

Good Evening,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make the right decision for ALL Alaskan.

Thanks,
Michael Sweet

QUIT SPENDING! I cannot spend more than I make: And neither should you. Leave the people's PFD alone! The governor had no business limiting last year's dividend. It belongs to this States residents and is not a honey jar for government too raid when they fail at their jobs. **NO NEW TAXES!** I moved here because there were no income/state sales tax and I will leave, if either are enacted. How about cutting/lowering your salaries and those of most state employees? If you cannot finish your business in the allotted time; I think a fine should be charged against each legislator for each day they have to go in special session. I vote, and believe me; this governor will not be getting mine in any future election, and any legislator that thinks taxing is the solution-will get the same. Thank you for your service, please earn it.

Joe Reich

Please vote no to this bill HB115 ! Stop stop stop this bill I'm 37 and I had to move back into my parents house because of getting screwed by the dividend we can't afford to not have it and we sure as hell don't need no taxes ! Then we will be screwed so stop, stop, stop !

Frm. Trevor Cornett
Sent from my iPhone

Garen, you were kind enough to reply in a thread regarding the proposed income tax. I'm copying what I wrote my local rep, Chris Tuck.

I'm completely against the way HB115 is described in this article. During a meeting with Chris Tuck, he described the original simple 6% plan which was doable and affordable in my opinion. The convoluted manner described in this article, with none of the federal deductions is something that would make me seek to leave Alaska. I'm a high income earner, and am not tied to the oil industry. However, I've since realized that Alaska is too dependent on fossil fuel industries, and is not focused on sincerely diversifying its economy. The only mantra I hear from politicians is "I was born here." This does not equate to good legislating, but smacks of doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result. I see this attitude on right and left.

I can do my work anywhere, and I came for the Alaskan wildlife and lifestyle. I did my research in terms of cost of living and knew I would be facing higher food prices, etc. I did feel, however, that not having to pay an income tax made up for this. In fact, even though I applied for the PFD this year, I donated the entire amount to entities that support diversifying Alaska's economic structure like REAP. Although I was not in favor of an income tax, I understood its need, and believe in doing my part. But this monstrosity is pure carpetbaggy. This will drive people like me away. Alaska's must consider what will draw high income earners that are independent of the oil industry, the bill needs to be stopped or made reasonable. I realize that "must read" is biased, but the number appear real.

<http://mustreadalaska.com/newest-tax-need-accountant/>

[Elena P.](#)

Alaska House Finance Committee ,

I am adamantly opposed to House Bill 115 (HB115). Our state leaders need to cut more spending rather than impose a state income tax. Once cutting is vigorously vetted, then if we still must increase revenue, then I propose a state sales tax. This would allow the state to collect money from all users, including the millions of tourists who come each year to our state. Most other states have sales taxes, so the burden is distributed evenly and fairly and will include everyone (tourists and locals) who benefit from the services provided by the state. The more you spend the more you are taxed. However, I would not put a sales tax on grocery store food items. A state sales tax is not going to impact tourism. Nobody comes to visit Alaska because of the lack of taxation. However, many move here and stay here because of the lack of an income tax. High income earners will leave as many do not need to live in-state to do their jobs here in Alaska. They can and will commute. Fisheries, oil, and transportation, are all major Alaska industries where people will choose to commute rather than pay an income tax. I believe that eliminating or cutting the PFD will adversely impact lower-income residents and is therefore not an equitable solution either.

1. Cut unnecessary spending.
2. If absolutely necessary, then create a state sales tax.
3. Increase the tax on gas (fuel) to help pay for roads, maintenance, and upkeep of infrastructure.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Theodore Bryant

Wasilla, AK.

PS. If you choose to ignore this advice, then any income tax should be the same percentage for everyone, not graduated or "progressive". Make it fair and equitable for all Alaskans to share the burden equally. If you make more, then you will by default, pay more, but you should not pay a higher percentage than your fellow Alaskans.

To the Alaska House Finance Committee ,

I am adamantly opposed to House Bill 115 (HB115). Our state leaders need to cut more spending rather than impose a state income tax. Also, any income tax should be the same percentage for everyone, not graduated or a "progressive". Make it fair and equitable for all Alaskans to share the burden equally. If you make more, then you will by default, pay more, but you should not pay a higher percentage than your fellow Alaskans.

Once spending cuts are vigorously vetted, and if we still must increase revenue, then I propose a state sales tax. This would allow the state to collect money from all users, including the millions of tourists who come each year to our state. Most other states have sales taxes, so the burden is distributed evenly and fairly and will include everyone (tourists and locals) who benefit from the services provided by the state. The more you spend the more you are taxed. However, I would not put a sales tax on grocery store food items.

A state sales tax is not going to impact tourism. Nobody comes to visit Alaska because of the lack of taxation. However, many move here and stay here because of the lack of an income tax. High income earners will leave as many do not need to live in-state to do their jobs here in Alaska. They can and will commute. Fisheries, oil, and transportation, are all major Alaska industries where people will choose to commute rather than pay an income tax.

I believe that eliminating or cutting the PFD will adversely impact lower-income residents and is therefore not an equitable solution either. Also thousands of Alaskans choose to Pick-Click-Give their PFD earnings to charities. Reducing or cutting the PFD also reduces the amount people can give. Additionally, many Alaskan parents choose to contribute half of their PFD to their child's UAA College Savings Fund. Again, cutting or reducing the PFD will mean less money saved and fewer kids in our state colleges. It is a lose-lose proposition.

1. Cut unnecessary spending.
2. If absolutely necessary, then create a state sales tax.
3. Increase the tax on gas (fuel) to help pay for roads, maintenance, and upkeep of infrastructure.
4. Leave the PFD alone. Allow Alaskans to donate the full amount of their PFD to their favorite charities and invest in their children's college future.

I believe these steps will encourage people to stay and invest in Alaska. It will eliminate the budget deficit. It will be fair and equitable to all citizens who live and visit our great state.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Michele Bryant

Wasilla, AK.

Committee members,

I urge you not to consider instituting a state income tax, given the current challenges facing Alaska residents, this course of action will be detrimental.

It appears that not enough has been done to curb spending. Failure to reduce per diem for state officials, travel to and from Juneau from Anchorage where most officials maintain an office for some reason, failure to enact spending caps, all send a message to voters that the State Government considers taxing the income of residents the easy way out.

Suspend PFD, reduce and balance the budget, create a modest sales tax, consider municipal bonds. Please display the discipline and integrity to do what's right without burdening residents with an income tax. Alaskans live within their means, it's time for the state to do so also.

Respectfully,

Ted Schmeltz

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 lot of people on the slope will just move and pay taxes somewhere else that isn't 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

I would like to just throw in my two cents, so to speak on the prospect of an income tax.

As you would expect, I absolutely do not want to see such a thing in our state. It is bad enough that half of our Dividend was stolen last year.

Rumor has it this year may be the last for the dividend.

I strongly suggest that the state legislature stop spending money like a bunch of drunken sailors and cut the ridiculously bloated budget instead of putting the burden on those of us who actually earn the money!

Dave Emery
Soldotna

VOTE "NO " on HB 115

I am adamantly opposed to an income tax which has been proven to be detrimental to the economy and the changes to the permanent fund, and theft of the people's dividend.

The private sector has been cut to the bone, loosing thousands of jobs, paying increases in local taxes, and a huge increase in the cost of living. and insurance premiums. Unemployment is the highest in the Nation; all on your watch, while the government public sector is growing and receiving wage increases, and very little reduction in the size and scope of the bureaucracy. In fact the House and Governor are proposing increases.

NO Thank you!

People are very angry.

Sincerely,

John V. Miller

Dist 9

I am super annoyed about the increase in government spending. I'm totally against doing away with the PFD and adding an income tax. Our governor is aweful.

Bonnie Lubbers

Wasilla AK 99654

Dear House Finance Committee,

Vote "NO" on HB 115 !

Instead, apply the PRIVATIZATION SOLUTION and CUT Alaska's state budget !

MEASURE THE LOWER COST % OF MONEY \$ NEEDED TO SATISFY ALASKA'S BASIC NEEDS; VIA PRIVATE SECTOR !

PRIVATIZATION BUDGET SOLUTION IS DO-ABLE IN ALASKA !

WISCONSIN'S BUDGET WENT FROM RED TO BLACK ! SEE 2016 ARTICLES

"Act 10" show THE PRIVATIZATION BUDGET SOLUTION proof is ongoing SINCE . , Feb 11.2016.

budget surplus,, reduced taxes,

Wisconsin and other states rejected medicaid expansion ,see below, and the article from Alaska Policy Forum

Alaska, it's time to implement PRIVATIZATION, PERPETRATION, PERPETUATION, RANDOMLY CALCULATED" !

Sincerely ,

Candus Miller

Wasilla Dist 9

We are watching you. You will lose your jobs! Cut the Waste! Do your job! I have to meet a budget every year and YOU need to learn how to do the same! You will be held accountable.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Steve Kozlowski

Hello,

I'm a resident of the Mat-Su valley. In no uncertain terms I am against any form of taxation increase. No income tax, no sales tax, no gasoline tax, no more PFD taxation.

This state government has grown too big, with too many services not required and a budget that is unsustainable without high oil and gas prices.

You must cut more - you will kill the economy by taxing a state already in a recessionary climate. The housing market will quickly collapse following a further recession which is virtually a guarantee with the high level of taxation HB115 and other proposals being pushed.

Unless you get rid of more spending (Such as proposals by Sen Dunleavy) we will never hit a sustainable goal and you are well on your way to destroying any chance Alaska has of shedding it's debt heavy budget for one we can live with - within our means - as we the citizens must do.

IF - and only if - you make many hundreds of millions more in cuts (such as cutting the 100-200 million in funded but unfilled state employee positions) - I might be swayed to accept one form of tax - and only one form of tax. A sales tax. That is fair - even on everyone - and allows people to decide how much they will spend or save.

If you do increase our taxes - we are watching - we are gathering data - and we are waiting. YOU will be our target upon the next election cycle. There is a rapidly growing group preparing to plaster the name of every legislator who votes to take more money out of our pockets all over every platform possible during the next election cycle. We won't forget - and we won't let people forget you either.

Do the right thing.

Mike and Michelle Shower

My family and I live paycheck to paycheck as the majority of people we know do. This is a very hard economic time which makes it major worse by adding taxes & cutting our PFD!! We always count on our PFDs to help pay bills and catch up on things. This year was even tougher financially without all of it as we had been counting on.

The gasline and all of the money that has been wasted on it [even though it was proven to be a very bad time to implement it!] could have been put towards balancing the budget! NOT adding to it. At this time, we did NOT need to have office and staff and the bills for them in Houston & Japan. We did NOT need Walkers' buddies for that gasline added to the state budget at extraordinary paychecks, the House should listen to and implement the 'other side's' budget cuts....NOT ADDITIONS!!

We applaud our Mat Valley legislators for their common sense, backbone and excellent ways to cut the budget, save the PFD, not accept taxing us, etc. They are working to accomplish what they were elected to do and we appreciate them and the many others that are of like mind.

Taxing will put an enormous burden on Alaskans and small business owners. Vote NO on HB115 please and NO on cutting our PFD please.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. J. May

Wasilla, Ak. 99654

You folks represent all that is wrong in America today. You are all so mealy mouthed and spineless that you would rather cause a mass migration out of Alaska, rather than offend the folks who suck at the government tit.

I am a worker bee. I will be looking for a new place to do that work.

I will not stand silently by and watch a group of bureaucrats rob me on a daily basis.

I will be spending my remaining time here working to insure that you are all voted out of office.

Ashamed of All of you,

Deborah Holland

I do not want an Income tax! I work two jobs 64-76 hours a week to barely make ends meet! I think this will be a bad idea and make the economy worse! I would rather see a sales tax! So it's equal to everyone special during the tourism season! I would rather see the pfd go first as well! Sincerely an Alaska of 22 years.

-Nicholas P. Durbin

Wasilla, AK 99654

To the Alaska State Legislature

I am a long-time resident of Alaska and I live in Eagle River. I am requesting that this email be a part of the public discussion on HB 115.

I am requesting that you do not pass HB 115 as it is currently written. At this time, every Alaskan resident understands we are in a temporary financial crisis. I am requesting that the Alaska Legislature please find a different solution than HB 115. With the state of our economy, we should not further stress the system by taking income out of people's hands via an income tax and stealing from the PFD (an Alaskan resident's right since we can't own mineral rights).

I understand we are drawing an unacceptable amount of money each year from our savings account. I request you solve the problem with two steps.

1. Reduce spending. Other than education, I believe we can reduce the size of government in our state. There are programs we can cut that will reduce spending, even if that means reducing entitlements. Alaskan families are tightening the belt right now. Please do the same.

2. Institute a seasonal sales tax instead of an income tax. This allows the economy to work for us and if you increase the tax during the summer, you will empower us to use the beauty of the state to increase revenue from the many tourists that take advantage Alaska's opportunities. The wording in HB 115 establishes a socialistic tax withdrawing where an increased income means an increased tax rate. Today we call this "progressive". If you are insistent on passing a "progressive" tax, the sales tax will fit that bill.

Thank you for your consideration. We are counting on you to make wise choices for our state. I think this course of action would be better than anything you are considering thus far.

Sincerely,

David James Balmer

To the Alaska State Legislature

I am a long-time resident of Alaska and I live in Eagle River. I am requesting that this email be a part of the public discussion on HB 115.

I am requesting that you do not pass HB 115 as it is currently written. At this time, every Alaskan resident understands we are in a temporary financial crisis. I am requesting that the Alaska Legislature please find a different solution than HB 115. With the state of our economy, we should not further stress the system by taking income out of people's hands via an income tax and stealing from the PFD (an Alaskan resident's right since we can't own mineral rights).

I understand we are drawing an unacceptable amount of money each year from our savings account. I request you solve the problem with two steps.

1. Reduce current spending. I believe we can reduce the size of government in our state and therefore the expenditures related to a bloated government. Alaskan families are tightening the belt right now and making hard decisions. Please do the same instead of taking the easy way out.

2. Cut spending! I'm adamantly opposed to any new taxes. If you can't solve the problem with reduced spending, new taxes will only result in increased spending and further waste of Alaskan families' labors. If an income tax is the result of your effort, I will be taking my family and income to a state that has its act together financially. I chose to come to Alaska because it was one of the last bastions of freedom in the US but that status is quickly eroding due to an out of control government.

Thank you for your consideration. We are counting on you to make wise choices for our state. I think this course of action would be better than anything you are considering thus far.

Sincerely,

Clayton Johnson

While our state is in the stronghold of a very deep recession, now is the worst possible time to implement a state income tax. All Alaskans need every dollar we can earn just for survival during this recession. The economy of Alaska can not afford to have hundreds of millions of dollars taken from Alaskans and given to the state. This will only prolong the dismal economy we are suffering through. Working Alaskans need the money we earn, not the state.

Forget any idea of a state individual income tax if you really think the economic toll that it will place on the people of Alaska. As more working Alaskans are terminated, laid off from work, there are even fewer people able to even pay a state income tax and its effects are even further diminished.

Do the right thing and take an individual state income tax off the agenda.

A state sales tax is a much better and fairer approach to the state's revenue stream. With a state sales tax, everyone will have skin in the game and contribute to the deficit. It is unfair to only tax the working people of our great state.

Thank you,

Alvin Hymes

Chugiak, Ak

Ak State Legislators,

I'm writing to implore you to build up this great state rather than tear it down with HB115. We have a spending problem and, due to current oil prices, a revenue problem as well. When families are faced with reduced income, they cut spending first. I'm asking you to do the same and show a good faith effort in this regard. Alaska's budget is out of proportion to the population and really quite out of control. Please reduce spending and stop further efforts to undermine the economy by stealing the PFD and enacting an income tax.

An income tax will cripple the Alaskan economy. We need a more robust private economy during these lean times, not a furthering of the already bloated government economy. If HB115 becomes a reality, I will take my family and income to a state with its fiscal house in order. I love Alaska and moved here for that reason, but will not stay if an income tax is passed to steal from my family.

Please do the right thing!

Sincerely,

April Johnson

Eagle River, AK

Dear Legislature,

Please impose sales tax. No income tax.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Winnie Cichosz

Please do not pass a bill for state income tax. Instead, pass a state sales tax, which will tax everyone equally according to their income and spending habits. After all, eve drug dealers have to buy essentials.

Thank you for your attention to this,

Michele Entwistle

Wasilla, AK

This whole idea of the PFD grab and the taxes needs to stop! Paul Seaton needs to stop it with his Socialist attempt at grabbing every dollar he sees. If you were serious about balancing the budget you would decrease your per diem. Move the Legislature to the road system, where the majority of Alaskans live, so we can come and participate. It would save money, too! What a concept!

Your moves are being watched very closely. There are many Alaskans who won't even bother to contact you because they know it's futile. We know we won't be heard. You'll do whatever you want, and apparently that's rob us blind.

Vote NO on taxes, and give us our PFD back in full!

Tammy Jarriel

Sutton, AK

Do not touch the PFD and return what has been stolen!

- Randal Loges

Dear Sirs,

We were four when we arrived almost 22yrs ago. I raised my children here and lost a husband.

I am a widow, disabled and on a fixed income. The PFD is a lifeline for me.

When my children were growing up we used their PFD to help pay off our loans to buy this house. We repaired our house and got them school clothes and Xmas presents. We also bought our wood, oil and food for the winter.

Now its a lifeline for me. I still need to buy wood and oil and pay someone to stack it for me.

Please think of other options before taking or cutting our PFD.

Sincerely yours

Winona K. Harrop

I would like to be on record as stating that this tax bill is a terrible idea for Alaska.

We are currently in a recession; adding a large tax on the people will cause anyone with the means to do so to leave the state. Businesses are already stressed as people cut back on spending; increasing the tax on small businesses in Alaska would cause more businesses to close resulting in less jobs available and a larger decrease in our economy. People will not stay in the state with a government that has no limit to spending and an ever increasing tax. I believe that this bill if passed will crash the delicate Alaska economy. People can not afford to live in a state with a high cost of living while losing more of their income. I believe the answer lies in making cuts to the budget in non safety sensitive areas first. Put a spending limit in place. If a tax becomes necessary then install either a low flat tax or a sales tax. Any income tax needs to capture the income from people who work in our state but live in others. Any sales tax needs to exclude food items so that people can afford to live.

Respectfully,

Lisa Marcinek

To whom it may concern:

I am against your income tax scheme. Our government is FAR too bloated. We have too many programs that we can not afford. Those in charge of setting the budget have been irresponsible for far too long. It is time to pay the piper. Cut the excess, prioritize the programs and cut the rest. No where on this planet has ever been taxed into prosperity.

Leadership demands that you make tough decisions. Reaching into the peoples pockets is the easy way out, always has been. Private citizens have to practice fiscal responsibility EVERYDAY or we lose our house or car etc..It is time you do the same. Stop blaming prior administrations and start fulfilling the oaths you took.

Tired of the BS,

Kibe Lucas

I would much rather have a state sales tax instead of a state income tax.

Because this would be equal for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans would pay to support Alaska.

I'm so tired of just the working men & women always paying for everything.

-Arlyis Miskinis

I do not favor a income tax being brought to our state.

The people who actually hold jobs already hold up the weight of the low income masses and anymore punishment for being a productive citizen is unacceptable.

Alaska housing and Adult public assistance should be completely and utterly abolished and our state should stop coddling those who will never even try to aspire to be a productive citizen.

There is too many freebies in this state for the low income. It is absolutely disgusting that many of these people are parasites who will continue to abuse these systems and so too shall their offspring.

I understand these systems may be needed in times of emergency but those situations from what I've gathered from the local communities I've seen in the 30+ years I have lived here in this state is abused for decades. They don't have to do anything to survive like the working class.

This cycle must end. Taper these systems away rather than punishing the workers more. Make welfare harder to obtain than it so easily is right now. It is needed in rare cases but the majority will never earn their own way.

We shouldn't coddle drug addicts and lazy people no longer. This is Alaska. We use to be known for our hard working men and women. We are not teaching the next generation how to work hard and earn their way. They are learning to take hand outs and see the State as a mommy or daddy. This has to end.

Do not add more ticks to the bodies of the workers. NO INCOME TAX

I am positive our great state would prosper and bloom after the enabling factors of these financial weeds in the garden of our budget is removed.

Thank you,

Brandon Moore

There are four registered AK voters in this house hold (yes, we do vote every time) We are all **strongly opposed to a state income tax**. We would support using the PFD earnings but would more **strongly support a state sales tax**. Please do not pass a State Income Tax Legislation. We are closely following this issue in this household. Thank you

Jack, Sonya, James and Randall Phillips

Eagle River, Ak, 99577

Only after there is a sound fiscal plan with a spending cap in place should the state consider a statewide sales tax. I do not, as the majority of Alaskans, favor an income tax. Do not increase the bureaucracy to play a shell game with state funds, taking from one hand and giving with another.

Thank you.

Julie Anderson

Chairs, Finance Committee

I'm writing in opposition of HB 115. I am opposed to taxes. But I became somewhat resigned to the fact that there would eventually be a tax to live in this state. But, I didn't think it would become thee income based taxes. First is the \$1,000 head tax that was (and will be) taken from Alaskan's permanent fund dividend. Second, we will be taxed on what remains of our Permanent Fund dividend. Then we will be taxed on everything else. We will lose a lot of tax payers this way.

Although I oppose taxes, at first I thought that the simple 15%/\$25.00 tax plan looked OK. But then our Governor decided to hire a "professional" tax "expert" from Connecticut, of all places, to come up with a tax plan for Alaska. I've read the rational that the 15% plan would be bad because it was tied to the federal tax structure. But now you're "expert" gives you a tax plan with rates that you can increase at will. For the first time I have to say that I have more faith in the IRS.

I have watched the Finance Committee's efforts on Gavel Alaska. I watched as Rep Wilson brought up several instances where empty positions were still funded. But I heard the response to the effect of "those positions are vacant" and the amendment was overruled. Now I lean that the governor used the funds from those vacant positions to hire the Connecticut "expert" for a couple months work. Then I believe that the changes were inserted to late in the session on purpose to limit the public's knowledge of these major changes.

Thank you for your time.

Wayne Benson

Wasilla AK

I'm deeply concerned regarding this bill. Between insurances, raised property taxes and cut dividends we can't afford this. I have insurance and I will end up paying \$9000 or more on medical bills for the baby I just had. I'm fed up with low income getting free healthcare and free housing, free childcare. I work my butt off to keep employed and all this state is trying to take every last bit of money I have. Why not cut cost on the representatives and crazy ass housing allowances you offer state officials and give a sales tax for food and try selling weed at an over priced rate as a state... all of these ideas can help our state verses you ruining more people's livelihood. Everyday my husbands oil job is on the line and it's due to what our state did to the oils economy here.

Laura Mosher

x

NO STATE INCOME TAX

I have tremendous concerns specifically with the suggested Alaska state income tax. This state spends ridiculous amounts of money for such a small population and we need to permanently change our spending habits or our economy will eventually fall apart. I understand we are in a bad spot and our dividends will be garnished for awhile, but long term we need to have a much smaller budget. I am a sixth generation Alaskan, and I love it here and have no plans to leave. Having said that I am in a very specific field of medicine and often find myself in the position of trying to recruit much needed health care professionals to Alaska. It is often a hard sell, but no state income tax has been a great incentive. These are the type of educated productive people you will keep out or drive out of the state with a state income tax used to keep afloat a ridiculous bloated budget. I believe a sales tax and garnishing the dividend would be much less damaging to the growth of our states economy temporarily; but they all need to go. We need to stop living like there is no end to the money. These habits will always get us into trouble.

I also read recently that Alaska is second only to Rhode Island as the worst place to retire in the country and that is without a state income tax. This tax will drive those of us who wish to retire here as pioneers to have to go elsewhere. Don't drive away people whose spending can help fuel our economy.

Thank you for your time.

Daniel Beistline

Why, without asking the people do you think an income tax is the right choice? A statewide sales tax after deep spending cuts is a better idea. I will tell you this all of you will be voted out if this happens!

Matthew Wyeth

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS NEW TAX.

Are military veteran pensions going to be taxed too? If so, I'm outta here!

Kim Fassett

I know you probably won't care or even look at this but My husband and I can not afford to tax any more out of our paychecks. Our jobs keep decreasing our commission. We make about 4000 a month before anything is taken out. We pay about 500 in credit debt. 400 for gas and electric 250 for phone service. 1500 for our mortgage. 300 for our used truck. Another 400 between health and car insurance. That barely leaves us enough for gas and food for the entire month and does not leave any room for savings nor accidents that might happen to our cars or our 2 dogs. We can't take another hit and you already took half our pfd money please don't take from us any more

Ashley Brown

Please look more carefully at this. Are you going to tax my social security? There has to be a better way.

Geri Inama

Please

Please

Do Not take more of my income. Please do something to reduce the amount of government expenses before you start taking hard-working people's money away from them.

Nancie Lamson

We do not support or want an income tax!!!! No on HB115.

John & Jackie Benis

You can not tax my tiny social security tax any more. There is not enough now.

Sales tax we can all live with as we pick and choose.

NO INCOME TAX.

Marian L. Michlig

Big Lake, Alaska 99652

Dear House Finance Committee,

I strongly encourage you to carefully consider the ramifications of enacting a state income tax as it is currently proposed.

I understand that Alaska needs to find additional sources of revenue but the exceedingly progressive nature of the tax, as proposed, places an undue burden on small businesses as my own. This disparity will surely result in a chilling effect on small business development and employment.

As you know, several small business categories such as sole proprietorships, LLCs etc., treat the gross receipts to the business as income to the owner. Normally, the receipts are then reduced by expenses, etc., to arrive at the actual income attributable to the owner(s) for tax purposes. Based on what I've seen, the structure being proposed for the income tax does not follow this same methodology. Instead it bases the level of taxation simply on the gross income, rather than the actual income derived from the business. In cases such as mine, the additional burden might actually threaten the sustainability of the business itself.

I appreciate your consideration. I hope that whatever tax is ultimately enacted does not unfairly target small businesses and the families that rely on them.

Very truly yours,
April Brown

I cannot afford to pay this right now. I just lost \$1000 in my income due to my jobs pay structure and anymore loss of money would hurt me and my family.

Michael Bird

All

Please to not make an income tax. I work full time for a large company. We got cut with no overtime and comp time. We can't charge for travel. Even though it's for work. I make \$35,000.00 a year. I pay 3K for insurance (that's crappy) You took 1/2 of my perm fund. I live in a dry cabin. Cause i can't afford to have a well drilled. OH, My house is 320 sq feet. But, I do own it. I don't have to pay 800-1,000 dollars a month. I try to save but you take it away. How can a middle class worker get a head when you take away from us? You must think everyone works for the slope. Even they don't live in the state. You can't keep taking away from us. I would like to see you live on my wage for a year. Want to switch? At least I would then have a well and decent heath care.

P.S I was getting my water from a spring on the parks hwy. It went bad and other people got sick from it. Now the only water that is kinda safe has arsenic in it. I can't afford bottled water. I'm not the only person that has to live this way. A lot of my neighbors are less off than me.

So please don't have an income tax

Thanks for reading this

Mark Goetsch

Good evening,

I am writing on behalf of the working Alaskan. For years the cost of living has increased, and for years our wages have stayed stagnant. If you sign a state income tax into law, less money will be going into our economy, effectively lowering our state revenue.

A state income tax has never helped states maintain a healthy budget in the long term, they only end up demanding more and more money from honest, hard working citizens.

Enough is enough! Cut spending in our local government. Until government workers can personally live on an average household income in Alaska, they are in no place to demand more money from their "subjects."

What is the plan when a state income tax fails? State sales tax? 6%? 8%? 10?! This is why I came to Alaska and never looked back; we were free from big government spending. Sounds like it's time to reconsider my residence. If only I could afford the relocation on my Alaskan salary.

Marie Mills

Please vote no on HB-115! This is a bad bill! No income tax!

Monika Switzer
Wasilla, AK 99687

Do not support this bill. It's ridiculous.

Treena Ivie

Please do not pass this abomination of a plan. Bringing a sales tax but not this. For Pete's sake, with this tax, we'd have to default on the loans from the degree that got my husband his job! Not to mention no donations to any non-profit... The way the structure of this tax is written, it will be untenable. My family will literally be unable to pay it. We don't live a lavish lifestyle, we pay our bills, won't be possible if you pass this. Plus I will personally picket & campaign to make sure none of you are reelected. Consider instead a sales tax, with a lower cap on food purchases, it works.

I know hard decisions must be made, but this is NOT the fix.

Sincerely,

Leah Glasscock-Sanders

Wasilla, AK

To Whom it May Concern:

I am married and a mother of one. I live within my means and I am careful about spending erroneously. However, it baffles me as to why a state sales tax has not been looked at more heavily, instead of proposing an income tax... Which ultimately will hurt individuals like me, who are already pinching pennies as it is. I work for the state and I understand the fiscal crisis we are facing- our department has faced numerous budget cuts as it is, with more to follow, I'm sure. I would gladly pay a states sales tax if it meant that an income tax would be eliminated. Please consider an alternative before penalizing the backbone of our state, the working folk, by imposing an income tax.

Thank You-

Brittany Johnson

I hope this state will not put a State Income Tax in place. It penalizes all of our working and retired workers.

I think we should have Power Ball Tickets / Lottery tickets to fund education, government, roads, anything the state requires. People have the choice to purchase this. It is not something mandated, and thrust upon us.

Sharon L. Herrell

To the Governor, House, and whoever else might be reading this email,

I do NOT support your proposed plan for a state income tax. This discourages people from making more money, which in turn will NOT help us out of this recession.

It discourages people from starting businesses, and it is unfair to those of us who work hard for our money.

Instead, a statewide sales tax would make much more sense. Not everyone in Alaska gets paid legally, BUT EVERYONE buys food/supplies/etc. This would also bring in money from tourists who are visiting Alaska, which is a positive contribution to our economy.

PLEASE DO NOT IMPLIMENT THE PROPOSED ALASKA STATE INCOME TAX PLAN!!

Consider the positives for a state sales tax instead.

Taxing us more on our income is NOT the solution.

Sincerely,

Alexa Pullen

I am apposed to a state income tax.

More budget cuts should be done. Sales tax should be put in place before an income tax.

This plan is going to kill our economy.

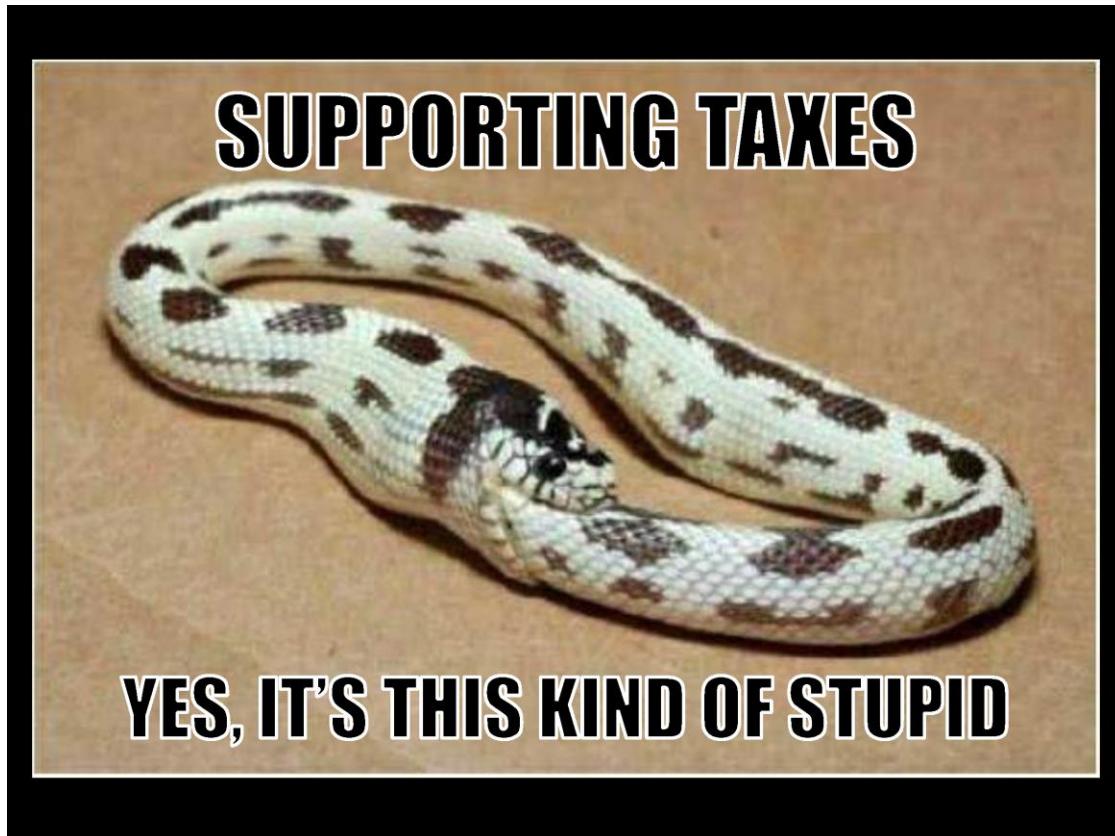
Cut your wages and expenses accounts. Stop unnecessary travel. Get your work done timely.

Move the capital like the people voted to do years ago.

Cynthia Fitch

If you can't kill the whole bill, cut as much as you can. Thanks.

Sincerely, an Alaskan who would like Alaska to remain a nice place to live.
Sean Clifton



You have all demonstrated that you don't care at all what Alaskans think of how you should manage our budget. Spend and tax and spend and tax and spend and tax, and what ever you do, don't cut a single dime from the bloated budget.

You need to reduce this chart and remove income tax.

I don't understand why at a most critical time for decision making in our state, our House insists on playing legislative games. Luckily we seem to have a reasonable Senate that wants to represent the people and not just their own special interests.

Michelle Niland

As a born and raised Alaskan, I DO NOT support the income tax that has been proposed in Bill 115! Cut spending and, if at all necessary, institute a sales tax. As much as I love this state, I would seriously consider moving out of state to avoid the additional taxes on top of the ridiculous Federal taxes that I have to pay.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Weber

I am not in support of an income tax! This will affect us personally and our small business! We are already getting slammed with a health care payment that is equal that of a mortgage payment, that we can barely use! If you keep taxing us for our hard work we won't be able to live or distribute that money throughout our state! We need to look elsewhere for cuts, please quit hurting those who chose to have work ethics! We need to encourage hard work not tax the hell out of it!

Regards,
Tammy Barber

NO NO NO!!!!

I live in Willow, I commute to Anchorage so I don't have to settle for 10.00 an hour. My borough tax burden is 17%, and now you want an income tax. I'm seriously considering becoming home less and unemployed, just so I don't have to give everything to the feds, the state and the borough.

Good God, stop!!! Cut your damn budgets, cut your damn spending. I have to, so should you!!!

NO MORE TAXES, NO MORE!

Emilie Knapple

Willow, AK

House finance committee,

I adamantly disagree with a State income tax. A sales tax would however accomplish the same amount of money or even more and spread the burden to tourists and even non-wage earners.

Thank you!

Lanissa Grogan

To whom it may concern:

I implore you to vote down HB 115. My husband and I are residents of Palmer. If this bill is passed, we have decided that we will sell our home and move out of state, as will many others. This bill will destroy not only the housing market in Alaska, but also the economy. The state budget MUST be reduced! If this bill passes, you will see the end to this great state...period.

Sincerely,

Sandy Everett
Palmer, AK