one group this may negatively impact are retired and elderly who have worked hard to pay off a mortgage and claim the standard deduction rather than itemize ones taxes. Further, having no exclusion for capital gains, trusts, and estate taxes is completely counter to supporting those who have made Alaska a home for life versus only living here during ones working years. I fear this proposal will further damage the economy by driving retired and elderly south.

The operating budget as proposed by the House in HB57 does not show the restraint in spending to justify taking money from family budgets through an income tax. While HB57 as approved by the House may be smaller than many prior year budgets, it is larger than the Governor proposed and does not demonstrate the reductions in state spending to support new revenue coming from our family budget. We believe many of the increments are unnecessary given the budget crisis, and most should have been denied.

We are not opposed to revenue enhancements, and specifically we support: fixing oil tax credits; increasing fuel taxes across the board and bringing Alaska in line with most other states; utilization a PART of the PF earnings reserve; and implementation of a statewide sales tax.

This income tax proposal currently under discussion in the House Finance Committee through HB115 is punitive to our family budget. Further, and income tax that plays such a significant portion to solving the budget crisis, without taking into account multiple other approaches at a greater level, will bring further hardship to the economy by hurting families who have dedicated their efforts to making Alaska a lifelong home.

Sincerely,

Les & Deborah Morse

Stop the madness that is House Bill 115. Alaska does not want nor need another State income tax. The citizens of Alaska do not want their dividend touched either.

Here's the solution: Stop the spending and pare State government back to essential functions. If you must impose a tax, a State wide sales tax (consumption tax) will spread the pain around.

Elected officials will be held accountable in upcoming election s should they ignore the will of the people. Please make these choices carefully.

Sincerely,

Samuel R Morris

!!!!NO!!!!On HB115! No!

Mike Seabol

Anchorage, Alaska

Good Afternoon,

After vacationing in Alaska for 30 plus years I finally bought a business here and made the move and became a new resident last year. All this fulfilling my professional and personal goal of living here before I turned 55. I made it.

One of the positive aspects I saw in moving here from Kentucky was the lack of a sales and income tax.

My birth state of Kentucky has both above mentioned taxes along with multiple others yet the Legislature there still never can balance a budget or cut government programs. Sadly it appears this Legislative Body wants to follow down the same regressive tax trail so many other States like Kentucky currently implement.

I follow policy matters for business and personal reasons and have both read about and watched this Legislative Body daily on television. I am dismayed that most proposals that are being taken seriously have only tax increases plans and no serious attempts to cut State Government size and the number of programs.

In Kentucky for example, in the rare cases the state had any surplus revenue the Leadership would start a new program that's was never structured as a sustainable self funded entity and then when budgets crashed no one would cut the program. A tax increase was always thrown out as the solution no matter how regressive. History shows this fact in program after program and in State after State.

Implementing a Income Tax takes money that I and others in the shrinking "working class" of society earn day in and day out and disrupt our ability to decide when and how our Income is spent. This State as in all others cannot tax itself out of a deficit. Simply look at tax structure from other States, no matter the amounts collected the States claim it's not enough. Please direct attention to cutting spending, size of government and do reform in so called "entitlement programs", etc. Let us as working citizens decide how to spend our hard earned money. Simply put, as business entrepreneurs we take the financial risk and deserve our rewards if we're successful.

Thank You.

William Fields
Palmer AK

We should have a sales tax not income tax.

A sales tax spreads the cost or the burden among everyone.

With a income tax only the people who work for a living will be paying extra for the cost of government and this is not fair.

Everyone who enjoys the benefits of our great state should pay not just people work for a living.

John Watsjold

I am writing to you, as my elected officials, to voice my opinion on HB 115.

Point 1:

I am in agreement to cap the annual PFD at \$1,250 (or even \$1,000). The PFD comes from oil and gas tax revenues, and let's face it, none of us, as Alaskan residents, are paying a penny to assist the oil companies with their tremendous financial burdens. I am fully aware of the mineral rights in our State Constitution, and that is why I agree that Alaskan residents should continue to receive a PFD. However, perhaps we can make a few minor changes that would save the State some additional funds, such as allocating PFDs to full-time residents age 18+ ONLY. A child does not need a PFD. The only other option for a child under the age of 18 is for the State to put the funds into a mandatory college education fund. If the child does not use the funds for college tuition by age 24, the money reverts back to the State. Too many parents abuse their children's PFD funds, purchasing new electronics and other frivolous items, instead of putting the money aside for a rainy day or a college fund. This minor change can only help to decrease the State's financial deficit.

Point 2:

I highly disagree with a State income tax. However, I am extremely supportive of a State sales tax. A sales tax is FAIR to all Alaskan residents, as well as our lovely tourists. A sales tax will ensure that everyone pays their fair share. A State income tax, especially the one proposed in HB 115, is extremely biased and unfair; it hits the middle class with the majority of the financial burden. My husband and I are both engineers. We love living and working in Alaska. However, if you impose the proposed State income tax, we, as middle class citizens, will be part of the group of Alaskans who bear the brunt of your proposed tax. How is that fair to us? a) We have both worked extremely hard to obtain difficult engineering degrees; b) We have both worked very hard to pay off our substantial student loans (over \$150,000); c) We work diligently every day at our jobs to provide vital engineering services to our State; and d) We already pay more than our fair share to the IRS in federal taxes and to the Mat-Su Borough in property and other related taxes.

I do not wish to judge others, because everyone's situation in life is different, but please consider that those who choose to live on minimum wage jobs versus technical or professional jobs, have made that choice. Anyone can go to college or trade school to better themselves. If someone is "scraping by", they are already on federal and/or state assistance. As a burdened, middle-class taxpayer, I am sick and tired of picking up the slack because so many citizens refuse to better themselves and/or find gainful employment. The "entitlement" that is rampant in our country also thrives in our State; let's stop penalizing the working class and professionals who work hard every day to make our State great. Let's make things fair across the board for all who live, work, and visit our State with a State sales tax, not a State income tax.

If you vote to pass the proposed State income tax, I can assure you that my husband and I, along with many other professionals in our State, will start looking for gainful employment outside of Alaska. We love Alaska, but we refuse to live in a state with socialistic laws that penalize those who have worked hard to obtain their current financial status. Additionally, please rethink your proposed ideas to tax retirement funds and capital gains on the direct sale of your home. The IRS already does that, and it has a significantly negative impact on your tax return. Prior to obtaining my engineering degree, I worked for

many years as a professional income tax preparer in California; my points are based upon laws and experience.

Final Comments:

While I am completely in agreement with Governor Walker that we need to reduce, and eventually eliminate, our State's financial deficit, I am asking you, even begging you, to do your job and listen to the voice of the people, which includes my comments in this email. I have been an Alaskan resident for ten years, and I really do not wish to move out of this State due to a terribly unfair, burdensome, and oppressive State income tax. Our state already has a shortage of qualified engineers and other professionals; do you really want to increase the deficit of skilled workers in Alaska? **I urge you to reconsider HB 115, and replace the State income tax with a State sales tax that is fair across the board.**

Thank you for all your hard work, and I appreciate your time in reviewing and considering my comments. I authorize you to use my arguments in session, if necessary, to show examples of other viable solutions to the proposed income tax.

Sincerely,

Christine Brookins

(Palmer resident)

Hello,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the income tax issue.

First, I don't see the wisdom of instituting a tax along with the expensive infrastructure to enforce and administer it, if we're still doling out the dividend payments. I'd like to eliminate or reduce the dividend, even on a "progressive" basis before we institute a new tax regimen.

As a business owner trying to survive a recession, I'm already getting crushed by non-subsidized health care costs on the individual market, federal taxes, local property taxes, and increased utility costs.

I would prefer you all spend a lot more time challenging yourselves to reduce costs and expenses. It's what we "producers" must grapple with constantly, and I am often unconvinced that the requirements of fiscal responsibility and leadership are taking priority over political image and fear for many in office.

I vote every election, so if it means anything, take heart in the fact that I support those that demonstrate and reflect the values held by those of us generating jobs and income in the state.

If you don't have the money to achieve your dreams and best intentions, then they go on ice until you can master the basics. There are a lot of tough realities about spending - a lot of social luxuries - that we need to put on ice before you kick the bucket out from under the economic engine represented by income earners and business owners.

Alaska is a tough place to live, and the more you retard the ability of entrepreneurs, business owners and employers, the more reasons you give them to leave. This is a bad proposal. You need to do more work to reduce our budget. Don't fear-monger, cut. We'll rebuild, but you need to support a productive - I.e. Producing - society. You don't do that by taking more out of our already taxed pockets.

Sincerely,

Stephen Shephard

Anchorage, AK 99508

No to HB 115, this state needs to cut spending!!!!!!

Jeff and Paula Berg

To whom it may concern,

I am adamantly opposed to ANY income tax. I am a stay at home mom/substitute teacher. My husband works more than full time, like most Alaskans.

Living in Alaska is expensive enough. With an income tax, we may not be able to afford to stay here. I was born and raised in Alaska, and my family and I want to be life long Alaskans. I will base my vote for representation on how my representatives vote on this issue. I know many others who feel the same way.

Best regards,

Erika Quade

To Whom it May Concern:

I am extremely opposed to HB 115

The residents of Anchorage have already been hit with a recent property tax (mill rate) increase, and a reduction in the permanent fund annual dividend.

Since we are in a recession and have the highest unemployment rate of any other state besides New Mexico, I believe the state income tax that is being proposed will be crippling to Alaska residents.

The broad scope of taxation is not in the best interests of Alaskans, it is only in the best interest of a government who is grasping for anything it can get it's hands on to dig it's self out of the deep pit of dispair that it created.

Individual citizens should not be punished through over-taxation to pay for years of mismanaged funds by our government.

I vote no on the state income tax as it is proposed. The government is trying to create a safety net for themselves in case Fed Taxes are lowered at the expense of our residents.

There are fewer and fewer reasons to stay in Alaska for many residents, mostly due to the mismanagement of government.

-- Brett Young

Im writing in opposition to an income tax. the cost of living in Anchorage and throughout the state of Alaska is already much higher than the national average. In some cases 58% higher cost of living depending on the source and section of cost of living you compare it to. How about a income tax on those who choose to come and go from the state for seasonal jobs. ie fisherman, mining, oilfield, tourism... few of the seasonal workers spend their earnings on property taxes and in the local economies compared to those of us in who live in Alaska full time. Like many of the seasonal workers it will be more advantageous to just vistit Alaska and not live in one of the most expensive economies in the US? how does the state make it attractive to live in Alaska with high energy, food, housing, property taxes (in some areas) and now an income tax? Why not a sales tax where everyone pays their fair share? At some point it will be cheaper for residents to move out of this great state of Alaska and visit a couple times a year to afford to live more comfortably and save their hard earned money. Simply put, I oppose an income tax. If the state decides to impose and income tax, I know my family as well as many others will look closely at options of moving to a more affordable area outside of Alaska.

sincerely,

Dan Driggs

Anchorage resident.

Hello,

As a lifelong Alaskan I am against this bill completely. If our government didn't waste soooo much money on "other" things then we wouldn't be in this mess. Before this bill is even considered the legislature should take a pay cut because they are obviously not "governing" our state very well which has led to this financial crisis in the first place.

The permanent fund should not be touched. The government already gets a hefty portion.

If the legislature treated our budget like they do their own private bank account then we wouldn't be in this mess.

It is the legislatures fault that this has happened and now they want us to bail them out.

NO WAY, they should not be allowed to do this.

Just my 2 cents.....

Michael H. Rivard

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please NO state income tax. The number of Alaskans who actually will be paying this tax is not going to bring the state the revenue it needs to fill the budget gaps. Lower income Alaskans who already receive non-taxable state benefits as well as file for a federal "Earned Income Tax Credit" will not pay at all. Those oil field and other workers who work in AK and live Outside will be splitting state income taxes with their home state, so that revenue will be low. I recently saw a study which showed that only about 250,000 Alaskans would actually pay any state income tax. NOT FAIR!

Taxes should be proportionate and just – not coming mostly and disproportionately from the middle income earners who seem to pay the bulk of everything. Most Alaskans are "willing" (since we have no choice) to pay sales taxes which catch all income groups proportionately and fairly. Sales tax also catches revenue from tourists. Luxury taxes for excessive purchases over a certain amount should be considered as well.

In order to protect the lower incomes from an excessive tax burden, and indeed all who live frugal lifestyles, essentials like groceries and medicine should NOT be taxed – as they are not taxed in a lot of other states.

Respectfully.

John & Karen Rockwell

Palmer, AK 99645

We do not believe an income tax will better serve the state. We are all on a tighter budget. We are retired for over a decade and a half our take home income has dropped due to costs and health care increases. For instance: a trip to the supermarket has doubled in cost, a shopping visit used to cost about \$100, now exceeds \$200 for the same items. Instating a state Income tax will have a detrimental effect on everyone, and the legislature has not made enough effective cuts. If you don't feel the pain, your not cutting enough. If all sectors of the economy are calling and complaining the cuts are too much, you have finally started to be effective. Cut something out of everything. Act like effective businessmen.

I challenge you, the effect of a 20% cut across the board will not effect essential services in any major way, just eliminate the dead wood.

We have to live within our available income. Don't make it harder....

John Berdahl and Charlotte Baldrige-Berdahl

Dear Alaska House Representatives:

I feel that a PFD cut and an income tax is not necessary to solve the budget problems the state is having. I am opposed to any changes in the PFD, restructuring or stealing the payment as the governor did last year. The Permanent Fund belongs to the Alaska people and it should be brought to the people for a vote if any changes are made. I very much oppose HB115.

In the set of Alaska we have many ways to build an income stream that has been stifled since the new administration has taken office. We should be using our resources, not thinking of ways to stop the growth in the state. I feel there are many programs and positions in the state government, especially newly hired ones, that could be cut to save money. Also, building the natural gas pipeline and restoring the incentives to our oil industry will again help our money shortage. If the oil pipeline was running at capacity there would be plenty of revenue for the state to run necessary programs.

I feel using the permanent fund and putting into place an income tax in this state will unnecessarily burden the people who live here, who pay high prices already for groceries, heating and electricity and housing. By doing this many people who live here who are having a hard time already paying their bills and keeping their families fed, will find themselves having to do without many necessary items, or moving out of state to an area that costs less to live. I do not think many of the representatives are thinking about those people and how difficult it is to meet their obligations right now. Burdening them with loss of the permanent fund and taxes will only make it harder for them to survive and feed their families.

I would propose that you look at more cuts to the budget that can be made instead of taking this action. Again, I oppose HB115 and hope that your members will consider the families of this state while voting on this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Jody Bitterman

My testimony regarding House Bill 115 is as follows:

I am strongly against any tax on the income of hard working Alaskans. Since graduating college, I have spent the last 10 years building a successful career in the oil industry here in Alaska. Those of us that have worked and struggled the hardest to be successful are the very folks that you seek to penalize with the greatest tax burden. How can you consider punishing the responsible, productive members of our society with an income tax? All you are doing is incentivizing those who work less or not at all. We need to end the handouts to those that do not contribute and promote productivity in our workforce. If needed, eliminate the PFD payout entirely, but don't tax folks based on their incomes. I am also in support of a sales tax (with food exemption) as an alternative to the income tax. A sales tax rewards those who save and do not squander their earnings. The House needs to create and pass bills that promote financial responsibility. A sales tax does this, while an income tax does not.

In addition, I still feel that the state budget is ridiculously high. We are a small state with a small population and our state government needs to function as such. There are still too many agencies, too many organizations and special programs. The entire state government needs to continue to take a good and hard look at the services being provided and eliminate as necessary. The Alaska oil and gas industry has lost ~25% of their workforce in the last couple of years. Those cuts came as a result of hard decisions. Why isn't the state making the same hard decisions? State government certainly hasn't contracted by 1/4. Perhaps it should, as the majority of the funding basis for state government is the oil and gas industry.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to provide input and I hope that you take my concerns into consideration.

Regards,

Jenifer Caudle

Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Signed, Bill and Nancy Donner and John and Marvis Henry

Sterling, AK 99672

Alaska House Finance Committee,

I am 100% against an income tax. The legislature gave away the farm on oil taxes and citizens should not be penalized for that. It is ridiculous to give people money in the permanent fund with one hand and then take money away with an income tax with the other hand.

I do not feel that the state has cut expenses deeply enough. Continually I read in ADN about projects and other schemes there have wasted money. More cuts can and should be made before taxing residents.

I will repeat that I am 100% opposed to an income tax.

Thanks,

Scott

Dear Legislature,

It is my personal opinion that a state income tax should be the option of last resort. Once implemented, I imagine it would be a massive undertaking to repeal it in the future. The first priority should be to continue to cut all unnecessary spending and projects.

Then if more money is required, cut the PFD enough to pay for it, but do not in any way take money from the PFD principal amount. I know this is seen as adversely affecting the poor and while this is true, the PFD is a benefit that proportionally helps the poor to begin with and it is a benefit not available in any other state.

If funds are still required after this, a sales tax should be implemented up to 10% with groceries exempted.

Finally, if the budget deficit is still growing, an income tax can be implemented to cover the rest with provisions for reducing the income tax in future years if the funds are not needed.

Bradley Michael - West Anchorage Resident

Get Hello, please see stop HB115. This will devastate the Alaskan people that work for a living.

Michael Denison

Please do not take anymore money from our already meager paychecks. Its easy to say it doesn't impact you, when you make upwards of 100k a year. Those of use whom struggle to make ends make would like to live in this state too.

Will Perry

Please stop the raid on the people's fund.

Carolyn Dixon

Good afternoon,

As a registered Democrat and lifelong progressive, I would like to offer my thoughts on the House Democrats' proposed income tax plan. In short, I am vehemently opposed to it. I would rather give up the annual PFD disbursement altogether than pay an income tax. That tax will do more damage to Alaskans in the long run than not getting \$1,000-\$1,250 every October.

Personally, my monthly income after taxes, insurance and other deductions covers my monthly bills (mortgage, heat, electric, etc.) with just enough left over to buy food, gas, etc. I do not live extravagantly and consider myself fiscally responsible. I own my own home. I shop at thrift stores, have never owned a brand new car, try not to carry a lot of credit card debt, don't go out for dinner or go on expensive vacations, etc. I don't live beyond my means. However, any reduction in my paycheck as a result of an income tax would affect my ability to pay those bills and negatively impact my quality of life. Your efforts to solve the state's budget shortfall would create similar problems for thousands of Alaskans.

If you think the Alaskan economy is bad now, just wait until you start taking money away from people - money that would have otherwise been spent purchasing goods and services in our communities.

Now I am not opposed to paying my fair share for services. However, through savings, cutting expenditures, increased taxes on oil companies, a statewide sales tax (a solution much preferable to any income tax and something I would wholeheartedly support), and the Permanent Fund, there are plenty of revenue sources by which to address the state's current fiscal woes. An income tax is a very, very bad idea and would ultimately do more harm than good.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Marcella

Anchorage, AK 99502

My name is Eric Henry. I live at 52785 Birch Tree Avenue, Kenai.

I know the State is short on funds. My concern is that it doesn't appear that the State is applying much discretion to the way it is spending money. Last summer we watched bike paths getting repaved- an absolutely unnecessary project. Even if the State were to lose federal funding, whatever the State spent on that project was wasted (along with the federal funding).

I used to work for the State at ADEC. I know that it wouldn't be very difficult to find ways to save money.

If taxes are necessary, I would be much easier for me to support a statewide sales tax versus an income tax. Sales tax hits everyone who spends money here. An income tax only hits a portion of state residents. Income taxes would neglect to collect any funds from non-working individuals or any visitors to the state.

If an income tax is selected, I hope you would choose to give residents that can prove their residency a significant deduction. Like \$50,000 or close to that. That would capture all of the oilfield workers who don't live here.

One of my concerns is starting any tax without promises from Legislators to continue cutting the budget until the taxes can be retired.

I hope this makes sense. Please reply with any questions. E

This 73 year old has been working since he was 12 years old... 61 years. He has:

- * worked his way through college
- * helped his kids through college
- * built his house with his own hands
- * payed for his own medical insurance
- * saved money for his and his spouses retirement While being part Cherokee he has never asked for a dime from the US or Alaska government because of his heritage.

I cannot get excited about paying an income tax. In my mind government should facilitate transportation and security for its citizens. Beyond that it's function is dubious. If the transportation and security functions were being provided in exemplary fashion I could see kicking in a few bucks. This is not the case and hasn't been for some time. The roads are deplorable with potholes, cracks, failing bridges and much delayed snow plowing/ sanding.

The toilets along the road system are atrocious and ill maintained. We have spent millions promoting tourism (vacations for politicians) and when they arrive we dump them onto conditions of a third world country. We cut the troopers FIRST at the same time the politicians fall all over themselves to accommodate the Pot "industry" and complain about an opioid "crisis". More crime, more cars on the road, more people in the back country but less troopers. What kind of logic is that!

Here is my recommendation. Seriously CUT the bloated state budget. Use all of the many smoke and mirror Permanent Fund accounts to bridge the gap for the next four years as you systematically down size this government. Quit spending money on the economically unfeasible gas pipeline. Get serious about providing excellent roads, maintenance and public safety. Let the working people of Alaska work their way out of this recession. You cannot tax and spend your way to prosperity!

Respectfully submitted,
Will Gay, South Anchorage

To Whomever It May Concern-

my name is Sarah Von Paul and I was born and raised in Alaska. I sincerely hope that House Bill 115 will not be passed because I believe that it will only further damage our state's fragile economy with the addition of an income tax. I would much rather see the PDF be reduced than pay an income tax, and I have many hard-working friends and family that agree with me.

In my opinion, government spending needs to be drastically revamped, and further cuts to schools should be off the table. If we want our state to thrive, education needs to be a priority.

If tax revenue is absolutely necessary, why not add taxes for tourism?

Thank you for your time,

Sarah

Please take this into consideration – in addition, by paying a dividend that is taxed by the federal government, it is ludicrous to have both a PFD and income tax. Lower your spending, implement a spending cap and then review revenue sources such as a statewide sales tax.

Thank you,

Julie

NO....this is not what the people want.....do not pass this...it is not the will of the people who voted you in.

Christina Beebe

Your latest income tiered tax solution is unfair and really a scare tactic. We might as well quit working and retire. Every individual who enjoys or benefits from State.Gov services, etc should have to pay equally. A better way would be to first cut back the Medicaid expansion that the state could never afford in the first place, then cut government spending. After that is done and you have earned the public' trust again (Walker)....a small sales tax across the board with a reasonable limit on the max amount of tax applied to major purchases like cars, houses, furniture would be more appropriate. Then, everyone pays toward services...even tourists, short timers, etc. who now enjoy them for free. I am tired of working to pay for services that I never use, or for others that don't pay their fair share, or anything at all.

If that seems severe...take away the dividend and restrict how the additional monies are used so that your government budget is not increased. We never needed that money to start with anyway. Use it for a better state highway system and allow our marine/rail systems to not be so cost prohibitive. It would be nice to not have to fly everywhere.

But that brings us back to the real issue...you want to spend more money than you have...first you have to show the government infrastructure can quit spending. If you just tax, you receive more monies without reducing spending. Try doing that without continued stripping of the UAF system...you will need to consolidate state offices, etc. reduce per diem amounts, travel expenses, new buildings and office overhead, etc. The tendency is...if you have more money...you spend more money frivolously. Earn Alaskans trust and you wouldn't have a problem instituting an small sales tax statewide.

Thanks,

Concerned Alaskan

Jennifer Risse

Taking PFD's was bad enough for most people in the state, adding an income tax on top of it? Political suicide for anyone who votes for it. Should have just done a sales tax & called it good. You want to tax retiree's on fixed incomes? Capital gains? Brilliant. They will be leaving the state because they have options on places to live that don't tax them to death. The unfortunate truth of the matter is that it doesn't matter how much money you take from the people living here, it will never be enough. You continue to spend money on unnecessary items and will always overspend. Your personal chief is a prime example when you collect per diem for food & housing (wether you need it or not). Or the program that ties the voters registration to the PFD. Sooner or later Alaskan's are going to reach the end of their rope & I suspect it will be sooner with this nonsense. Enjoy the end of your career in Alaska.

Terri Terreault
Wasilla, AK

Sirs:

I wish to extend to you my views on taxation.

LEAVE MY PFD ALONE!

I would like to see a state sales tax. Both so that everyone pays and to gather some funds form our tourist visitors. We expect to pay when we visit their world, certainly they should anti-up when they use our roads, water, sewer, police protection, etc. I do not want a State Income Tax.

CUT, CUT, AND CUT SOME MORE.

Charles Bohling
Eagle River, Alaska

I strongly oppose HB115.
Dorothy Denison
Soldotna, Alaska

I oppose this bill and will vote against any who support it. Suspend the PFD and institute a sales tax before considering an income tax.

Tim Dunleavy

The damn liberals are so out of touch, they think that there will be an improvement in the economy with an income tax? They announced that their polling data indicated an overwhelming support for an income tax? Who the hell are they polling?

I can't image what world they are living in. They are going to ruin the already-depressed economy and increase the dependence of the people on the government, just so they can trade for political favors, re-election by special interests, or other types of political capital.

The REAL majority of Alaskans DO NOT WANT LARGER GOVERNMENT. I know, I live among them. The "elite" of this state think they can do anything, I caution them to review what happened in the last presidential election, the silent majority will only be pushed so far.

IF THEY WILL NOT CUT THE BUDGET WHEN TAX INCOME IS REDUCED, THEY SHOULD NOT TRY TO SADDLE SPECIAL-INTEREST OR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COSTS ON THE SMALL POPULATION BASE IN ALASKA!! Any thinking person knows that you don't increase tax on an economy that is having massive job cuts and in an economic depression.

And stop calling tax income revenue, none of you criminals earned any of it, its theft by taxation, with the threat of imprisonment for not contributing!

The fat that you won't call is Tax Income indicates that you know it's wrong!

We are tired of the lies, deception, greed and corruption. Push the silent majority and working-class over the line and see what happens at your own peril.

NO NEW TAXES. NO ILLEGAL PER-DIEM. NO MORE BONDS. IT'S WRONG, AND YOU ALL KNOW IT.

Bart Riley

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family’s pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Heath and Merrie Bigelow

Palmer, AK 99645

March 29, 2017

HB115

On principal, my wife & I very strongly disagree with the graduated income tax plan at the federal or state level as a way to pay for the expenses of government.

Many American, due to its inequality and unfairness, hate the graduated (or so-called "progressive") income tax. It has been the subject of intense debate at the national and state level.

We feel that the graduated income tax treats citizens unequally and is blatantly unfair, discriminatory and immoral.

This proposed state tax would give the burden of paying the majority of the state's expenses to only the wealthiest of its citizens and also to those who are not its citizens. The rest of Alaskans would pay little or none of this tax. The citizens who paid little or none of this tax may even use more government services than those who paid for it would.

Citizens who paid little or no tax would not work to keep government expenses under control because they wouldn't have to pay for it. They may even use government services more wastefully and freely because someone else is paying the bill. They could vote for more government services that they didn't have to pay for. It could be sort of like having all of your married kids living at home eating all of the food, leaving the lights on and having the furnace turned up high since they weren't paying the bill.

The national income tax used to be unconstitutional because it was a direct tax. Then the constitution was changed. When first introduced, the income tax was very low until it finally grew into the nightmare that it is today.

I like this quote from the departed philosopher, Robert Nozick: "Taxation of earnings from labor is on a par with forced labor".

Here an observation made by Frederic Bastiat, a 19th century French philosopher-economist: A man who produces while others dispose of his product is a slave. That's the essence of slavery: one person forcibly used to serve the purposes of others. See the following web link

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/williams091599.asp>

Here is a statement from Walter Williams (Walter E. Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University): Plunder is when people forcibly take the property of another. It's legalized plunder when people use government to do the same thing. Or, as Bastiat put it, "The state is the great fiction by which everybody tries to live at the expense of everyone else." See the following web link: <http://www.wnd.com/2001/07/9970/>

Alan Keyes (2000 presidential candidate) described the income tax as a slave tax.

See web link: http://www.issues2000.org/Celeb/Alan_Keyes_Tax_Reform.htm#8

The following is a quote from a scholarly work by Christopher Stuart Young called "Death of the 1040: Replacing the Federal Income Tax."

"As government increased its role in financing social programs, income taxes became heavier and heavier, and the inherent nature of our progressive income-tax system became apparent: it was a tool for forced redistribution of wealth by the state.

"Perhaps not many Americans today recognize redistribution of wealth by the state as a major goal of communism. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, authors of The Communist Manifesto in 1848, would be pleased to see that we have come to tolerate and even embrace one of their major tenets designed to facilitate the conversion of an 'advanced' free-market nation to communism.

"Tenet No.2 of The Communist Manifesto calls explicitly for 'a heavy progressive or graduated income tax.'

"Is it any wonder that we experience injustice and confusing complexity as we strive to adapt this communistic method of taxation, a progressive income tax, to what we uphold as sacred-a free society and a free economy that enjoys the creative and productive motivations of free enterprise?"

See these following 2 web links:

<https://nccs.net/1996-03-answers-to-americas-tax-problems>

Go to this web link for The Communist Manifesto and do a search for progressive or graduated income tax: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto

We can do better in cutting spending than what has been done. We must do this because it is the right and moral thing to do.

Taxation is a moral issue because it involves the use of force (by government) upon people who have not threatened or harmed other people.

Passing an income tax would be wrong and immoral for some of the reasons we have listed above. It matters not that other states and the federal government have an income tax. Being in the majority does not make the majority right. Not all laws are right nor necessarily moral just because they are legal. Slavery used to be legal in our national past.

We would not be against a flat sales tax or consumption tax. There is more freedom to choose when you choose to pay the tax with a purchase. With a sales tax, everyone is involved in paying for the bills of the state, not just half of the people like under an income tax. There is more frugality in government spending because citizens are less likely to vote for a politician who promises a chicken in every pot that the other guy has to pay for.

You could exempt a sales tax from the basic necessities of life to protect the poor. This could include food, medicine, clothing, housing, etc.

We respectfully ask you to please vote no on any income tax proposal.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Lawrence D. Meshkin

Marie H. Meshkin

Wasilla, AK 99623-4945

I do not support either the income tax nor the restructuring of the permanent fund.

Here's why

Our state Governor has effectively killed the gas pipeline with his greedy meddling. The oil companies were buying land to build the plant, that's how close we got before he ruined it.

Expanded medicaid and put Alaska on the hook for the bill once the federal government pulls their funding.

Made Alaska undesirable to oil companies for refusing to pay their promised obligations and constantly changing tax structure. Sean Parnell had a new Renaissance in North Kenai - now all those brand new buildings are empty.

Made Alaska undesirable to film and movie production by removing tax credit programs. These productions translated into tourist dollars spent in our state.

Not funding education letting highways go without plowing but instead spending millions promoting a pipeline he has already torpedoed and saving drug addicts.

So after killing all these jobs, snatching the permanent fund with the swipe of the pen, and putting us on the hook to pay for a program known to be rife with fraud, now you want to tax us too? Get bent. Even if he got the money, he'd probably just piss it away.

Teresa Winter

RE your income tax plan, my response is NO, not until you cut every last program and bureaucratic bloating down to nothing!!!!

Adding a tax and taking the PFD just gives you more money to waste.

Stop it!.

I have lived here for 36 years and worked in the oil industry for most of those years. This is NOT CALIFORNIA. Stop creating assistance programs that simply invite more people to this state who do not have a job or who will not work.

Cut, cut, cut. You haven't even started to cut. State government should support BASIC services. Very basic services. I do NOT want a socialistic state.

No income tax.

Cut more, way more.

Sibcerely,

Genevieve Klebba

Dear Representatives,

To address specifically HB -115 Dividend Limit and Income Tax

- 1) I do support limiting dividend
- 2) I **do not** support any income tax.

Any remaining deficit after dividend limit should be made up from reducing the size and cost of state government.

thanks for your time,

Steve Carhart

NO INCOME TAX
STAY OUT OF THE PFD

You have blown so much money in the past on things that were not needed don't you ever learn. Do this
and your done !!!

--

Charles Dickson

I want to voice my opinion on house bill 115. I believe an income tax would put the nail in the coffin for Alaska's economy. I have met several people already leaving our state because of the gloomy economic forecast and this income tax will make it much worse. It's a horrible idea! If anything Alaska could use a sales tax but to further tap our PFD and then kick us while we're down by implementing an income tax is unspeakable. Please do not pass this bill! We urge you to rethink and come up with solutions that will promote longevity to our economy. Thank you

Kyle Rice
Mat-Su Valley

I strongly oppose HB115 restructuring of the People's Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. My family relies on the PFD and we know that we can spend the money more wisely than Government. We read and hear what you intend to spend the money on and it's wasteful.

If the PFD stays in my my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children's' college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Joy Huffman
PO Box 15177
Fritz Creek, AK 99603

Hello my name is Travis Stanton and a life long Alaskan. I just wanted to give my input on the new tax proposal as a voter and Anchorage resident. I AM TOTALLY AGAINST A STATE INCOME TAX. I would rather have the dividend program go to pay state services and as a last resort a state sales tax implemented. An income tax is unfair because only part of the voting population pay for services used by all. There is no incentive as the income tax is proposed for those earning less than 50,000 dollars to vote for services that would benefit a certain socioeconomic class but having those that earn more shoulder the burden. I know I speak for many of my friends, coworkers, and family that will not be happy if an income tax is imposed. I hope this letter does not fall on deaf ears.

Travis Stanton

As a life long Alaskan I am totally AGAINST the state income tax and PFD robbery to fund an excessive government of only 700,000 residents. The alaskan government already receives 50% of the PFD earnings. How greedy are you anyway! Re-access the programs that are here and downsize and cut overhead!! Needs and wants.....

Sue Thorne

Palmer, AK

I'm absolutely against the Income tax and your raiding of the permanent fund. You need to cut spending. As a senior I'm hardly able to take care of myself as it is. Stop spending!!!!!!

Gayle Christensen

I am a resident of Kenai and would like to state for the record that I disagree with imposing an income tax in Alaska. I don't like the idea of raiding the permanent fund, either, but I understand the money needs to come from somewhere. Take more from the permanent fund before you impose an income tax - people don't have to work hard to receive their dividends, but they do work hard for their paychecks.

Thank you,

Wesley Remmer

My name is Kim Griffith, I am a fourth generation Alaskan. I am representing myself and my children. I urge you to not pass HB115. An income tax would hurt my family. I have lived through both booms and busts in Alaska. It is imperative to establish a sustainable budget before taxing the working few. I can't operate my home on an unreasonable and non sustainable budget. The Alaska Permanent Fund was established to help Alaska's government in times like these. Although I receive and appreciate my dividend checks and my Children's go straight to college accounts, I would rather see this program live out its intended purpose rather than instating a state income tax. Please vote no on HB115.

Thank you for your time, Kim Griffith

Dear House Finance,

Please pass my thoughts forward to the appropriate parties involving HB 115. I thank you for your time and help in this matter.

I am against House Bill 115 and any other form of unauthorized theft of the Alaskan PFD. I am also against any form of income/property or any other form of tax that this current administration dreams up. That is until I see the legislators actually MAKE and exhaust all budget cuts that can be made to downsize the current spending situation.

I am tired of being threatened with the taking of my PFD, by a runaway governor and legislation, with no intentions of cutting spending. The PFD is not an entitlement, it is a stock owned by the People of Alaska - and does not belong to the governor or legislator. Just because you think you have the right to reword a line here allows you to steal from it.

Yes, there may have to be cuts that can impact some of what we need, but I see too much waste on stupid things that solidifies my thinking on this matter. Get to work and get those back taxes that are owed to the State of Alaska from the oil companies. No you would rather have them pay you in back room deals, than collect the millions that is owed to the state. Why else would I believe anything else but this, it's the only thing that makes sense.

If there are no true budget cuts, and immediate penalties imposed upon the oil companies for not paying owed taxes, that I along with others will begin to implement recalls for all elected officials trying to take the easy way of running government and stealing from the people for not upholding and doing their elected duties.

Bob Crosby
Anchor Point, 99556

I am opposed to HB115.

Stop trying to STEAL the PFD! There is a reason it's called the Permanent Fund and not the Semi-Permanent Fund! DO NOT restructure the PFD and return the STOLEN PFD amounts to the people.

The income tax is a terrible idea. This will decrease what Alaskans can spend in the local business community. If you want less of something, tax it.

Again, Alaska has a spending problem, not a revenue problem! Fix the spending problem, don't create a new problem.

We want LESS spending and LESS government in Alaska. Cut the budget more. You have not even begun to make the size of cuts necessary! Right size the government to what we can afford.

Bill Zorb
Fairbanks

Thank you Mr. Chairman & Members of H(FIN).

Testimony from: Al St. John, 37 year Anchorage resident.

Testimony on: HB115 (partial support AND specific opposition).

I have spent time learning about all the options for a new fiscal structure for Alaska.

I Support:

Restructuring of the permanent fund & use of earnings.

I support SB70 - which essentially became SB26. The draw of 5% or 5.25% doesn't make a huge difference to me – assuming it will continue to be assessed and reviewed, And that the draw combined with the appropriate dividend reduction, will allow the CBR to fill the Gap for at least 3-4 years.

I Oppose:

Complexity of the income tax, the addition of all the provisions, including capital gains, retirement and pension, trusts, those things that are going to drive out those folks that make a huge contribution to the economy & social fabric of the State. I think it is short-sighted to not understand some of these implications.

I support a reasonable income tax, in a simple form, those 2 principles. A simple tax based on a percentage of the federal tax, like we had in the prior State income tax.

I Oppose:

What has become a dog-pile of money grab, with the provisions of HB36 added in. It is short-sighted, duplicative and onerous – particularly if there is a simple income tax proposal that can be brought forth.

I oppose the approach to this bill, (REVENUE RESTRUCTURE). I favor the bill being divided into the appropriate parts – I believe this is not within the Alaska Constitution (Article 11, Section 13) for presenting or enacting legislation. The presentation and mixing of subjects is, in-fact, unconstitutional – I anticipate a serious challenge on this. I am not saying that the Legislature doesn't have the authority for the parts, but combining them is not appropriate for true public input and general tax principles.

Furthermore, I STRONGLY BELIEVE that the information is not thoroughly vetted:

It is inappropriate to use 2015 numbers to come up with a revenue forecast, without taking into account the economic principles that (I believe) will substantially change the landscape of

income and spending in the Alaska economy. In simple terms – this will create a further decline – from recession into something closer to depression.

I do not believe the legislature has done their job making sure the public understands (and agrees with) the level of budget spending – which is critical.

In Summary:

The PFE restructure should be segregated and combined with SB26 for a large portion of the fiscal fix.

HOWEVER, the addition of an income tax should continue to be vetted for at least one, if not 2-3 years for a complete public process. While I appreciate Mayor Navarre's thoughts yesterday, I disagree that putting an income tax in place, knowing we can fix it later (i.e. reduce it), is not very palatable to me, and I'm pretty sure the public at large. There is a lack of trust that the money won't simply be spent, and that the tax will simply grow, even beyond the inflation component in this bill.

Thank you all for your service – your efforts to fix the fiscal plan, and above all your determination to get the PF Earnings issue done this session, but I urge caution in rushing to an income tax policy.

Al St. John

1. You have no right to implement a tax touch the PFD with out the approval of the People of AK. Note your actions will have consequences. Particularly since you refuse to cut the budget and eliminate unnecessary agendas and self interest projects and programs.

2. The State income tax calculations clearly discriminate against those who are single. Since we are in a recession, there are many who are unemployed and will not be able to pay. Speaking of payment, enforcement is going to an agenda that is going to be a nightmare. As we know enforcement is a joke in AK. Those who are on welfare will not be included in the system and no be required to contribute to your cause. This is totally wrong and punishes the working class.

The idea of taking the PFDs from the kids to be redistribute in order to fund the public system will be a witch hunt via those parents who home school their children.

3. A State Sales tax is the only solution for then all will contribute and participate in the burden of support of the State. Then welfare types will then will be required to learn how to budget and share the pain. Otherwise the burden is totally held against the working class. Tell Gara his Welfare agenda is out of control and we can no longer support those who chose not to work and baby mommas. It is time for personal accountability for all. Furthermore, Medicaid participants who seek health care should be required to pay iaw a sliding scale. They must be required to full fill a min of 20 hours of community service. If they are unable then a family member should be required to submit their time in exchange. Life is not free and the concept of one's existence does not equate that the government is responsible for your wellbeing. As we all know government subsidies and support is the means that is used to control our lives. It is know fact that many State Workers esp in the HHS that they are all knowing because they have been given positional power to control your life in exchange for financial support.

4. In reference to the oil taxes, it is time for the good old boys game to end. There is a balance that can be implemented which would benefit both the State and the producers. We know the shady deal that have been made must come to an end. Those who have benefited are feeling the rath of their decisions/actions.

5. Lastly, think twice before you make a clear decisions how you want to proceed; practically since your actions will have consequences that will affect our State in many ways. In fact there are many who are unemployed/underemployed and are leaving the State. n the Valley you are seeing many home for sale or setting empty. Reality is here and please take heed. Also, remember you were hired to manage the State not destroy it and what we have seen so far this session is right down detrimental. As it is well known a manager will listen, protect and value their employees. Since you are the employee the relationship must be recuperated in a similar manner.

D Banner

Wasilla, AK

Dear Alaska representatives,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB115. Tapping the Permanent Fund and Dividend puts the burden of state finance wrongfully and tragically on the backs of Alaskan families struggling the hardest to make ends meet. Restructuring the PF is more than just a dividend reduction, its an unjust violation of our Constitutional right to benefit from the "utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State" (Article VIII, Section 2).

We have far better options for funding state government. I support a progressive income tax and sales tax targeting luxury and tourism related consumption, for example. However, the fairest and best option is to require the oil industry to pay its, historically agreed to, fair share through a basic 1/3 gross profit tax on production.

Currently, the Oil Industry pays less and takes more than at any time in Alaska's history. Contrary to what Alaskans are being told, the budget "crisis" is due more to rock bottom oil production tax rates than the much touted drop in oil prices. The 109% drop in our oil production tax rate now has the Governor and our legislators going after the PF to pay for state government and increasingly lavish oil tax subsidies.

Industry profits are inflated when communities, the state and environment absorb the direct and indirect costs of fossil fuel development. Climate change is affecting Alaskan communities and lands 2-3 times faster and more intensively than other parts of the US. It is costing Alaska, Alaskans and our planet, dearly and it is time to look this reality straight in the face.

By failing to pay the cost of doing business -- paying Alaskans a fair share production tax, industry is forcing Alaskans to sacrifice, not only their resource ownership rights, but also our right to a stable and livable climate and the ability to adapt and begin the process of deliberately weaning ourselves away from destructive dependency on oil.

Please vote no on HB115.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ceal Smith

Eagle River, AK 99577

Submitted on March 29, 2017

Greetings,

I am writing to voice my abject opposition to HB115 in all aspects. It doesn't solve the problem, produces a significant financial burden on property owners (AGAIN), and erodes future capital gains intended for the property owners upon the sale of their homes and properties. This thievery will be regarded harshly at the next election cycle. My solution would consist of other elements including a sales tax that would allow our visitors to aid in the maintenance of our infrastructures. Why aren't our entitlement programs under more scrutiny? Denali Kid Care program eligibility extends up to an annual income of \$70,000. It seems our local government has become extremely generous with the tax payers monies. Other programs that have resulted in extreme abuse should be reexamined as well. Under no circumstances will this bill be well received by the public.

Regards,

Stephen Bartelli

Good Afternoon,

As an Alaskan resident, I am strongly opposed to HB 115. I realize there is a fiscal challenge, some may even call it a fiscal crisis facing our great state, but I have yet to see this legislature sit down and constructively work to find the BEST solutions for the Alaskan people. Introducing an income tax is a quick fix to helping solve the budget deficit Alaska faces. This may help ease the burden, but it will not "fix" the issue.

To tackle the budget deficit and work towards creating a surplus, we must examine the root of the problem. That means changing the way the Alaskan State government does business. Spending has to not only decrease, but existing programs need to be cut and prioritizing needs to take place. This will not be painless or easy, but worth it.

Instead of creating business killing legislation (HB 111), we must encourage investment in Alaska's economy, both short-term and long-term. I sit back and am dumbfounded at the bills being not only introduced but written into law. They do not encourage the kind of investment that will help sustain against future budget shortfalls.

Listen to the constituents! Whether you are a Conservative, Liberal, or somewhere in between, you work for the people. The people of Alaska are not interested in an Income tax. There are other options that can achieve the same fractional results towards reducing the budget deficit, for instance a sales tax that will generate revenue not only from hardworking residents, but from one of Alaska's largest industries, TOURISM.

I write this hoping that even any effort, no matter how small can be one more voice heard on behalf of the Alaskan people.

Sincerely,

Courtney Rigdon

minimum of 15% reduction on all social services, stop all government advertising and stop all pay raises. Also stop all grant monies and surveys. Stop spending money on all art work including Seward's statue. Stop hiring people at 1 million dollars a year.

It is time to stop reaching into our pockets and start doing your job! This has been going on for years but you don't stop neglecting your jobs. A graduated income tax is one more example of punishing the hard working people of this state. It should be no tax for all people! You made the mess, you clean it. Life is a matter of choices, you made them, stop punishing us.

If you know anything, you will understand the Permanent fund was started to help compensate us (the people) for our lack of property rights. Are you going to give us our property rights back? (i.e. mineral rights, surface and subsurface and water rights). If we are in such bad financial shape why is the state paying Ahtna for our Historic Trail? Our trails are RS2477s. We have fought this war before and will again if need be! Gov. Walker's statement and I quote "Any potential settlement of this case will relate only to Ahtna." Sounds like a class action law suit waiting to happen. All this costs money we as a state do not have. Why are we even thinking about paying Ahtna for land the state owns? Sounds to me that some people need to take numerous economic classes.

Thank you for your time.

Sheila Hoffman

Dear Legislators:

1. Devise a tax plan that taxes income earned in the state. NO exemptions for Slope workers who live Outside. Work here; taxed here.
2. Devise a tax plan that has a “sunset clause” attached to it; tell us it’s a “temporary” tax (3 years? 4 years?) that must be revisited/revised/reapproved
3. Instead of guaranteeing a minimum dollar amount, guarantee a minimum percentage of the Fund’s earnings each year. That way you’re off the hook if we have some bad years, fundingwise. Good years, we get more; poor years, everyone loses.
4. If/when oil prices (and other forms of revenue) bring the state budget into balance, add that to the Permanent Fund dividend. It gives us taxpayers a buy-in to watch how the budget dollars are earned/spent.

Thanks for asking for our opinions. PLEASE do something this time. All talk and no action ... except for kicking the can down the road ... is not leadership.

Howard Magoon

P.S. I am a registered voter: NON-PARTISAN/NON-ALIGNED (don’t like either of the mainstream political parties) ... want an INDEPENDENT Legislature with strict term limits so you make decisions for your constituents and not to be reelected.

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing you today to voice my opposition of House Bill 115. The income tax is the biggest reason for this. The cost of living and medical insurance is already so high that adding this tax would change so many lives from living to barely surviving. Not to mention how big the tax brackets are. The people of Alaska deserve to live not just barely surviving. We already give so much. You guys are digging into the wrong pockets!

It's time to look into other Alaskan economic resources, and if a tax is ideal then let it be a sales tax. A sales tax will reach us all-residence of all economic brackets, and tourist.

No to HB115 is the way to be for and about the people.

Thank you,

Mandie Chenault

Good Afternoon,

I am not normally one to take the time to provide comment on proposed legislation, but felt a duty to provide comments on House Bill 115. The manner in which the Governor's plan made it to this point can be described as nothing other than slimy. There is a procedure in place for introducing legislation, and taking this route definitely shows the true colors of all involved. If legislators wonder why the people of Alaska are pissed off and don't trust them, this is a shining example.

Alaska residents tend to be fairly independent and self-sufficient. We know what is best for our families and how to best provide for them. To see the state trying to take such a large chunk of our personal resources in order to pay for pet projects is appalling. Our representatives are like drug addicts with spending. After years of ACES, nobody seems to remember how to cut the budget. If our representatives follow through with HB115, you can kiss our economy goodbye. Taxing the thousands of small business owners of this state at those rates, without the relief from deductions will result in nothing more than depression. Thousands will leave this state, as nobody will be able to afford to live or work here. I understand that the budget needs to be addressed, but this is not the way to do it. Neither is touching our PFD.

The PFD belongs to the people of Alaska, as our share of oil royalties. It is not a free ride, or a welfare payment for living here. It is our compensation for resource development on our land, just as individual landowners in states in the lower 48 are compensated for resource development below their land. The governor and legislators in Juneau need to realize that they can't rob our pocketbooks to pay for their blunders. Find another fiscal solution. Like CUTTING THE DAMN BUDGET.

I don't have time to fully vent my frustration, but wanted to share a glimpse of what I am feeling. And it's not just me... All of my hardworking friends, family, and coworkers all feel the same. We are engineers, fishermen, lawyers, and stay-at-home mothers. We are young and old. Army vets, Air Force vets, combat and non-combat. We are from here and long-term transplants. This is our home, and we are tired of seeing you try to mess it up any more than you already have. Please, for all of us, get your stuff together and come up with a plan that actually helps the State of Alaska, and doesn't rob it's residents blind.

For one final word... Here's a good starting point for fixing the current situation: Start with the Pre-ACES budget (FY2000?) and adjust for inflation. Plan for oil at \$50/barrel, and put the rest in savings. Since

everyone in Juneau seems so hot to get their hands on the PFD, set up our savings account as an endowment similar to the PFD, and pay for our annual budget with the earnings from the account.

Regards,

James

James Gabriel, P.E. - Alaska

Subject: **KEEP THE PFD AS IT IS. VOTE NO ON HB115**

Dear Alaska House Representative.

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! Solutions to Alaska's budget 'shortfall' have been offered but the Governor and some Legislators have refused to pursue these solutions.

As a Legislator you do understand the fact that there are other ways to solve the problem without attacking each and everyone of your Alaska voters and penalizing them just to stay if 'favor with the big Oil companies' by not recapturing the oil company taxes you gave away in the last couple years.

We Alaska citizens are all asking why are you taking away PFD money from our pockets with giving us a chance to vote on whether or not it is appropriate.

Governor Walker does NOT care what he is doing to the Alaska economy by his very short sighted actions. If he did care about our economy in the long run he would not have pushed giving the big oil companies the large tax breaks that he did and the same tax breaks that you supported giving away.

My family is asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting or what some refer to as restructuring the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People's Fund and PFD.

In a University of Alaska Anchorage Economics study published Mr. Scott Goldsmith a number of years ago to help understand where Alaska citizens income goes after they receive it gave a clear and easy to understand answer. The income (money) received by Alaska citizens (from any source including the PFD money) stays within the State of Alaska from 7 to 11 times before that money leaves Alaska. Stated differently - each dollar received by each Alaskan citizen stays in Alaska and benefits 7 to 11 other Alaskan families in some way before that money leaves Alaska. Payments to the local grocery store, the local gasoline stations, the local entertainment companies, to pay property taxes to the local governments, and to pay into many other business in Alaska to keep them in business. By reducing each person's PFD check by \$1,000. for the next three years you are reducing anywhere from 7 to 11 other Alaska citizens the benefit of that \$1,000. for the next three years. It is simple economics. By creating an income tax of the families you are compounding the problem of removing the PFD money from Alaska's economy. The new taxes you create take that much more money out of the economy which also will NOT recirculate within the Alaska economy.

The reason is simple. My family is better at spending the PFD money than the government. And more Alaska citizens will receive those benefits.

We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies funding ghost government positions subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children's, college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska. What if the Fed's reduce Alaska's Medicare,

Medicaid, and Alaska then reduces the amount to each eligible citizen? That much less money is taken out of Alaska's economy and will not recirculate through out Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families not government.

As a result my family is asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is.

VOTE NO ON HB 115.

Bob Watts

Fairbanks, AK. 99712

House Finance Committee,

I absolutely oppose the implementation of an income tax. My family and I have been Alaska residents and resided here for the last 7 years. Alaska has become our families intended retirement location as I am completing my 28 years of service as a military officer. We have a remote cabin here and all of us own homes.

With the implementation of an income tax all of our present budgets will be impacted greatly. As we are in the higher income brackets that will pay the higher income percentages. We already pay high property taxes for our homes and chose Alaska as a retirement residence in part due to no income tax. I understand that government needs to be funded, but another path needs to be taken. I would recommend:

- 1st Take the PFD and utilize it for funding government until the oil industry recovers, if ever.
- 2nd Implement a state sales tax. The sales tax is a fair tax that does not target earners but spreads the burden to all, even the tourists that frequent our state.
- 3rd Seriously start cutting the budget.

I truly believe that the implementation of an income tax will drive people from Alaska. I know that my family and I will strongly consider leaving the place we now call home in favor of a lower cost of living in the lower 48 with the same or less tax burden. I can buy a home for half the price as here and buy our daily needs much cheaper.

We vote and will pay close attention.

Respectfully,

Dustin Overturf

I oppose HB115 because a progressive tax system is terrible for Alaskans and for our economy. We cannot tax our way to a balance budget. The budget is far too large as it is and the majority of Alaskans support greater cuts to government.

Furthermore, Alaska is a recession that is deepening by the day. Raising taxes during a recession is counter intuitive and will only deepen the recession and hit Alaskans hard at a time when we are struggling.

While some in the majority view this bill as "fair," it is anything but fair. Those of us in the middle class will not only feel the burn of a capped PFD (as, like low/no income earners, we utilize for practical things), but also the sting of losing a sizeable portion of our income to the state and federal government.

For those in the higher income brackets, HB115 not only robs them of their personal earnings but, in essence, punishes those that work hard for what they've earned and those that work to create jobs in our state. HB115 will have adverse affects and will cause thousands to flee the state as it makes it nearly impossible for people live and do business here.

Alaska is an expensive place to live. Our cost of living is high, regardless of which part of the state we live in. Additionally, our population is considerably smaller than most states (despite our vast size). We will never generate enough to run the state government at its current size. WE NEED TO CUT THE BUDGET AND STOP PENALIZING PEOPLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO LIVE WITHIN REASONABLE MEANS.

We need to stop listening to special interest groups who care little for the people living here and start doing what is best for ALASKANS.

We need to stop paying out of state people (e.g. Professors from Connecticut who are paid hundreds of thousands of Alaskan dollars to construct progressive tax plans) to come here and tell us how our state should run. The state, at the behest of Governor Walker, has wasted much money in their pursuit of an income tax and it needs to stop.

HB115 is a terrible plan and the legislature should not kowtow the whims of our overly zealous and greedy governor and his cronies.

I am dedicated to making my life here as I was born and raised in this great state; however, I am disappointed that my once fiercely independent and conservative state is falling prey to the draw of spending us into an oblivion while syphoning money from the Alaskan people. Leave our PFD and leave our income in our pockets so that we, the people, can bolster the economy and continue creating jobs.

There are better ways - Hammond's 50/50 plan demonstrates how the state can balance the budget, maintain the current PFD calculation and avoid a state income tax. That plan saves our economy.

I implore you all to do the right thing.

Vote NO on HB115

Sincerely,

Meghan Nelson

Juneau, AK

Dear Finance Committee members,

Alaska is in a fiscal crisis because our economy is almost solely based on the extraction and spending of our nonrenewable resources.

Now that our most lucrative nonrenewable resource has been extracted and spent, the big push is to Spend More to Extract Faster and to Spend what little we have saved (the Permanent Fund) for future generations of Alaskans.

These nonrenewable resources belong to all Alaskans including future generations of Alaskans.

This generation has already consumed and spent over 80% of all our nonrenewable resources extracted.

We have not been saving for nor investing in the replacement of those resources nor in diversifying our economy.

Now that our nonrenewable resources are being depleted we are getting a look at what it will be like when our nonrenewable resources run out.

* Oil isn't going to provide the revenues it once did. Most of the most lucrative oil has been consumed.

* The proposed Gas-line is not economic. If it was economic the Oil Companies would have built it.

Using the Permanent Fund for State General Fund spending will not last, because it will be spent faster than the Permanent Fund can generate revenues. Does nothing to build a sustainable economy.

The deterioration of the Permanent Fund Corpus has already begun:

1) By stopping the Inflation Proofing the Fund.

2) By proposing using the Percent Of Market Value (POMV) system that would allow more to be drawn from the Permanent Fund than it earns.

3) Legislators could (and probably would) increase the percent of draw whenever they want more money to spend.

4) By reducing the Royalties going into the Fund Corpus.

If we want to have a viable sustainable future we need to cut inefficient and wasteful spending and diversify our economy.

We need a fiscal plan and a economic plan.

FISCAL PLAN

1) Restructure the taxes on Oil, Gas and All other nonrenewable resources.

A) We need to get the maximum use and revenues out of our nonrenewable resources as per the Alaska Constitution.

Cut Inefficient and Wasteful spending.

A) Terminate all projects that are not feasible or can not provided enough revenues to pay for and support themselves.

1) Terminate the proposed Gasoline. *It's not economic. If was economic the Oil companies would have built it.

2) Terminate the bridges and roads to nowhere. *There isn't enough economy to support them.

3) No more Taj Ma Hawkers. * An outrageous Waste of State resources.

4) Terminate the Power Cost Equalization program. *Program encourages over use of expensive energy. *We need to invest in less expensive alternatives instead.

5) Terminate the Debt Reimbursement program. *Communities use this program as a way to bring revenues to their communities rather than what the program was intended for. Too many Good Usable buildings have been Destroyed so they can get state money to build new buildings.

6) College Scholarship Program should be Needs Based Loan program only or Terminated. * If we can not afford to pay for college for those students that struggle and can not afford to pay for college than we should not pay for those students that can afford tutors and can afford to pay for their own college. * Allow PFD applicants to leave their PFDs in the Fund and save for College.

7) The state should not have any State Employee Benefit program where the state is responsible for benefits after employment / retirement. * The state is many billions of dollars in the red because of such an outlandish program (state employee Defined Benefit Program).

8) The Department of Transportation needs some serious scrutiny. * There are too many layers and jurisdictions: State, Borough, Municipalities, Cities, Contractors, Sub contractors. * Too many roads, intersections are built to insufficient design and then have to be redone to meet a more adequate design.

There is much more inefficiencies and wasteful spending by our governments. We need to look for more inefficiencies in our governments.

Add New revenues

1) Restructure Oil and Gas Taxes. * The Alaska Constitution mandates that we use the resources of Alaska for the maximum benefit. Paying to give away our resources is irresponsible and most likely unconstitutional. If the resource is not economic now leave them for the next generations.

2) Reinstate the Income Tax. * This generation needs to pay for what they consume and spend. The income tax is the most fair and efficient way to get this generation to pay for our spending and not put all our burden on the next generations.

3) Increase Road Fuel Taxes. * This is a good way to get those people that use the roads the most to pay their share of cost of maintenance and to discourage wasteful use of the roads.

4) The State needs to work with the Native Corporations to build and maintain their infrastructure rather than paying Corporate Dividends. * If the Native Corporations are paying dividends the State should not be paying for their infrastructure. * The purpose of the Native Corporations was to bring in revenues to pay for their infrastructure not to pay dividends.

5) Implement a property tax on Unorganized Areas. Residents in Organized Areas are having to pay for most of their infrastructure and operations while Unorganized Areas are getting all their infrastructure and services paid for by the state.

Economic plan

Diversify Our Economy:

1) Build the Hydro-power dam:

A) Use revenues from Permanent Fund Earnings as a loan for construction.

B) Could start new industries:

a) Recycle metals for Rebar and other metal products for Dam construction and in state construction and export after construction of the Dam.

b) Mine Gypsum and Limestone for making cement for Dam construction and instate construction and export after construction.

C) Would provide many of good jobs during Dam construction.

D) With income tax would provide revenues to the state.

F) Would provide Electricity to power industries, businesses and residents for generations.

G) Would provide revenues to repay the loan and those revenues would be available for other investments.

2) Build an Petrochemical Industry:

A) Would add value to our nonrenewable resources (Oil, Gas and Coal).

B) Extend the life of the of our nonrenewable resources.

C) Provide good jobs for Generations.

D) With income tax would provide revenues to the state.

3) Start Managing Our Forests:

A) Managing our forests could help reduce the loss of millions of acres of timber every year to Fire and Insect infestation.

B) Could provide Billions of dollars of would products for instate use and export.

- C) Could provide Thousands of jobs for generations.
- D) With income tax would provide revenues to the state.

4) Increase Agriculture:

- A) Would decrease our need to import food.
- B) Could provide jobs for generations.
- C With income tax would provide revenues for the state.

5) Increase Our Fisheries and Fish Products:

- A) Find ways to manage our fisheries to produce more like we did with salmon.
- B) Could provide thousands of jobs for generations.
- C) With income tax would provide revenues to the state.

6) Integrate Our University into the Economy:

- A) Use the University provide the knowledge and expertise to progress our economy into the future.

7) Use of the Permanent Fund Earnings:

- A) Use a portion of the Permanent Fund Earnings for loans to finance projects that will replace, add value to and extend the nonrenewable resources consumed or being consumed.

Let's invest and build for the future not just Extract and Spend the future of Alaska.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB21, SB26, HB115 AND ALL OTHER LEGISLATION TO SPEND THE PERMANENT FUND ON GENERAL FUND SPENDING.

Thank you,

Phillip Furbush

Dear Alaska House Representative,

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote! I, Andrew Scott, am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed. I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I better at spending the money than government. We have heard on the radio and read how government is spending the money: giving cash to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidizing a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children’s’ college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

Signed,

Andrew Scott

Anchorage, Alaska

CUT YOUR SPENDING!

I am tired of you politicians running up debt like a drunken sailor on shore leave.

You people are out of control and need to be fired.

NO INCOME TAX until you reduce state spending.

Please advise me as to why the state spending has increased 8 percent per year for the last several years. Please explain to me why you can't cut your chef out of the budget. Please explain to me why you can't cut one person from the Alaska Marine Highway system.

Please explain to me how you will control your spending if you have more to spend.

I will be happy to teach you the word "budget" and I will not charge the state to do this.

You people are pathetic.

Normally I sign off with the term "respectfully", however you haven't earned the right to be respected.

Phil Douglas

Anchorage AK 99501

Why not a state lottery?

Sent from Carol Harris

1. **Dear Alaska House Representative,**
2. **Dividends remind management who the boss is.** Remember, the guy in the Governor's office isn't the boss. He works for *us*, the shareholders. And sometimes, the arrogant S.O.B has to be reminded of that. He is not our King nor our Fuehrer. Paying the dividend every year is a subtle reminder to him and congress that they work for us the shareholders of the Fund and not the other way around.
3. U.S.A. Constitution Article 1 Section 9 states; No Capitation or other Direct Tax shall be laid. The State of AK has ratified our USA constitution.
4. A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I and my family are asking you to vote at every opportunity this session, to keep the PFD as it is. We oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and/or changed. I oppose the HB115 restructuring of the People's Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. I and my family are better at spending the money than the government. We have heard on the radio and read how the government is spending the money: giving cash credits to oil companies, funding ghost government positions, subsidising a lounge and gourmet chef for legislators.

If it stays in my family's pocket it will be spent right here at home for much more important things: to help fund my children's' college education, pay my heating bills, pay my medical and insurance costs and offset the other high costs of living in Alaska.

The government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. Kindly conduct SKYPE Conventions with out of state or foreign authorities. Save on Hotel expenses and fancy dinners. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for our families, not for the government. Rescind SB21 and Re-enact ACES and back date it to the introduction of SB 21.

As a result, I and my family are asking you to support keeping the PFD as it is. Vote No on HB115.

John J Kiernan, AK 99502-1984

P.S. Most Industries and many governments raise money by borrowing it against a Bond Issue. Why not issue AK State 10% Tax-exempt Bonds against the money needed?

House Finance Committee members:

Here is a copy of the testimony I shared with your committee via phone today:

Thank you for your time! My name is Linn McCabe and I'm calling from Big Lake. I have been a resident of Alaska since 1961 and I am calling on behalf of myself and my husband, Kevin McCabe. We are opposed to HB 115!

There should be NO discussion about finding new revenue streams which directly affect citizens, including the use of more earnings from the Permanent Fund, prior to implementing spending reductions. We have a SPENDING PROBLEM, NOT a revenue problem! Government has grown to an unsustainable level during the time when the pipeline was full and prices were high. We need to encourage more private development, not scare people away. Some positive steps have been taken in D.C. in the past 2 months and maybe we can encourage development and get the economy moving. Government doesn't grow the economy!

Any so-called "budget cuts" have been misrepresented near as I can tell. Cuts from the Capital budget are not true cuts. From what I can tell, the actual budget has actually increased.

A great deal of work has been done to shed some light on State spending by the volunteer experts with Mission Critical, a group you have likely heard about by now. They have shown through their research that we CAN live within our current revenue streams. Also look to research which was done by Senator DunLeavy's staff. Which programs are critical to the mission of Alaska? Which portions of our budget are mandated by our constitution?

A few points to be considered:

1) The gas line is NOT VIABLE! If it were, anyone with a lick of common sense knows that the private sector would be excited to pursue it. Instead, the State keeps throwing good money after bad with an office in Houston, an office in Japan, and some say an additional \$10 million a month studying and pursuing this pipe dream.

2) There are at least 2500 FUNDED BUT NOT FILLED positions throughout our government departments. What is this EXTRA money being used for?

3) Knik Arm bridge and toll authority director? What is this person or office doing?

4) Aerospace Director? What does this person do?

5) Medicaid is fraught with waste. Was a review of fraud ever done before we accepted ACA funds a year or so ago? We are now on the hook for more money with limited accountability. Is it true that travel from villages paid for with Medicaid funds escalates during special events?

5) Education funding is bloated. We need to find efficiencies within the education budget, and use funding more wisely. Our testing indicates our huge cost per student does not pen out in a cost-benefit analysis. The formula for allocation of education funding needs to be reviewed.

6) Legislative per diem and the cafeteria.

7) If you can't cut specific budget items due to extreme pressures, reduce ALL budgets by a percentage and let the departments prioritize. Take the emotion out of it--be pragmatic.

Alaska is currently one of 9 states which do not have an income tax. This is something to be proud of!

In closing, I would like to mention some costs of taxation:

- 1) Further retraction of our economy, which is already in a recession;
- 2) Exodus of residents who flee to states with no or less taxation which also causes further retraction of our economy;
- 3) Extra paperwork for employers;
- 4) Further growth of bureaucracy through creation of a tax division and the employment of tax specialists.
- 5) Continuation of irresponsible spending policies.

And since we don't want to talk about more sources of revenue, I will not address the socialistic redistribution of wealth which would be created by implementation of the progressive income tax being proposed in this bill.

A recent poll regarding the budget deficit showed 58% of citizens opposed to an income tax; 41% favored an income tax.

Again, there should be NO discussion about ANY new sources of revenue before responsible reductions in spending. We strongly oppose HB 115. We already have a high cost of living and adding more costs to the citizens would be outrageous

Thank you!

Linn McCabe

Kevin McCabe

Big Lake, AK

I would just like to start by saying that the idea that an income tax should be instituted, while still providing a PFD check is just foolish. I do not support a state income tax on any level and would actively work to replace any member of the state government who supports this legislation. If a tax must be incorporated, a sales tax would be the most far and efficient way to generate revenue as it would not only tax Alaskans but those who come to Alaska to enjoy all she has to offer. Taxation during a economic downturn would have a negative impact as the prospect of rising taxes would drive people out of the state and reduce the taxable base as opposed to close the gap.

John Duggan

An other tax but we still are giving cash credits to oil companies. How about they pay their fair share then see what our budget hole is. This rates are to high and still don't close the budget

Stephanie Powell

Thanks for making time to read this.

I like a sales tax idea rather than an income tax.

For all those who cringe at no PFD, give us a PFD and then tax us on what we buy with that PFD.

I also think Jay Hammonds approach of a cap deserves discussion.

The PFD pays for state costs and anything left over goes out as a dividend.

I also have yet to hear anyone reference the panel discussion at the PAC last year.

A 4 step approach:

PFD, Oil tax, Income/sales tax, and I think revisiting the tax rates on gasoline, etc. that are somewhat dated.

David Jadhon
Anchorage, AK

I am opposed to HB115. It is unreasonable to tax middle class wage earners and retirees while paying out a dividend that draws welfare recipients and criminals to Alaska. Eliminate the dividend and the cost of welfare and Medicaid will drop as they leave Alaska. Also, the number of violent crimes which has gone from 200 a year in the early 60s to over 5,000 a year now will drop as the drug addicts and criminals leave Alaska. It makes no sense to take away income from productive citizens and to continue paying a dividend to welfare recipients, of which Alaska has the highest percentage in the nation. A large amount of the PFD goes to transients who continue to receive the dividend after they leave Alaska. The federal government receives their share in federal income taxes. It also makes no sense to hire more State employees to collect income tax.

If a tax is needed consider a sales tax that will draw revenue from the 2 million tourists and thousands of transients that pass through Alaska

Martin Ott

1. **Address Oil Credits first-** are we getting our money's worth? Reduce or eliminate. Stop "New Oil", and carry forward and any selling of credits. Credits are dumb, since we will not have \$110 oil again, so it doesn't make sense for us to shell out billions when the end result will not provide any revenue to Alaska. But it will allow a bunch of folks to walk away with a lot of Alaska \$\$\$.
2. **I say take from the Permanent Fund earnings next.** Not the corpus. It is NOT the equivalent to a tax- we didn't do a thing to earn it. Stop inflation –proofing for now, until we are stabilized. But if we are worried about all the children that will die of starvation, perhaps a percent of what is taken can be distributed to welfare agencies who can disburse – like for food and heating and real essentials.
3. **But before taking from the fund – eliminate pork and other capital projects.** This includes the McKinnon Road, and any lofty idea of a gas line.
4. **Reduce spending** – it has not even begun to hurt yet. School budget should not be safe. Since half the children will be dead of starvation after #2 above, we should be able to close some schools down.
5. **Finally, after budget cuts, oil credit reduction/elimination, and PF earning....then taxes- seasonal sales tax preferred.** It will feel good to get even for the 50% tax rates I pay when I rent a car or a hotel outside Alaska.

When all is said and done, none of what we say will matter. And that is the disappointment of the whole process. Alaska is the Entitlement State. And we cater to the oil companies- while they steal every cent possible.

Alaska is a great state, and regardless, I am more than willing to pay out of my pocket to live here. Even if is going from my hand to BP's investments in other countries. /sigh

Thank you for letting me feel my opinion matters. It felt good, even if just for a minute.

Michele Drury

Love you!

Paul Seaton,

Sir, when I take time to write my representatives, it is with a respectful tone. Not today. You lost any respect from me when you deceptively ran as a Republican and immediately began caucusing with the democrats. That makes you a fraud, sir.

You have lost touch with the people who elected you. It's not enough for you to show your face in Homer a few days prior to Election Day. I've seen you standing in line at the post office with nothing to mail. I've seen you wander the grocery store aisles with no basket or cart. Do you think that just "gracing Homer" with your presence is going to be enough after this crappy piece of legislation??! You will be lucky if you aren't on recall radar after this nonsense.

Unscrew that hat. The flow of blood seems to have been cut off.

Abandon this HB 115 immediately and get back in touch with your constituents or this will be your last term.

We are watching.

Tammy Clay
Homer, Alaska

I represent myself and my family. We oppose HB115 and the pfd cap. This state is already expensive to live in. To think income tax can save our "revenue issue" is misleading. You need to make cuts and cut where it matters. Education would seem to be one of the last yes? Per diem for legislature is a starter. No more free passes or private chefs. You work for the people not the other way around. Don't forget that. Stop your spending. Take a pay cut & move the capital to Anchorage to also save \$\$\$ on sending everyone to Juneau! Again, a starting point.

We oppose the pfd cap and theft of the PFD. This move by governor walker was ILLEGAL and everyone who supported this should also be held accountable. This should not be up for discussion period. The idea to mention children should not receive a pfd is ridiculous. The one part of our community that legally cannot vote and has no say. Again, ridiculous. This is theft! Many families use the funds for pfd to offset the cost of living in Alaska.

PS: move the capital to Anchorage from Juneau. Where the true community of the state resides and were already approved for a long time ago.

Sincerely, Niki Parrish

I do not feel that a max cap of 7% for income over 250,000 is appropriate. Either tax everyone at a percentage so that the amount income tax one pays is truly proportionate to the actual income or do not tax at all.

Permanent fund dividend money was never to be used to pay for government spending. AK government should dip into the savings fund to help cover gaps over the next couple years until the budget can be brought into control. If the PFD is to going to be used by the government, then it should be disbanded (it would be unfortunate that people who work for that division may lose their jobs, but it would also save the state money) and the money in there should be given out in one last lump some. Money designated for the people of AK should be used to pay for government funding just because it doesn't want to tighten belts, but would rather make cuts & use PFD money.

Linda Carroll

I do not support a state income tax or sales tax.

I'm a fourth generation Alaskan, born and raised in this state and witness to the reckless expansion of state government driven by the oil money boom. Public employee benefits became too generous. Payrolls increased too much. Welfare and other social service spending increased. Government expanded. The state government spent money like it was never going to end.

It has ended and now your solution is to tax us?

How about doing your jobs and making the cuts that need to be made to bring spending back in line with state income?

Let me give you just one example. I now live in Coffman Cove on Prince of Wales island. We have a massive school complete with a commercial sized greenhouse, all paid for with state money. We only have a handful of children and a significant portion of them belong to the school teachers! You tell me how you justify promoting taxes when the state is wasting money on idiotic things like four, yes four, of these school greenhouses on this island alone. And, while we're on the subject, how does it further a student to have the school raising chickens and growing produce? How many times is this ridiculous waste of money replicated across this state?

Cut spending and government back to pre-pipeline levels. Shrink government. Cut wages. Fire state employees. Slash benefits. End state welfare. There is a lot of fat in the system, find it.

Do all that and then come begging for money if you still need it. Taxing us is not the first step...it is the last!

PJ Olson.

Myself and every AK citizen I know do not support HB 115. Alaskans will pay for their services but an income tax is not the way to do it. If our goal is to reduce the population, an income will surely do that. I will not retire here as will many of my friends.

There are a number of other revenue producers that Alaskans will support such as a sales tax, using the PFD etc. An income tax is a dumb idea and will also require another bureaucracy to manage it.

Jeff Walden

Dear House Representatives,

Please do NOT support this bill. There are many others ways than an income tax to balance the budget. Please do not make hard working Alaskans pull us out because many of them will leave the state. There are many other industries that can be taxed as well as tourists who would be willing to pay for any sales tax. Please find another way to help balance our budget.

Thank you,

Joshua Cook

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to my opposition to HB 115. I am a middle class small business owner working in Alaska since 1995. We are General Contractors in the homebuilding field. We have already been hit with losing the safety net of our own healthcare insurance and no input from our Governor on any help or options, (I have reached out to his office which I have been ignore). The Governor promised 16% budget cuts and lied on that. He ran on those cuts and also keeping his hands off of the PFD, he lied on that. Now he wants to instill an onerous income tax bill that with the help of Les Gara and Pete Seaton punishes us small business owners even more. They are turning us into tax collectors and convoluting the collection process. If you tax an S-Corporations income that they don't actually get in their pockets, you are essentially taking away their ability to grow their companies and hire people. Our elected officials have more time to haggle about their per diems and license plate contests than they do on working on this budget. The Governor and Mr. Seaton seem to only have state employee's salaries and benefits on their agenda and a gas line fantasy. Now you want to tax me so you can protect the over bloated state employee pensions and salaries and I get to hope I don't get a serious illness or injury that will all but wipe out everything I have worked my butt off over the last 26 years of living in Alaska. Shame on your Governor, shame on those of you who think you can solve the problems you created off of the backs of small businesses. Alaska is starting to show us that they do not want us or our business here in the State. Maybe you can rely on the deadbeats that move here for our generous welfare and pfd benefits. Texas is looking better and better.

Sincerely

Rebecca Monaghan

Monaghan Construction, Inc.

Hello,

Might I suggest a sales tax? That way you'd also be taxing military personnel who use resources and shop in Alaska but do not have a legal residence in Alaska. You'd also be taxing all of the people who visit and it might make more sense to people since any source of income would then be subject to the tax (via purchases) and not just legitimate income.

My 2 cents, but it makes more sense.

Greg Dutson

March 29, 2017
House Finance Committee,

My name is Rod Wheelles, my wife and I reside in Senate District K and House Precinct 21 in West Anchorage.

As you consider the merits of HB115, I wish to express my support for the fiscal approach to solving our budget problem contained in SB26.

I have been a resident of Alaska for 60 years, attended Alaska schools for kindergarten through 12th grade with a diploma from Dimond High. I have witnessed firsthand all of the events related to the Permanent Fund from the first oil lease sale in 1969, to the recent phenomenon of the earnings from the Fund surpassing oil revenue as a source of income to the state.

I have received a Permanent Fund Dividend every year since the first distribution in 1982. I also paid Alaska Income Tax for about 12 years before it was abolished. There can be no denying that all Alaskans have benefitted from the Permanent Fund and its Dividends, as well as being blessed with the oil revenue that makes the Fund possible. I am writing to tell you without reservation that I am willing to receive a **smaller Dividend** or **no Dividend** in order to create a sustainable income stream for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Now that the Fund generates more income than oil, the time has come to restructure the Permanent Fund so it can be a dependable solution to our former "Boom and Bust" fiscal circumstance. As informed legislators with first hand exposure to the path that brought us to the current fiscal dilemma, you know the pieces of the puzzle that sits before you. You know that time is running out to act in such a way that more of the Fund is preserved and not less. You know that even the Dividend pay-out is at risk for the future if the right course is not followed from here on.

Many of your constituents may express fear that they will be harmed by the changes that are necessary based on their dependence on the Dividend. What they truly should fear is what will happen if you fail to act. The stabilizing effect of enacting this legislation will shore up the Health and Social Services entitlements and benefits provided by the State Budget to these same constituents. We the citizens of Alaska need you to make the difficult decisions that will ensure all of us have a stable and healthy economy for generations to come.

I do not believe that an individual income tax should be a consideration at this time. I would rather see the Dividend reduced to \$500 per year. Working Alaskans have a very limited say in how State provided entitlements are handed out. You should be endeavoring to make sure the income they earn is theirs to distribute, spend or save as they see fit. Preserving a higher dividend for those already benefitting from State entitlements is not an equitable route to overall prosperity.

I'm hoping you can be decisive in support for a bill mirroring the substance of SB26. It may only be a starting point in the process, but it is important that the steps be taken to move beyond the impasse that paralyzed the legislature last year. We need a vehicle of change that will take us forward to a sustainable future. Please act.

Thank you,
Rod Wheelles

Dear Representatives,

I oppose HB115. I urge you to vote against House Bill 115 and find a budget resolution that does not create additional financial hardships for your constituents.

The accounting nightmare the proposed state tax would create would require additional out of pocket expenses for citizens after reducing income by raiding the PFD.

Jennifer Wingard

House/Precinct 9-608

Delta Junction, AK

To whom it may concern,

Please consider:

Cut the PFD after a final payout.

NO income tax.

Please vote "no" on HB115 as it is written.

Maureen Eldridge

Homer, AK

I am writing in opposition to HB115. This income tax and other elements of this bill will cause a major economic depression in the state. For every 1% tax increase, a 1.3% decrease in economic growth occurs. You will be putting many small businesses out of business, eliminating many jobs as we have to cut back on employees to pay taxes, will force retirees out of state and our youth to leave for better jobs in other states where the government does not steal money from its citizens via taxes, This will cause housing prices to fall as people rush to sell off assets before the capitol gains taxes start, and force many of us who do not have a nice union or state retirement plan to work until our 70s or 80s while state employees play on our hard earned income via taxes. This bill will be a disaster for the state and needs to be stopped now!! Vote No!!! Ilona Farr

It simply does not make sense to propose an income tax when still offering up PFDs. This is pandering to people who do not make an income. If you want to tax people, tax everyone via either the PFD reductions or a sales tax. Myself and all reasonable income earners would recognize that taking with one hand and giving with the other does not make fiscal sense for individuals or for Alaska!

Thank you,

Steve Gieryic

Paul Seaton:

A PFD cut is not necessary to solve the budget problem. Do not take the PFD without a public vote!

I am asking you to vote at every opportunity this session to keep the PFD as it is. I oppose cutting — or what some refer to as “restructuring” — the PFD in any way. The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska and we should have a decision on how it is spent and changed

.

I oppose HB115 restructuring of the People’s Fund and PFD.

The reason is simple. Many families rely on the PFD and we know that citizens can spend the money more wisely than Government. We read and hear what you intend to spend the money on and it's wasteful.

Government needs to cut its spending, not the PFD. We need to maintain and grow the Alaska economy for families, not government.

As a result, I am asking you to abandon this horrible legislation and keep the PFD as it is.

NO on HB115.

Phillip Clay
Homer

I do not support a state income tax! I have not seen very much movement to reduce spending by the state. I am required to live within my means, so should our government. There are entirely too many state employees, and too much wasteful spending. Close state offices, and make other reductions to spending before looking to take more money out of my paycheck. And don't publicize cutting high profile services, we all know it's a scare tactic. We the people are not nearly as stupid the politicians think.

Richard Oelze
Anchorage, 99502

I think the more money you people get your hands on, the more money you'll spend. None of you know how to save money. If you're going to take more of our dividends, institute an income tax and increase other taxes, then I think the public should have more say in how you spend our money. For instance, your new offices that you spent millions to lease and renovate, should have gone before the voters just like school bonds. Any raises you receive should go before the voters. Your per diems should be decreased and capped. I know it doesn't cost me \$200 a day to live. ANY increases that would benefit you should go before the voters.

More taxes means more government workers, earning top wages and benefits. So, exactly where are the savings? Our economy is fragile enough. Adding more taxes will not strengthen it, just give you another pot of money to waste.

The voters are getting pretty sick and tired of our money being spent on ridiculous and wasteful things and we will be watching who votes for this for the next election.

Sent from Carol Harris

I am outraged this political season. I have written in before in support of budget cuts. I have followed along as every proposal by Republicans has been rejected. I have watched as the Democrats increase the budget and condemn any chance at prosperity Alaska and it's people had. Going after our dividends, which was rightfully ours in exchange for our mineral rights, and now going after our incomes is plain robbery and is irresponsible when every option to reduce the debt or the budget has been rejected.

I agree with Rep. Cathy Tilton when she said, "Before we ask Alaskans to pay for state government, we have a moral obligation to make sure we spend state dollars as efficiently as possible, The Democrats' budget passed doesn't meet that obligation. Instead, it actually increases the governor's budget."

If you pass this income tax bill, I hope you're happy when good families leave Alaska and/or you're all voted out next term.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Illguth

Good afternoon,

Please do not pass a state income tax for any Alaskan local. There are other means of getting money back into the state's budget. This will ruin families and small business on a local level. These are our friends and families. This will put several people out of work because small business will need to incorporate a 7 percent tax increase into their budgets. 7 Percent does not seem like a lot to some but to most it means the world.

Thank you

Kraig Mims

I am an Alaskan and a proud homeschooling mama, and I represent many other moms as well when I say we don't want you to steal our PFD money. It's ours not yours to steal. Also we don't want you to tax our income. We aren't California and if you guys care at all about us Alaskans then you guys need to listen to the voice of the people. We don't want big government. We don't want taxes. We don't want you to steal our PFD again! You are hurting our economy by trying to tax us and take away our PFD. Most of us in the valley are conservative people who want you to listen and represent us for a change. You let the governor steal our PFD last yr and now you guys are considering allowing government to steal from us forever?! Either you care about Alaska and the people of Alaska or you don't! Do what's right by us! We want the government cut by half. We don't want or need big government! If you guys don't listen to us, then clearly you are a bunch of liberals who think it's ok for big government, and taxing us to death. Then that tells us you don't represent us because no one I know is ok with taxing us to fix your spending problems, and that you aren't for the people of Alaska!

Zesa Burke

Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Robert Gillespie and I've been an Alaskan since 1999. I'm writing today in regards to the proposed income tax also known as HB115.

While I understand that Alaska is in a financial crisis type situation, I cannot sit on the sidelines and be ready to accept the proposed HB115. Under this bill my family would be burdened with at least another \$5000 a year tax bill. This bill may not be called a PFD grab, however limiting the amount of the PFD each year to \$1250 is exactly that, a grab. My family and I will have to turn our PFD's from contributing to our child's college education and instead put it towards the tax bill. I do not agree or condone this as an option to Alaskans.

I also find it disturbing that the state is looking toward the working class to fund the government. I feel instead of an income tax that would only generate ~\$663 million/year that the state should look back at the tax credits being given to the Oil & Gas industry. Projected numbers for 2018 show Alaska is slated to make \$89 Million in Revenue taxes but OWE \$1.2 Billion. We are currently only earning ~4% instead of the 27% - 30% in the past. Instead of taxing the people into poverty the state needs to stop giving away our resources. Revamp the tax structure of the Oil & Gas industry. If the profits from that as well as left over funds from the PFD payout are not enough to run the state THEN look into taxing the people.

This is my attempt to ask you to vote NO on HB115 and go back and find other methods of funding before taxing the working class.

Thank you for your time,

Robert Gillespie

Wasilla Resident.

Peoples of our Senate please stop messing with our PFds many villages if Alaska will be affected the 1s you need to be attacking is the ones who take ad advantage of the Alaskas PFds by applying even they NO longer live in Alaska does not matter if your from the National Guard' Army' or retired Government worker who no longer lives in Alaska. Elder benefits has been cut in half hurting our Elders in many villages and jobs are scarce. I am sick and tired of this kind of lack of balancing our budgets it sounds like we need to cut your pays abd also pay your own fare to Juneau also hotels' rental' and food and see what is like for the people in the village. Do not be cold as the devil and you will be voted out if you continue messing with True Alaskans Native life styles who depend on using extra cash to pay for bills/clothing/food sunce its so farn expensive.

Marilyn Tom

We prefer to see the tax burden balanced over different forms of taxation. Your currently proposed rates should be lower with a state sales tax included to cover the difference. That way we can also tap tourists and out of state folks that use our infrastructure. We are in support of paying Taxes only after reasonable cuts are made to State spending.

Wade and Amy Ellis,

Anchorage

No I do not support a income tax. A sales tax would be more fare.

What makes you think that someone making more money is using more services. Sales tax captures all that spend no matter where or how they get thier income.

DJP

On the state finances, why doesn't the state keep all of the dividend funds to run the government before big cut backs and taxes for all? If there is any money left over, then and only then give away free money in the form of dividends. It does not make any sense to give away free money when the state budget is so far in the red. Fix the state budget first.

John Suter

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to HB 115. I am extremely concerned that the burden of balancing the state budget is being laid on the backs of the citizens of Alaska. In my opinion, using the PFD to help balance the budget is somewhat more acceptable but I strongly believe that the growth of state government in the last decade or so contributes largely to our dire situation. In addition, the tax credits to oil companies are also hurting Alaskans.

Legislators need to be cutting back spending, not raising revenue to cover the budget. Roll back tax credits to oil companies from the Parnell administration. Cut unnecessary funding from the current budget (hiring a personal chef for the legislature comes to mind!). At the very least, offer Alaskans the chance to vote on whether or not we agree to be taxed at the state level. I believe many are unhappy to hear that some may be taxed into poverty when there is not much to show for trimming the fat from the current budget and paring down state government.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Andrea Florendo
Juneau, AK 99801