

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

Chugiak, AK

I am in agreement that we do need an income tax in Alaska. I am NOT in agreement that such tax be 5% of our familys income. What happened to the proposal to have a state tax be a percentage of what is paid to the Federal Government? I am almost 63 yrs. Old and have lived in Alaska my whole life, with an exception of 22 months in the '80's. With a tax such as this latest proposal I might as well go live in another state. I grew up with "a penny saved is a penny earned". These idiots in Juneau obviously did not.

Sincerely, Steve Sleighter

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns about HB115. Please note my opposition to ANY proposed income tax. I am outraged that anyone would even consider an income tax when the state is still sending checks to every man, woman and child each year. Please remember that the PFD was designed to be a rainy day fund during dire economic times like the ones we've faced in the last two years. I fully support a restructuring of the PFD and the use of PFD earnings over any income tax.

Establishing an income tax while still handing out PFD checks would penalize the working people of Alaska while rewarding those who pay no federal income tax and in many cases are receiving significant support from both federal and state programs. A \$25 fee on a PFD check does little to make me feel like everyone is contributing to state services. While a reduction in the PFD has been a disappointment for many, I personally don't feel like anything was taken from me as I did not earn that money. Your proposed income tax will mean most working Alaskans will get a tax rebate in the form of a PFD, and in some cases use their hard earned dollars on top of that, while handing out free money to everyone else. I think many people would feel resentful of that and I imagine it would create a real divide among the residents of Alaska. Furthermore, the state would need another 70+ person department receiving large salaries and benefits so you can collect this income tax. It is obvious to most that the plan is to put the income tax in place so you can make gradual increases to it and restore the \$10-12 billion state budgets of the past - I find that unacceptable.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Celine Kaplan

Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Legislators,

I am an Alaska State Citizen. I do not own the mineral rights on my land. We the people collectively own them and equally share the wealth of those resources through our Permanent Fund Dividend Program. I as a citizen of this state express my complete and utter disgust at the state government for trying to take these funds from the citizens to fund government. I do not believe that you cannot cut the budget. You can. The current budget is from a state with too much money. That money has now dried up and you must return to a smaller, sustainable budget. Stealing funds which do not belong to you is not OK. When my family budget gets tight, I do not get to tell my neighbors that they will now start paying my bills for me. This state cannot balance the budget with stolen funds that hurt our low income and middle class families disproportionate. Vote NO on the PFD restructure and NO to any income tax or new sales taxes. DO YOUR JOBS!

Shawna Petty-Kisor

Kenai, AK 99611

Hello -

I am an Anchorage resident looking for a way to financially complete flight school. I will be able to return to school when I am able to find work - but an added income tax concerns me that it puts that plan in jeopardy. I understand that government and nonprofit services are important. I also feel that I am able to budget adequately without an additional \$2000 per year. In essence, I would rather work to obtain an income that I can budget with than have a tax with a gift at the end of the year I can easily budget without. I returned to Alaska specifically for flight school - and took the financial risk to commit to this state, knowing that an economic downturn was possible. But an income tax makes that risk a bit tougher to swallow.

Joel Chitwood

- NO INCOME TAXES!!

- Use the Permanent Fund instead, so that EVERY ALASKAN is helping fix the deficit, not just the working people!!!

Kerrie Wiltrout Daniels

Good afternoon:

My name is Dena Ivey and I live in Anchorage with my 8 year-old son, Ethan. I understand the Committee is soliciting public comment and I have an opinion on the above-referenced proposed legislation.

As a life-long Alaskan, I object to the use of the Permanent Fund to fund government services. The Permanent Fund belongs to individual Alaskans, who should not have to pay for the state government's lack of foresight in not preparing for the inevitable decline of oil revenues. Alaskans depend on that money every year and they are entitled to their full share, as intended.

I do support an income tax...to me, that is the most fair method to address the budget deficit. I don't mind paying my share to live in Alaska and enjoy its many benefits. An income tax would not affect lower-income families disproportionately as would capping the Permanent Fund.

I've lived in Alaska for nearly 46 years. I traveled the world while in the Air Force and there's no place like home. It's been a privilege to enjoy the lack of state income tax, but those days are over and reality must be acknowledged. Please implement a state income tax to address the budget deficit. Please do not mess around with the Permanent Fund.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Dena R. Ivey
Anchorage, AK

I am vehemently opposed to HB115

- 1) Retain the existing PFD system for maximum income to the state
- 2) NO income tax
- 3) Cut more of the budget and let's get the oil companies online with more production on the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

Garvan Bucaria
PO Box 870298
Wasilla, AK 99687

I do not support an income tax. If any tax is indeed necessary a sales tax is the only one acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Mathews, Palmer, AK

HouseFinance@akleg.gov

Against House Bill 115

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. The fiduciary trust has been breached. Thank you for your time.

Jason Kerrone
Anchor Point

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Legislator,

Please review this Google Doc spreadsheet

(http://bit.ly/alaska_income_tax). It provides a brief examination of the revenue that a 15% nominal graduated income tax might generate on its own. Yes, that's correct. We CAN raise \$2 Billion in tax revenues.

As State Income Taxes and Local Realty Taxes are deductible from Federal Tax, the total tax burden on "middle class" Alaskans would rise only a few points. As noted this basic analysis uses SOI brackets for ease of gross computation; actual brackets could be significantly skewed placing a greater burden on those itemizing.

Additionally, however, if we use a State Income Tax as a tool by which we can leverage other taxes we can also look at half a billion gallons of fuel used on the highway annually (about half gasoline and half diesel), and if we impose a \$6/gallon tax, and then exempt first 100 gallons per household for 261,000 households we get another half a billion in revenue (yes, prices of shipped goods will rise across the board, which makes it more economical to buy local....) AND then we need to add the tax to private non-commercial airplane fuel

Lastly, removing the booze excise tax and replacing it with a retail tax starting at a dime per mL of actual ethanol, as in a 750 ml bottle of liquor at 100 proof might produce $.48 \text{ (ABV)} * 750 \text{ (mL)} * \$1 \text{ (tax)} * .1$ (multiplier) = \$36 for a fifth of booze. Likewise a 750 ml bottle of wine would produce $.13 * 750 * \$1 * .1 = \9.75 on a bottle of wine, and even after a modest exemption for a gallon a month, we have added another chunk of change and a real complement to a marijuana tax.

Now, repeal SB21 and dump all industry subsidies, and we are pretty close to being self-sufficient

Let's put an end to the whine of the middle class welfare queens. Let's put an end to the silly chatter about economic deportation of seniors, and let's recognize that the median income in Alaska is over \$70K (over \$80K in urban Alaska), and Alaskans not only can pay their way, they have repeatedly told the focus group held by far right ideologues that they are WILLING to pay the taxes necessary to maintain their quality of life.

Stop talking about playing with the PFD: that is simply a shell game as any economist will tell you. The PFD – except in the Unorganized Borough, which is another matter altogether – is simply an in lieu transfer; PFD's, while they provide an interim multiplier effect, also underwrite most of Municipal taxation on resident populations. That's right, most Alaskans make no net payment for State or Local services because the State pays most Alaskans via the Permanent Fund Dividend to support their local community by local property or sales taxes. Leave the dividend alone, and implement a real income tax. Shift money from the IRS to Alaska's Treasury and balance our budget.

Stop talk about tapping reserves, as we all know legislators can't be trusted in the hen house.

Promote a comprehensive tax regime that will meet Alaska's real budget requirements.

Marc Grober

I'm rose okpealuk, my voting place is Alaska Club South, I oppose HB115!

From me to ktuu:

Have you heard of Mission Critical? They had a forum tonight at the museum. It would really benefit all Alaskans to be informed about how spending is being spent & to get involved knowing more about state & federal dollars because Alaska has deadwood running budget so corruptly at Alaskans expense, and mission critical keeps speaking up to the deadwood but it's been the same or worse for over 8 years, they have former finance, public safety, and been legislative their self, they got together & are like outside legislative auditor advocates for Alaskans, they're very informative! They mentioned how no media was there, because media only cares to report on legislators in legislators views! That is not excelling in reporting to us Alaskans the whole story! That's a very one sided spot light & legislators don't deserve that spot light with all the corruption they're doing to us! Mission critical doesn't propose firing any one in office or state employees, they only want who is in party now to spend practical & wisely for Alaska! I can't believe Matt Claman has been in our politics for over 30 years & his wife Lisa Rieger is Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. legal counsel, she's also on covenant house board & was Mrs. Anchorage! Because I've been going to CITC, Inc. since 94 & recently I spoke with Lisa Rieger about my niece & nephew, she was pressed for time, like she is in meetings all day!, but someone from Administration was there tonight & reported Claman just got off a 3 week vacation with his family! Legislators get \$265 a day for accommodating meals while in session, mission critical wants to gift them all a military ready to eat meal while they're in session so they can see how frivolous they're spending \$265 a day on meals is!

Alaska has a special projects department that's competing with NASA on sending satellites into space & that dept wants 2 more locations on the equator to launch rockets with satellites from under Alaska legislative spending! State has a budget for empty positions that they're saying we need, but never are filled because legislators are spending that "slush" money on new furniture, funding retirement for their friends or loved ones... Legislators choose to hire state troopers for transporting inmates, when state troopers rates to transport prisoners is \$165, and not necessary! If department of corrections transports prisoners the fee is \$65, and they're the correct people for that assignment anyway! In faculty maintenance dept there's 2 full force police departments with 200 police in them, when faculty maintenance keeps Alaska running smooth through service & infrastructure, but that's wrong spending having police in facility maintenance, instead they best in public safety department! Alaska has a \$3million mail room in Juneau! When we got rid of post offices! Why can't we have politicians utilize post offices!

Legislators & senators are in session so now is the time to get these publically known that we Alaskans want to see wiser spending & demand it, we would be heard better if media acted like they're Alaskans too that are getting shafted just like we all Alaskans are, and get them to correct it now, letting this continue is impacting us Alaskans so much politicians are trying to pass taxes on our PFD, studded tires, and other taxes which taxes aren't American anyway!

In public safety spending politicians claim spending so much on VPSO's but I got a video from AFN from fed office of Justice they have elders who volunteer to be community managers because they don't have VPSO's like politicians claim we do! They're shafting us in so many ways & media ignoring this is hurting us too!, it enables this shafting to continue at Alaskans expense!

There's federal money to spend to support tribal governance sovereignty but tribal leaders aren't spending it & not working with State to spend it & if we were we could tribally manage our federally owned Alaska in 3 years & get rid of federal managing our Alaska land! Come on can't you care about Alaskans enough to improve it just by covering mission critical public forums to address these costly spendings that have been going on because of our deadwood not caring about us Alaskans & only about them self & their loved ones & we go to them for counsel, or assistance & it means nothing to them? If I told you why I talked to Lisa Rieger that would be a whole nother news story on its own! I pray you do care about being Alaskan now & want to cover this to improve Alaska for Alaskans!

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

Jason & Marina Keirn

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

I am in awe of this bill which only covers your complete inability to do the job you were voted into office for. Instead of less spending you want to tax to keep the poor spending that has been done in the first place that has got us to this point. Take budgets for each department, if they dont spend it they loose it for the next years budget. This leads to poor budgeting in all areas of the Alaska state departments. We should reward departments for not spending their budgets.

I NOT VOTE FOR ANYONE WHO SUPPORTS THIS BILL House Bill 115

Ken Delong ,

Anchorage, Ak 99501

Hello Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my views and opinions on the proposal of House Bill 115. I have been an Alaskan since 1976, with the exception of 2 & 1/2 years from 2009 to 2012. I have received PFDs from the start with the exception of the short time frame I was outside.

The PFD has been a great boon, but it has also created a very bad entitlement mentality in Alaska. We now find ourselves in a situation where the state can and should stop paying out PFDs all together. Simply stated, any scenario where you tax workers in Alaska and turn around and give money to everyone needs to be called what it really is - WELFARE. By definition, passing HB 115 would be taking money from those of us who contribute to society already and giving it out as welfare to those who simply stand there with their hand out.

There should be no income tax unless all of the available permanent fund earnings are used to fund state government. The over the top entitlement mentality that has been created in Alaska by paying out the large dividends over and over must end. If we need to wean the entitlement attitude out over a few years, then so be it. The notion that we should keep giving everyone \$1,250 per year is reckless. Stop making Alaskans into people who expect the government to give them money!

If you go forward with anything that institutes an income tax while guaranteeing a PFD payment you should be honest and change the name of the payment to what it really is - welfare.

Kevin Key
Anchorage

I am totally opposed to an income tax on Alaskans. Would much rather see a sales tax that gets paid via dollars and cents as I purchase things rather than being hit with a tax at the end of winter when I've been hit with high fuel bills all winter! The average income tax is close to \$1000 and I don't seem to ever have that much laying around waiting to throw at something. Guess I would have to give up my permanent fund on the application process. Gee, if the tax is roughly \$1000 and another part of HB 115 takes another \$1000 from us why not just take the entire perm fund from everybody!

Single people really get the shaft on the income tax. They have similar living expenses just like everyone else but only one person working to pay for those expenses! Their tax is twice as much. Unfair.

Why not have the Permanent Fund loan the State One million dollars or whatever to be invested similarly. Allow that to build for five years, then the State could use that for revenue as well as paying that money back over a 20-year loan. No interest accrues til payback date starts.

I have not heard lately what changes are also being proposed to tax the resource industries, tourism, outside businesses operating in the State that take their profits with them. Governor Walker had proposed that all stakeholders take on this burden but so far I only have seen the ways to take from the citizens and the oil companies.

Thank you for the opportunity to send comment.
Carol Compton

Glennallen, AK. 99588

Greetings,

I know you are facing a difficult task, but passing the buck to the hard working Alaska citizenry via an INCOME TAX IS NOT THE ANSWER. The permanent fund was created for a rainy day. What the state needs is a two year plan to bring us back to living within our new means. In the mean time, cut the permanent fund payments to nothing and spend that money to balance the budget. If that is not enough, tighten the belt more.

Creating a new bureaucratic beast with its additional employees and expenses while keeping all the expense of the permanent fund does not make sense. It also makes not sense to pay state employees (with funds raised via income taxes) only to have them give it back in the form of income taxes! Save us all some time and expense and just give them a pay cut (and sorry to say - that includes you!!)

Alaska must live within its means (even during difficult times). Each one of us and every business is facing the same tough decisions.

Thanks,

Scott Heidorn

Fairbanks, AK 99712

I have paid income tax in Alaska, "back in the day," and I would not mind doing so if the oil companies paid their share.

Either they can pay their fair share, or we should look into Norway's example and take over our oil ourselves.

Kerry Brown

Anchorage, AK. 99501

No on hb115
Ronald Sapp

I do not support this plan for an income tax. This plan is not fair and punishes those who make more money while a large portion of the population pays little or nothing.

A sales tax is the most fair method of taxation and would also derive revenue from out of state tourists who utilize our infrastructure.

VR

Eugene M Outterson

Wasilla, AK

Hello,

I am against an income tax in the State of Alaska. I would rather see a statewide sales tax implemented to capture tax from not only the people living here and buying goods or services or using infrastructure, but also the millions of people who travel and purchase goods and services in our state every year. Both the people who live here and visitors use the infrastructure that our tax dollars pay for, and I do not find it "fair" to impose a tax on only the working citizens of Alaska when both unemployed persons and visitors are using some of the same resources that are paid for by taxes.

As far as the Permanent Fund... While I understand this is a constitutional issue, I feel that as times change revisions are needed. It is absurd to think that we are paying out dividends to citizens while we are in the midst of a major budget short fall. It is time to pay our bills first, and then if we have some "left over" then reconsider a distribution to citizens.

Just my two cents.

Respectfully,

Chris Ottosen

To: The Alaska House Finance Committee

RE: HB 115; **INCOME TAX; PFD CREDIT; PERM FUND INCOME**

Dear Representatives,

As a 36 year Alaskan resident, I am writing to express my displeasure with HB 115. I encourage you all to reject this bill in its entirety. It is bad for Alaskans.

While I do not want my PFD reduced or completely gutted from my income, I understand the desire of the State of Alaska to tap the PFD as a source of new revenue to help balance the budget. I suggest any capping or, or continued reducing of the PFD be balanced with a sunset clause. As a lifelong Alaskan, I am willing to sacrifice a few years to help the state that I call home get out of the income funk it has found itself in. This sacrifice should be balanced by the government not being able to run roughshod over its residents; hence, the need for a sunset clause.

I offer these thoughts as it relates to the state's financial woes. If the PFD is going to be touched by the State, perhaps a new eligibility criteria should be created. Could a five-year residency period be requirement before someone could be considered a qualified Alaskan resident for PFD eligibility? I recommend eliminating the snowbird loophole and require residents to physically reside in Alaska between September and May of each year. Exceptions should be allowed for students, medical treatment, and deployed military members. If this were to be done, it would likely increase the annual PFD amount for those qualified residents. If the dividend were projected at \$2,000.00 presently, then conceivably with stricter requirements, the PFD would increase. Let's say, hypothetically, it increases to \$5,000.00 per person. If the State were then to cap the PFD at \$2,000.00, those Alaskan residents who actually reside in Alaska during its harshest months (fall/winter/spring—increased utilities cost) still receive a PFD that can help offset the cost of living in Alaska. Those on fixed incomes, and who are lifelong Alaskan residents—like my mom—would be able to rely on that additional, and very vital source of income.

CUTS! Honest cuts to every program—sacred cows included—favored by both political parties are mandatory in order for the State to truly balance the budget. Continuing to take from its residents will only result in the 1980's all over again. People will flee Alaska; running from the plague called excessive taxation.

As an aside, I have not heard or read a single word about the suspension of the Little Davis Bacon Act (Title 36). This act requires a prevailing wage on public works projects. Labor costs are some of the most outrageously expensive costs to building anything for the public. I know Title 36 was recently revised relative to the minimum contract amount that triggers Title 36's application. Might it be wise to consider revisiting Title 36 again and increase the minimum contract again—this time to \$2.5 million dollars? At least for a couple

years. The less public works cost, the more money the State has to spend somewhere else. Before you go and start complaining about Alaskan workers losing income, isn't that what your representatives are doing with capping the PFD and taxing us residents—taking our income away? Also, if public works cost less as a result of a suspended Title 36, wouldn't that allow for more public works projects, which keeps workers employed longer and off of unemployment?

Moreover, why has no one really articulated and pushed for a state sales tax? Who cares what the cost will be to the State in terms of collecting the tax. The same will be true for collecting any income tax, only worse if it's an income tax. I don't care that milk is outrageously expensive in Nome, or fuel is un-godly in Dutch Harbor, or *insert your opposition and city here*. People choose where they wish to live, and in doing so, they accept the results of their choices. If they choose to live in a region or city with little to no economy, they must accept the fact that costs are going to be ridiculously expensive. No one is forcing them to live in their rural/low economy areas. A sales tax treats everyone truly equal; it taxes everyone based on their consumption and captures nonresident and foreign traveler dollars too. A sales tax can be revisited more frequently and titrated to the needs of government and the wants and desires of its residents. More Alaskans, I presume, would stomach a sales tax versus an income tax. After all, many of us residents already pay a local sales tax. For much of my 36 years and counting as an Alaskan resident, I was under no local sales tax, since I lived within the municipality of Anchorage. However, since moving to the Mat-Su, I have had to pay a local sales tax. I don't even notice the sales tax now. I have come to accept the sales tax because I like that my roads are plowed timely, unlike Anchorage is now.

Finally, if a statewide sales tax is instituted, it needs to be balanced by a reduction of state funds to local governments that do not incorporate their own local sales tax. For example, if Anchorage wants to keep funding its government on the backs of property owners, then their state funding needs to be reduced. If the State passes a 5% sale tax, and Anchorage votes to institute a 1% local sales tax, then their state funding would be reduced by 4%.

I close by writing this: During my eight years as a volunteer fire fighter/medic, I constantly would say to the department's leadership that if they want more community involvement and commitment, then the leadership needs to give the members ownership and investment into the department. When people are asked to pay a sales tax, that taxes everyone equally based on consumption of services or goods rather than their income, then people begin to have an investment within their community or state. They become more attached since they feel the pain of having to fund government.

Please, make the right decision in this matter. Don't just blindly tax and take from us hard working Alaskan residents who call Alaska home!

--

Respectfully,
Doug Love

If you increase my income tax this dramatically I will sell my house or let it go into foreclosure and not only will you not get my \$6,000+ in property taxes but \$0 in income. I refuse to pay when you refuse to cut.

Thank you
Dan Lang

As a life long Alaskan I would like to state that I am firmly against an income tax for Alaska!

A sales tax, especially in the summer months, would be a much sounder option. Most people when they come here are surprised that we do not have a sales tax, tourists expect to pay a sales tax as they do back home. According to the Visit Anchorage each tour spend on average of \$941 in Alaska, this is not including airfare cruise prices or anything else, this is strictly money they spend while in Alaska. According to the Department of Economic Development 2.04 million visitors were in Alaska in 2015. $2,040,000 \times \$941 = \$1,919,640,000$ x 3% = 57,589,200, and this is just from tourists with a 3% sales tax. At least this would put a substantial dent in the budget deficit, but again this is only from tourists sales tax income.

Necessities such as food, except immediate consumables, medical supplies and medication and like times should be exempt, and maybe issue tax exempt cards for those at or below the poverty line as not to create an undo burden on the poorest of our community.

I am not confident that all options have been scrutinized as to how to make up the deficit that we have. I am sure not in favor of handing over an income tax to the State government.

Larisa Corbett

Greetings House Finance Committee!

Just SAY NO TO AN INCOME TAX! We have already lost several thousand of the beset paying jobs in Alaska from the oil fields. Many of the "slope" workers are of retirement age. Many will also choose to leave the state if an income tax is implemented - which means an income tax won't generate the revenue you think it will. And if these high earners move out of state they won't be spending \$\$ in Alaska anymore.

I am also opposed to an income tax because the rest of us are having to get our own house in order and live within our new means. Many Alaskans are eating out less, taking shorter vacations and taking more "stay cations" as part of their new reality. The state must do the same! Tap the permanent fund for one year to bridge the gap while making a real plan to shave the budget to our new reality of \$40/bbl oil. Implementing an income tax is short sighted and doesn't address the issue at hand - we are spending too much!

Its time to cut programs entirely. Stop spending \$\$ just so we can get matching federal funds. How did we survive before the days of \$100+ oil? What services do we offer now that we didn't 15 years ago? It may have been nice for a while - but its time to face the music. How did people survive before the PFD? What federal mandates have we accepted that is time to say no thanks to??

Its a cop out to implement an income tax. Its like a drug - a new stream of income - that only prolongs the misery and makes the final detox harder! Alaska needs to cut,cut,cut - like all Alaskans are doing - and live within our means without placing a burden on Alaskan in the form of an income tax

Rita Heidkamp

Fairbanks,AK 99712

Hello, House Committee

NO you cannot rob from the PFD account. NO you cannot take money funds of any and all forms from the PFD. It belongs to the people of Alaska.

NO we DO NOT WANT OR NEED a State Income Tax.

You, as legislatures, elected by the people, to keep the budget balanced are personally responsible for balancing the budget and for keeping it balanced. Every private citizen has to keep a balanced budget to prevent overspending their finances. If a person neglects a balanced budget they overspend and if there is no money a person cannot spend something that is nonexistent. And private citizens are penalized for such actions. SOOOOOO therefore each of you including the Governor should be held responsible and since you have neglected your duties you alone should be commanded to repay from your personal coffers to the State coffers not the people of Alaska you as legislatures. You neglected your duties you alone have not kept us in the black. You should be punished not us.

You should be stripped of all privileges that you voted in to rob the State of Alaska. You should receive no more pay or be allowed to accept lobbyist bribes. With all the money gained from the lobbyist you do not need per diem, moving expenses or be allowed to have your family accompany you at our expense. You ran independently to represent each area then you do it voluntarily not expect payment for wanting to represent your constituents. It should be a free honor not a paid one. You hire chefs at \$139,000 to feed your overpaid and over pampered lazy bodies. The free ride should end here and now. That would add a lot of extra money back into the State coffers.

You should all be FIRED including the Governor and the State capital should be moved to an area where all people should be able to visit and participate in the business at hand. We the people have voted for the move over 3 times or more and you refuse to accept our vote. Well we refuse to pay you any longer. We want to immediately FIRE all of you for negligence .

The people have spoken. Having the State capital in its present location robs the people of a proper voice so you as legislatures can carry on deceiving us 24-7. UNACCEPTABLE!

We demand to be allowed to vote on the PFD and Income Tax not you just deciding to muck up our lives for your faults.

End your session go back to your homes and we will decide what is to happen.

Broderick
Ancho Point.

PS

Alaskan families cannot afford smaller paychecks so we ask you to vote "No" on a new state income tax. Please do not take more of our paychecks to fund reckless, wasteful spending.

According to estimates from Rep. Seaton's office, the proposed income tax increases the tax burden on Alaskan families by almost \$655 million.

Please vote "No" and stand against those who want to dig into our pockets and take more of our hard-earned money. Protect Alaskans and ask your fellow legislators to reduce spending.

Thank you for your time.

To whom it may concern,

I do not support HB 115 and it's creation of an income tax for hard working Alaskan families. It is my opinion that the State government needs to continue to cut their operating budget to a sustainable level, which I do not believe has happened yet by a large margin. The thought of paying a tax to the State on the income that I earn while the State continues to distribute PFD checks does not sit well with me at all. I understand that low oil prices have caused the State to be in a financial crisis but I believe that steps to address this issue need to be prioritized.

1. Cut the State operating budget more (entitlement programs, State employee numbers and benefit packages, and unrealistic unnecessary mega-projects such as AK LNG).
2. Cut PFD checks to nothing to pay for State government in the short term. Do this until there is no more money left in the Permanent Fund.
3. State sales tax so that EVERYONE pays to fund State government, not just Alaskans who work for a living.

NO STATE INCOME TAX!!!

Greg Hough
Life long Alaskan

I am against this bill. You haven't looked for places to cut. Why don't you take a pay cut and stop trying to run the people out of Alaska. The state needs to cut the budget instead of trying to find more revenue. I am very disappointed in the men and women in Juneau spending more and more money.

Ginger Self

a progressive income tax is badly needed, tax the better off, when you raid the pfd, you take disproportionately from the poor, we also need to tax the non resident who takes and never gives back, the days of take and run s/b over - the tax should also include the old school tax, not at 10 bucks but maybe 50 or so per year for all workers over 21 - this new personal income tax should not burden the poor, but have us making a comfortable living give a little to the state - it should piggyback the federal 1040 - do not invent the wheel - look back to the old state personal tax returns, kiss theory is best - tx

Ron Goodrich - 65 yr resident of the great state of Alaska, grad U of A Fairbanks 1973

Why are you even talking about taxing Alaska citizens while you also are "paying" them federally taxed income in the form of PFD checks? Isn't anyone considering the huge windfall of State money going directly to the federal government in the form of income taxes on the PFD payments?

Why don't you use the PFD earnings to pay for the state government first BEFORE even considering an income tax? Do you really consider the House plan "leadership?" You are simply too concerned about your own political ambitions to provide any leadership. Giving 15-38% of the PFD payments to the federal government and then implementing a state income tax makes absolutely no sense!

Thomas A. Hanley

Haines, AK 99827

House Finance Committee,

I think that an income tax is unfair to those of us that work hard to build Alaska. A sales tax would hit everyone. The sales tax could exempt medicine and food that way low income households wouldn't be hit at all. Anything outside of food and medicine is a luxury such as cars, cable tv, and cell phones despite what people expect.

If an income tax is used how about targeting people that don't live in Alaska.

I still think there is room to cut in the budget.

Here are places that you can still cut the state budget.

<http://alaskapolicyforum.org/2017/03/5798/>

<http://alaskapolicyforum.org/2017/03/heres-where-to-reduce-the-governors-budget/>

Another thing is double checking large departments that spend most of their money in the last quarter of the budget. That meant they really didn't need that much money but was spending it to make sure their budget isn't sized appropriately.

Regards,

Steve Kaleta, PE, MEngr

Life Long Alaskan

They want my opinion? Ok, no way to an unfair income tax. Income tax punishes those who worked hard, maybe several jobs, and bettering their lot in life. The only tax I even remotely would consider is a sales tax. Everybody pays. If you don't want to pay you buy less. Easy. Don't give me the notion it unfairly hurts "poor" people. If you don't want to be poor, do something about it. No I don't support an income tax. Thanks for asking, not that I think any of them really care.

Anna

Sent from my iPhone

I oppose the suggested income tax! My husband is in a commission only field that will destroy our livelihood if implemented.

Take away the PFD before this! Why aren't further cuts being made to account for the budget shortfall? Aren't residents of Alaska being punished enough?

My understanding of the PFD was to share profitable years within the oil industry which now is a thing of the past- no other state has it, and why are we as residents so adamant on keeping it? It's a luxury and should be used when necessary times are called for. The income tax would far out weigh any PFD my family would collectively earn.

If any income tax is issued it should be a flat % rate. Why are we punished as higher earners? I can tell you my husbands 13 hour days are indicative of that and yet we're the ones carrying the burden.

I've worked too hard as my husband to be punished and expected to pay for my governments short falls. Fix it or we're out of this state, and taking our family with us!

Mallory Landes

Sent from my iPhone

WILLIAM M. TOPEL
[REDACTED]
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504
[REDACTED]

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE
March 29, 2017

Re: "An Act relating to the permanent fund dividend; relating to the appropriation of certain amounts of the earnings reserve account; relating to the taxation of income of individuals; relating to a payment against the individual income tax from the permanent fund dividend disbursement; repealing tax credits applied against the tax on individuals under the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; and providing for an effective date."

To: Representative Neal Foster (Co-Chair), Representative Paul Seaton (Co-Chair), Representative Les Gara (Vice Chair), Members Representative Jason Grenn, Representative David Guttenberg, Representative Scott Kawasaki, Representative Dan Ortiz, Representative Lance Pruitt, Representative Steve Thompson, Representative Tammie Wilson, Representative Cathy Tilton, Representative Mark Neuman (Alternate), Representative Louise Stutes (Alternate). (Email: house.finance@akleg.gov or housefinance@akleg.gov).

My name is William Topel from Anchorage. I first came to Alaska in 1966. I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2016. I am a home property owner, one year away from being a senior citizen, and am living on nearly a fixed small income which includes limited Social Security. Just as I testified on February 17 about the earlier version of this bill, to which you can refer, I still stand firmly AGAINST HB 115 and urge a NO vote on this bill.

First, I could not call in today to testify since I am ill. Also, your two-minute allotment for call-in testimonies is too short for a bill this complex with it's many topics.

As an Alaskan since 1970, I oppose this bill and how it was processed.
Do NOT Pass.

Ray Norman

I am writing to express my opposition to a state income tax. Reduce the current budget and clean up the excess (All and I mean All of the welfare programs) . My personal opinion is delete the damn permanent fund, I have never been in favor of it anyway. The Denali kid care program is another waste of funds.

Linda Byers

We are writing to express our complete opposition to a state wide income tax. We are a two- parent, middle-class family struggling to maintain our modest standard of living despite diminishing paychecks. We are both union workers (Anchorage Education Association and IBEW 1547) and out of each check, pay monthly and yearly union dues, health care premiums, mandatory retirement contributions, as well as a very high rate of federal income taxes (we do not have enough itemized deductions and fall into a 15% tax bracket, minimum).

Neither of us received a pay raise for the last several years, although we're in our 24th and 20th year of our professions, respectively. I have been "maxed out" at the top of the teacher pay scale for years and this year, with the rise in insurance premiums, actually take home \$250 per month LESS than last year, despite increase in experience and education. Projections for next year are \$400.00 per month less than my current wage due to changes to our health care. My husband pays union dues to the IBEW although he has been out of work for over a year, with few prospects in sight.

As a working family we sacrificed and set aside funds to cover rainy days, yet every single one of our utilities, property taxes, and registration fees went up this year- while our incomes went down. To add another tax and drain on an already shrinking paycheck will create another burden on our family; and many working families like ours. When we struggle to make ends meet it has a direct influence on our local economy- we shop less, eat out less, tip less, put off services, and do not donate to charitable causes; impacting those entities.

We would, however, support a sales tax- as the tax would be split equitably amongst all in our state- not specifically working people. We also feel the cap on the PFD is reasonable and support the continuation. We vote in every election and keep track of how our representatives vote.

Please do not create an income tax,

Amy and Rocky DeWall

My name is Robin Barry.
Soldotna, AK.

I am against the bill. Alaska ranks 46th out of 50 for cost of living, and it doesn't have the conveniences of lower 48 states. Cut services and programs to balance the budget. No one is going to want to be taxed to live in Alaska, when it is cheaper and easier to live in the lower 48. This is especially true in this economy. You will only drive away those that have the ability to make money. Stop this nonsense. Cut the budget to match the income. Do it now.

Good evening.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify with regards to HB115. I want to preface my comments by stating that in comparison to SB26, HB115 would be of greater financial benefit to me because people with higher levels of income would pay significantly more for the government that Alaskans collectively desire and would also provide the monies for me to continue to receive a dividend. As such if it was only a matter of money I suppose I should be writing in support of HB115. I am not!

My belief is that a state tax (income tax or sales tax) should never be implemented in this state unless the day comes where a combination of a fair tax on our renewable and nonrenewable natural resources and the earnings from the Permanent Fund is unable to pay for the government that Alaskans collectively demand. Otherwise, you create the situation where those that do not pay an income tax (better than 50 percent of Alaskans) vote for the best government that they desire, all at the expense of the productive income earning members of our state. Taking earned income away from less than 50 percent of the population to distribute it as a PFD is not what I would consider to be fair or appropriate.

As such I am writing in firm opposition to HB115. While I am totally supportive of utilizing the earnings from the Permanent Fund for its intended purpose (covering the expense of government), I am not at all in support of the proposed income tax, or of the overly generous payment of dividends going forward. Use of the Permanent Fund earnings for government expenditures is in keeping with the purpose the Permanent Fund was formed. Providing PFD checks is not, and in my opinion should have never happened, or at a minimum should have been stopped or curtailed decades ago. Further, I do not believe that the legislature should be entertaining the distribution of unearned money to its citizens when that money is needed for providing government services. We should not be concerned about distributing a PFD unless the State in the future has surplus monies that are unnecessary. The Permanent Fund is not the nest egg of the people individually, it is the nest egg of the State collectively.

I have a difficult time accepting that because people have become accustomed to receiving the PFD check each year for the last several decades that the PFD check should now be considered a right, and that less than half of the State's citizens, the productive workers, should have their earned income taxed so that the rest of Alaskans can continue to receive a PFD check. The Permanent Fund was not created to allow for less advantaged people to attain a higher standard of living, and it was not created so that I can buy a large screen television. It is clear to me that the Permanent Fund had and still has an intended purpose for the earnings from the fund, and I believe it is totally unfair to require wage earners to pay an income tax on their wages while there is any amount of Permanent Fund earnings distributed in the form of a PFD check.

I would suggest it is far past time to wean Alaskans off from direct payments from the Permanent Fund in the form of PFD checks. And to start utilizing the Permanent Fund earnings for covering the cost of government as needed due to shortfalls from the sale of our natural resources, and for further building the Permanent Fund when the monies are not needed due to monies generated from our natural resources. Most people will support the expenditure of money that is coming out of someone else's pocket. That is human nature for many. A lot of people apparently are happy to have the wealth of those who have done well to be redistributed to those who have failed to do as well. I am not. I am totally in favor of eliminating the PFD checks, perhaps through a series of step down payments over the next few years.

I am in support of SB26, but would prefer to have the dividend based on what extra money, if any, is available after paying for the government services that Alaskans collectively deem worthy. If the wealthy are left on the

hook for paying for the government that everyone wants, what is to stop those who are not contributing from demanding an ever increasing size of government?

The drop in oil prices and the passage of SB21 have in effect forced the State of Alaska into early retirement. The writing was on the wall a few years ago to those who were paying attention, but the wasteful spending of monies by our legislature continued anyway. The State is now further trapped in a position where like the grandfather forced into retirement we can no longer cut feel good checks (PFD checks) to our grandkids while at the same time providing all of the other services they demand. Perhaps it is fair for us to have some of our better off grandkids to give up some of their earned income so that we can redistribute the money to those who have not done as well. I suggest that this is totally inappropriate and unfair, as would be the implementation of an income tax at this time.

One man's opinion. Possibly wrong.

Don Fritz

To whom it may concern,

I am truly amazed that the majority of you have voted to steal our dividends and now an income tax?! You all need to be fired! You are not doing your jobs correctly. I can not believed some of you even were voted back into office. The Governor and the rest of you with this thought process are the worst group of politicians our state has ever had! No to stealing our dividend and no to to an income tax.

There are plenty of other options other than stealing from the people!

Jim Hatley

Sent from my iPhone

I am adamantly opposed to a state income tax and a cap or reduction on the dividends.
Perhaps you could increase production of oil? Then, there will be a lot more revenue for the state to use or tax. You won't have to go against the state constitution (stealing the dividend) if there is more money coming in.

Kari Thomas

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Alaska House Representative,

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.

Lauren Moss

I don't know how many ways the citizens of Alaska have to say "NO INCOME TAXES".

Paul Seaton and Neal Foster seem to have turned a deaf ear. Until the government **gets serious** about reducing the **unnecessary waste and bloat** within the government and **does something** (not talk) about it, taxes must be off of the table. Yes it is going to take a lot of work but that is what is needed. The cost of running government is way too high for the population base we have.

Larry Gibson

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

House Finance State of Alaska

Do not vote for this until there are more spending cuts. My Family is against any TAXES or Cuts in the PFD until State Government is down to mission critical state services.

You folks have spent enough of our money on projects that will never be built or were built and then didn't work out. What do you think you are a corporation or a state government. Let the private sector build and bring money into the state. State Gov. doesn't need to hand out money like it was their money for crony capitalism. When the PFD is gone and as soon as you folks get your hands on it will be, look how great you've done with the money you've spent over the last 20 years and you expect us to believe you'll do any better in the coming years.

CUT SPENDING

<https://www.missioncriticalalaska.com/>

Owned my own business's for 30 years and I can read a spread sheet can you?

John

Homer Alaska

No taxes on pfd

Gerrit Southland
Wrangell

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I do recognize the fiscal problem our State faces, but I strongly object to an income tax. If we can't seem to cut the expenses and services of government, which are the highest per capita in the nation, than we should use the permanent fund earnings to cover as much of the shortfall as possible. Only then should we tax some citizens while giving cash to others. If you want to see productive people leave Alaska, an income tax is a good way to do it.

Sincerely,

Jim Faiks

Big Lake, AK

To the members of the house finance committee,

On March 14th, the Democrats and their three musk rat Republicans, your own co-chair Rep. Paul Seaton, Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, Rep. Louise Stutes

rejected four critical amendments to cut your spending:

- \$250,000 – Amendment 1 to cut a new program that Governor Walker had the audacity to offer, in light of our fiscal crisis, that would have encouraged school districts to work together to promote "innovative thinking" whatever that means. Your cutesy little catch phrase means nothing when your educational system is producing students who have to take remedial classes at UAA before actually taking college classes, and students who cannot get into real colleges in the lower 48. Republicans said this program is something that our schools should be doing already. I agree. Our schools are some of the worst in the nation. I have taught in many of them in Anchorage as a substitute teacher. I saw such outrageous waste in the seven years I taught in ASD that I was tempted to write about it because I am a journalist by profession. I met teachers who couldn't speak English properly — using the wrong tense of the verb, making up personal pronouns that don't exist, misspelling words like "forty." (She wrote "fourty.") The teachers in the district range from the abysmal to the exceptional and the waste is ridiculous. You cannot and should not fix the schools by throwing more money at them.
- \$200,000 – Amendment 2 to cut the equivalent of 1.25 positions from the Alaska Marine Highway System. Democrats Sam Kito and Neal Foster said that would imperil the system. Not true and they produced no evidence to support that argument.
- \$400,000 – Amendment 15 – The Governor's House contingency fund, which has \$550,000 budgeted for broken glass, frozen pipes, or some other repairs that might need to be made to the Governor's Mansion. Republicans wanted to leave \$150,000 in that fund. Democrats refused to cut one cent from that fund. Are you expecting stone-throwers at the Governor's Mansion and this is his insurance policy for it?
- My personal favorite is this one (and that was sarcasm, if you missed it): the \$137,000 you refused to cut for your own personal cooks. Republicans wanted to let go of these positions in the legislative lounge. You spend-crazy, democrat ideologues refused. So, to pay for this bloated government in times when jobs are leaving Alaska by the tens of thousands, you want to take half of our PFD and tax us so that you can eat.

Have you read the history of the French Revolution anywhere in your lives? You should take heed of what the French did when Marie Antoinette — while she and King Louis XVI were living in luxury — said to the starving people of France: "Let them eat cake." If you don't know what that means for the time period, "cake" was "bread." Rather than eating meat like the monarchy was, Marie Antoinette condescendingly said to the starving French, "Let them eat bread."

Those are my parting words to you: Let the legislature eat cake. You should have fired your chef, while the Alaskans are having a hard time making ends meet and putting food on their tables. How incredibly insensitive, self-centered and arrogant of you all to not consider the economic plight of Alaskans and what it means for our future and the future of the state. But, hey, you'll all be eating. Don't get too comfortable. If you pass this sales tax and/or you touch our PFD, two things will happen: the people will rise up in anger and you will lose the seats that you occupy in the legislature to REPRESENT US and then, there will be a mass exodus from Alaska and you will be left pay the taxes that YOU VOTED FOR and YOU WILL BE PAYING for the ballooned government YOU CREATED — all by yourselves. Only the democrats will remain. Sensible, sound, fiscally conservative and moral people will leave the state in droves. It's already happening.

You've created a hostile business environment for resource development and now you are trying to push through your big government spending along with a new tax all while stealing our PFDs to support your big government spending. The PFD was never meant to support your big spending. I would tell you to research its

history but I don't think you care. If you ran your household budgets the way you're running our state budget, you would all be divorced. You will be soon divorced from the Alaskan people. Remember, we are the people who elected President Donald Trump. Remember that while you are eating your cake. We're preparing people to replace you.

Sincerely,

Michele White

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.

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.

Mike Morawitz
Homer, Alaska, 99603

To the House Finance Committee,

Passing a state income tax may seem like a sensible idea, I realize that the state is in a financial crunch, but I can't condone the idea of a state income tax as well as a restructuring of the PFD as a solution to the state's budget. We don't have an income problem, we have a spending problem. To expect to make up the shortfall of three decades of oil fueled petrodollar spending on anything and everything a state government could ever want through taxes is simply absurd.

I'd suggest before the state reaches into my pocket, they should cut spending to a level that's appropriate to the level of revenue generation. Our expenditures are the highest per capita of any state in the nation...and you have the smallest taxpayer base. That simply doesn't work.

Mike Rogers

To the House Finance Committee,

Passing a state income tax may seem like a sensible idea, I realize that the state is in a financial crunch, but I can't condone the idea of a state income tax as well as a restructuring of the PFD as a solution to the state's budget. We don't have an income problem, we have a spending problem. To expect to make up the shortfall of three decades of oil fueled petrodollar spending on anything and everything a state government could ever want through taxes is simply absurd.

I'd suggest before the state reaches into my pocket, they should cut spending to a level that's appropriate to the level of revenue generation. Our expenditures are the highest per capita of any state in the nation...and you have the smallest taxpayer base. That simply doesn't work.

Mike Rogers

To the members of the House Finance committee:

Passing a state income tax may seem like a sensible idea, I realize that the state is in a financial crunch, but I can't condone the idea of a state income tax as well as a restructuring of the PFD as a solution to the state's budget. We don't have an income problem, we have a spending problem. To expect to make up the shortfall of three decades of oil fueled petrodollar spending on anything and everything a state government could ever want through taxes is simply absurd.

I'd suggest before the state reaches into my pocket, they should cut spending to a level that's appropriate to the level of revenue generation. Our expenditures are the highest per capita of any state in the nation...and you have the smallest taxpayer base. That simply doesn't work.

To be clear, I am not in favor of a State Income Tax of any kind. If there is to be a statewide tax, a SALES tax would be fairer to all residents of the great state.

Christy Rogers
Delta Junction, Alaska

Before you even consider any tax, please shrink the budget to a sustainable size. Too many state employees, too much administration at all levels (see ASD as a prime example). Cut travel to conferences etc. in the age of telecommuting. Focus on the state's duties as set out in the Constitution and get rid of programs that should have never been funded by the state but rather by nonprofits/volunteer organizations/local authorities. Until then, NO NEW TAXES.

Sincerely,

Petra Nickerson

Dear legislators,

I'm writing to you asking not to pass 115 that would institute a state income tax. Many of my clients rely on tax free municipal bonds that help communities across the nation for tax free income. In a world where pensions and guaranteed income are disappearing it would significantly limit the savings ability of those who have exhausted other tax deferred methods of saving through 401k plans. A client today came to me concerned because he can't put anymore into a 401k and doesn't know how he can save anymore other than purchasing real estate investments which like stocks and bonds are affected by housing market health and economic health. If anything income tax the millions of dollars that are made in alaska by out of state residents who work in the oil industry or fishing industry as they contribute money to their respective state that is made in ours. I wanted to write my public opinion that I'm tired of out of state workers taking our money outside and contributing nothing to our economy.

Appreciated,

Sam Olson

The level of spending relative to revenues in this state are unsustainable, and adding more taxes to existing revenue sources will only KILL those sources:

- businesses will look for other places to invest where they don't have to pay such a high tax for the risk they take to do business here
- just look at where oil investment has gone since the \$ grabs since '06: big companies protect their losses, medium ones cut deals, small ones go bankrupt
- same thing will happen to healthcare providers and any other business that can find the same opportunities elsewhere

When the state looks for new revenue, tax is NOT true revenue...that's like trying to raise your prices when you sell the same commodity as everyone else, your customers will just leave & you'll be left holding the bag!

New revenue only comes from investment in & export of our state's resources:

- over 1Billion barrels of oil have been left in the ground just from the tax changes from '06 to 2015 (check those years RSB's or see attached plot)
- tremendous mineral resources, but what has the state done to make it attractive (stop listening to environmental lobbyists!)
- commercial & sport-fishing...are we really getting the most out of these? If a resource is OVER-extracted, taxes/costs may be to low!
- Alaska has more coast-line than all of the US combined, but how easy is it for a millionaire to buy oceanfront property here?

Increasing our Gross State Product over time (at a CONSTANT oil price where its been the last 2 years & likely to be the next 5) is the only way out of this mess...until then, any state spending that does not facilitate that should be on the chopping block.

I'm a 24-year Alaska resident. lost my oil & gas industry job last year & have very little income to be taxed in current situation. I'm not looking to take that \$ from someone else so I can be subsidized by a dividend or even a cushy state job.

Jim

Anchorage AK

I would like to comment that you are out of line with the proposals in HB115. You have already taxed each and every Alaskan over \$1,000 by taking half of the dividend, that is \$6,000 for my family alone. Add that your proposed amounts for my income and my State of Alaska tax bill will be well over what I pay to the Feds.

The budget is still too bloated! It's time to cut the pet projects and causes. If your goal is to drive business and people out of this state then go ahead and pass this ridiculous tax scheme.

How about a sales tax? No red tape and everyone pays their share.

Thank you,

Dan Owens
Palmer

Please do not institute an income tax in Alaska. I would have to leave the state if there were an income tax. My family has lived in Anchorage for 11 years and I work at a local Hospital. For the past eleven years we have lived paycheck to paycheck and have come up about \$500 dollars short most years. That means that every year it costs my family about \$500 dollars more to live in Alaska than what I earn, and that extra amount goes to credit cards. We do not live an extravagant lifestyle. We do not own a boat, or a cabin, or an airplane or even a 4 wheeler - no toys. I drive an old used vehicle and it is nothing fancy. My property taxes are high and they go up every year. Tuition at UAA goes up for my two children every year. I can not afford to pay out more in taxes. There is absolutely no amount of money that will ever be enough for the state. If the state can spend all of the oil money so easily and have nothing left, imagine how quickly the government will blow through the income tax money. On top of that, there will be a constant request to raise the cap so that the state can get just a little more. The state always needs just a little more. It always will need just a little more. There is a problem with an income tax for Alaskans. That problem is that a large percentage of people in Alaska do not work for a living and will not pay income taxes, but they will use public services. An income tax would be yet another example of people in Anchorage and the Valley and Fairbanks subsidizing the lifestyles of everyone else in the state. You want fair? Use the PFD. Use all of the PFD. That would be bad, but at least that way everybody would contribute - not just some people. Why bother capping it at around \$1200 dollars when some years the actual uncapped PFD only comes out to around \$800 anyway? The answer is you don't want to limit the PFD because you don't want to lose votes. However, if you implement an income tax, you will lose population - but maybe you will be happy running a government in charge of welfare recipients which is pretty much who will be left for you to rule over if you implement an income tax. The high schools in Anchorage look like museums, and I am surprised the stairs are not gold plated - have you been to South High recently? The Teachers have far better retirement than I do while at the same time Alaskan students perform poorly compared to the rest of the nation. Obviously more money is not the answer to fix education - you might have to cut some education funding, but the state needs to quit spending so much money. Why can't you understand that? Quit spending!!! If you implement an income tax, you will be forcing me to reduce spending on my family. I will have no choice because you can send police to my house to arrest me if I refuse to pay an income tax. But I can not send police to arrest you when you refuse to cut spending, so I just need to plead with you. Please do not implement an income tax. If you do, I will have fond memories of having lived here, but I will have to move,

Sincerely,

Edward Bako

I oppose HB115.

Thank you.

Danielle Mayo

To the legislators of the State of Alaska.

It is shameful that our legislators continue to look out for the over reaching government instead of the people they should be representing. Do not institute an income tax or take PFD money that belongs to the people of our State. Working and living in the State of Alaska has continued to be more difficult due to growing costs to the point one must consider if leaving the State is the best option. Money taken from the PFD and taken in through an income tax will solve nothing. It will just allow the government to continue to expand without being accountable to an appropriate budget.

S. Shover
Homer, AK

I oppose House Bill 115.

Brad Randall
Healy, AK

To Whom It May Concern:
I oppose house bill 115

Teresa Clark

I oppose house bill 115, I do not support a state income tax Thanks Mike Talerico

I oppose House Bill 115

Terra Talerico

I oppose house bill 115.
Andrew Talerico

I oppose House Bill 115

Courtney Talerico

I oppose house bill 115
Kevin Mayo

I oppose House Bill 115
Leslie Smith

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

Cindy W
Palmer 99645

To the esteemed members of the House,

I have one simple question to ask of all of you. How does Idaho manage to service almost TWICE as many residents with a budget of just 3.3 billion dollars? I will give you that we have a much larger landmass (though I would hazard our infrastructure is no larger than theirs), so let us say you deserve another 25% for that. I still do not see how the budget should be over 4.5 billion.

The saying goes "War is the health of the State". In this case I think a budget crisis is the health of the State. The legislature was happy to stand up and accept accolades when they were spending like drunken sailors. Now I think it is time to swallow the bitter pill and say; "I am sorry, this is unsustainable and we cannot afford everything we promised".

I cannot lose 50% of my income and continue to spend 90% of what I used to make. This is how the real world functions. Government is always rapacious and will grow without limit. That is what you are there for, to make hard decisions. If you need help pull a copy of the 2008 budget of the shelf and blow the dust off it.

"...I have sworn upon the altar of god eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." - Jefferson to Dr. Benjamin Rush, September 23, 1800

The people are watching to see what kind of fortitude and courage you actually have.

Respectfully,

Josh Blake
Wasilla, AK

My testimony is No!

Michael Davis

Dear State of Alaska Congress,
I vote nay on HB 115. Here's an example of why:

BLI Pupil Transportation, i.e., school buses and other transportation are costing Alaska 72 million dollars ANNUALLY. That's almost as much as the budget for the entire Court system, which is about \$100 million per year. School buses shouldn't cost that much to buy or operate.

A "get your kid to school" incentive reimbursements program and privatization of school bus manufacturing and supply might help achieve this goal. Also, the use of Alaska-supplied bio-diesel could boost economy and cut fuel costs for buses across the state. There is at least one potential bio-diesel producer trying to get a business going currently. Help them succeed.

Please do not vote to impose a State tax or subtract from the PFD! Cut the budget! Do not affect the PFD or impose an income tax on people already paying more than twice the national average simply to live here because we love living here.

I'm starting a small women-owned business currently in our State. I'm the future of your stable diversified economy. I'm about to go public and get a news story about my startup published because the SBA backed the loan and I'm a poster child for your new economic goals. Don't make it harder for me.

Thank you for your public service.

Submitted respectfully,
Katie Rooks

To my elected employees,

As your employer, I am very disappointed in your actions in your dealings with the great state of Alaska's budget. Whenever you are in a fiscal challenge you need to make tough decisions and make cuts. Not everyone will be happy with these cuts but they need to be made. So we need to take another look and start make the hard decisions and cut. All non-essential programs should be cut. If we don't need it, get rid of it (if this was a household budget cut the cable TV, Internet, Cell Phones Etc.) and don't threaten essential programs such as public safety, EMS, Roads, or schools. We need these services, but we can trim the fat in those programs as well.

A state income tax is going to devastate this great state and its people.

1. It's going to hurt the families of this state by giving the hard working people less money to spend.
2. It's going to hurt local businesses because people are not going to have the extra money to spend at their shops and cause more people to lose their jobs.
3. The tax is aimed at hurting the residents of Alaska the most. Everyone lost half of their PFD last year and now if passed going to pay a state tax.

So a family like mine lost \$6000.00 last year then you throw a tax of \$1985.00 + 4% of everything over \$100,000. So I have to pay roughly \$8000.00 to the state and another \$3200.00 to the MSB. It cost me roughly \$11,200 to live in this great state.

Quite honestly, my family, as well as many others in our community will move out of this state if this happens. Once that happens you will have even less money and more businesses will have to close. Equaling less money to the state.

HUGE LOSS FOR EVERYONE!

BE SMART, MAKE CUTS, LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OR BE FIRED IN THE FALL!

Signed,
Your Hard Working Employer and Life Long Alaskan

Monte W Milwicz

I can not tell you enough how much I am against an income tax. To me it seems like double dipping. First our PFD is capped, we get some, you spend the rest. Then we will be taxed on the capped amount for the state to spend some more. The state is already hemorrhaging quality workers, and more will leave with this disastrous tax plan. Like I've said before, when budgeting, there are wants and needs. It sure seems like a lot of wants are coming before the needs.

C. Derrick

I oppose HOUSE BILL 115!

Daryl and Tara Frisbie

To Whom it May Concern:

While I'd love come to your offices next Wednesday to share my thoughts, like most middle-class people, I'll be at work earning money I'd rather you leave to me to decide what to spend on. Your proposed income tax is going to hit the middle-class the hardest. The poor won't pay it and the rich won't feel the sting like those of us working our butts off to make ends meet and try to live a somewhat comfortable life. We aren't rich. We aren't poor. We make enough to splurge on Starbucks and save up for a trip to Disney every few years. Sometimes, though, we live check to check, depending on what life throws our way. We are a college-educated two-income family and your bill is going to cost us more than we can afford each month.

We are a military family and this is our last assignment. We bought a home (that we pay \$5k in property taxes for) and plan to stay here after my husband retires from the Air Force. We love Alaska and want to stay, despite its high cost of living. Throw in income tax at the rate Bill 115 is shooting for and, there's no way we can justify staying. We will leave as soon as our son graduates high school in 2019 if Bill 115 becomes law.

I'm sure we won't be the only ones. Several good friends of mine who have retired from the military here have said the same thing. Why stay in a state that wants you to pay to live here when it's already so expensive? No thanks.

Katrina Peace

This was also sent to many representatives today...

I am reaching out as a concerned citizen about Alaska's current financial situation. I believe people are being misled on purpose to think that our only options are the ones that have gained momentum in the Senate and House. These options do not address a sustainable Alaskan Operating budget and the Governor's new budget plan does not cut current operating costs but rather seems to increase them. Our state, no matter how much revenue, can not achieve sustainability without first looking at and making necessary cuts to day to day spending. You can not treat this issue as a revenue issue! The state has a spending problem and with the additional revenue they intended to steal from the residents of the state they will just increase their spending problem and come back in 3 years to steal more, to tax more, to take more from the hard working citizens of this state.

As a representative of the people of Alaska you must put the needs and wants of the people first. You must do what is in the best interest of the people. Throwing more money in a gaping hole will not serve the needs and interests of the people you represent. You must hold the Governor and other state officials accountable for their spending, you must question their motives.

I would like to see a line by line detail of what has been cut from the operating budget to reduce state spending. As a representative you should already have seen those numbers. How will increasing revenues ever solve a spending issue if we do not cut spending? I am not talking about superficial cuts where money simply gets shifted from the general fund to another category, I am looking for real hard cuts to the budget. I am not talking about postponing a capital project that hasn't been started yet, that doesn't cut money from our budget that just eliminates a purchase we were hoping to make.

Renegotiating contracts and debt for lower interest rates does not cut state spending, and it's disappointing that we are not already getting the best rates possible on these contracts and debt, we should always be looking to make sure we are getting the best deal even when we have more than enough money to pay for it. It is irresponsible not to do your homework and get the best deal for your citizens.

PFD money should not be touched, the traditional and constitutionally defined method of distributing the earning wealth should be upheld. Any change to the structure of the PFD fund should be held to a vote of the people. We are not dumb, and claiming we won't be able to understand the options, or lack thereof, before us is a blatant lie. When someone starts speaking like that it is a desperate attempt to exclude the people's opinion because you know what you are doing is wrong.

Please listen to the people and do not accept that Alaska has a revenue problem. Push your peers and your Governor to do what is right for the people and the current budget and proposed solutions are not right. Please vote down these current bills and don't accept anything less than a solution that reduces the operating budget considerably and allows the people to vote on the future of their PFD.

Thank you,

Katie Henson

My name is Ed Baier. I've lived in Alaska since 1982. I'm married, have 3 kids and 4 grand children. We live in Senator Meyer's and House Rep Charisse Millett's District. HB 115 amounts to over \$10,000.00 loss in PFD's to my family - much of that would have gone back into the state economy. My wife and I are close to retirement and an income tax would further harm us along with a higher property tax and utility bills. The idea that the State government can not reduce it's size is harmful to its citizens more so than what would happen if you made the cuts the minority house suggests.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Ed and Mary Baier

Money out of the people's control and pockets is what causes recessions and depressions. Put the money in the people's pockets---Jobs, industry..... We have rich minerals in this state that are not being touched. We have coal. We have fish....unless they are in the future or are continued to be MIS MANAGED biologically. We have timber and can grow more. Stimulate the economy! Do not cause more foreclosures! There will be no people left to tax!!!! A sales tax is more fair to all if there needs to be one at all. And we do not need to GIVE OUR OIL AWAY. If the big corporations will not touch it unless it is gifted, then let it lie fallow! Assist mining operations to get them underway ecologically sound.

Kathy Wallace

I am appalled that no one in our legislature has the political will to do what is right – CONTINUE TO REDUCE SPENDING in meaningful ways instead of going after ANY of the PFD in any way or ANY kind of tax!

Stop lying to the public about how you have “cut to the bone”.

Please consider using the massive amounts of money held in various “pots” to reduce the budget gap.

As an example, there is around a BILLION dollars in the Power Cost Equalization Fund alone. There is NO REASON to hold that HUGE amount of money.

NORMAL working class Alaskans call that a SLUSH FUND and there are many more of these, I am sure.

Your excessive per diem and private restaurant, NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL, and more need end as well.

Stop funding unfilled positions.

DEFUND THE GAS LINE PROJECT – WALKER’S PIPE DREAM IS SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF ALASKA.

Try living like the rest of us do and stop treating OUR money like it is your personal checkbook.

ALL of the money in the State’s accounts belongs to the people.

I love Alaska and had planned on staying here until death, but I am now making my exit plan.

That is how many people feel.

Mary Timmons

Palmer, Alaska

I have lived in the State since 1981. I am dismayed by the progressive, and non sustainable growth of our Government. I am appalled by the lack of foresight and inability of our Administration to see the Strong anti-job forces that have been killing our growth for 20 years. We need to get back to being true Alaskans, and return to our protective nature. We must protect our rights and liberties and our self determination. What is the best thing you can do for a child, give his/her Mom/Dad a good paying JOB. Not welfare.

1. We can not afford our giant State Government. Force the State Government back to the 2004 level. The parasite is killing the host.
2. A progressive income tax will further shrink the work force, and people will move out of State. This is a very poor way to manage the fiscal gap.
3. Cap the dividend at \$1000, or less instead. Have a state sales tax installed that has a sunset limit.
4. Stop spending money on a gas line. Build railroads to the large ore deposits,.We need to get back to being aggressive in our development of the God-given resources. Talk directly with the Alaska Miners Association about how and where we should throw our weight and get these projects going. Ignore the EPA; their agenda is anti-jobs, and thus anti-family. Do not be frightened by them, just move ahead, and stop being paralyzed. Get back to being Alaskans.
5. Kick BP out of the State, and find an oil firm that will manage the Prudhoe Bay field for maximum yield. BP has been mismanaging our resources since the early 90's.
6. Force the Feds to relinquish control of all the acreage that was promised and never given to the State.
7. JOBS. Back all the mines that are trying to get going. Support the Pebble Project 100%. That would create 2000 jobs right there. Again, run the EPA out of the State.
8. Do not reinstate the Pension fund system. No one can guarantee a 10% return. The private sector has taken 10 to 20% pay cuts, so the State workers' pay should be cut at least 10%. No more raises of any kind until we balance the budget. Did I tell you that the parasite is killing the host? Well, it is.

News flash: If the Obama administration had not shut down the Colville River Bridge permit for 5 years, we would have another 200,000 barrels of oil a day going down the pipeline right now. Our State is under constant attack from the Deep State-embedded bureaucrats that are anti family, anti kids, and anti JOBS. Be very wary of any group that purports to have the state's interests at heart, including Cook Inlet Keepers.

Any questions?

Respectfully, Robert K. Wall

Dear Sir,

I write to you as a young woman born and raised in the great state of Alaska. I have been a member of the work force here since I was 16 years old, and I am strictly apposed to an income tax. I work extremely hard, I pay higher than the national average for gasoline, electric, heating oil, groceries and housing. I own a home, I pay high airfare to go on vacation or to see family. In the past the PFD has helped to offset these high costs, however I didn't mind to much that the PFD was cut in half this last year. I however will not stand for more taxes being taken away from me, the average person to pay for the governments lack of budgeting. If I don't have money for something, I don't get it. As our government you need to figure out how to make your budget without taking more money from the people. I will be taking a good hard look at who has my best interests in mind when I vote in the next election.

Thank you for your time

Wina Wade

My name is Alissa L. Zank.

I am a resident of Alaska living in Willow with my husband a 100% service connected Veteran. I also work with homeless veterans as a social worker in the MatSu Valley.

Regarding HB 115. I am not in agreement with adding an income tax of any kind. The Alaska State government has gotten too big and too greedy. Before any taxes are implemented and way before the PFD fund and dividend programs are even looked at the Alaska State government needs to cut the size of government and cut spending.

When I have a budget crisis in my home the first thing I do is cut spending. I look at what we need first and then if we have anything left over we look at wants. I do NOT go to other people asking for their money to help pay my bills.

The state and federal governments need to operate the same way. The Alaska State government is in place to protect citizens rights and liberties NOT to provide everything to them free of charge. What we NEED is public safety, good safe roads and infrastructure, and a basic good public education. The rest are wants and can be cut.

I do not support an income tax of any kind. I absolutely do not support changing the PFD fund or dividend program at all to support government spending. This legislature needs to do what it promised the voters and be fiscally conservative. Cut spending!!! Cut government!!! Do not tax my income and do not touch my PFD dividend!!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alissa L. Zank

House finance committee members,

First, let me express my respect for this process and the difficult challenge all of you face.

To save time, I'll state it simply; I am against a state income tax.

In the event that the committee finds an income tax necessary, I would ask you to consider a generous exemption offset by property ownership/taxes. By doing so you will take some of the burden off of Alaskans who stay and invest in our economy, and place a higher burden on individuals and companies that only pull money out of our great state.

Respectfully,

Brian Duryea

I oppose house bill 115!

Rebecca Juhl

I oppose House Bill 115.
Joe Juhl

Dear members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

Please do not continue to pursue consideration of the measures in House Bill 115 that cut Permanent Fund dividends and introduce a heavy tax on Alaska's work force.

While I am not opposed to the idea of restructuring the Permanent Fund to a POMV system with a sustainable withdrawal percentage, it is wrong to take a portion of the people's money and devote it to government spending. The current plan as I understand it would direct 2/3 of the withdrawal to government and only 1/3 to dividend checks. The intent when the Permanent Fund was established was always supposed to be that half would go to the people and half to government. It is, after all, "our oil", and citizens of this state are deprived of direct royalty payments that citizens of many other states are entitled to receive.

I am especially against the idea of a highly progressive income tax that severely punishes hard-working Alaskans who make sacrifices and smart decisions in order to try to provide a better life for themselves and their families. The levels of taxation on income and capital gains proposed in HB115 are excessive, unfair, and will only further accelerate the recession in Alaska. In fact, according to ISER analysis at UAA, reduction of PFD checks and income taxes do the most direct harm to the Alaskan economy.

I encourage the legislature to look elsewhere to close the current budget gap. It was frivolous state spending of our oil tax earnings and an irresponsible increase in the size and scope of state government that lead to the current crisis. I firmly believe a full reevaluation of government spending is still in order and cuts still need to be made. The private economy does not exist to support the government one; rather, government only exists to serve the private economy. Please do not focus so much on trying to save that segment of the economy that relies on the government that you end up damaging the greater economy as a whole. Once all possible cuts to nonessential government services are made (which is definitely not yet the case with the House proposing to increase the budget from last year), you should be looking to a restructuring of oil exploration credits to close the remaining gap, not taking money out of individual Alaskan workers, homeowners, and small businessmen and women.

Regards,

Ethan Perry

I oppose house bill 115
Charles Stratton

I oppose House Bill 115
Thomas

I oppose House Bill 115
Olivia Juhl

I oppose house bill 115.
Lyle Stratton

Good Evening,

My comments here are as a citizen and resident of eagle river alaska, please do not misconstrue this email as my speaking from my publicly held position in anchorage.

I think it a travesty that instead of figuring out a way to focus on further cuts to the state that you would choose to penalize the citizenry of this state.

You know best of all the cost of living here. You also know how difficult it is to attract talent to this state. Yet, despite knowing this, you would purposefully impose an income tax and further disenfranchise those who often rely on the state off?

Might I suggest that you begin to do the jobs you were elected to do and focus on expenses instead of revenue.

Might I also suggest that you catch up to the times and realize that this State has a land mass too vast and a population too small to please everyone. Focus on where you can do the most good by the most people ie the urbanized area.

You no longer have the luxury of pleasing everyone everywhere so select where you get the most bang for your buck.

I get it, it means some of you in towns with populations less than 5,000 may not be back next voting season. But, the alternative to utilitarianism is what you are proposing and that alternative is sure to cause people like me, i.e. career professionals who located here for a lifestyle change to reconsider being here.

I love Alaska, I am not looking to compete with the experience of those who lived here their entire lives, but, in losing people like me you not only lose my income, you lose my expertise.

Do the right thing, stop turning off your voting base, and, cut the state budget.

Thanks,
Abul Hassan

I oppose 2017 Alaska house bill 115.
Paul Nyberg

Taxing residents for services that are provided by the state seems to small for our population, especially on our income. A state wide sales tax would be more efficient and effective in gathering resources in the state from its residents and millions of visitors. Do not tax what we make. Tax our spending.

Paul Douthit

I am writing as a lifelong Alaskan of 54 years to register opposition to House Bill 115. There are numerous reasons but the implementation of an Income tax while we give away dividends is one of the worst ideas I have heard.

Give money away so you can take it back? The cost of the bureaucracy alone would make this a foolish method of dealing with the States budget shortfall.

Alaska has deteriorated so much in my lifetime. In fact, it is now one of the WORST places to retire and this would firmly secure us in that spot. Thereby forcing this lifelong Alaskan to leave, likely along with most of my immediate family

<https://www.fool.com/retirement/2017/01/26/the-5-worst-states-for-retirement-in-2017.aspx>

Solution? Well if a tax is necessary than a Statewide sales tax is the only wise choice. We need to capture the tax revenue of tourism. Small sales taxes will not deter tourism and is the fairest tax possible.

Anyway not intended to be an email for how to do other things, just

NO TO HB115

Regards

Dale Hooser

i am a "high income" earner in west anchorage. my income is not dependent on the local Alaskan economy, yet i CHOOSE to live here. i have the ability to move, and will, should this income tax come to fruition. i also have a young family, a house, and property, all of which contribute to the local economy. this income tax idea is merely the nail in the coffin to the declining education, increasing crime, and the ever increase of the "anchorage screw job" that has become the bane of my family and our ability to call this place home. this income tax proposal is a shameful display of a redistribution of wealth that WILL NOT fix the declining social element of our neighborhoods and our state, not to mention the WASTE our local and state government has grown accustomed to.

I am not unsympathetic to the loss of revenue to our state. I am, however, appalled at the lack of leadership our local and state government has displayed. the inability to communicate, work together, legislate, or even share in the pain that each Alaskan must endure during this fiscal adjustment is an embarrassment and shameful.

at the very least, these pork projects, bridges to nowhere and other classic Alaskan wastes of money should be targeted. then, if you still need money to waste, then perhaps a sales tax that will garnish dollars from everyone, equally, INCLUDING TOURISTS!!. then, if you still need money to ship pianos and take per diem while on personal vacations, then use the PFD for its designed purpose (which is not a state welfare program). after that, who knows. but an unfair income tax is barking up the wrong tree.

i am not surprised such an idea came from such a group. do the right thing and wise up.

chad hansen

Please kill Bill HB 115 it attacks the middle class and we middle class are tired of paying for everybody including the thousands of pounds of personal items sent in and out of Juneau!!!

Many people I have talked to say a sales tax and budget cut is the only way to godo not raid the permanent fund like Democratic President Johnson did to Social Security ... Are u listening Musk Ox Coalition!!!!!!

As a third generation Alaskan I am ashamed of this Bill and HB 175 which leads me to believe we need to "clean house" next election unless u start listening to the voters!!!!

Thank u for your time!!!

Joann Utt
Palmer. AK. 99645

Date: March 29, 2017
Time: 7:40pm

Subject: Oppose HB115
by Pamela Goode

To all legislators,

I oppose HB115.

I oppose a needless income tax, which is in this bill.

I oppose a needless permanent and historical Raid on the PFD, which is in this bill.

I oppose a needless capital gains tax, which is in this bill.

Capital Flight has begun!

Those who bring money and assets into Alaska are leaving or have already left.

Those who bring money and assets into Alaska are contemplating leaving or relocating their residency.

Those who have considered bringing money and assets into Alaska are having a change of heart and plans. If this bill goes through, they will not be coming.

The brain drain that occurs with taxation and capital flight has already begun their one-way migration.

Alaska is a very expensive place to live. This bill will only compound the financial burden and strain on families and individuals, the private economy, and the overall economy. This will make rural Alaska even more difficult to live than it already is.

There is ABSOLUTELY no plan or coordinated effort better orchestrated, to steal from the people, than what has taken place by our elected officials over the past 12-years. You have convinced many Alaskans that the excessive legislative spending over the past 12-years, the desire to permanently take a large portion of the PFD and future growth, the implementation of a progressive tax policy, the further destruction of the overall Alaska economy, and 'THE' destruction of the highest level of personal freedom's found and experienced in the world, is somehow of no fault of yours. Wow! Deception at it's finest.

I WILL TELL YOU, THERE ARE ALSO MANY WHO KNOW BETTER and KNOW IT WELL.

I oppose HB115.

I oppose every appointed and elected official who supports and votes for HB115 or SB26.
Your historical "Crime of the Century" will not go unnoticed or be forgotten.

That concludes my testimony. Thank you.

Pam Goode

I oppose house bill 115!
David Jacobs

Currently the oil industry pays less and takes more than at any time in Alaskas history. By failing to pay the cost of doing business, including a fair share production tax, industry is forcing Alaskans to sacrifice, not only their resource ownership rights, but also our right to adapt to the inevitably changing climate and start weaning ourselves off of what is ultimately destabilizing our economy and ecology.

Vote no on HB 115, it wrongfully puts the burden of state finance on the backs of Alaskans without dealing without dealing with the oil industry paying their fair share through a gross profit tax on production.

Thank you,

Shoshanah Stone
Anchorage, AK 99515

Good evening,

We run a small business and in a recession, like the current one the that Alaska is having, we cut our budget across every department because revenue has declined. We pull money out of savings BUT above all, we cut out operating budget to fit the existing income revenue. Government on all levels refuses to to that or does not have the proper leadership to do so.

The table below is from data from a real 4-plex in Anchorage, Alaska

| Year | Property Tax | % increase | Gross Income | % decrease From 2014 | Vacancy Rate |
|------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 2013 | \$6,493.85 | | \$62,160.00 | | 0% |
| 2014 | \$6,809.90 | 4.87% | \$62,160.00 | 0.00% | 0% |
| 2015 | \$6,939.89 | 1.91% | \$52,836.00 | -15.00% | 15% |
| 2016 | \$8,162.69 | 17.62% | \$49,728.00 | -20.00% | 20% |

From 2015 to 2016 the owner of this 4-plex saw their property tax jump 17.62% or a \$1,222.50 increase. In the last two years the owner of this property saw a 20% decline in gross income. The operating expense did not decrease (utilities, maintenance, debt service and etc.). In this real example 16.5% of the gross revenue goes to property tax. This tax burden under the current recession is not sustainable. We are going to see a very negative impact on the real estate market further prolonging the current recession!

We are in a recession! Alaska lost 6500 jobs last year and is projected to loose another 7500 jobs this year. To propose an income tax is insane in an recession. It will have a devastating effect on the working, middle class residents of the state. Does Juneau want to see Alaska set a record for unemployment, foreclosures and a total collapse of the economy? Make real cuts in the budget. Cap the PFD and phase it out over five years. Have government learn to live within its means and stop listening to special interests.

The only way to get ALL Alaskan residents to pay attention to what Juneau does is to have a State Sales Tax. The political rhetoric that its a "regressive tax" seems to be ignored in most Alaskan small cities and boroughs listed below. These local government bodies seem fine with a sales tax that has the visitors paying for most of their "stuff" and do not see it as a regressive tax. Hmn?

**Local Sales
Taxes per
City in
Alaska**

| | City | Kenai Burough | Combined |
|----------|------|---------------|---|
| Homer | 4.5% | 3% | 7.5% |
| Soldotna | 3% | 3% | 6% |
| Kenai | 3% | 3% | 6% |
| Seward | 4% | 3% | 7% |
| Nome | 5% | | 5% |
| Juneau | 5% | | 5% (3% alcohol, 7% room tax & var % on tobacco) |
| Wasilla | 2% | | 2% |
| Palmer | 3% | | 3% |
| Barrow | 0% | | 0% |

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fairbanks | 0% | 0% |
| Anchorage | 0% | 0% |

In closing, we are in a recession. Learn from small business and cut the budget and show the real cuts. Not just a bunch on mumbo jumbo and smoke and mirror stunts. 45% or more of Alaskans pay no federal tax and will not be paying the proposed state income tax! There is a lot of income money exchanged in tourist towns, like Home, Seward, Kenai, Soldotna and Juneau that flies under the radar. A state sales tax will have 100% of the residents watching Juneau. A state income tax will destroy the middle class, will force many residents to leave the state and will extend the recession for a long time.

Do the right thing! Take money out of savings! Really cut the budget! Cut the PFD. No income tax! A State Sales Tax as a last resort!

Thank you,

George Stadnicky

My opinion: An income tax would cost a lot of money to institute, administer, collect, pursue those that are not paying, etc. Our PFD check will just be going back to the government to pay our taxes. It seems ridiculous for the state to hand out money with one hand and then grab it back with the other. The legislators have not made a big enough effort to make cuts to government spending. A sales tax with exemptions for groceries and health care would be better. Then everyone has to contribute, including tourists. I have lived in Alaska over 50 years and it seems the state is regressing. Back in the 70's when we still had state income tax, everyone paid \$10 for school tax. Something like that might be acceptable, but most people I know do not support an income tax when little effort has been made to cut spending. The individual Alaskan is expected to live within the limits of their earnings, and must make sacrifices to make ends meet. The government must sacrifice some programs or at least cut back, instead of shifting the whole burden to us.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Susan Skvorc

Wasilla, AK

HP115 Opposition

I do not want this bill. Do not pass

Kathy ottobre

Patrick ottobre

Aliesha ottobre

Billy johns

Josh Baron

Josh Moore

Mathany Satterwhite

Keith Howard

Tim billings

Sharon billings

Tom snook

Tim Taylor

Trinitie Taylor

Sheldon Taylor

Tim day

Kelly Vernon

Dee James

Larry Mcgee

Pat Mcgee

We all stand together do not take are divided give us back are money it is totally unfair and don't raise the taves

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am taking this opportunity to communicate my opposition to the proposed income tax on citizens of Alaska. There are other ways to accomplish your fiscal management goals.

1. Let positions go unfilled, as retirements create attrition in state personnel. State pay levels are at an obscenely high level, for the qualifications necessary to perform most of state employee functions.
2. Gradually privatize services such as snow removal. This is a long range savings strategy, because pensions will decrease as services are shifted to the private sector.
3. Continue the present level of Permanent Fund distributions. It is shortsighted to decrease the annual PFD checks, because the vast majority of these payments are used to contribute to the local economy, every year. In addition, some \$ 9 million goes right back into state coffers each year, because the state attaches many people's PFD to pay fines and judgments owed to the State of Alaska.
4. It seems that no one has considered the considerable state resources that will be expended for enforcement and collection, audit, and criminal prosecutions of those who fail to pay the full amount owed, if you impose an income tax.

Alaska functioned very well, when the price of oil was far lower than it is today. thank you for your consideration of these thoughts and observations.

Sincerely,

Joan Priestley, M.D.

I am completely opposed to house bill 115 which details instituting an Alaska state income tax.

I do not understand how legislators can always look to others for money before they fix their own spending problem. You are elected by the people and act on behalf of the people. How is this so easily forgotten?? Please correct the waste and excessive expenses of our state government before you take money out of the pockets of your people.

A state income tax will hurt individuals and drive local residents out of the state, lowering your tax base. I am now considering moving out of Alaska as are many others that I have spoken to after the introduction of this house bill.

Regards,

Keith
Anchorage resident

I wanted to take some time today to say thank you for your work in our states capital, and ask that you please do not support House Bill 115. Represent me and those like me by not supporting this bill. Thank you.

God Bless,
Liam Juhl

Hello House Finance,

I do not support HB115 income tax. I do support HB115 pfd restructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Klemmetson

Juneau

STOP this BILL .

Anastasia Jones

I do not support HB115, please vote NO! Work harder on cutting the budget!

Long time Alaskan,

Rick Bailey

A tax on an individual's labor/wages is slavery. For freemen own 100% of their productive power.

In 1850 a group of people were called slaves. They did not own any of their productive power called labor.

In return, the master fed them, clothed them and kept a roof over their heads as well as kept them safe from each other.

How much of an individual's labor can be confiscated by another and still be considered free?

There are two states that have an income tax not including a tax on labor/wages. Tennessee and New Hampshire.

States where people and politicians understand the bedrock of freedom is owning your individual productive power called labor.

Ray Southwell
Nikiski

I am a small business owner. Have made Alaska my home for nearly 20 years now. I have chosen Alaska due to its beauty and its low taxes.

My business adds between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in new assets to the Matsu borough that add significant new tax revenues for said borough. My business continues to provide needed low income housing to Matsu communities. My building projects create 5+ full time jobs each year. These assets and jobs would not exist if I didn't build them.

Under your proposed income tax, Alaska will no longer be as attractive to my business. I am already looking at alternative states to invest in that will promote the success of my business.

The taxes most harmful to my business are ones that attach to capital gains and passive incomes (rental). Being a landlord is not easy. You must deal with people and personalities that are difficult to get along with. If all incomes are taxed the same, I would likely not be a landlord. Straight sales or working for someone else would be easier. Without the tax advantages that come with real estate, I wouldn't choose to invest and work in the real estate industry.

Is the 600 billion you raise from an income tax worth losing a significant number of jobs, low income housing, borough tax revenue. My small business leaving the state will have a loss of \$250,000+ job loss, \$7,500+ loss in taxes from real estate to the borough, increase in rental costs from lack of low income housing units costing the government more in subsidies to house low income families. How many other business owners like me will leave the state due to the choices you lawmakers make in regard to taxes? Can the revenues generated from an income tax actually offset the losses to the state caused by such a tax?

A concerned business owner.

Jonathan Cline

I am writing this message to let you know that I do not support HB115.

Joseph Sallee

I strongly oppose House Bill 115. Please do not pass.

Billy Graham

I oppose house bill 115.
David Dixon

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to voice my opposition to an income tax. I believe a sales tax would be a much fairer tax and would reap the benefits of income from purchases by tourists in our state.

This is a tourist state. Those people who come here to enjoy the benefits our great state should help pay to support it. They come here and park in the parking lots at Walmart and Fred Meyer and travel around our roads. They should help pick up the slack.

Thank you,

Monika Switzer
Wasilla, AK 99687

Oppose HB 115 The real issue is you the legislatures think is it acceptable to take money from the private economy to prop up the hugely ballooned government. Trim aggressively from all the SLUSH FUNDS. I am appalled at how instep AK is becoming with the communist manifesto

Barbara Jedlicki

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sickened by the proposals put forth in HB115. The bloated corpse of AK government has failed for years to make hard cuts. When a household comes up against hard times and needs to trim spending they have no choice but to do. I have been trimming our family's spending and rolling with the punches of fluctuating federal taxes every year of my adult life. I'm sure that individual legislators do the same for their personal budgets. It boggles my mind to think that they check those skills at the door when they convene in Juneau!

A state income tax would break my family. As it stands if my husband gets a raise this year any state income tax will likely negate that. We will welcome our sixth child this fall (all of our kids are ours, we are on no form of public assistance) and all of our extra resources are already being channeled into the baby account because of our \$6,000 deductible health insurance.

Dipping into the PFD account is akin to mom and dad using all their money to buy guns, ammo and Coach bags and raiding the kids college savings to pay the mortgage. Everyone involved in this act should be beyond ashamed of themselves.

Feel free to contact me.

Libby Mohr, Wasilla

Dear Finance Committee,

This income tax bill will effectively kill small business growth and harm the Alaskan economy. I can tell you that we are a single income, military, homeschooling family born and raised here in Alaska with three kids. This will harm our family. We cannot afford anymore taxes especially after you unconstitutionally stole our dividend as well. Not one Alaskan family I know can operate like our state government does. Just. Cause you refuse to cut spending to a responsible level does not mean you just take it from the PEOPLE! Many families will simply leave Alaska. Why would they stay here?? How about this, say my family cannot afford this income tax can I send the bill to one you on the finance committee to pay if for me? I can only assume you make more money than my family so you must be able to afford it. It's only fair. I mean I don't have the money so I should be able to take it from one of you who have more than me since that's what is fair here. You are going to send more families into poverty with these taxes and and the taking the PFD for the government to keep spending like irresponsible teenagers with their parents credit card. You work for US!!! We do not want this. Do not impose these taxes on us. DO YOUR JOB! If you don't. You will be fired. Enjoy spending like there so tomorrow we the PEOPLE will make sure you don't make it back to Secret escape in Juneau. Oppose HB 115.

Sincerely,
Michelle Coffman

As an Alaskan who has been here and contributed to the economy much more than I have taken I will say this. My current tax bracket is \$70-\$100,000 depending on commissions, I work in the parts aviation industry and can easily work anywhere in the country/world. The PFD and progressive local and state taxes of Alaska keep me here contributing almost all of my income back into the local economy. It does not make fiscal sense to project that with the trend of people leaving Alaska, and the economy tanking that an income tax will keep skilled workers. There is a reason it takes me two months to find a qualified applicant to fill any job role. The weather. This is not California, you need to entice people to live here, reality shows aren't going to drive tourism forever and the Alaska bucketlisters are dying. Nobody wants to live in one of the most violent cities in the US, nobody wants to live in the frozen interior during the winter and nobody wants to trench through 6 feet of snow everyday in Juneau without good incentive. You took the PFD now you're taking income tax? Good luck if this passes, only the drunks will be left.

I will leave in 2019 if this is passed. I will be sure to vote against anyone supporting this on my exit.

J Brown

RE: Public Testimony on HB 115: "Income Tax, PFD Credit, Permanent Fund Income" on Wed 3/29/17

I, James P. "Jake" Jacobson of Kodiak & Kotzebue -representing myself and 40 family members, all residents of Alaska:

First: this bill deals with Income Tax & Restructuring of the PFD, I believe all bills should deal with a single issue, to stand or fall on its own merits.

1. I do not oppose a state Income Tax
2. I strongly support a State wide Sales Tax - the most equitable of all taxes easily collected at minimal cost, collects from transients, tourists - everyone who benefits from our infrastructure.
3. I strongly OPPOSE any "Restructuring" of the PFD calculation or seizure of any part of the currently calculated PFDs.

There is no nice term for stealing candy from babies - tens of thousands of PFD recipients are minors.

But not addressing the major cause of Alaska's financial crisis - the oil/gas taxing under SB21 - which it seems no one in the Legislative or executive branches of State government is even talking about - seems a dereliction of duty and violation of the faith voters had in our leaders. Please study Robin Brena's clear dissection follow his urgings.

The Governor and Legislators "pledged to faithfully serve the people of Alaska" - NOT stockholders of multi-national corporations.

In Alaska the few deeds that include subsurface rights to minerals exclude gas and oil, as they are held "in common" for all Alaskans. **Please review this.**

Proceeds from oil and gas sales are also held "in common". The PFD is NOT welfare, it is our annual due from our "owner state", one of the many things that makes Alaska unique.

We must guard our PFDs - as more oil comes on line, with the PFDs calculation reduced, government spending will increase, consuming all the new profits without restoring the PFDs.

Thank you,
Jake Jacobson

No Income Tax so the state can give a \$1000 to anyone who has an pulse, as long as we have so much money we can give every resident a 1000 + dollars we do not need an income tax.

Roger Ippisch

I will be retiring from the state of Alaska in five months. As a retiree, I have decided to stay in Alaska at least 10 years after I retire and forgo the greater spending power of my retirement dollar in the lower 48. If we end up having to pay an income tax here in Alaska instead of a sales tax or deeper spending cuts, I'm totally out of here and moving to the lower 48 to a state that has no income tax. The Alaska economy will not have my money in it at all.

Laurence Tuttle

Considering an income tax while taking that income tax and giving it oil companies is criminal. You are surely familiar with this section of the Alaska State Constitution.

"The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people."

By taxing the people to pay oil companies to extract natural resources you are clearly not providing maximum benefit to the people of Alaska.

Thank You
Patrick McCormick
Anchorage Alaska

I oppose House Bill 115

Scott Arbuckle

I am absolutely opposed of this garbage bill b115!
Dan Frazier

You are placing the burden specifically on the working class that are just trying to make ends meet. Maybe we should just give up and stop working so hard when we see so many others sitting at home collecting government money.

You give away millions of dollars for these pet projects (even while we're in a deficit) then expect us to pay for them? I think not. Stop spend money you don't have. First earn it, then save it. Rainy days are coming.

Sincerely,

Leona Hakala

I oppose hose bill 115

David Anderson

In regards to the present income tax and PFD topics.

Absolute zero reason to implement an income tax in the state of AK. Time and time again, we blow our oil tax money on fruitless projects, ridiculous fringe benefits to government officials and uncharted dart tossing at civil projects.

The citizens are being penalized for the lack of accountability on budgets. The state needs to look in the mirror instead of taking the easy way out and penalizing the citizens.

Mr. Walker needs to begin with the restructuring of taxes on the North Slope. Without the North Slope the state of AK will sink, as we are experiencing at this time.

The PFD is worth around \$55 billion dollars. Why can't we take out of that cookie jar to fulfill our debt??

Secondly, I propose a one-time lump sum payout to Alaska residents, in return fuel costs will need to be subsidized at a reasonable price (only to residents). These are my basic opinions without the structured details.

I moved away from the lower 48 a few years ago to get away from the pathetic living environment. To live the AK dream as a slope worker and commercial fisherman in Sitka, AK. I surely plan to be heavily involved in our local government. The spending needs to stop!!!

The one thing that completely appalls me is the complete lack of ACCOUNTABILITY within the entire state of AK. This will come to a halt in Sitka, I guarantee you that. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Tyler Green

Greetings,

Please reconsider an additional tax from residents who are already taxed too much for too little services back. I live near Jewel Lake and Dimond and we did receive side walk plowing 3 times in one weeks back in January, and pedestrians have walked in the streets the remainder of the winter. Just one example of little services to homeowners and residents. Other than road service don't recognize other benefits and Anchorage still needs to support public transportation.

Please do consider a sales tax, and cashing out the permanent fund, taking what is needed for the state and giving the rest back to residents one last lump sum.

Thank you,

Bonnie Thurston

We need sales tax to diversify tax base. At most only half of us will pay income tax. Income tax is bad idea.

Dick Sutliff

Anchorage, Alaska

Please do not Tax retirement or social security!!!
Kate Enyeart

KEEP CUTTING!!! CUT FUNDING TO YOUR OWN OFFICES AND TAKE THE CUTS LIKE HONOST CITIZENS!

NO NEW TAXES, LESS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS!

PLEASE CUT YOUR OWN FUNDING BEFORE TAXING ALASKANS!

Heather Probasco

I strongly support House bill 115. I am a life long Alaskan and a senior citizen on a fixed income and I want an income tax implemented in Alaska. Martha Farris

I would rather implement a sales tax so we could spread the burden on visitors to the state. Also wouldn't tax impose tax on retiree income.

Mike Fassler
Eagle River

I would like to voice my opposition to a state income tax. We already live in one of the most expensive states, and to add this to our plates will in many cases make Alaska unaffordable.

After sitting back and watching our legislature make multiple poor financial decisions, i.e., Anchorage office debacle, it upsets me that we continue to pay the ultimate price for your mistakes. The governmental waste in our state should be addressed before asking Alaskans to pay even more to live here. Maybe give up your personal chef?

I would honestly rather give up our entire PFD than have to pay a state income tax. Or maybe a sales tax would work.

I understand times are getting more difficult, but I think your first step should be to cut our government before asking us to give. I live in Kodiak, and our cost of living here is already very high.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanette Starr
Kodiak, AK

I want my voice to be heard as NO for Stare Income tax!!!

Brenda Winder- Palmer AK

Greetings:

I would just like to put on record my opposition to a state income tax. This proposal may appear that it will generate revenue on paper, however, the likely effect is that it will drive retirees, who spend money on a fixed income, out of state. It will also increase the costs of small businesses who may have to raise wages in order to attract competent help which will be passed on to the consumer. Adding additional business costs to companies in a "down turned" economy is not smart.

Additionally, an income tax will not catch out of state workers (like fishermen and oil field workers) or members of the military. It will not likely have any real impact on the wealthy or the poor since the poor do not pay any real taxes and the wealthy are able to take advantage of any loop holes that are always built into such tax codes. So, as usual, the lion's share of the revenue tax will come from the "middle class." As a member of this class, I can tell you that, in my opinion, I already pay way too much in property taxes, and federal income taxes.

A much more equal approach to raising revenue is to impose a statewide "sales tax." With a sales tax everyone will pay equally. The argument that a sales tax will impact the poor more disproportionately is an old and tired argument. A sales tax program that exempts groceries and other essentials would not unfairly impact the working class or the poor.

Alternatively get rid of the welfare system that has become the Permanent Fund Dividend. If a person has to live off a \$1000.00 dividend each year then they are not likely to be paying any substantial income tax. They are likely using social aide like Denali Kid Care, Quest cards, and other similar societal welfare programs for which they are not substantially putting any money back into the system. The net result will be that the middle class will be footing the bill yet again. An income tax is not the way to go. It will make a bad economy worse.

The legislature should figure this out. And if you can't, then step down. This is not a republican, democrat, or independent issue--it's an Alaskan issue.

v/r

John Darnall

I am in total opposition to this whole idea of State income tax . The State has not proven to cut anything, only shift to cities the financial burden. Where are the cuts? We all know that what is proposed will not be enough, so next year you will want another pound of flesh.

If there are not cuts and fiscal responsibility then there will never be enough.

Thanks,

Make it a Great Day.

Lee Mitchell

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to show my support against the proposed income tax! I am a home owner in the anchorage municipality and my property taxes are already insane. I can not afford more taxation! Governor walker needs to look at cutting back in his spending and the misuse of funds in the legislature and stop hurting the people of Alaska!!

Christine Wachmann

Why should people who work for a living have to pay an income tax so people who breed for a living get to keep collecting multiple P.F.D.s? If all of these losers hadn't moved here in the first place, the state budget would be much smaller. And Anchorage would have a lot less crime than it does now. And every year more losers move here to collect the generous welfare goodies that Alaska offers. We are turning into California with all of the same ills.

If you think that wealthy Alaskans will pay for most of this insanity, then think again. Why do you think tax attorneys exist? So, rich people can get out of paying as much tax as possible. They will hide their assets, or change their residency by buying a home in another state and maybe just living here part of the year. How many doctors may decide it's time to retire?

If the state doesn't have enough money to function, then it has no business handing out free money every year. It's time to faze out the P.F.D. and get rid of the incentive for poor people with lots of kids to move here in the first place. I know that I missed the deadline for commenting, but I hope you'll think about what I have said.

Nancy Cuddeback
Anchorage

Subject: No income tax

A state that has enough money to give each resident \$1250 has no business taxing my meager income. The PFD was not intended to be a welfare payment. The school systems use the greatest amount of our tax revenue so all children should be expected to take a small dividend and keep education strong. Cap the dividend at \$750 and use the rest of the earnings for state gov.

Pete Johnson

Sterling

I vote no on bill HB115.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Wolverson

Just a quick note. A lot of people have selected to live in Alaska do to its low taxes. If you add the proposed income tax, there will be a dramatic drop in population. This will have a stream roll effect on the economy and we will have major problems.

It must be explained to the population that the permanent fund being tapped to cover the budget shortfall is the only way to go. I'm personal friends with hundreds of people that make over \$250,000 per year. You add that tax and your wealthy population base will move on to greener pastures and the State economy will tank.

Regards,

Greg

Gregory S. Wing

My feeling on HB 115 NO, NO, NO, NO,NO IF you feel a need to take more
\$ from the people, you may as well start a statewide SALES TAX, that
way **EVERYONE** (Residents, Tourists etc) can join in the fun!! and it doesn't hurt so bad Rep Cathy Tilton
is 100% spot on.

Valerie Anderson

Good Afternoon Honorable Legislators:

First, I want to thank you all for all you are doing for our Great State of Alaska! Your job is difficult and all constituents understand that, that is one reason I am not representing constituents from my region.

My name is John H. Lamont and I am a constituent from Wasilla. I have had my sights on Alaska's State Budget for many years and I find it important to send you my informal version of what I personally know will make an improvement to what is now a challenge in relation to our state budget shortfall.

I have paid Alaska state taxes as a condition of earning my way to adulthood, now is a good time period to implement an "employment tax" not a "personal income tax" the difference being that an employment tax will be earned by each job that derives its' income from Alaska, its' air, waters and lands. This means that a non-resident that comes into Alaska waters to selectively harvest any marine resources will have a portion of their wages ear-marked to the State of Alaska, this goes for all the employees on factory processors and catcher vessels. Another portion of this is for those oil workers who come up to Alpine (or any other oil patch on the slope or elsewhere in Alaska) will have to take a percentage out of their earnings ear-marked to the State of Alaska [(many of these workers do not pay for anything, their way is paid to and from and their room and board is all covered (in which their employers deduct as a tax benefit, by the way)]. I can continue on with all the educators who come to Alaska to earn their retirements to settle in other states, do you think they are investing in Alaska? High probability, NOT and 80% of all educators hired each year are from the other 49 states. I can continue with mining industry employees, with tourism companies, etc...

I believe we can earn a portion of our Great States' Budget from this "employment tax" alone.

Now, the state can sell the Marine Highway and Alaska Rail Road to a private company and not have the millions spent on maintenance and operations to worry about (side note, cross those budget items off our state budget).

Lastly, the states population did not double between 2004 to 2013 AND 2017 why has the states budget more than doubled (about three billion to more than 8.7 billion)? We need a state spending CAP!

I am not an economist, but I can clearly understand how fixing our states budget challenge can happen without destroying our People who live in the remotest parts of Alaska who depend on the annual states dividend.

Good day!

Respectfully:

John H. Lamont

I am writing today to voice my concern about the proposed state income tax. Alaska is a wonderful state, so full of potential. I am not oblivious to the fact that unlocking the potential requires funding, but the level of spending in Alaska has been unsustainable for far too long. Last year, the PFD was slashed in half. This looks likely again this year and perhaps in perpetuity. If an income tax is instituted, what is the point in receiving a PFD in the first place? The Dividend will just simply become a means for people to pay their tax, while not realizing they already paid half by the dividend amount being artificially reduced! If the State of Alaska wants our Dividend check so bad, put it to a vote of the people, buy us out of the program.

Income taxes are not the answer here. Reduce spending. Stop propping up the petroleum industry. Support innovations that realistically would benefit the financial growth of Alaska. Provide tax incentives to get tech companies to do business here. Do you have any idea how much money they spend trying to keep their server farms cool? With the completion of the Fiber Optic lines in Barrow scheduled this year, why not make it easy for tech companies to set up server farms with cooling provided by the environment? How about investing in a reliable transportation system in Anchorage? Commuter rail from the Mat-Sui to Anchorage, and allowing outside transportation services like Uber and Lyft to do business.

These are issues that should have been addressed before we got into the financial mess we have now. I urge you all to please reign in spending, cut non-critical programs. Stop subsidizing the oil companies. Most importantly, do not allow an income tax to be put in place if it is simply a means to get the rest of our Dividend check.

Sincerely,

Scott Langley

Please do NOT support HB115.

Jeanie Hayes

To my legislators;

Please note my non-concurrence with the proposed tax on income earned here in this state. I find this proposal way out of line for a state which refuses to make operational cuts to departments within government. There is much duplicity of sections within branches that should all be consolidated and require many fewer bodies to do the same work. There are some departments that are frivolous in a time when resources are scarce. Then there are the vacant jobs that are kept open and funded even though there is no intention of filling them; this then gives the department "free money" to do with as they please [new furniture, artwork, even pizza parties]. And of course, as we all know, the usual end of year 'spend it before we lose it' attitude. If these problems are addressed and righted, and we are still scarce dollars, then perhaps we might need to consider a tax of some sort. But don't ask the public to cough up more money to fund a government filled with misuse and abuse of the monies already allotted. Fix the in-house operational side of the equation and we'll be out of the red.

Respectfully yours,

Karl severance

Sutton, AK 99674

I oppose house bill 115.

-John Basile

Sent from my iPhone

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to reach out to you as a constituent to express significant concern regarding the latest details we have heard about in this Income Tax bill.

The fact you are looking to tax AGI at the rate you are proposing is alarming. I want to remind you that one of the benefits to living in Alaska is the lower tax structure. As you know, our cost of living is higher up here than many locations, while the wage gap has narrowed significantly over the past several years.

We do still encounter quite a bit of tax. For example our property taxes in the Mat-Su Borough are fairly high, and we have a sales tax in Wasilla.

The size of the tax you are proposing will certainly cause people to re-evaluate whether they want to live in Alaska. Please do not underestimate this! This change is going to take away a **fundamental** reason many people live in Alaska. In many cases it may not be the top reason people give, but it is often in the top 3. The impact to Alaska will be significant if very many people leave the state. Many states could care less if 100,000 families leave a state. Alaska should care. This would have a significant impact on the state, especially in the core population centers.

I understand we have a budget deficit, but is it really necessary to increase taxes this much? Where are the cuts to the State Budget?

I also want to mention the Permanent Fund. Please keep in mind, that for a family of (6), like I have, you already took \$6,000 that I would have ordinarily received in 2016. It appears that you are going to do the same thing this year as well. When you add this amount to the Income Tax proposal, we are paying a significant amount in taxation.

So for a family of (6), if I make \$150,000 will be \$6,000 lost from PFD plus approximately \$3,000 in Income Tax. This is \$9,000 less I have to spend on my family each year. I just don't think this is reasonable for a State that is still getting revenue from Oil production. What are you going to do with all of this money? There are many examples where you have not spent it wisely in the past. What safeguards are you putting in place to make sure it is being spent wisely now?

I urge you to work toward a lower tax rate mixed with cuts to the State Budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Zachary Layman

Wasilla, AK 99654

I oppose House Bill 115"

Andrea Edwards

Good afternoon,

Please do not add an income tax. It is going to be hard on all Alaskans, especially the small businesses like us. My boss may have to let me go because she will not be able to afford me if this goes through. Even if I don't lose my job we will have lost all of our extra money that keeps us up and going. I don't know what we will do. On top of that we the lesser people will have even less money than we already do. Please just take our pfd, it will be plenty to build back up our state over the course of a few years. Many people are going to lose their jobs or go out of business if this goes through. A lof of people on the slope will just move and pay taxes somewhere else that isnt this harsh. If I understand correctly we will be the highest income tax in the nation. Why would anyone stay here? I think in the long run this will be the fall of our state. I love living here, I have good job, and I have a good life. Please don't ruin. This all for our community.

Jared Potter

Good afternoon,

I'm a lifelong Alaskan and currently live in Anchorage. I wanted to reach out and voice my opinion about the income tax proposal that is currently being considered. I would urge you to please not implement an income tax at this time. I would be much more supportive of a state sales tax. It would be less of a burden on residents both logistically (not having to do extra tax returns or pay to have them prepared) and also financially, in the sense that we could somewhat control how much tax we pay. We choose to spend less, we pay less tax.

Please do not implement a sales tax!

Respectfully,
Amber Austin