

Dear friends,

I understand the legislature is seeking feedback from Alaskans, with budget deliberations drawing to a close. I support the House fiscal plan. HB 115 is the right move, bringing back an equitable statewide income tax, capping the PFD at \$1250 (although I'd go for the Senate cap of \$1,000), and preventing further cuts to a budget that has already been pared to the bone. I urge you not to make further cuts to the budget and to support the House fiscal plan.

I attended a House Finance committee meeting yesterday that helped me understand how the House fiscal plan has changed in the past couple of weeks. I continue to endorse this bill and urge legislators to especially protect education if deliberations start to move toward the Senate version of the budget. Further cuts to education, by increasing pupil/teacher ratios, seriously impede teachers' ability to tailor instruction to students.

It is imperative for Alaska to take action so we are no longer subsidizing the oil and gas industry. We can't afford to pay them for taking our oil. For that reason, I strongly support HB 111, with all of its mechanisms for collecting from big oil.

Many thanks to all of you for hashing out this budget for the good of Alaskans, our schools, and our future.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey, retired teacher

Douglas, Alaska 99824

To my hardworking legislators:

I am writing in response to the request for budget feedback from your constituents, as deliberations on the budget wrap up. As a young, third-generation Alaskan, one who plans to build her life and family here, the economic future of our state is of the utmost importance to me, and I am paying close attention.

I support the House fiscal plan as it stands today: HB 115, providing for an income tax, will allow those with more to give more back, while lessening the impact on those less economically stable; the PFD cap at \$1,250 (although with reservations - I know the PFD is a great boon to many low-income families, especially rural ones or those living subsistence lifestyles); and doing as much as possible to prevent further budget cuts that could affect the livelihood and well-being of our people, including limiting cuts to education, the University, and state employment.

In that vein, I strongly encourage you and your colleagues in the Capitol to preserve education funding, especially as both houses collaborate to find a plan that everyone can agree on. The education of Alaska's children should be of the utmost importance to everyone who wants a strong future for this state, with bright, creative leadership for tomorrow - which should be all of you. Please protect, and help to create, the leaders, teachers, cultural stewards, and innovators of the next generation.

Further, I oppose the just-introduced SB103, the elimination of the Alaska Performance Scholarship. I was one of the first recipients of this scholarship, back in 2011, and greatly benefited from the program. Because of the generosity of the APS, I stayed in Alaska for college, instead of attending an institution in the lower 48, and studied at the University of Alaska Southeast. Because of the APS, I was able to spend three years in a degree-seeking program locally, one year studying abroad, and graduate with two internships and zero student debt under my belt. This is a rarity in today's world of ever-increasing tuition and student loan debt. Upon my graduation, the University provided me with support and assistance in finding a job. I successfully gained employment right here in Juneau, and have planted my roots even more firmly in the state. Without this program, I would have attended school out of state as planned, and likely would not have returned to Alaska to live and work after graduation. The brain drain is all too real, and the Alaska Performance Scholarship does a great deal to help fight it, allowing the state to retain the economic power of our best and brightest throughout college, and beyond.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, it is vital for our state to reduce our reliance upon the oil and gas industry. This industry is unsustainable, environmentally dubious even at the safest of times, and clearly a flawed economic partner. We must put an end to oil and gas subsidies - it is laughable that, at this point in the game, we are still paying them millions of dollars annually to take our oil. Clearly, an oil and gas based economy isn't the right long-term fit for Alaska, and these subsidies aren't helping either. For these reasons, I support HB111, and standing up for Alaska's fair share from an industry that has already cost us dearly.

Thank you for your hard work on the budget, and for keeping the best interests of your constituents - including young people like me - in mind.

Yours sincerely,
Laura Steele Douglas, Alaska 99824

Hi,

My name is Patty Winegar. My husband and I moved to Alaska in 1974 before there were PFD's. There was also a school tax. I'm in favor of capping the PFD at \$1000. That is still a lot of money to receive just for residing here. I'm also in favor of a reasonable income tax to pay for essential services. I'm not in favor of making any more cuts to our schools as I feel that is a very shortsighted solution as we are shortchanging our children and our state's future. You have a huge task so our state doesn't lose jobs including teacher's , and that our economy continues to thrive to ensure that our state is a good place to live for everyone.

Thanks,

Patty Winegar

My name is Carly Dennis, and I live in Eagle River. I am a senior at Chugiak High school, and I strongly encourage you to support an income tax in Alaska. I don't want to see my education cut any further because our legislators are too frightened to tax their people. We can't get through this crisis without new revenue. A progressive tax can help everyone.

thanks,

Carly

Dear Finance Committee,

I would like to ask you to please consider the following:

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

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

Regarding education, stop the cuts!!!! In 1985 Alaska had the reputation of the best place in the country to teach. Now it is one of the worst because every year education has been cut. High school students can't read and write because they spend too much of their time taking standardized tests. Tests teach absolutely nothing!!!! Parents, students, and teachers all have testified and requested that the amount of tests be reduced, but no one listens. Students are tired of the tests and they don't care. There should be one assessment test one day per year, nothing more. These tests cost millions of dollars and who cares about the scores? No one! Our university system is getting ruined by all of the cuts, and it serves a lot of students who could not afford to go to college elsewhere.

Please do the right thing and listen to voter's suggestions. I have lived and voted in Anchorage since 1985.

Thank you,

MaryBeth Printz

Dear Legislators,

I understand the legislature is seeking feedback from Alaskans, with budget deliberations drawing to a close. I continue to support the House fiscal plan. HB 115 is the right move, bringing back an equitable statewide income tax, capping the PFD at \$1250 (although I'd go for the Senate cap of \$1,000), and preventing further cuts to a budget that has already been pared to the bone.

I continue to endorse HB115 and urge legislators to especially protect education if deliberations start to move toward the Senate version of the budget. Further cuts to education, by increasing pupil/teacher ratios, seriously impede teachers' ability to tailor instruction to students. A strong public education is vital to the health of our communities and our state.

Thank you to all of you for the hard work you are doing crafting a budget with education and Alaska's families and the education of Alaska's children as a top priority.

Sincerely,

Margie Beedle, retired teacher

Juneau School District

Dear friends,

I understand the legislature is seeking feedback from Alaskans, with budget deliberations drawing to a close. I continue to support the House fiscal plan. HB 115 is the right move, bringing back an equitable statewide income tax, capping the PFD at \$1250 (although I'd go for the Senate cap of \$1,000), and preventing further cuts to a budget that has already been pared to the bone.

My mother, Senator Genie Chance was one of the legislators who set up the Permanent Fund. Its purpose was intended to provide for the needs of state government. The Permanent Fund Dividend was only a small part of the distribution, as a means to help ensure the public's interest in maintaining the Principal of the Fund, while using the income, minus inflation-proofing, to meet the needs of our great and vast state, including government, health, education, and infrastructure.

I continue to endorse HB115 and urge legislators to especially protect education if deliberations start to move toward the Senate version of the budget. Further cuts to education, by increasing pupil/teacher ratios, seriously impede teachers' ability to tailor instruction to students.

It is imperative for Alaska to take action so we are no longer subsidizing the oil and gas industry. We can't afford to pay them for taking our oil. For that reason, I strongly support HB 111, with all of its mechanisms for collecting from big oil.

I urge you all to go back and review the original intent and design of the Alaska Permanent fund and continue serving with the wisdom of your predecessors.

Many thanks to all of you for creating a budget for the good of all Alaskans and our future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jan Blankenship,

active PC(USA) Minister and retired state employee

Hello,

I want to express my support for HB 115. We need this intelligent combination of an income tax and Permanent Fund restructuring to help resolve our state's fiscal problems. I especially want to note that a state-wide sales tax is not a wise choice.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Deborah Rudis
Juneau, Alaska

Good morning, heard the two of you were undecided on 115. I urge you to support this bill to passage, it is simply the fairest and most equitable way for us all to share the load of filling the deficit without the draconian Senate cuts.

We have not met, just allow me to tell you my background is that I have spent the last sixty years building the regional airline called Penair, primarily serving southwest Alaska and the Aleutians.

Also most recently establishing operations out of Boston, Denver and Portland, Oregon. We are now the largest, oldest, continually operating, Alaska family-owned airline in the nation. I and my family will be happy to help fill the gap.

As to references, check with any of the above listed legislators, they all know me.

Thanks for your dedication and efforts to help solve this problem.

Orin Seybert

Anchorage, Ak 99501

Good Afternoon -

I am writing to provide public testimony on HB 115 regarding a state income tax. I believe that a state income tax is a step in the right direction. However, I strongly disagree with the current tables and breakdown that are being proposed for single vs married rates. As a single income household, I already have to pay an out-sized amount of my income to basics. I do not have a second income to assist with mortgage payments, property tax payments (which I happy to pay as I understand sustaining a community means investing in public services such as education even when I may not use many of them myself), utilities, and any other expenses that a household routinely incurs that are shared by married households with a dual income. **The proposal that singles pay higher income tax rates/amounts than married individuals in the same tax bracket is a tax on being a single household.**

In talking with a legislator's office in Juneau, it has been shared that the single rate is higher to offset the dip in the PFD that will hit married households doubly. I strongly disagree that these two forms of income for the state should be considered together in terms of impact. They are both income sources, yet they are separate issues. They both impact Alaskans, yet one may be long term and one may be short term. As such, these income sources and impacts should be considered separately. There is a possibility that the PFD will be phased out altogether at some point in the future. While most would not like to address or even think about this as a long term possibility, it is a reality that the state may have to face. Income tax, however, will likely remain after the PFD has been retired. The impacts need to be considered separately and equitably. **A static dollar amount reduction of the PFD is essentially a flat tax and hits lower income families harder. It is a tax on having a low income.**

While I do agree that instituting an income tax is a step in the right direction to close the deficit and I also agree that a reduction or complete elimination of the PFD altogether may also be a step in the right direction, I disagree with the current coupling of their combined effect on Alaska households in order to inform the proposed tax obligations across incomes and single/married households.

- **Please adjust your proposal to institute an income tax equitably across married and single households.**
- **Please adjust the reduction in the PFD to impact households across income ranges equitably, as well.**

Right now, while these proposals generate income for the state, they very clearly show a bias for those who are well off and married.

Regards,

Karen Lechner

To our hard-working Alaska Legislators:

I am shamelessly plagiarizing a letter written by a good friend, with further thoughts added. "That friend speaks for me."

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I continue to endorse HB115 and urge legislators to especially protect education if deliberations start to move toward the Senate version of the budget. Further cuts to education, by increasing pupil/teacher ratios, seriously impede teachers' ability to tailor instruction to students.

I also support strong continued funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System. Southeast Alaskans are dependent on ferries, particularly in the villages. Ferries support local economies, take villagers into larger towns for doctors, dentists and groceries, and transport youth sports teams, . Many cannot afford to fly, and flying conditions can be very tenuous year-round. Many of our elders can't even physically climb in and out of a plane, but can comfortably ride a ferry. Ferries provide a critical safe and reliable connection.

It is imperative for Alaska to take action so we are no longer subsidizing the oil and gas industry. We can't afford to pay them for taking our oil. For that reason, I strongly support HB 111, with all of its mechanisms for collecting from big oil.

Many thanks to all of you for hashing out this budget for the good of Alaskans, our schools, and our future.

Sincerely,

Karen Wilson

Juneau

PETITION for ACTION to CLOSE ALASKA'S BUDGET GAP

Governor Walker, Senator Micciche, Representative Knopp, Representative Chenault, and Finance Committees:

As your concerned constituents, we, the undersigned, wholeheartedly support your efforts to close Alaska's \$2.7 billion budget gap this year. Legislation, such as HB 115 and HB 111, would equitably share the burden of supporting our state services and economy by: using a portion (4.75%) of the market value of the Permanent Fund for government operations, protecting a dividend of over \$1000/person, reinstituting a state income tax (15% of federal income tax), and adjusting the oil and gas production taxes.

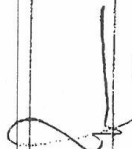



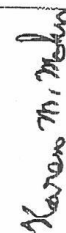






CITY IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	DATE
Kasilof AK	Linda Rupp	LAURENDA RUPP		99610	3/23/17
Kenai	Debra Dale	Debra Dale		99611	3/23/17
Sterling	Catherine Turner	CATHERINE TURNER		99672	3/28/17
Sterling	Mary Stowalter	MARY STOWALTER		99672	3/28/17
Homer	Eileen Mullen	EILEEN MULLEN		99603	3/28/17
SOLDATNA	Eden M. Brackel	Jean Brackel		99669	3/29/17

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CITY IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	DATE
Soldotna	Margaret [Signature]	Margaret S. Hays		99669	3-22-17
Soldotna	Sherril [Signature]	Sherril Miller		99669	3-22-17
SOLDOTNA	Rose [Signature]	Rose Mary Reeder		99669	3-22-17
Kenai	Lorraine [Signature]	LOREANNE CRAWFORD		99611	3-22-17
SOLDOTNA	[Signature]	JEFF FOX		99669	3/22/17
Soldotna	[Signature]	Lamont H. Hant		99669	3/22/17

CITY IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	DATE
Nikiski		Randy McClain		99610	3/30
Soldotna		Trena Richardson		99669	3/31
Nikiski		Chris Jensen		99635	3/24/17
Sterling		Cynthia Detton		99672	4/1/17
Kenai		Karen M Mohn		99611	4/2/17
Nikiski		Sharon K Fisher		99611	4/2/17
Nikiski		PAULA H. BUTE		99611	4/2/17
Kenai		William Nelson		99611	4-2-17
Soldotna		Chuck Davis		99669	4-3-17
Soldotna		Deborah J. Davis		99669	4-3-17
Nikiski		William Warren		99611	4-3-17

Dear House Finance committee:

It's time, and most Alaskans support having an income tax to keep our services and education rolling. Irreparable harm to us Alaskans if an income tax is not passed this session.

Thank you for making this a priority. We are seniors, have lived in Alaska 24 years and think it is common sense to tax our income.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Lin Davis
Juneau, AK 99801