

Letters of Support

SB 1 & SB 2

Christa McDonald

From: Conley Marcum Jr. <marksman000@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:02 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate bills

I support Senate Bill 1 and 2

Conley Marcum Jr.
Cell 907-317-8174

Christa McDonald

From: themays@mtaonline.net
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:19 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Permanent Fund

I support SB 1 & 2 to restore Alaskans' PFD.



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www.avast.com

Christa McDonald

From: themays@mtaonline.net
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:14 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Rep. George Rauscher
Subject: permanent fund

I support SB 1 & 2 to restore Alaskans' PFD.



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Christa McDonald

From: themays@mtaonline.net
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:05 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Representative.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov
Subject: Permanent Fund

I support SB 1 & 2 to restore Alaskans PFD.



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Christa McDonald

From: winforhim@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 7:52 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. David Eastman; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: PFD Restoration Bills

Dear Elected officials,

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

I speak the words above first as a platform to my email today to the senate body of our state in regards to the PFD (SB 1 and SB 2). The people of this state should be heard and the government should be trusted to act on the voice of the people not simply appease in public forums but in action. I could simply write about the adverse conditions that Governor Walker's reduction of the 2016 PFD has made on individual household funding, economy, stealing, or even placing some areas in this state on the brink of collapse. I could dig deeper in these areas and I know the senate and house have heard all of these in great detail in committees and in public town hall meetings across this state. Personally, I have heard the outcry of the PFD at my place of employment, social media, church, restaurants, and other places that my family are exposed. It simply has been a tragedy in the voice of the people in which I interact on a routine basis and a majority of them have no idea why the reduction happened, why the reduction occurred with little notice, and how one person has the power to remove all Alaskans from the role of their individual PFD. It simply has been disappointing to my circle of influence that our state government would turn their backs, close their eyes, and plug their ears of the people they serve.

Breaking the backs of Alaskans to balance an unsustainable budget in government is not what our founding leaders of this state would have tolerated or accepted. Alaskans have always been a free-spirited people and we always side on liberty and freedom that this great land has provided each one of us in so many ways. The PFD is simply a reflection of the commitment that was made to Alaskans many years ago, that we would always come first regardless of the circumstances we found ourselves. The word Permanent in that name of PFD is simply not a slogan or passive identifier. Rather it signifies a deep understanding between the people and government that we are in this together and everyone will always benefit from the resources of our state. To unilaterally take that commitment from the people makes it clear that government no longer wants to walk beside the people of Alaska but rather remove its commitment in a divorce without any ballot box cast from the other side. The PFD reflects our values of this state more than just money. It reflects who we are and what

we are like no other state in the union. The PFD stands as a reminder that all Alaskans matter regardless of who you are, where you live in this state, or what your ethnic identification. The PFD unites Alaskans like no other issue and it assures the next generations that common ground can be found if we desire to reach across. The PFD is too large to be decided in the halls of Juneau and must be taken to the streets, the villages, the cities and towns of this state. Every voice in this state must have a say on something that truly speaks to everyone in this state. The PFD must be restored to its full glory before Governor Walker's pen touched the lives of so many. It must be restored because the money of the people, by the people, and for the people was never heard or considered. This issue is about restoring confidence in our government and the people witness that government does not have the final say, we do!

Like so many Alaskans before me, I stand and shouting from the Matsu of my home in a state that I love hoping that our elected leaders will once again turn around and open their eyes, open their ears, and open their voice to advocate for the most precious resource we have in this state and that is life. The life of people is the heartbeat and backbone to this state. Please restore our faith and hope that government is truly for the people of all Alaskans and your commitment to us is first priority.

Thank You,

Greg Pugh

District 12

Christa McDonald

From: beth@bethsvalleyviews.com
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 6:30 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Public Hearing - Saturday 1/28/2016 - Permanent Fund

Honored Members of the Alaska Senate Affairs Committee,

I am not able to testify today as I am working, so I appreciate your full consideration of my written testimony.

First, please remember that withholding 1/2 of Alaskans' Permanent Fund Dividends did nothing toward making this money available for state spending. AS 43.23.025 Amount of Dividend - leaves undistributed funds in the Dividend fund for distribution the next year.

I understand that some in the Legislature believe that Alaska needs more revenues. But many in the communities you serve have been studying the subject at least as deeply as we hope you have, and have come to the conclusion that this is just not so.

Obviously, we were not in a financial crisis (unable to pay our bills) when the Governor first declared one two years ago. The wise cuts in spending you have made have not caused government to dissolve. Some bureaucrats have decided to cut their budgets where they do the most damage to the public, but services are still being provided.

There are realignments where savings can still be achieved. These include continued elimination of positions that have not been filled in 6 or more months; reforming our 54 school districts to under 30; recalculating some of the formula funding; looking at former grant-required programs that are no longer being federally financed to ensure that they are still providing necessary services; and realigning resource development permitting into a one-stop-shop as was done in the past (per former legislator Beth Kertula).

Many of you fully support and desire to keep funding every wish and dream at the University, yet you do not pay attention to one of the University's most publicly valued resources, its Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER). Please remember that ISER has reported for almost a decade that we have not had sustainable budgets, and the the worst thing the legislature and governor can do, in times of recession, is to 'play' with the Permanent Fund structuring, funding formulas and Dividends.

I beg you to pay attention to Senator Dunleavy's 50/50 Plan for accomplishing what many of us in the fiscally conservative arena have been saying during this stalemate. That is cut the budget over 3-4 years, don't do anything to the Permanent Fund Corporation, structure, funding or Dividend, and no new or increased revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until the budget is sustainable.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

bethf

Beth Fread

Associate Broker

907-354-7759

Beth@BethsValleyViews.com

Lee Realty, LLC

550 E Dunbar Dr., Suite F

Wasilla, AK 99654

"Bill and Beth take that value-added extra step in all they do!"

Call us today with your family and/or friend referrals for our extra-step professionalism.

Christa McDonald

From: Todd Smoldon <toddsmoldon1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 12:46 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB1 Testimony

To the Alaska Senate Affairs Committee,

When Governor Walker vetoed one-half of the permanent fund dividend payout in the summer of 2016, I was very disappointed and frustrated. I believe that this was a foolish decision that hurts private businesses and was a regressive income tax on households in the state.

As you know, the veto of the PFD was not really a cost savings or a reduction in the budget. The money that was not paid out sits in the permanent fund earnings reserve account rather than circulating throughout the private economy. During a time when Alaska is experiencing low economic growth and the highest unemployment rate in the country, it is unwise to withhold nearly 700 million dollars from the private economy. The private economy creates jobs and wealth. It is from the private economy, that the public sector is able to draw wealth. A full payout of the 2016 PFD will strengthen the private economy, which also strengthens the state and local governments.

The governor's veto of the 2016 PFD was also a significant tax on the people of Alaska. The average Alaskan household income was approximately 70,000 dollars last year. For a family of four in Alaska, this veto by the governor was essentially a tax of nearly 7%. For the working poor in Alaska, this veto could have resulted in the loss of as much as 10 - 20% of their overall income. For many of these poor Alaskans, this means less food on the table, more difficulty with paying bills, and also less money for education and training. While many communities generally do not mind taxing citizens progressively, This is a regressive income tax that significantly hurts the poor in our state.

To conclude, the veto of the 2016 PFD payout in full was a demonstration of the inability of Governor Walker to make hard choices about the appropriate size of government in our state. It is a fact that our state spends significantly more per citizen than any other state in the United States. When looking at the numbers over the last decade, it is clear that our state government spending has increased significantly higher than the rate of population growth and inflation. The governor and legislature should be looking for ways to spend more efficiently, not finding more efficient ways to extract money from the citizens of Alaska. I urge you to support the private economy and the families of Alaska by voting to move this bill to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Todd Smoldon

Willow, Alaska

907-947-9837

Christa McDonald

From: Sally <sallymac@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 11:33 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Stolen Money

My name is Sally McMahan Pollen and I'm here to ask for my money back. That would be the \$1000 that Governor Walker and a complying legislature skimmed from my Permanent Fund Dividend check last year. I understand its sitting in an account waiting to be returned to its rightful owners. I also understand that the stolen millions would not even make a dent in Alaska's huge budget crisis, so it might as well be circulating in the economy of Alaska, which is officially in recession.

Please, no taxes of any kind and no scheming to take more of the people's money in years to come until we see deep cuts to the fat pig called state government. Governor Walker, don't lead the legislature on another heist this session. Legislators, be united and don't cave in to what you know is wrong.

Sincerely,
A life-long Alaskan

Christa McDonald

From: Bridget Chance <randyjchance@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: My PFD

Dear Sirs,

We are so blessed to live in this state. Our fellow Alaskans live, work and die here and sometimes get injured here. As an Alaskan my family and I have receive a PFD every year. We invest that PFD by spending that money here in our community and State. However, this year my family was hit hard financially and we counted on our PFD's to help with medical bills and dental bills. What the Governor did was wrong. He took that money from so many families that count on their PFD's to get them through the coldest months, food, heating, medical and dental bills and other things. You hurt us, you hurt your fellow Alaskans, those who can no longer work due to injuries, those making minimum wage, those who have high deductibles, those who can't find a job those who are going to school and need a little extra cash. Just in my family you took \$3000.00 from us. You hurt us and My Fellow Alaskans!

Respectfully

Bridget Chance

Christa McDonald

From: jolene watkins <jolenewatkins@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: TAKING WHAT BELONGS TO ALL ALASKA RESIDENTS DOES NOT FIX THE SPENDING PROBLEM IN THE GOVERNMENT! Responsible spending, prioritize needs and stick to a budget!

Christa McDonald

From: Jonette G Jones <jaye.gjaye24@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 5:46 PM
To: Senate State Affairs

i support restoring the PFD with SB 1 and 2!

Christa McDonald

From: Gabby Hodges <gabbyhodges05@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Please let the citizens of Alaska the right to vote on the PFD issue prior to letting our leaders take it. I am a disabled grandmother trying to raise my autistic grandson. Each year the first thing I use my PFD on is getting school clothes, winter gear and all his needs for the year met. Next I pay all bills then stock my home up with groceries. Receiving half this year put my beautiful family in critical need. I am now having to visit food banks for groceries. It shames me to do that but without our PFD we struggle. I realize you are trying to do the best you can for our beautiful state but please, I urge you to consider the thousands of us that struggle financially to remain in Alaska. If my health were better this wouldn't be an issue for my household but this is my reality Thousands more in my boat through no fault of our own.

Thank you for serving our state and I pray you make the right decision.

Sincerely

Carol Hodges

Christa McDonald

From: Katherine Hicks <akhix49@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 12:32 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 1 and SB 2

I guess Senate State Affairs will be hearing testimony on these Bills this Saturday. I urge all of you, except the 2 nay votes last year, to listen to the people, not this governor. Before stealing the PFD, exacting new taxes, or any other scheme you can come up with to keep spending, you need to seriously cut spending. How can you expect us to pay for offices all over the world for Walker's pipe-dream yet take food and heat from many Alaskan's? This is shameful, and I think it should be evident on a bi-partisan basis.

I hope State Affairs passes these bills soon and that the rest of the Legislature joins in. I'm sure you heard the same from your constituency. No taxes until you cut spending.

Katherine Hicks

Christa McDonald

From: Rick Ellis <spike9542003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD restoration act

Request you pass this legislation, reinstate our PFD to it's full value and please prevent governor Walker from raiding the Permanent Fund to fund government shortfalls. The PFD was and is, intended to share the natural resources wealth of our state with the residents of Alaska and NOT to fund general government.

Thank you.

Rick C. Ellis
341 S. Gastman Ct.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Sent from Rick's iPhone

Christa McDonald

From: Judi Burris <jab0490031@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD restoration act SB1 and SB2

I am Judith Weier I live in Fairbanks Alaska. I have lived in Alaska since 1970 or 47 years. I was here when Governor Hammond and his legislative team enacted the PFD. I support giving the Alaskans the balance of our PFD . This is just not responsible for the Governor to take this money that helps so many Alaskans and their communities. If you need to contact me I am at 007-799-5520 or you can mail to: 4464 Condor Court Fairbanks, Alaska 99709. Thank you for allowing me to testify on SB1 and SB2.

Sent from my iPhone from Judi

From: Randy Van Sickle [<mailto:vansrw@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>
Subject: Permanent Fund

I am not from your district but I applaud your efforts to restore the public's dividend.

I also have a suggestion or thought on future dividends that I am hoping you may consider. A couple of time in the past bills have been proposed to cash out the dividend and I believe in 2000 it may have even been voted on by the public.

I have been receiving the dividend since its inception other than the period of 2006 thru 2010 when I was working for a private contractor in Iraq, and although everything I owned, my house and residency was in Alaska I was unable to collect my dividend.

With the current status of Alaska's budget and the oil industry I believe consideration of proposing a cash out of the dividend maybe a proposal that has merit.

Should that not hold any interest to you maybe the idea of a provision of anyone at the age of 60 or over be given the opportunity to cash out their dividend.

respectfully,
Randy Van Sickle
vansrw@yahoo.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Joel Randrup [<mailto:jkrandrup@gci.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:29 AM

To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>

Subject: senate bills and tax

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

Thank you for your bills to provide the supplemental payment of the 2016 permanent fund dividend which was vetoed last session. My wife and I have been in the private economy our entire working careers and felt the effects of the lost revenue. I believe the veto of that portion of the permanent fund dividend had the greatest negative impact to the overall economy and was hardest on the poorest part of Alaskans.

Also, thank you for your efforts to help inform and educate the public on other revenue sources which were discussed in yesterdays committee hearing. Income, property, and sales tax, if spread across the entire population in such forms as Mr. Walczak presented may be accepted by Alaskans as another revenue source for the state budget. The earnings from the permanent fund, I hope, are the last to be discussed as a part of the budget revenue.

Thank you,
Joel Randrup
Petersburg, AK

Christa McDonald

From: Meghan Nelson <timegnelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: In Support of SB1 and SB2

Dear senators,

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB1 and SB2.

The PFD belongs to the people and should only ever be adjusted by vote of the people.

The governor's veto broke precedence (previous governors have respected the will of the people) and redefined the fund and how the money for distribution is appropriated. This was a move that is out of line with the law and the people's will. Additionally, this veto has negatively affected thousands across the state who use these funds to prepare for the harsh winter months and has directly impacted our economy during a recession. A restoration of the PFD would flood our state with much needed money.

Please stand for the Alaskan people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meghan Nelson
5905 Churchill Way Lot 72
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Christa McDonald

From: Tru Gypsy <java.babe@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:13 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Greetings to you,

I doubt you will listen to a word any of us in this state have to say.

However, I have been a property owner and a contributing member
in the Alaskan economy since 1982.

Greed in the government is inexcusable. After 30 years of marriage
and faithfully serving him and raising ***all ten*** of his children and educating
each one at home with excellence, AND volunteering my time and their
time to help out at political events and serving our community in countless
ways, I have found my ex-husband of 30 years had been living a double
life.

He bankrupted our family with his escapades and I found myself completely
homeless with my youngest two children, here in Alaska, living on the streets
from Sept 2010 until April 2011, one of the coldest, windiest winters I have
endured since I moved here.

The father of my children, who also works for the government as a contractor,
drained our bank accounts, committed horrible acts against each of us, and
left us with no provision whatsoever. We had no food, no shelter, no help and

even the governor's office refused to help us.

I have struggled and have made my way. As I learned of the different methods of help available to us, I used them temporarily, worked my way off of those programs and today, I am assistant free and am providing for my remaining two children.

The laws of this state perfectly facilitate abusive men and helps to line their pockets with lots of income and perfectly leaves good, devoted women who have sacrificed their own careers and lives to BUILD OUR FAMILIES FULL TIME, homeless, penniless, and without restitution for themselves and their children.

In my career, I was enlisted in the United States Air Force as an aircraft mechanic, and at the end of my hitch, I set my own career aside and gave my life to be a full time mother. I gave 30 full years of my life and educated ALL TEN-CHILDREN myself. I have worked tirelessly!

In my court case, my ex, made me agree to forego retirement, alimony and he even got out of a large portion of the child support he owed to us, in order for us to be safe and to live without ongoing horrendous abuses, I signed the agreement and am starting all over. That ex, stole both of my inheritances and he stole \$598,000 in pfd dividends from our whole family over the course of 30 years.

Every year, we use our dividends to buy new shoes, coats and clothing for my growing boys and we buy food which lasts through the year. Children who endure the type abuses that my children had to endure until I led them out of our personal hell, often turn to a life of crime as a result of living in utmost poverty. That being the case, I use the dividends each year to meet their very simple, real needs and to buy them the simple things that children

need to live a basically happy childhood.

governor Walker, you have fortified yourself with plenty while stealing from very needy children and those of us who have been screwed in this state by our abusers while they happily skip off leaving us to live in poverty. You have taken away what my children and the children of countless other mothers need to simply keep the basic needs met to give these children a good childhood. Shame on you.

Balance your budget, cut back, and be responsible.

You cannot balance the state budget if the abandoned women and children are increasing and the need for state aid continues to increase! The number of abandoned families living on state programs such as food stamps, medicaid, ATAP etc, increases the state deficit. The number of fathers who are NOT REQUIRED TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT to those needy families, increases the deficit.

Give us back our dividends and help mothers stabilize their personal economies and lessen the need for public assistance programs. The dividends **are not yours** to use at your disposal. We take that money and circulate it right back into the economy of Alaska and as in our case, we use the dividends for much needed provision.

I am getting on with making a living AND keeping the emotional and educational needs of my family **balanced and on track**. In spite of POVERTY! You made my youngest cry when he learned we could not get some of the things we needed this year because our governor decided to take it. He watched the newscasts and being a homeschooled student, he researched it himself and realized you really took it.

Christa McDonald

From: Jacqueline Johnson <nwwoman2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Restore the PFD

I want to advocate for my clients and all other people in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta who rely on the PFD for their yearly financial income, yes, that is right. They don't have enough income from any other sources to rely on except that. They buy fuel, furniture, 4 wheelers, sno gos. kids clothes, pay up the rent or electric, to make it through to the next year

Many people are low education, unable to understand how to advocate for themselves, or culturally bound so they do not advocate for themselves, not wanting to go against cultural values. I am asking that these people, who are the highest numbers in our region, be considered first and foremost when you continue to deny these residents their permanent funds.

Christa McDonald

From: Full Name <tigressden@excite.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Christa McDonald
Subject: Fwd: RE: SB1 SB2

-----Original Message-----

From: Full Name [mailto:tigressden@excite.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:22 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB1 SB2

Dear Senator Shelley Hughes ,

I would like to encourage you to vote yes to support SB1 and SB2 to restore the PFD.

I am a senior citizen here in Palmer Alaska each year my PFD is used to supply myself with food and heat through out the winter months. This year with out my full PFD I am hungry and behind in my ever increasing heating bills. I already live below poverty status as it is. Its difficult enough ,with out loosing more money from my PFD .Our Constitution reads for the people by the people. You where put in office to represent the people. I know I do not stand alone. Many of Palmer Seniors are going hungry and are cold. Along with many other Alaskan's family's.

When Governor Bill Walker was elected to office he said "I will not touch the PFD or instill a state income tax" Alaskan's are outraged by his actions to cut the Pfd in half. He lied to the Alaskan people. The Alaskan state government gets plenty of money from the PFD with out taking it from the people.

If Bill walker can not balance his check book shame on him. he should know that to save money you don't spend money; ie his new campaign manger John Henry Heckendorn.

Please I encourage you to vote yes for SB1 and SB2 Vote for the people at and by the people who elected you.

If the state needs to balance the budget bring in a state lotto and or legalese gambling. Other states do not have a PFD and they do not have a budget problem.

Sincerely
Kim Alman

From: Jacqueline Fries [<mailto:jfries@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 5:52 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: SB1 and SB2 Written Testimony Submission

Senator Dunleavy - Thank you for supplying this information. My submission isn't as well written as I would like because I have been quite ill. I wanted to supply my input, however, so it is what it is.

I did forward your e-mail to several friends.

Thank you again - Jacqueline Fries

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: SB1 and SB2 Written Testimony Submission
Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2017 17:44:51 -0900
From: Jacqueline Fries <jfries@acsalaska.net>
To: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

I ask that the balance of the 2016 PFD be restored. I am a 70-year-old who has worked all her life. I pay all my bills without assistance. Through no fault of my own, I find myself in a position where the additional \$1000 would be a God-send.

I cared for my terminally ill husband for many years. That was a 24-hour a day job. I worked full-time until I had a mild coronary. Since my husband passed away, some serious health issues have become apparent. Years of caring for my husband and the outlandish drain on finances have put me in a position of being on a fixed income. It is a major struggle.

- Rents increased.
- Car/renters insurance increased. Even though I have had no accidents or tickets, I am paying for the uninsured drivers, horrendous number of accidents and auto thefts and also claims for stolen property.
- Enstar and ML&P increased, and then there are also AWWU, phone and garbage.
- Food costs increased drastically. When the store director at Fred Meyer asked me how I was doing and if I needed help finding anything, I told him I was going to have to get a mortgage to buy groceries.
- Supplemental medicare and drug coverage increased; health care and drug costs increased.
- Everything has increased except Social Security.

Unfortunately, mine is not a unique situation in the senior citizen community. I recently read where there is a huge group of senior citizens - growing daily - that have been labeled "Elder

Orphans". We have outlived our family and have been isolated by illness of a loved one. I am a college educated, intelligent woman seeking employment - constantly told I am over-qualified.

I make homemade chicken soup, so generally only purchase chicken when on sale, carrots, celery, onions. I make my own bread to save costs. I have a comfort dog and spend the bulk of money I have for food to provide her with a healthy diet and on her health care. She is a rescue dog who was thrown away; she adopted me and is my soul-mate. She has saved my life as I deal with depression at loss of spouse and daily survival struggles. Trying to survive is exhausting.

I am not throwing money away on wide screen TVs and toys. Clothing is purchased in second hand stores.

Please restore the vetoed portion of the 2016 dividend. There are many other means of cost saving and raising income in Alaska. Pot shops should be flooding the coffers with dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my input and please take my situation and thoughts seriously. There are many of us out there - many unable to get our and testify or to submit an e-mail.

Jacqueline Fries - P.O Box 140632 - Anchorage, Alaska 99514-0632

January 25, 2017

Senate State Affairs Committee:

Subject: SB1 and SB2

Senators:

The use of the Permanent Fund earnings to supplant the general fund in 2016 by the governor was, in effect, a regressive tax on the poor. The loss of \$1,000 to someone who earns \$100,000 is only one percent, but to take away \$1,000 from someone who earns only \$10,000 is ten percent. Those Alaskans who are using their child's Permanent Fund Dividend to save for college are taxed at an uncalculable rate as the children have no other income.

If there is a need to find a source of money for the state budget, the method should be fair, not a tax that affects the rural and the poor disproportionately.

Mindful that the state is in a financial crunch, but also mindful that taxes should be fair, I support SB1 and SB2.

These bills are good for Alaskans and Alaska. This additional payment from the Permanent Fund Division will help our Alaska residents who are most in need, and will help many of our youngsters finance their college education, and that can only be good for the state. Taking money from the poorest of Alaskans only adds to the cost of social services when these people need to survive in the harsh reality of rural Alaska.

Thank you,

Nicholas Barshay

Cordova AK 99574

Voter: 9083327

January 25, 2017

Senate State Affairs Committee:

Subject: SB1 and SB2

Senators:

The use of the Permanent Fund earnings to supplant the general fund in 2016 by the governor was, in effect, a regressive tax on the poor. The loss of \$1,000 to someone who earns \$100,000 is only one percent, but to take away \$1,000 from someone who earns only \$10,000 is ten percent. Those Alaskans who are using their child's Permanent Fund Dividend to save for college are taxed at an uncalculable rate as the children have no other income.

If there is a need to find a source of money for the state budget, the method should be fair, not a tax that affects the rural and the poor disproportionately.

Mindful that the state is in a financial crunch, but also mindful that taxes should be fair, I support SB1 and SB2.

These bills are good for Alaskans and Alaska. This additional payment from the Permanent Fund Division will help our Alaska residents who are most in need, and will help many of our youngsters finance their college education, and that can only be good for the state. Taking money from the poorest of Alaskans only adds to the cost of social services when these people need to survive in the harsh reality of rural Alaska.

Thank you,

Nicholas Barshay

Cordova AK 99574

Voter: 9083327

Christa McDonald

From: Susan Carver <ssncrvr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 1:48 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB1 & SB2

Attn: Chair of Senate Affairs Committee

As an Alaska citizen, I strongly encourage you to support these bills, and expedite their passage to bring financial relief to those most affected by the loss off 1/2 of their PFD and suffering due to this loss. Every eligible Alaskan was adversely affected by this financial loss. It's appropriate this matter be handled first and with all due speed.

On behalf of myself and my fellow Alaskans, Respectfully yours, Susan Carver, Wasilla

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mike Prax [<mailto:gmprax@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 2:40 AM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 1 & 2 Restoring PFD

Senator Dunleavy;

I see that you have sponsored bills to restore the amount of the dividend that the governor vetoed from last year's appropriation bill.

My advise on this bill is to proceed cautiously.

I am, on the one hand, glad that you introduced the bill, because it would take money out of the state treasury and spread the benefit of resource income to individual Alaskans.

On the other hand, I am concerned that this bill plays into the administration's narrative that the dividend amount and transfers of P-Fund earnings are not driven by statute and therefore require an annual appropriation - which are subject to executive line-item veto.

I was very disappointed that the legislature did not recognize that Governor Walker exceeded his authority when he reduced the dividend amount last year and override his veto.

Instructions for calculating the dividend amount and dispersing the funds are unambiguously spelled out in statute and therefore do not require an annual legislative appropriation. The record clearly shows the legislative intent when the statutes were established and the unique nature of the Permanent Fund and the effect of the statutes was acknowledged by the State Supreme Court in *Hickel v. Cowper*.

Legal opinions from the AG's office and Leg-Legal attorney's insinuating that annual appropriations are required served a political purpose, but were unsound legal advise. Unfortunately, prior legislators followed this unsound advise and established the practice of mimicking what was established in statute in annual appropriation bills. They did not foresee the possibility that a person with the cavalier approach to governing that our current governor displays would rise to power .

I applaud Mr. Wielechowski for petitioning the state court to do what the legislature should have done to resolve the matter. That petition is now under advisement with the Supreme Court. Hopefully, the court will render a decision that overturns the Governor's veto soon. If that happens, these bills becomes moot.

I suppose these bills could be viewed as insurance against an adverse decision by the Court; But it is poor insurance, because there is no question that the governor has the authority to veto either bill should they pass and little doubt that we would exercise that authority.

The intent of these bills could also be accomplished within the annual appropriation bill. The only downside to this would be a delay in payment - if the appropriation survived the governor's veto - which it probably won't.

The question before the court is essentially whether the governor has the authority to veto an existing statute. If the court rules he can, the the very idea of a republican form of government seems to be lost - which is far more costly to society than the loss of part of the PFD.

This bill appears to be a political solution to what is a constitutional problem. Although I support the economic intent of the bill, it seems to weaken the argument against the governor before the court and there seems to be almost no chance of it resulting in an economic benefit.

My recommendation is to put this bill on hold and wait for the court's decision.

The legislature can appropriate any additional amount above that which is calculated by statute in the appropriation bill. Doing so will not compromise the legal argument before the court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Prax

(907) 378-5667

From: D RILEY CHADWELL <onelonedolphin@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 1:23 AM

To: Alaska Senate Majority

Subject: Re: We'd like to hear from you

Pete,

I think you guys better get hot on returning our stolen PFD's including each residents portion of the interest those funds are gathering in their undisclosed location!

Dr Di

On Jan 22, 2017, at 12:31 PM, Alaska Senate Majority <senatemajority@akleg.gov> wrote:

We want to know what you think about many of the decisions facing Alaska. Please take a moment to answer our annual start-of-session survey:

<https://www.alaskasenate.org/poll>

Thank you for taking the time to provide your thoughts.

Pete Kelly

Alaska Senate President

Christa McDonald

From: skconn@mtaonline.net
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 11:09 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Subject: SB1 & SB2

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

Thank you for introducing SB1 & 2 to restore the Permanent Fund Dividend to its original amount. Governor Walker should have never capped the dividend last year, and I am glad that you are working to correct this.

Please stand strong and keep all taxes and restructuring of the PFD at bay. Until the budget is decreased, the people of Alaska should not be expected to bail out massive overspending.

Thank you,

Shannon Connelly

11427 E. Cienna Ave.

Palmer, AK 99645

(907)745-7046

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Christa McDonald

From: winforhim@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 7:52 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. David Eastman; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: PFD Restoration Bills

Dear Elected officials,

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

I speak the words above first as a platform to my email today to the senate body of our state in regards to the PFD (SB 1 and SB 2). The people of this state should be heard and the government should be trusted to act on the voice of the people not simply appease in public forums but in action. I could simply write about the adverse conditions that Governor Walker's reduction of the 2016 PFD has made on individual household funding, economy, stealing, or even placing some areas in this state on the brink of collapse. I could dig deeper in these areas and I know the senate and house have heard all of these in great detail in committees and in public town hall meetings across this state. Personally, I have heard the outcry of the PFD at my place of employment, social media, church, restaurants, and other places that my family are exposed. It simply has been a tragedy in the voice of the people in which I interact on a routine basis and a majority of them have no idea why the reduction happened, why the reduction occurred with little notice, and how one person has the power to remove all Alaskans from the role of their individual PFD. It simply has been disappointing to my circle of influence that our state government would turn their backs, close their eyes, and plug their ears of the people they serve.

Breaking the backs of Alaskans to balance an unsustainable budget in government is not what our founding leaders of this state would have tolerated or accepted. Alaskans have always been a free-spirited people and we always side on liberty and freedom that this great land has provided each one of us in so many ways. The PFD is simply a reflection of the commitment that was made to Alaskans many years ago, that we would always come first regardless of the circumstances we found ourselves. The word Permanent in that name of PFD is simply not a slogan or passive identifier. Rather it signifies a deep understanding between the people and government that we are in this together and everyone will always benefit from the resources of our state. To unilaterally take that commitment from the people makes it clear that government no longer wants to walk beside the people of Alaska but rather remove its commitment in a divorce without any ballot box cast from the other side. The PFD reflects our values of this state more than just money. It reflects who we are and what

we are like no other state in the union. The PFD stands as a reminder that all Alaskans matter regardless of who you are, where you live in this state, or what your ethnic identification. The PFD unites Alaskans like no other issue and it assures the next generations that common ground can be found if we desire to reach across. The PFD is too large to be decided in the halls of Juneau and must be taken to the streets, the villages, the cities and towns of this state. Every voice in this state must have a say on something that truly speaks to everyone in this state. The PFD must be restored to its full glory before Governor Walker's pen touched the lives of so many. It must be restored because the money of the people, by the people, and for the people was never heard or considered. This issue is about restoring confidence in our government and the people witness that government does not have the final say, we do!

Like so many Alaskans before me, I stand and shouting from the Matsu of my home in a state that I love hoping that our elected leaders will once again turn around and open their eyes, open their ears, and open their voice to advocate for the most precious resource we have in this state and that is life. The life of people is the heartbeat and backbone to this state. Please restore our faith and hope that government is truly for the people of all Alaskans and your commitment to us is first priority.

Thank You,

Greg Pugh

District 12

Christa McDonald

From: Mike Coons <mcoons@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Support SB 1 and SB2

My name is Mike Coons, from Palmer and speaking for myself

I fully support SB1 and SB2 for a very simple reason. The economy. In a recent e-mail from Senator Mia Costello she says that Alaska is now in a recession. This is based on economic testimony given to her committee. A recession is not caused by one thing only, but in this case the removal of roughly 7 hundred thousand dollars from the economy had a real impact.

AS 43.23.025 Amount of Dividend - leaves undistributed funds in the Dividend fund for distribution the next year. Governor Walker tried to lie to us that keeping half the PFD it would help reduce the budget. That was a flat out lie and continues to be.

The real reason for this recession, when other States are full bore ahead, is a combination of not paying the oil industry the credits that are in statute, thus a strong reason for loosing 6,800 jobs last year and another expected 7,000 this year as well as the uncertainty of our State economy.

We have a Governor who is a tax and spend Governor, while those States booming are run by Conservative Republican Governors whom are less government, less taxes, less regulation, the hallmark of our Republic.

Pass SB1 and SB2, put \$700 thousand dollars back in our pockets and into the economy, stop spending Other Peoples Money (OPM), meaning mine vs cutting the budget to sustainable levels like Senator Dunleavy's 50/50 plan will do. Stop this Governor and his liberal supporters from taking our state to a new low while other States flourish. We have a new President that is for economic growth and prosperity whom may very well this year open ANWR and stop EPA, Interior actions that have been another cause of our recession. Governor Walker is working against the fulfillment of our States destiny that President Trump will be helping up achieve! Give us back our full PFD, no more restructuring of the PFD, no new taxes and no more violating existing law and promises made to the oil industry!

Mike Coons
5200 Dorothy Drive
Palmer, AK 99645

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Using Opera's mail client: <http://www.opera.com/mail/>

Christa McDonald

From: Linn McCabe <linn.mccabe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Senators,

Please reinstate the full dividend as designed by the legislature and Governor Hammond. This money belongs to the people and must not be allocated for any other purpose(s). We do not own the mineral rights to our own property and the PFD was created in recognition of this reality. At some point you may need to access the Permanent Fund, but before this can be justified, you **MUST CUT THE OPERATING BUDGET!** We cannot afford the current levels of irresponsible spending. For starters, the gas offices recently created in Texas and Japan must be closed. The gas line is not viable and this governor insists on throwing (OUR) good money after bad. There is a plan which must be reviewed which was created by United For Liberty and Alaska Policy Forum, posted at MissionCriticalAlaska.com. We will be watching and waiting for our Senators and Representatives to represent the wishes of the people.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Linn McCabe
PO Box 520248
Big Lake, AK 99652
Ph: (907)242-9474

Sent from my iPhone

Christa McDonald

From: Cynthia Goodwin <outstanding64@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Regarding the REST of the PFD

Hello, I have tried to think of what to say here. However, all that keeps going through my mind is "You took money slated to come to me, now give it back!" Is it "my" money? Well, that little portion via the rules and regulations where slated to come to me, so yes the portion that Governor Walker "took" was my money.

If the state needed it that bad they should have at the MINIMUM put the whole issue up for a vote before the people and made their case as to why they needed it more than people who live in a high cost of living state with very little industry jobs do.

I don't know what else to say...Governor Walker acted as sole owner of the PFD. Is he??

If so, then why I guess we should all go and grovel at his feet for a portion of the PFD every year if we want it...and maybe he will give us ten bucks.

But, Governor Walker is NOT the owner of the PFD and should not have acted so. He ran on the premise that he would not touch the PFD. I actually (in hind sight stupidly) voted for him because of that "promise".

Evidently Governor Walker does not think of "the people", it's about "*his pipeline*" and "*his legacy*". He should take a queue from what just happened with the presidential election as to what people think about him now and will regarding his legacy.

There is so much more to say, but it's not worth getting upset over or my time. The Governor has set himself as the know all and end all, meaning he knows whats best for us and will do what he feels is right regardless.

I wonder how many are leaving the state as I wright this. Like it or not the dividend is a factor for many that live here.

Thank you for reading my email. And no I won't vote for Governor Walker again, no one I know will.

Cynthia L. Goodwin

Registered Voter

907-707-3210

Christa McDonald

From: Brandi Wadkins <bearthangel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:49 AM
To: Christa McDonald
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: SB1 and SB2 testimony

Good Day.

My name is Brandi Wadkins, I'm from Soldotna, I represent a family of five with four minors unable to vote. It is their voices I want you to hear today.

Our household is in support of restoring the withheld 2016 PFD amounts. We would like to be able to put back a fuller portion of the PFD into each child's savings account, as we do each year. This is a modest tithe of the PFD amount since we are a very low income earning family for 2016. Without any PFD funds we surely would have faced dire circumstances, perhaps even being homeless. Since we did receive a partial PFD we were able to maintain our home, but all discretionary spending was halted. I even had friends purchase holiday gifts for my children so they would not go without.

I share this information to give a face and reality to the statistics that are represented by ISER research regarding the economic harm done to low income families by Gov. Walker's choice to withhold half of our PFD. We are not just numbers. We are Alaska's real future. We are the next generation.

We support the efforts of Senator Dunleavy and the other sponsors of restoring our rightful dividend from 2016. We also support efforts to protect our current methods of PFD distribution, as outlined by Statute Law, from further molestation.

We thank you for your time and for hearing our voices.

Future voters: Rachel, Caleb, Hannah and Michael

Brandi Wadkins

bearthangel@gmail.com

Christa McDonald

From: Mike Coons <mcoons@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Revised Support SB 1 and SB2

My name is Mike Coons, from Palmer and speaking for myself

I fully support SB1 and SB2 for a very simple reason. The economy. In a recent e-mail from Senator Mia Costello she says that Alaska is now in a recession. This is based on economic testimony given to her committee. A recession is not caused by one thing only, but in this case the removal of roughly 70 hundred million dollars from the economy had a real impact. Last I heard this was \$1.50 per PFD dollar into the economy

AS 43.23.025 Amount of Dividend - leaves undistributed funds in the Dividend fund for distribution the next year. Governor Walker tried to lie to us that keeping half the PFD it would help reduce the budget. That was a flat out lie and continues to be.

The real reason for this recession, when other States are full bore ahead, is a combination of not paying the oil industry the credits that are in statute, thus a strong reason for loosing 6,800 jobs last year and another expected 7,000 this year as well as the uncertainty of our State economy.

We have a Governor who is a tax and spend Governor, while those States booming are run by Conservative Republican Governors whom are less government, less taxes, less regulation, the hallmark of our Republic.

Pass SB1 and SB2, put \$700 million dollars back in our pockets and 1.5 Billion into the economy, stop spending Other Peoples Money (OPM), meaning mine, vs cutting the budget to sustainable levels like Senator Dunleavy's

50/50 plan will do. Stop this Governor and his liberal supporters from taking our state to a new low while other States flourish. We have a new President that is for economic growth and prosperity whom may very well this year open ANWR and stop EPA, Interior actions that have been another cause of our recession. Governor Walker is working against the fulfillment of our States destiny that President Trump will be helping up achieve! Give us back our full PFD, no more restructuring of the PFD, no new taxes and no more attacks to Alaskans for standing against the Governor and for the legislature.

Mike Coons
5200 Dorothy Drive
Palmer, AK 99645 Using Opera's mail client: <http://www.opera.com/mail/>

WRITTEN TESTIMONEY FOR;

COMMITTEE: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS;

Chair, Senator Mike Dunleavy & all Committee Members

BILL: SB 1 & 2

SPONSER:

DATE & TIME: 01/28/2017 @ 10:00 AM

My name is DENNY KAY WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I **SUPPORT** both SB 1 & 2 as written.

I believe Gov. Walker was wrong when he vetoed half of Alaskans' Permanent Fund dividend checks last June instead of reducing government as he had promised during his campaign. After listening to the public testimony last session regarding Gov. Walker's decision to raid the PFD it seems like an overwhelmingly majority of voters felt the same way. My thoughts were confirmed on October 7, 2016 when it was reported by pollster Ivan Moore in an article titled; "Alaska Gov. Walker's popularity dives sharply following PFD veto, new survey shows" (see **copy**). With that said; I also believe the Senate was wrong for not taking legislative measures to try to stop the Governor's veto within the proper timeframe.

I do not know how many of you keep old documents like I do; but I just pulled up a copy of the October 11, 2014 article "Bill Walker answers questions about the issues in 2014 election for Alaska governor" and question 7 asked "The state's savings is being depleted. How low should the savings go before you begin to seriously discuss implementing a widespread tax, such as a sales or income tax, or reducing Permanent Fund Dividend checks to help pay for services? Bill Walker's response: "I have no intention to implement a statewide tax or paying for state government by reducing Permanent Fund dividend checks. If we properly develop our natural resources and put in place a sustainable budget that should not be necessary." (see **copy**). Apparently Gov. Walker forgot what he said or just plain lied to get votes.

As for Why Alaskans created the PFD; during construction of the Pipeline in the 1970's oil companies' flooded the state coffers with \$900 million and the Legislature spent it all within a few years. Alaskans knew they had to do something to safeguard the robust income forthcoming from the pipeline. Alaskans voted in 1976 to amend the constitution to put at least 25% of the oil money into a dedicated fund. The constitutional amendment was designed to keep the government from spending the oil wealth recklessly. (see **copy**). Alaska does not need any new taxes nor do we need to surrender the PFD. What is needed to stop the shortfall is to **CUT GOVERNMENT** and stop the **OVERSPENDING**.

There are many places that government could be cut, here is just one;

The Alaska Marine Highway System has said in an Associated Press article that the fleet size of 11 ferries needs to downsize (see copy). The ferry with the most operating weeks (49.9) according to the Operating plan (see copy) is the MV Lituya which exclusively provides shuttle service twice a day, five days per week year-round between Ketchikan and Metlakatla only 8 nautical miles. Metlakatla is a federal Indian Reservation **OUTSIDE** the **Alaska state jurisdiction**. Annette Island is federal with NO Alaska State Jurisdiction and the Alaska State ferry is homeported there. The DOT website states that this is the only ferry dedicated to a single route (see all 3 copies). WHY ARE ALASKANS PAYING FOR Metlakatla's "exclusively" "dedicated" ferry service? It is time to pull that service, Alaskans should not have to pay for an exclusive ferry system for a non-Alaskan Community. The State of Alaska could offer to sell the MV Lituya to Metlakatla or the federal Government first before listing openly for sale. if they would like to purchase the MV Lituya fine if not sale it. Vancouver, BC likes that style.

Thank you for your time. Any questions call me at 907-253-3745 or email me at alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com

DENNY KAY WEATHERS
c/o PO Box 1791
Cordova, Alaska

Alaska Gov. Walker's popularity dives sharply following PFD veto, new survey shows

- Author: Nathaniel Herz
- Updated: October 7, 2016
- Published October 7, 2016

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker's honeymoon with voters has come to an abrupt end.

New data collected by pollster Ivan Moore show Walker's popularity taking a sharp dive after he vetoed half of Alaskans' Permanent Fund dividend checks in June — preserving \$650 million in savings for the cash-strapped state but enraging a slice of its electorate.

Walker's positive rating dropped from 43 percent to 32 percent in Moore's latest quarterly statewide survey of 660 registered voters, which has a 3.8 percent margin of error.

Walker's negative rating spiked to 35 percent from 23 percent over the same period — between June and September — meaning that more respondents saw the governor in a negative light than in a positive light for the first time since he was elected in 2014.

Since the start of his term, Walker and state lawmakers have been grappling with a multibillion-dollar budget deficit, with sharp budget reductions and Walker's partial PFD veto among their responses.

Walker's numbers in Moore's poll track with a popularity decline recorded in a separate survey by media company Morning Consult. That survey said the governor's approval rating dipped to 50 percent last month from 62 percent earlier this year.

The governor, in a statement sent by spokeswoman Katie Marquette, said he was focused on fixing the state's budget problem instead of his approval rating.

"Given our state is facing a \$3.2 billion deficit and has burned through nearly \$13 billion of savings in just three years, now is not the time to be focused on poll numbers," Walker's statement said. "Now is the time to be focused on finding a solution to our fiscal challenges so we can bring stability back to Alaska's economy."

Walker is in the second year of his first term and his approval rating peaked at 51 percent in the middle of last year in Moore's survey.

The same statewide poll asked registered voters about their views on the presidential and congressional elections in Alaska, as well as Alaskans' views on the state fiscal crisis and other issues. Those results will be released starting this weekend in Alaska Dispatch News.

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Alaska Permanent Fund

Gov. Bill Walker

About this Author

Nathaniel Herz

Nathaniel Herz covers politics and general assignments.



We will cut where there is waste, duplication and niceties we cannot afford. Initially, some of the cuts would come in the capital budget, which has ballooned in recent years. This includes for unrealistic infrastructure studies like for the small diameter pipeline.

5. What additional steps can the state take to promote construction of a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope?

Take control of development process and timeline. Gov. Parnell has put the leaseholders in the driver's seat. After 30 years of refusing to develop North Slope gas, while they advance competing projects around the world, that is unacceptable and will not succeed.

I intend to aggressively continue the project work to Kenai. I am not going to reinvent the wheel. We've started over often (El Paso, Foot Hills, YPC, AGIA and Denali), and we can no longer afford to do so.

6. The voters have chosen Senate Bill 21 or the More Alaska Production Act to generate most of the state's tax revenues. How will you determine whether this tax structure is effective? Do you think any changes should be made to the law in the upcoming legislative session?

I do not intend to offer changes to SB21. However, Alaska voters trusted SB21 proponents that promised it would result in a halt in the decline of oil production, increased jobs and investment on the North Slope remaining flat or increasing and that it would be relatively revenue neutral as compared to ACES. I will begin to monitor North Slope activity immediately to ensure those promises are kept and make that information available to the public. It is my hope those promises are kept.

7. The state's savings is being depleted. How low should the savings go before you begin to seriously discuss implementing a widespread tax, such as a sales or income tax, or reducing Permanent Fund Dividend checks to help pay for services?

I have no intention to implement a statewide tax or paying for state government by reducing Permanent Fund dividend checks. If we properly develop our natural resources and put in place a sustainable budget that should not be necessary.

8. What are your specific plans to address the serious problems of leadership, morale and accountability within the Alaska National Guard?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUND

Why did Alaskans create the Fund?

During construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline in the 1970's, oil companies flooded state coffers with money paid for leases to explore and secure drilling rights. The Legislature spent all \$900 million of that initial lease money within a few years. Alaskans realized that they were about to receive a great deal more money from oil when the pipeline was complete. They wished to better safeguard the robust income forthcoming from the pipeline, but the state constitution did not allow for dedicated funds. So Alaskans voted in 1976 to amend the constitution to put at least 25% of the oil money into a dedicate fund: the Permanent Fund. This would save money for future generations, which would no longer have oil as a source of income. In 1976 Governor Hammond proposed a constitutional amendment to create the Fund. The 9th Alaska Legislature modified the governor's legislation and placed it as a ballot proposition in the 1976 General Election. It passed by a margin of two to one.

What is the purpose of the Permanent Fund?

The 1976 state law establishing the Permanent Fund (AS 37.13), states that the Fund was created:

- to provide a means of conserving a portion of the state's revenue from mineral resources to benefit all generations of Alaskans
- to maintain safety of principal while maximizing total return
- to be a savings device managed to allow maximum use of disposable income for purposes designated by law

How is the Fund invested?

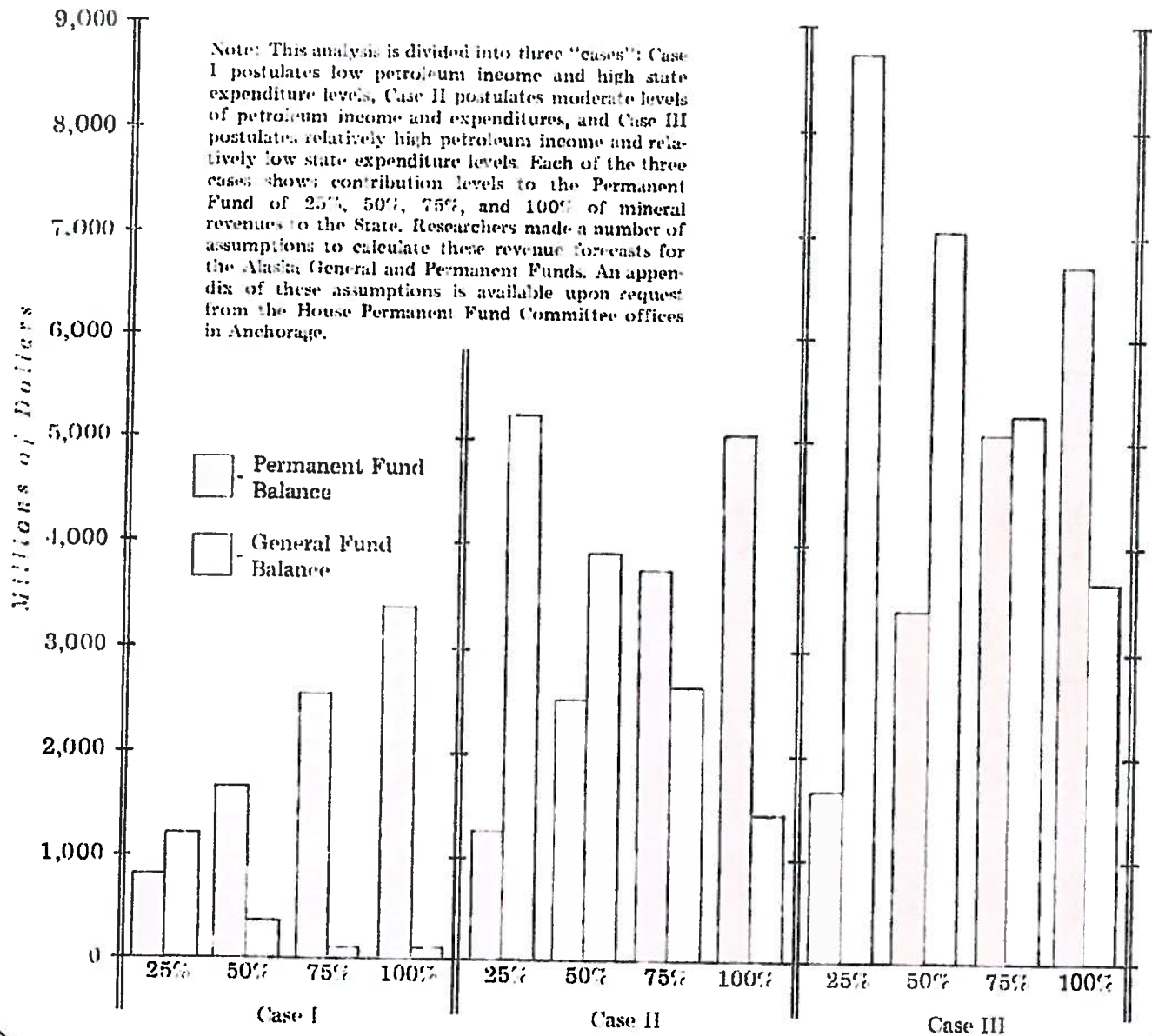
The Board's goal is to earn slightly better-than-average rates of return with slightly below-average levels of risk. To accomplish this, it adheres to statutory investing guidelines as well as the Prudent Expert Rule to manage a well-diversified portfolio. The asset allocation is now 55% stocks, 32% bonds, 10% real estate, 2% private equity and 1% absolute return.

How big is the Permanent Fund?

The Fund stood at nearly \$30 billion as of the end of the 2005 fiscal year, on June 30, 2005. Check this site's home page for the Fund's daily updated total market value. The Alaska Permanent Fund is among the 100 largest investment funds in the world. In the U.S., the Fund is larger than any endowment fund, private foundation, or union pension trust.

For more information about the Alaska Permanent Fund go to www.apfc.org
All information provided courtesy of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation website.

Figure 1
Revenue Projections through 1985



head of ferry system calls for reduced fleet

SB 1 & SB 2 Written Testimony,
Denny Kay Weathers

Associated Press

JUNEAU — The head of the Alaska Marine Highway System says the ferry system's fleet needs to downsize amid a proposed \$5 million cut to operations in the next fiscal year.

Capt. Michael Neussl told the Alaska House Transportation Committee on Thursday that the ferry system only has funding for nine of its 11 ships, The Juneau Empire reported.

"The fleet size, in my estimation and opinion, needs to shrink back," he said. "We will need to divest of some vessels, and we need to start looking at that sooner, rather than later."

With the governor's current budget proposal, which includes a \$5 million cut to ferry system operations, the Marine Highway expects to reduce its service to 320 operating weeks, a level not seen since 2004.

Between 2000 and 2003, the Marine Highway offered between 291.7 and 326.6 weeks of service with just nine ships.

The ferry system counts one ferry running for one week as one operating week. If all 11 ferries are running in a given week, the system is providing 11 operating weeks.

Lawmakers on Thursday were open to Neussl's proposal and considered which ships should be sold. Rep. Matt Claman, D-Anchorage, suggested the Fairweather and Chenega

We can do this; it's going to be OK. You'll still be able to get from Point A to Point B.

??

— Rep. Shelley Hughes

be the first ships to go.

"Maybe we should be selling the fast ferries first," he said. Judging by their maintenance and operation cost, "it certainly seems like those should be at the top of the list."

Neussl said the first to go would likely be the ferry Taku, which has been laid up since last year and is 53 years old. The Marine Highway will not get rid of the ferry Tustumena, he said. The Tustumena is one of the few vessels able to serve Kodiak, the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutians.

Republican Rep. Shelley Hughes of Palmer, co-chairwoman of the transportation committee, speculated that a nine-ship fleet might resemble the ferry system of a decade ago.

"Ten years ago, it wasn't quite so bad; we had a pretty good state 10 years ago," she said. "We can do this; it's going to be OK. You'll still be able to get from Point A to Point B."

Operating Plan 2016-2017

Revision Number 17.13
11/21/2016

Implementation of an Operating Plan is dependent upon funding from the legislature and earned revenue.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Operating Weeks
KEN	Jul 1, Fri BEL-X-GULF			Oct 5, BEL-Fri			Jan 11, O.H.		Mar 16, BEL-X-GULF				42.7
COL	Jul 1, Fri BEL-Fri		Sep 26, Repairs		Nov 13, Sun Layup			Mar 01, Overhaul	Apr 12, COI	Apr 19, Wed BEL-Fri			22.9
MAT	Jul 1, Fri YPR/SGV						Jan 3, O.H.	Feb 4, COI	Feb 9, YPR				46.9
MAL	Jul 01, Fri Federal CIP			Oct 3, O.H.			Jan 06, COI	Jan 11, BEL		Apr 19, Layup			14.0
TAK	Jul 01, Fri Layup												0.0
LIT	Jul 1, Fri MET Service						Jan 10, O.H.	Jan 26, MET Service					49.9
LEC	Jul 1, Fri NP					Nov 29, OH	Jan 11, COI	Jan 16, Mon NP					45.3
TUS	Jul 1, Fri SW								Mar 13, Overhaul		May 08, COI	May 14, SW	43.3
AUR	Jul 1, Fri PWS		Sep 18, O.H.		Nov 23, COI	Nov 29, NP	Jan 16, in transit	Jan 21, PWS					41.3
FVX	Jul 1, Fri LYNN		Sep 15, PWS 4X wk	Sep 12, in transit			Jan 21, in transit	Jan 28, O.H.	Mar 04, Sat Layup		May 25, Lynn 3X Sit	May 24, Sit	44.0
CHE	Jul 01, Fri Federal CIP			Oct 06, Thu Layup									0.0

LEGEND

- ☐ FED CIP
- ☐ On Line
- ☐ Overhaul
- ☐ Layup
- ☐ COI & Drills

BEL - Bellingham to Skagway Route
YPR - Prince Rupert to Skagway Route
BEL-X-Gulf Bellingham Cross Gulf SW

PWS-Prince William Sound
MET - Metlakatla Service
NP - Northern Panhandle

SW - Southwest
YPR-X-Gulf-SW Pr. Rupert Cross Gulf Southwest
NLC + SIT - Northern Lynn Canal + Sitka

Mainline Vessels

Feeder Vessels

Southwest Vessels

Total Operating Weeks

126.5

129.2

84.6

340.3

Note: Dates represent the first day of the period. Overhaul and refurbishment periods include vessel travel time.

SB 1 & SB 2 Written Testimony,
Denny Kay Weathers



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Alaska Marine Highway System

1-800-642-0066

Metlakatla | (ANB) | met luh kat' luh

"Salt Water Passage"

Metlakatla is located on Annette Island, at the southern tip of the Alexander Archipelago, and only a forty five minute ferry ride from Ketchikan 8 nautical miles away. Metlakatla is a traditional Tsimshian Indian community on the federal Annette Island Reserve. They have an active economy, subsistence lifestyle and are the only Indian reservation in Alaska. The 86,000 acre island reservation and surrounding waters are locally-controlled and not subject to state jurisdiction. All management of fisheries within 3,000 nautical feet, as well as management of all wildlife species within the Reserve falls to the Metlakatla Indian Community.

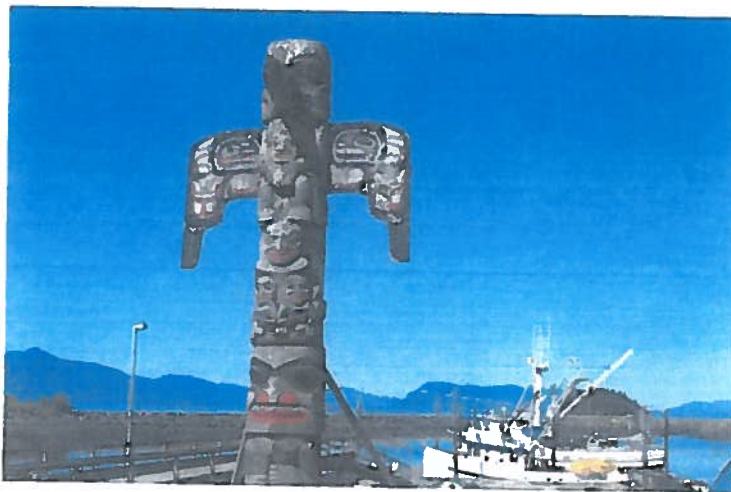


- › Metlakatla means "salt water passage" and was founded by a group of Canadian Tsimshians who migrated from Prince Rupert, British Columbia.
- › Although the majority of its population is Tsimshian, Metlakatla is also home to many individuals with diverse tribal affiliations such as Tlingit, Haida, Aleut, Yupik, and other Alaska Native peoples.
- › The community prospered due to an abundance of natural resources and the ability to harvest salmon, halibut, cod, seaweed, clams, and waterfowl.
- › Visit www.metlakatla.com for more information on available activities and accommodations.

Click on image to activate the full slideshow for Metlakatla

Service Area

The community of Metlakatla receives service from Ketchikan twice a day, five days per week year-round. The *MV Lituya* takes 45 minutes to travel between Ketchikan and Annette Bay, located at the end of Walden Point Road which connects the community to the ferry terminal. The 14.7-mile Walden Point Road is not only a scenic drive to the community of Metlakatla but is also designated an Alaska Scenic Byway.



Trip Ideas

Below are some ideas to help you plan your trip to Alaska. Please note that availability and routing on your particular date of travel may vary from the suggested itinerary.

- › Day Trip from Ketchikan to Metlakatla
- › 6 Day Sampler Road Trip
- › 10 Day Drive Through the Inside Passage

SB 1 & SB 2 Written Testimony,
Denny Kay Weathers



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Alaska Marine Highway System

1-800-642-0066

MV Lituya

MV Lituya

The *MV Lituya* is named after the Lituya Glacier, located in Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve. Lituya Bay, the glacier's namesake, was noted in 1786 by Jena-Francois de La Prouse. The vessel was designed by Coastwise Engineering of Juneau, Alaska and constructed at Conrad Shipyards in Morgan City, Louisiana in 2004. The *MV Lituya* is the smallest vessel of the fleet and exclusively provides shuttle service between Ketchikan and Metlakatla, making it the only ferry dedicated to a single route. The *MV Lituya* is the only Alaska Marine Highway vessel to feature an open car deck.



Click on image to activate the full slideshow for the MV Lituya

Vessel Information

MV Lituya is 181 feet long and 50 feet wide, with a domestic gross tonnage of 97 and a service speed of 11.5 knots. The *MV Lituya* is designed to carry 125 passengers and has a vehicle capacity of 300 linear feet, which is equal to approximately 15 twenty-foot vehicles. View our Vessel Information Table for more statistical information.

Onboard Amenities

The interior space has a combination of reclining airline-style seats and table arrangements. Large windows provide excellent opportunities to view the passing scenery, or step outside to enjoy the fresh air. Click on the image to start a slideshow of all deck plans on the *MV Lituya*.

VEHICLE STORAGE AREA FOC'S'LE LOUNGE FOC'S'LE DECK
MAIN LOUNGE MAIN DECK

Christa McDonald

From: Joel Randrup <jkrandrup@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Support SB1 and SB2

To Senate State Affairs Committee,

I strongly support SB1 and SB2 to restore that portion of the permanent fund dividend that was vetoed by the Governor. Cutting the PFD has a negative effect on the overall economy and disproportionately hurts low income Alaskans as well as those at or near the poverty line. It is the single most harmful action that could have been done and it is adding to the problems for an Alaskan economy in a recession.

I humbly ask the legislature to look at further reductions in the unsustainably large public sector created by previous larger budgets including the oil and gas tax credits. These reductions will also have a negative effect on the overall economy. However, many public sector programs are too large and expensive to be sustainable. Only after these cuts should we look to new revenues such as taxes, and use extreme caution in the exploration of any use of the earnings from the permanent fund to support a sustainable budget.

A big thank you to senators and representatives and their staff that take the time to answer emails. This helps immensely and lets me believe that you are listening even if we have different views on issues.

Thank you,
Joel Randrup
Commercial Fisherman
Petersburg, AK

Christa McDonald

From: Destiny <scoutredneckfluffy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 1 and SB 2 support

Hello,

My name is Destiny Sanders and I live and vote here in Ketchikan and want to write in my support of SB 1 and SB 2. Not only is the PFD such an important aspect of our economy that almost every family counts on it year to year, but we have already seen the negative effects of capping the PFD payment.

By capping the PFD, more families were put below the poverty line, resulting in more need for government assistance. The Pick, Click, Give program saw a huge drop in donations and likely a sharper drop this year with all the uncertainty regarding the PFD.

Restoring full payment won't bring back the skimpy Christmas my family was able to have. It won't bring back the first birthday party for my daughter that we weren't. However, restoring the illegitimately stolen money to the hands of the people it belongs to may fix our cars enough to get them through another winter. It may help stock the freezer for a future of sparse times ahead, and most importantly, it will show the citizens of this wonderful state that they still have a say in their government. That their government does hear from them and won't just steal from them in the night.

My support of SB 1 and SB 2 aren't for the people who don't need it, or who are misinformed and think of it as free money. My support is for every Alaskan family just toeing the poverty line, the ones who missed important celebrations because times are tough, and the Alaskans whose faith in their governor was first shaken and then shattered by this betrayal. Jay Hammond created this fund for every citizen, not just members of government who can't get their spending under control.

Sincerely,
Destiny Sanders
561 D2 Loop Road Apt. A
Ketchikan, AK. 99928

Christa McDonald

From: William Reiner <wreiner@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB1 & SB2

I approve of SB1 & SB2 as currently written with out amendments.
I request a yes vote on SB1 & SB2 by this body and passage of these two bills.

Thank you.

William Reiner

Alaska voter

#01468049

Christa McDonald

From: amy caskey <ainnerarity76@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB1, SB2

Mr. Coghill,

Please support SB1 and SB2.

Thank you
Amelia Caskey

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

William D & Carol G Kane
PO Box 520502
Big Lake, AK 99652 – 0502
Phone: (907) 355-2467
Email: hrkane@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

We fully support SB 1 and SB 2, the PFD Restoration Act, which aims to restore the vetoed portion of the PFD dividend for the following reasons:

- As stated, restoring the vetoed portion of the dividend is a safeguard against excessive spending on government in a time of crisis and enables those most capable of stewardship, individual Alaskans, to properly use the money.
- The goal of the fund was to ensure that every Alaskan would benefit from the state's decision to exploit its oil resources, and that they could continue to benefit even after oil production ended.
- The bill to be passed early in the session would allow the remainder of the PFD to be mailed to each Alaskan in early 2017.
- As senior citizens we did forward financial planning based on the full disbursement of the Permanent Fund, which included paying for mid-winter home fuel, property taxes, and increased winter electrical expenses.

The vetoed portion of the PFD dividend yet to be disbursed should be disbursed immediately as originally intended.

Additionally, it would be imperative to research future actions and legislation for the PFD funds to ensure at least one year in advance, financial resources, which people rely on are not suddenly cancelled.

Sincerely



William D Kane



Carol G Kane

TO: Chair of the Senate State Affairs Committee

Re: SB1 & SB 2

Is it not appropriate that the first two Bills to be taken up by the Senate relate to the egregious damage done to the citizens of our State by a reckless and menacing Governor ? A governor who has done more damage to the State Government's reputation than anyone in the history of that Office ? Whether he had the legal right to do so is still a matter to be settled by the Supreme Court, but the Court of public opinion has not been silent on this matter, especially since it has been revealed that the financial need of such a decision is not supported by the facts.

And those facts are now well known to you and the public at large. The half of the People's Dividend that was vetoed sits with the rest of the Earnings Reserve Account, some 9 Billion dollars, which receives on average, now about 3 Billion per annum. The case to take that half of the dividend was based on the false scenario of a "no choice" crisis, created by the Governor's Office itself.

We now see it is possible to balance the Budget in (4) years making modest Cuts (totaling 1.1 Billion), and utilizing the Funds available in the Earnings Reserve Account.

Therefore, while the Governor is crying "the sky is falling", it is appropriate that the Senate take up this matter of grave concern to the Citizens of this State, with all reasonable deliberation and attention to the facts which are apparent. Those who needed this money the most, and who had all reasonable expectation that they would receive the Dividend as provided by Law, do not sit silently without recourse as long as there are those who see this injustice and are empowered to take action to remedy the situation.

That is no doubt why Senate Bills 1 & 2 are first to be taken up by this Body, and why companion Legislation is pending in the House. I therefore encourage this Committee to support these Bills, and expedite their passage, to bring financial relief to those most distressed and

suffering by the loss of half of their Dividend checks ! Yes, it is appropriate that this matter be handled first, and with all due speed.

I, and the People of this State, thank you.

Andrew W. Brewer

Eagle River, AK

From: [Larry Smith](#)
To: [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [LIO Homer](#); [Alaska Governor Bill Walker \(GOV sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Heidi Hammond](#); [Clem Tillion](#); [Rick Halford](#)
Subject: SB 1 and 2
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 5:15:49 PM

Dear Senator; Representing Kachemak Resource Inst I must say we are very pleased with your efforts on this and support both bills. We published Jay Hammond's book: Diapering The Devil (post mortem) (copyright Bella Hammond) and are engaged in further Jay Hammond scholarship hoping to edit a 'further writings of JH' volume.

One thing we advocate is full inflation proofing by the terms laid out in statute. I was happy to hear reference to this in todays hearing on SB 1&2. I hope you will consider amending your bills to also require inflation proofing. If IP is not tended there may soon be less fund income to debate the uses thereof. The good citizens that want to use the PF income now, may join us in keeping the Fund, funding. Our own position is that this is right time to grow the PF. No problem with greater royalties on state reources; oil, fishing, mining but at least half of all, including the residual of capped dividends should go in the Fund. That way it will grow, and eventually be able to be a constant provider of income for state services.

Thank you for the guts to stand up to big industry pressure to keep the tax wolf from their door by supporting all other ways to revenue.

The only thing we like better than Dividends is Inflation Proofing.

Larry Smith/KRI, 1520 Lakeshore Dr, Homer 99603 (907 299 0699)

From: [Carol Carman](#)
To: [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#)
Cc: [Joe Carman](#)
Subject: SB 1-2
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 2:01:52 PM

Senator,

My husband and I are in favor of your two bills to reinstate the PFD back to Alaska's citizens.

Thank you Mike, for all you are doing for Alaska!

CC: Joe Carman

Carol Carman

<>< <>< <><

God grant me....

*Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
and Wisdom to know the difference.*

From: [Bill Ward](#)
To: [Senate State Affairs](#)
Subject: SB1 & SB2 Public Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:52:11 PM

We are OPPOSED to the passage of these bills as written. In the context of the issue addressed by these bills, Governor Walker was well within his authority to reduce the 2016 PFD payout. Since the legislators were unable to pass legislation during the session to deal with this issue, the Governor took the responsible action to protect the economic stability of the state.

On the larger picture, I believe the PFD was created as a "rainy day fund" and when necessary it can and should be used to supplement the operating costs of the state. As "owners" of the state's resources, we Alaskans have the obligation to use our dedicated cash resources to help with the expense of maintaining the state will live in.

Signed:

Bill D Ward - Box 1087 Delta Junction

Marcia E Ward - Box 1087 Delta Junction

Before the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee

Hearing on SB 1 and SB 2

January 28, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB 1 and SB 2

My name is William Topel from Anchorage, Alaska. I first came to Alaska in 1966. I witnessed the formation of the Permanent Fund and the Permanent Fund Dividend program through the efforts of Gov. Jay Hammond and legislators Clem Tillion, Rick Halford, Hugh Malone, Clark Gruening, and Oral Freeman. The Permanent Fund and its PFD program are one of the few state programs that work good and are models for the world. Thank you, Sen. Dunleavy, for holding this Public Hearing on restoring the Permanent Fund Dividend payments. I support the passage of SB 1 and SB 2.

Gov. Walker's action to cap the 2016 PFD through his appropriation veto has not been used to offset the state's fiscal problems, but has made the lives of many Alaskans more difficult. That over \$666 million dollar withdrawal from the overall Alaska economy, with its resulting 1.4 multiplier effect, according to UAA's ISER (Institute of Social and Economic Research), has resulted in nearly \$1 billion withdrawal from Alaska's economy, as it "sits on the shelf" so to speak. Other effects of Gov. Walker's cap have been to worsen Alaska's recession, place more Alaskans below the poverty line who were marginally struggling to survive by using their PFDs to help pay for their living expenses, and to reduce retail sales in the private sector. I use the PFD to help pay for my exorbitant property taxes. The PFD cap is the first nefarious step to restructure and ultimately destroy the Permanent Fund and continue the profligate spending of a growing state government. Gov. Walker's PFD cap is bad economic policy in the midst of our recession, it aggravates income disparity, and it is theft.

The Permanent Fund Dividends belong to the people of Alaska, not state government. They represent our individual shares of our commonly held resource wealth. If we were to adopt Gov. Jay Hammond's original 50/50 plan for the use of the Permanent Fund earnings, then there would be extra money for both essential state services and the dividends for Alaskans without capping the PFDs or imposing taxes on people. There still needs to be a sustainable budget approach, as outlined by the ISER-Goldsmith model, and continued spending cuts to state government, as outlined by the Alaska Policy Forum and the United For Liberty citizens group. There also needs to be the restoration of the PFD payments to Alaskans, as proposed by SB 1 and SB 2. SB 1 and SB 2 will reverse bad economic policy and so I support both bills. Thank you for your time.