Alaska House of Representatives

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Juneau Town Hall Form
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Name David Leve

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

Support Early Childhood, K-12 Education, University, Marine Highway, Pioneer's Home, Agriculture Funding

Fund them ALL fully! Do Not give addnl PFD!

More royalty taxes from oil & gas &

income tax if necessary

Thanks!

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Name Geraldine Cary

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

As a 35 year Alaska resident, I believe that great communities rely on good government. Services to our residents are not a luxury we can do without. Since we have an imbalance between income and expenditures, we need to put our energy into increasing our revenue. The P.F. was developed to help us with this situation and should be on the table. However, an income tax is a fair (and certainly not unprecedented) option we need to implement.

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Name Rich Lyon

Address [redacted]
Juneau Ak

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I strongly support continued support of education at 2018 levels. This money is the best investment our state can make.

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Name Bridget Smith

Address [redacted]

Juneau, Ak 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I have already submitted written testimony, but want to reiterate: this budget will severely damage our civil society. We need a State income tax, and a school tax, as ~~too~~ well as a cessation of oil tax credits.

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Name Anne Fuller

Address [redacted]
Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

Public education is a priority. For a 7 year old, the budget matters this year.
As human beings we need to use critical thinking and creative spirit.
End the oil tax credit rebates.
Eliminate departmental special assistants
Reduce Exempt position salaries by 15%

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Name Mary Hussler

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I will be submitting a longer letter, but the gist of my comments are:

Dunleavys budget is a joke (a bad one)

We need a graduated income tax

Don't hand out retroactive PFD's

Cap the PFD at no more than a few hundred dollars.

Fund pre K education statewide

Adequately fund the ferries.

Support Senate Bill 14 - Get rid of oil tax credits!

Education has already taken lots of cuts - No more!!!

No more than 5% raise in cost of Pioneer homes.

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Name Anne Hanley

Address [redacted]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I want my grandchildren to receive as good an education in Alaska Public schools as my children had. I am willing to pay taxes and receive a smaller permanent Fund to make sure education Pre-K-12 through the university is protected. Put people not campaign promises first. We elect legislators to make the hard decisions that need to be made. Do not even consider this budget. Make a new one that puts people first.

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Name Calvin Zweber

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I am writing in opposition to the Governor's budget. I think the cuts to education and state medicare spending in particular are bad for Alaska and put more than just the fiscal ~~[illegible]~~ health of this state at risk. I think the Governor made an irresponsible promise, ~~but~~ I need ~~ser~~vices this budget cuts. I know a lot of other people who do, too. If this budget is the only way to keep that promise, don't. I request this committee ~~and~~ the House of Representatives prioritize spending on state services as you proceed through your budget process.

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Name Michael Ciri

Address [redacted]

Juneau Alaska 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I've lived in Alaska since 1974. When I first started working, I paid an income tax. Over the decades I have benefitted from state services. I received an education. My daughter received an education. But I have not had to contribute directly to pay for them.

It is time to grow up!

Yes, we need to use the PFD. But we also need an income tax so that people like me pay our fair share.

Income tax combined with PFD earnings

= A sustainable, livable state!

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Name Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

We know that docking the PFD is incredibly regressive - it hits the poorest of our citizens the hardest - but the proposed cuts to our state's budget and services would re-pay that PFD at the expense of state services that are vital to the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable populations. The people who will suffer have already made do, and cannot replace those lost services of the proposed cuts with a bonus PFD. I am stridently opposed to the proposed budget!

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Name Monica Southworth

Address [redacted]
Juneau Ak 99802

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* Yes ☑

Keep the promise. ~~For~~ Dont touch the BSA for FY20 + Keep the $20 million for FY19 + the $30 million for FY20.

I will pay an income tax to ensure state services continue. Dont let this governor destroy our state.

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Name Steve Atwater

Address [redacted]

Anchorage, AK 99517

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I strongly support not paying a full dividend and instead funding K-12 and University of Alaska. I support a dividend of $1500.

Alaska depends on a well educated populace. To slash funds for education will not lead to fulfilling this need.

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Name Rosemary Slotnick

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 9980

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Cutting education funding is a short sighted savings measure - If we do not adequately educate our children we will pay more in the future.

Cutting Ferry funding shows a deep lack of respect for rural Southeastern communities.

proposing shuttering rural schools shows a deep lack of respect for rural + mostly native communities.

I shouldn't even have to say how reprehensible the cuts to the pioneer home system are.

I am horrified by the callousness that the human cost of this Budget shows.

Alaska is more than oil + oil companies. Please reconsider

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Name CAITLIN MACLEOD-BLUVER

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I AM A SPECIAL ED TEACHER in Juneau Public Schools. I serve the most needy students in our community. My students are curious, engaged, + excited learners. Yet, they have many learning needs that must be met. When funding is cut, it becomes harder + harder to meet all students' diverse needs. Please stand up for our special ed students + give them the best education that they deserve!

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Name Helen Josephs

Address [redacted]
Fairbanks AK

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Pass a mixed revenue stream.

1. No PFD
2. Income Tax
3. Sales Tax

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Name Linda Curtis

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I support fully funding our university system. I support pre-K to high school education funding. I support funding for our Marine Highways. I am especially concerned about cuts to our homeless shelters. We need to provide for our most vulnerable citizens. I support a state income tax to pay for the services we need to keep.

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Name ALLISON BIDLACK

Address [redacted]

JUNEAU AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒ YES.

I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years and I love this state. But a great state needs a strong education system, including a world-class university, infrastructure and ferries that aren't crumbling and rusting, social services that protect people in need, and a department of Fish and Game that is funded enough to wisely manage our resources. I ask that at the very least, you hold the dividend to $400 and reject the governor's proposed budget cuts. But I hope that you go beyond this and be bold. I urge you to institute an income tax so that our great state can move into a solid, sustainable, and bright future. Thank you!

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Name Melinda Messmer

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I love this State but feel it is failing to support families and children who live her. Parents and other primary caregivers have just as many hopes, fears at the start of school as their children families need your support to fund education of all levels, Early Child care, K-12 and the Universitys.
I also support the ferries because with out them children could not travel for sports, music and other children activities. Families also use them to travel out of Southeast. Take part of my PFD.
Please invest and maximize their future well-being.

What if we did a head tax for turist coming in to the State during the summer months, only to go to education or tax the oil companys

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Name MRS. NIKKI LOVE

Address [redacted]
JUNEAU, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I am a lifelong Alaskan and ask for your continued support & increased funding for all programs and services in the proposed cuts rather have a dividend. All of these services/programs are ~~[illegible]~~ vital to my life & the lives of my family. I hold a degree from UAS. My child received an excellent education through our Public Schools & went on to earn a degree @ UAS. My granddaughter benefits from programs like Best Beginnings & PAT. My inlaws depend on Medicaid for critical health care services. Im a homeowner, sm. business owner, taxpayer, Native Alaskan, Grandmother and Voter. I ~~[illegible]~~ believe in supporting all the people in our communities, we are not in this alone. I ask that you say no to the PFD & tax the oil companies and instate an income tax.

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Name Carole Bookless

Address [redacted]
Douglas, AK 99824

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

This is not a money issue so much as a philosophical issue. Before I came here I did some research on the philosophy behind Governor Dunleavy's budget. I am totally opposed to that philosophy. I was shocked when I read a critique of Donna Arduin's career and philosophy. That philosophy seems to be that money for big business will somehow "trickle down" to the people who need it — the young, elderly, indigent, sick, poor, etc.

My view is that state funds programs that collectively are a benefit to the state and all its people. Rather than each person donating $1 for this or $1 for that, we use our collective wealth to fund programs that are a benefit to all. These are programs that serve our most vulnerable - youth, elderly, poor, sick, disadvantaged. We fund those who need it and may not be able to do it themselves.

Other services, like ferries are essential infrastructure. Roads, airports, sidewalks, ports are not expected to "pay for themselves," and yet ferries are expected to. Schools and universities are essential to train an educated work force and government. Not only does this budget directly cut essential services but indirectly as well by robbing municipalities of revenue for police, sewer, water, education, and other infrastructure. I want my PFD to go to collective programs and essential services and infrastruct

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Name Robert Arnold

Address [redacted]
JNU, AK 99803

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Please consider the voices of the Alaskan who's independent self sacrificing attitude lives in its people. The people of this Land deserve A STATE THAT WORKS FOR ALL NOT THE FEW.

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Name Richard Stokes

Address [redacted]

Juneau, Alaska 99801

3/22/19

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

To close the budget gap, I understand we need 1) draw on permanent fund, 2) cut services/reduce government and 3) find new revenues. I further understand that this fiscal year additional revenues aren't possible. I oppose the Governor's proposal. I support cutting the PFD to $500-1000. I support a State Income Tax in future fiscal years. In a trade-off between the PFD and state income taxes I support the taxes EVEN THOUGH I stand to lose $$. I like the progressive PFD program. I hope we can return to $1000 for the PFD after this crisis. But the proposed cuts are too deep. I am particularly concerned about cuts to the ferry system, the K-12 education programs and the University + health care + the pioneer homes.

Richard A. Stokes

Alaska House of Representatives

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Name Chip McMillan

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

PFD money should be spent on things benefiting the whole State not given to individuals so they can purchase big screen TVs or Mexico vacations.

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Name Marie McMillan

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Please reconsider the current proposed budget. Positing PFD vs. essential state services is not only unacceptable, but also a red herring. There are myriad of solutions to our problems; to minimize our problems w/ this solution is insulting. We cannot function as a society without schools & transportation infrastructure.

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Name Elias Schano

Address [redacted]

ave. juneau

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

please fund my school

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Name Rainelka Ackley

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

Numbers aside, I am here to advocate for the funding for early education, pre-K learning programs! There is NO other time in a human's life when our brains grow and develop more than in the first 3 years! Providing services such as Parents As Teachers, educates parents on important developmental milestones that lay the foundation for the REST of their child's life. By funding such programs, the long term benefits are imperative to future budgets. By financially supporting early learning opportunities, long-term mental health, physical health, significantly decreases, those who have benefited from such programs. Cut my PFD entirely, if needed, to allocate those funds to benefit our community!

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Name Rev. Karen Perkins

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑ N

Please reject this projected budget. It is, at the very least, short-sighted. More emphatically, it is stupid and evil. Failing to educate our children raises public costs - consistently. It is cruel to cut care for the elderly or mentally ill. It is already difficult for people to work in these industries because of low incomes. A greed based slogan may work for elections - it doesn't work for people.

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Name Nathan Adams

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

A lesson from my high school government teacher Marika Beckley, Fairbanks, taught me that government is ~~after~~ a major sector of an economy. The proposed Dunleavy budget harms this major sector of Alaska's economy. We won't be able to maintain any form of government without a balanced economy. To make up the budget shortfall, I'd happily lose the PFD and pay an income tax.

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Name Richard Steele

Address [redacted]
Douglas, AK 99824

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

We need to return to "mixed revenues" not implement draconian cuts. Cuts are already diminishing morale ~~in~~ in our state. Clean air, clean water, healthy educated people count much more than a cash handout. No other government gives away money, and to contemplate dire elimination of essential services including healthcare, fonies, schools, and other services is shameful. Bring back "mixed revenues." so we all have buy in.

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Name Bob Urata

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Please support WWAMI program in full. We need doctors who are Alaskans trained in Alaska. They are likely to return to Alaska. Consider MD's who come from other medical schools. There are none that have a 61% return rate. All are likely less than 10%!!

Bob

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Name Robbie Steele

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☐

PFD's cannot provide education, health care, services, highways and "the PFD" can fund these services. An income tax is essential to democratic societies. Make cuts to oil credits not to citizens who live here. Dunleavy is tied to big oil! Shame on him.

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Name Rich Lyon

Address [redacted]
Juneau.

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Education expenditures pay large dividends to every Alaskan, far into the future. Dividends that dwarf the $1,000 to $3,000 pfd checks we have all come to rely on. Early childhood educational support provides huge benefits to every Alaskan in the form of fewer incarcerated in our already strained prison system. The skills taught to parents and children result in lower incidents of illicit drug and alcohol abuse. Not to omit the grief caused by the lack of social skills and inability to cope with stressors encountered by those individuals as the struggle through life.
Pre-K education is the investment we can't afford to miss out on. Compound interest is what investing in our children is all about.
The old adage "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree" is as true now as it has ever been. Please don't hack down our future!

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Name Michael Wittig

Address [redacted]

Juneau 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒ Y

Our state programs were created to fill needs. Reductions in those programs will leave people in need. Some of our residents depend on the PFD. Many of our residents can afford to pay an income tax. Our extraction industries should also pay their share.

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Name Sandi Panke

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I have been a part of the Juneau School District for 28 years. I have 2 children who have both been educated here and was happy with their education but I must admit with the budget cuts proposed I fear for our children and their education. The programs, class size and opportunite available chip away at the quality of the education of our state. The long term effects of this are going to be losing our children to other schools whether it is through families leaving Alaska while they are K-12 or when they leave for College and choose not to return.

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Name Rachel Beck

Address [redacted]

Juneau 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I've always been proud to say that I'm from Alaska and that it's a place I love and choose to call home. To that end I want Alaska to continue to stand for excelenene. ~~We~~ We need to support and fund ~~all~~ all schools, including the university. Our budget needs to work for its citizens by funding the ferries. If we have to relegusish our PFDs or if we need to pay income tax then let's do that so we can support and maintain this great state.

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Name Brandy Grinnell

Address [redacted]
Douglas AK 99824

Mailing [redacted]
Douglas AK 99824

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

A budget needs to be made with consideration to the public's needs and not to corporate subsidies and continued tax breaks. The current budget as proposed has nothing in place to benefit Alaskan residents. The school districts have already been cut to the point of excessive classroom size and limited support for students with special needs or those with family challenges that impact their education. To cut any more from education is to tell our Alaskan youth that our Representatives don't care about them or their interests. By doing so will only cause more of our young people to move away for better options in their future.

To cut the Marine Highway is to cut access for S.E. Alaska communities to essential supports. A road from Juneau to the interior will not help those that live on islands. The Marine Highway needs to be funded.

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Name Amy Jo Meiners

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

As a 4th generation Alaskan born in Juneau, with families in fisheries, AMHS, the Pioneer Home, and education, a lack of revenue would mean overwhelming job losses. I strongly urge you to establish a stable mixed revenue source. Please also address a retirement system to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers and public safety officers. All industries need to build budgets in a responsible time frame which requires known funding. Please stabilize our revenue with mixed sources.

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Name Maia Hood

Address [redacted]
Street Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

My Name is Maia I am 8 years old and I would like to say that I want to have good School S and I would like to go on feild trips and have fun at School. That means that we Juneau, Alaska need to have a good Buget So Our teachers and comuty need a buget and need to get ~~[illegible]~~ Paid!

From,
Maia Hood

Alaska House of Representatives

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Name Jada Kahl

Address [redacted]
Juneau AK 99801

I speak on behalf of Education

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑ yes

[redacted] I am a mother of two Alaskan children, and an Occupational therapist working in the Juneau School District. It is my duty as a mother to educate my children, [redacted] and I don't take this decision lightly. As a mother I have learned when to reach out for help. Education is one of these areas. I look to programs such as Bright Starts, and preschool. As I mentioned I am a therapist in the school district. I am spending my days helping others children peoples learn new skills every day. Skills for the job of Living. Skills to be productive members of society. Could I work in a different setting, yes. Would working in a different setting pay more, yes. But I fully believe that the difference is made in Education, In Early Education. Without funding for our schools our children are at risk. At risk for relying on further goverment support in the future. At risk for not have opportunities to become Who They Are Meant To Be! Our children are our future. Our future Legislators, Teachers, Fred Meyer workers, Auto Technicians, Artists; The Sky is the limit. I strongly urge you to fully fund and Prioritize Education. Cuts need to happen, but NOT at the risk of our future. Thank You,

Jada Kahl

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Name Stella Tallman

Address [redacted]

99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I am firmly opposed to the proposed cuts to K-12 education. As a junior at Thunder-Douglas High School, I can tell you that our schools have already faced enough budget cuts. We've slashed too many classes, services, and staff. One of my classes has 36 students, which is far too large. If the governor's budget passes, Alaska's future will be a lot dimmer than it could be.

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Name Semra Deaner

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I write not only as a 43 year Alaskan, a graduate of K-12 Juneau School District, a frequent passenger of our Alaska Marine Highway But as a Proud union Public School Teacher who's Angry. I am disturbed at the attack on our most vulnerable citizens. To give tax breaks to the outside oil companies while gutting our Pioneer Homes, our preK-12 and univetsity Systems places our priorities in backward, immorally wrong places. I am raising four daughters in Juneau and we must protect our future. I trust your ability to reject Governor Dunleavy's budget, and protect all Public Education Health & Social Services, Alaska Marine Highway Services. Build the Revenue, Stop giving tax breaks to the oil Companies and If an income tax is needed, then do it. Thank you for Service.

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Name Christine Niemi

Address [redacted]
Douglas, AK 99824
Juneau Borough

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I moved to Alaska in 1976 when there was no permanent fund. In 1984 I was happy to get a $300+ PFD so a $636 PFD is a bonus. I would support a graduated income tax. Funding services is essential.

(1) AMHS - our coastal communities from Ketchikan to Unalaska depend on continuing, regular marine highway service. (Show picture of grandson who traveled recently from his home in Juneau by ferry to visit relatives in Hoonah. Ferries are essential to keep families connected

(2) Schools - Since moving to Alaska in 1976, I have worked in rural schools, the Anchorage School District, the Department of Education, and after retiring from the state I worked in local Juneau schools. We need to maintain our public schools, not cut the base student allocation. School staff are asked not only to provide education services but to mitigate adverse life circumstances for increasing numbers of children. Their stories are gutt wrenching.

- It is not acceptable to cut our essential services.
- Gov. Hammond & a bipartisan House & Senate leadership said that a fair share of our oil resource should not be less than 30%. We are not getting our fair share of our oil resources
- Remember, "The power of taxation shall never be surrendered." (from the Constitution of the state of Alaska

Thank you!

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Name Sydney

Address [redacted]

Street Juneau, Ak

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I am 10 years old. I'm a 5th grader at Harborview Elementary. And I do not support these budget cuts. Past generations left you a good and healthy State and I would love if you could keep passing a healthy State to future generations, and education is a big part of that. We need schools and teachers, and school supplies. and if you choose to take that away, then future generations won't have a good education. So this is why I think PFD's are much less important than education.

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Name Svetlana Filkova

Address [redacted]

Juneau, Ak, 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I'm a teacher and I also a mother of 14 years old. I think that it's critical for the state's future to stop budget cuts for education (both schools and post-secondary). Constant budget cuts during the last year already bring problems as large number of students in classes, which is impossible to serve as effectively as classes with normal size. Some of classes in our school have 35-36 students, PE classes are close to 50 students. I completed my MAT programm in Juneau, in UAS and I'm serving in Juneau. A lot of my classmates are in the same situation. Education is state future and we need more funding, not cuts!

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Name LIN DAVIS

Address [redacted]

JUNEAU, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

AS 26 YEAR ALASKA RESIDENT, I AM HORRIFIED AT EACH OF GOV D'S PROPOSED CUTS. ALL OF THEM HARM ALL ALASKANS & OUR PUBLIC SERVICES. WE NEED NEW REVENUES. LET'S START WITH UNDOING THE OIL TAX CREDITS. LET'S NEXT USE A PROGRESSIVE STATE INCOME TAX. MOST STATES HAVE A SET OF USUAL STATE SALES TAXES. ALASKA DOES NOT HAVE THESE & THANK YOU FOR LOOKING INTO THESE NEW REVENUES.

AS PAT RACE SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, SAID, "POLITICS HAS SET UP A FALSE CHOICE - PFD OR PUBLIC SERVICES." THIS FALSE CHOICE HAS PITTED ALASKANS AGAINST EACH OTHER.

PLEASE TAKE US BEYOND THIS FALSE CHOICE & BEGIN LOOKING AT SB 14 & OTHER REVENUES.

Thank you for taking many hours of testimony on a FRIDAY EVE!

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Name HELEN ALTEN

Address [redacted]

HAINES, AK 99827

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* [X]

HAINES BOROUGH EMPLOYEES ARE STRESSED — THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET WOULD DEVASTATE OUR COMMUNITY. THE CUTS TO EDUCATION AFFECTS ALL OF US. OUR TAX CAP IS ALREADY AT MAX. WE CAN'T ABSORB THE SHORTFALL OF NO FISH TAX, NO SCHOOL BOND SUPPORT, LOWERED K-12 FORMULA. IN ADDITION, WITH A STRONG ART COMMUNITY, SUPPORT FROM AK COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT.
I WOULD URGE INCREASING REVENUE BY REPEALING OIL + GAS TAX CREDITS, AND RE-INTRODUCING AN INCOME TAX

I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CUTS TO EDUCATION, SENIOR BENEFITS, AK MARINE HIGHWAY, U OF ALASKA, EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS, PUBLIC BROADCASTING, DENTAL CARE, THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, MEDICAID AND PIONEER HOMES.

PLEASE CUT ~~ADVERTISING FOR~~ AK SEAFOOD MARKETING — WE CAN AFFORD LESS — WE HAVE A GOOD INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE.

ALASKANS ARE LIKELY TO LOSE JOBS. AND MY FAMILY IS LIKELY TO BE ONE OF THOSE. WE WOULD ALSO SUFFER AN INCREASE IN ELECTRIC COSTS. AND BE UNABLE TO LEAVE TOWN EASILY.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEANS JOBS. WE SHOULD NOT CUT MONEY THAT PAYS PEOPLE A SALARY. NOT SO WE GET A SMALL

March, 22, 2019

Community forum on the State of Alaska Budget

I would like to emphasize that we need to look at several sources of income for the state.

1. The oil tax credits need to be eliminated, we should not be bearing the brunt of the cost of oil exploration. The oil companies have adequate income to take care of this part of their business. The price of oil is not high enough for the state to have to pay the oil companies to find new sources. It is a bad investment and we are losing over a billion dollars a year.
2. The PFD needs to be capped and the money used to cover basic services. Giving the full amount when it means the kind of loss of necessary government programs is foolish. The bump to our economy is short lived and weak compared to the services the money can provide for the common good.
3. A progressive income tax would also be acceptable so the state can fund important programs like transportation, education and health care.
4. Cutting these programs also loses the state needed federal funds. It becomes a double cut as we lose 2 sources of funding.

Government is not the inefficient spending program that the governor portrays. The people working for our state and local government care deeply about their communities. They are well versed in saving money and running their offices efficiently. Working for the common good of all Alaskans is what our state government workers do.

The governor also appears to believe that giving money to private industry will be a panacea as it will boost the economy, create jobs and they will regulate themselves to keep our water clean, the air unpolluted and respect other uses to our land and waters. We have enough history to show that this is not necessarily the case. They follow the rules when there is someone there to see that they do. Their motive is profit and keeping water and air healthy is not something they worry about until some disaster happens, then it is too late for the rest of us. Keeping them honest is the job of government and it is a necessary job, not excess regulation that inhibits development. That is a lie that needs to be exposed.

I have heard that upwards of 16,000 jobs will be lost if the governor's budget is approved. If that is correct, it will devastate the state economy, not improve it as the governor declares. We are too small to take such a hit.

I encourage you to do some research on the effects of the budget proposals, particularly the loss of ferry service to coastal communities, education cuts to the K-12 and university and the health of Alaskans as well as the loss of revenue to our clinics and hospitals if the health care cuts are passed. It's only knowing what the human and economic costs of these cuts will be that will give you the understanding that the expenditures are worthwhile and necessary.

Thank you
Therese Thibodeau
[redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

I am a teacher Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School. My colleagues and I have watched our class sizes grow every year. My sixth grade classes now average 34 students. My colleague has 46 sixth graders in one class, another has 40, and another has 38. I think most people would agree that those class sizes are too great, sometimes even unmanageable. Even if there are no additional cuts to education, our school still stands to lose two full-time positions next year, due to flat funding, resulting in even larger classes. This as children are transitioning into a larger school during one of the most difficult times of their lives.

Also, due to flat funding the Spanish program at our school stands to be cut. This hurts students as learning a second language is incredibly important. People who learn a second language are more successful and excel in other subjects. It maps children's brains differently. Students in other states and countries are learning a second language, and our students will be less competitive in nationally and worldwide.

Our schools need more money, not less. A compromise on cuts is frankly inadequate. Additional cuts will result in unmanageable class sizes and cause more good teachers to leave the profession. Students will suffer from teacher turnover, and our children and societies will pay the price.

Thank you.

Summer Koester

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name DENISE CARL

Address [redacted]

Juneau AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I have lived in AK for 4 years - this place feels like home like no other place I have lived: I hope that I am able to continue to live here - I work @ UAS - I have made my career in higher ed & hope to continue that. I wholeheartedly support decrease or elimination of PFDs and being taxed to support this wonderful state. Pleas make bold choices.. be inspired by the bold changes of NZ & do what we know is right for the sustainability of our state.

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Elise Tomlinson

Address [redacted]

Douglas, AK 99824

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

Dear legislators, please find more revenue to fund our state, including any of the following: state sales tax, state income tax, reduced PFD, or changes to oil company tax incentives.
No one wants to live in a state w/ such uncertainty - It's exhausting and demoralizing - we need to pay for critical services needed in the state: K-12, University of AK, medicaid expansion, ferry system, etc. thank you

Elise Tomlinson

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Gerry Landry

Address [redacted]

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Reduce Spending Slowly + Reasonably
Don't forgo federal $ - huge stimulus
for an isolated state

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Kaytlyn Kelly

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I am in opposition to the governors proposed budget. I am a current student at UAS. Cutting State Funding of education as has been proposed will likely eliminate university funded scholarships and grants along with professors and and potentially programs as a whole. Without these, I would not be a Full-time Student today. Education is Critical to a Knowledgable and informed Society. There are already many jobs Alaska's labor-force cannot Fill due to lack of qualifications, reducing programs where these qualifications can be attained can potentially increase this. Funding of education directly impacts Alaska's economy, labor force and future.

Alaska House of Representatives

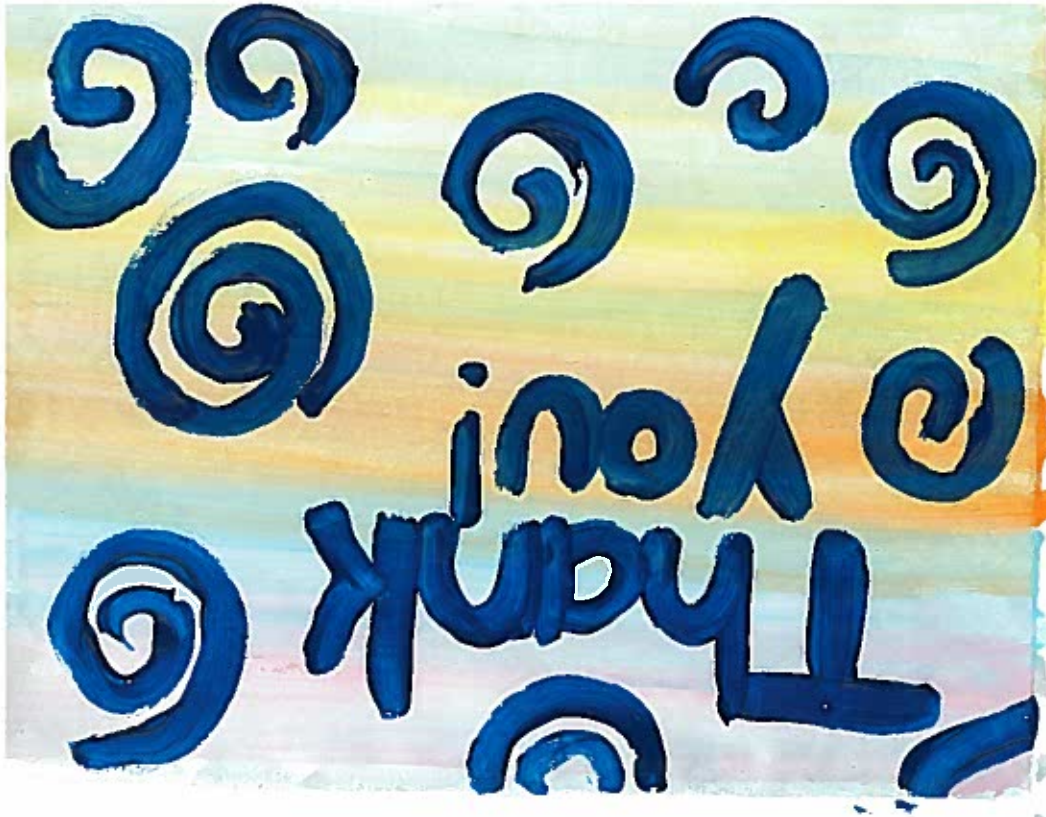
House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name ROLAND LUMBAR

Address [redacted]

JUNEAU AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☐



For offering Alaskans the opportunity to testify on our budget. I'm pleased you are using our current year budget. It is time to put forward an income tax bill and not be afraid of the reprocussions. It's time to become vocal about the future of Alaska for future generations.

Thank you, Shawn Paul
- Juneau.

Growing up in the Juneau education system I have seen class sizes grow over the years. I do NOT want to see this. Please fund the education system!! Even if that includes income tax! Teachers are the one who teach, educate and help raise us to be the future leaders.

Education funding > PFD's.
Ferry System > PFD's.
Medicade funding > PFD's.
Early childhood Education > PFD's

Thank You,
Alana Paul, 17, Juneau

Comments to Alaska State House Finance Committee

March 22, 2019

Dear Representatives,

I am a 20+ year resident of Alaska, and care about the future of the state.

Many facets of the Governor's proposed budget give me grave concern. In particular:

Cuts to the University System

Colleges are the future. We cannot attract or retain bright young people to the state without them. University administrators have stated that proposed cuts would mean closing UAS and UAA. This would be profoundly negative for Anchorage and Juneau. It also would in the end be a huge waste of wise investment that has gone into these excellent facilities. For me, there is great advantages to having the university as a resource, and I feel there is need for local based research to help us adapt to our changing world. For example, its UAS that is studying the flooding from Mendenhall Glacier, events that could flood my own neighborhood.

Cuts to state jobs

Please note that state jobs and "real" jobs, and the vitality of the economy depends on solid employment options. Also, there is a "critical mass" of number of workers needed to run the state. Cut too much and essential services simply won't be done. In my case, my house co-owner is a state worker. If his job goes, we'd likely sell the house and have to move out of state.

Cuts to Health and Social Services

The state is not going to be able to deal with the opioid crisis without adequate resources. I am concerned about he crime rate rising in my community. I am also concerned that if preventative health options are not available to low income people, it will create problems for the local hospitals. Studies show that is more expensive to treat illness once it becomes an emergency. Finally, a lot of health and social service programs are eligible for very generous federal matches. Not taking advantage of these opportunities is poor fiscal planning indeed.

Grounding of the Alaska Marine Highway System

Transportation is critical infrastructure. Small communities will have trouble surviving without transportation to them. Personally, I use the AMHS both for my work, and for recreation. Not having the ability to readily take my vehicle out of Juneau would certainly impact my life style and work. Projects would likely need to be cancelled in Haines and Skagway.

The proposed budget is short-sighted. We need to invest in our social institutions now to save emergency money being spent in the future. Personally, I am willing to give up a PFD in the short term to have a state and economy and maintain a way of life in the long term. We all want efficient government, but sudden cuts without backup planning is not efficiency.

Thank you for considering citizen comments.

Sincerely,

Gwen Baluss

[redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

[redacted]

Fireweed Place
Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
"Housing Designed by Seniors for Seniors"
415 Willoughby Avenue Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-5000 • Fax (907) 586-5001

March 21, 2019

To: The Alaska House Finance – Budget Hearing
Re: Senior Benefits

My name is Lorilyn E Swanson, I live in Juneau and have managed Fireweed Place an apartment building for seniors for the past 25 years. I have served on the Juneau Commission on Aging, The State of Alaska MCAC (Medicaid Advisory Committee) and Senior Citizen Support Services, Inc., (who built Fireweed Place and are now in the process to build the new Riverview Assisted Living Project in Juneau). While I still work, I no longer serve on these committees but still advocate when needed for senior programs.

I am here today to speak on the Senior Benefit Program and ask that you all work to put money back in the budget for this program.

Through much work on the part of senior advocacy groups, of which I was a part of, and working closely with the Alaska Legislature the Senior Benefits Program grew out Governor Murkowski's budget cut of the Longevity Bonus in 2003 which served all Alaskans 65+ with $250.00 per month.

This new program was intended to assist those vulnerable senior adults 65 years of age or older and who fell under the Federal Poverty Limit for income.

Currently there are 11,597 Alaskan seniors on the Senior Benefits Program.

Broken down by Tiers:
Tier 1: Receives - $250.00 per month. (1,742 on this program)
This group has a per month income of **$949.00** for an individual and $1,287.00 for a couple. Cutting this group by **$250.00** per month would mean a 26% and 19% respectively.

Those on the program would go from $949.00 per month to $699.00 per month or $1287.00 per month to $1037.00.
The latest figures that we can get show the breakdown for this is:

- 136 85+ years of age
- 188 80-84 years of age
- 283 75-79 years of age
- 450 70-74 years of age and
- 685 65-69 years of age

Tier 2: Receives - $175.00 per month. (5,124 on this program)
This group has a per month income of **$1,265.00** for an individual and **$1,715.00** for a couple. Cutting this group by $175.00 per month would mean a 13% and 10% cut respectively.

Those on the program would go from $1,265.00 per month to $1,090.00 per month or $1715.00 per month to $1,540.00.

The latest figures that we can get show the breakdown for this group is:

- 518 85+ years of age
- 595 80-84 years of age
- 946 75-79 years of age
- 1409 70-74 years of age and
- 1654 65-69 years of age

Tiers 1 and 2 covers 59% of those on the program.

Tier 3: Receives - $76.00 per month. (4,731 on this program)

This group has a per month income of $2,214.00 for an individual and $3,002.00 for a couple. Cutting this group by $76.00 per month would mean a 3.4% and 2.5% cut respectively.

Those on the program would go from $2,214.00 per month to $2,138.00 per month or $3,002.00 per month to $2,926.00.

The latest figures that we can get show the breakdown for this is:

- 543 85+ years of age
- 607 80-84 years of age
- 994 75-79 years of age
- 1,285 70-74 years of age and
- 1,302 65-69 years of age

When you drop to Tier 3 you have 4,731 participants on the program or 41% on the program.

You all have difficult decisions to make and all that I ask is that you consider carefully allowing this program not to be cut. Step up to the plate and see that money is placed back in the budget for this program. Look at the tiers carefully in the Senior Benefit Program – these are elder Alaskans who are our most vulnerable. Removing this monthly income from their **now budget** will have a devastating consequence on their already struggling existence to make ends meet.

I ask you to look at who will be affected by this cut –and the seriousness of these cuts - these are your constituents and vulnerable Alaskan Seniors, (not just dollar amounts and statistics) who depend on this income to meet monthly rent, food, fuel and other essential needs many which are not covered by other services. As you get older more essential items are needed and they are expensive and not covered by programs.

I believe that you can all work together towards a compromise for the Senior Benefits Program. Those currently on the Senior Benefits program need to be grandfathered in as of the end of the budget year and allowed to stay on the program. Those who are not yet on the program will not miss it because they have not had it. Through attrition and perhaps some changes to Tier 3 the program could be phased out over the years.

Thank you.

Lorilyn E Swanson

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Lorilyn E Swanson

Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☐

See attached

Fireweed Place
Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
"Housing Designed by Seniors for Seniors"
415 Willoughby Avenue Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-5000 • Fax (907) 586-5001

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Thank you. Lorilyn E. Swanson

THE DUNLEAVY BUDGET: MALFEASANCE OR MISFEASANCE?

Elstun W. Lauesen, CDFP*[1]
[redacted]
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
[redacted]

We often hear politicians saying that we need to "run government like a business". This is particularly true of Conservative politicians. This is what Governor Dunleavy and many of his well-heeled supporters said during the campaign.

I spent 30 years as a development professional assessing and analyzing business cases. Let's take a look at the Governor's Budget from a business analysis perspective.

First, let's understand the context of the business we are analyzing.

It appears to me that the authors of the Alaskan Constitution envisioned the State to be established as a "Beneficial Trust".

I conclude this because this was a key discussion during the Constitutional Convention. In his convention Keynote, Alaska's Delegate to Congress, Bob Bartlett said as much. The Class of Beneficiaries includes the Citizens of Alaska. The Class of Benefits is largely identified in the Constitution. The benefits produced by our "Beneficial Trust" include, among others, Public Education, Public Health, and the Welfare of Alaskans; also the Founders explicitly mention renewable management of Fish and Game, Transportation, a robust system of Local Governments, and a great University System.

My conclusion vis-à-vis "Beneficial Trust" is anchored in the Natural Resources Article of the Constitution, Article VIII Sections 1,2 and 3, which states that the collective ownership of state resources shall be developed "in the public interest" and for the maximum benefit of the people.

So this far-too-brief overview provides context for my analysis. The CEO of Alaska and the Board of Directors are operating a Beneficial Trust for the People of Alaska. So...how are you doing?

The first thing that I notice is that all of the Public Equity Funds—those Trusts and Endowments—are being targeted for liquidation.

What competent CEO of a Beneficial Trust would propose to "sweep" long term assets enjoying a 7% to 8% ROI into a liquidity pool (called UGF) generating <1%? --Especially if the consequence of that liquidation was to terminate the recurring benefits called for in the Charter and By-Laws (i.e., "Constitution") of the business?

---

1 Certified Development Finance Professional; NDC (Washington DC, 1989)

When a business—any business-- projects a negative Cash-Flow in their operations they will get a clue about what is going on by looking at their Profit-and-Loss. Well...here we have Alaska posting revenue of $800 Million but offset by current liabilities of $1.2 Billion! There's the source of the businesses' cash-flow problem.

And, sure enough YOUR legislative analysts have told you that Alaska does not have an expenditure problem, it has a REVENUE problem!

Yet our CEO submitted a budget to the Board of Directors that calls for cutting expenditures, liquidating our beneficial trust funds and completely ignores the revenue side of the ledger.

That is either malfeasance or misfeasance; in either case, it is up to you, our Board of Directors, to save our company.

And for the information of the curmudgeons out there who will be barking at YOU, the legislators, at least in the House side you HAVE done your job—or at least tried to!

Over the past 4 fiscal years you have cut the operating budget by $4.2 Billion and the Capital Budget by $1.5 B.

And two years ago, the House coalition came up with an historic fiscal plan that would have had us in the black by 2025—But the Senate (Under Pete Kelly) refused to act on the plan.

So here is what I believe you must do:

Replace the Governor Dunleavy's disruptive train wreck of a proposal with the base budget provided by outgoing Governor Walker. We can't all agree with that budget, but at least it is an actual budget and not a Fake one.

Then you must do the following:

- **Temporarily CAP THE PFDs at a billion dollars;**
- **Institute an income tax;**
- **Repeal and replace SB 21** with a tax system that benefits Alaska and ends corporate welfare for the largest multinational corporations in the world.

Boom! Job Done. We can all sleep at night again.

Thank you

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Luann McVey

Address [redacted]

Douglas, AK 99824

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

See attached typed statement.

THANK you!

Luann McVey, Retired Teacher, [redacted] Juneau

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee, please strive to:

INCREASE REVENUE: Please adopt adequate revenue streams to ensure responsible stewardship of all Alaskans and our environment. To balance the state's budget, stop paying the oil companies to take our oil; cap or stop PFD payments; and institute a personal income tax.

PRESERVE SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY FUNDING: Budget cuts mean greater class sizes, reducing time teachers can spend with each student. This is less effective for everyone involved. The learning of students at all levels, from preschool to university age, suffers when those who teach them are over-extended due to high student: teacher ratios. Please don't cut them further.

PRESERVE HEALTH CARE, including Medicaid and Planned Parenthood, whose services keep thousands of Alaskans' healthy

PRESERVE ELDER CARE & PIONEER HOMES: Our elders who worked to make this state a better place deserve attentive care, including health and residential services such as the Pioneer Homes. For many, including my own parents, our Pioneer Homes are the only option when they can longer live in their own homes. Keep the Pioneer Home rates affordable to ALL, not just the wealthy.

PRESERVE OUR WATER, AIR, WILDLIFE, AND EARTH: The natural world upon which we rely deserves protection from the large corporations which profit from extraction. Prevent the removal of environmental oversight, to ensure our water and air are clean and our fish and wildlife survive into the future.

PRESERVE OUR FERRIES: Like actual roads, they connect coastal communities with the mainland & support our economy & culture.

Austerity is not the path to a prosperous future. Kansas and other states, whose budgets recently resembled Governor Dunleavy's, have experienced disastrous results. Look to them for what NOT to do and CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STREAMS, as oil revenues decline.

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Richard E. Brenner

Address [redacted]

Auke Bay, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☐

My testimony is attached.

Richard Brenner, [redacted] Auke Bay, Alaska, 99821

Thank you for providing the opportunity to hear my testimony:

Cuts to state services have caused long-term harm to Alaskans. I am here today to ask for your leadership in reversing these cuts and providing a stable economic future for our state.

I am willing to pay for state services with an income tax or with the permanent fund. I think that an income tax would be the fairest way to pay for state services because it would be more progressive and collect funds from those who *work* in Alaska but do not *live* here.

Whether with the permanent fund or an income tax, I am asking for you to fund:

a vibrant and robust university system, care for Alaska's elders, a health care system that covers all Alaskans, a more reliable and regular ferry system, maintenance of our roads, the oversight of clean air and water, sustainable fisheries management, and the enforcement of the law.

Thank you.

House Finance Committee
Public testimony.

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Laura Steele

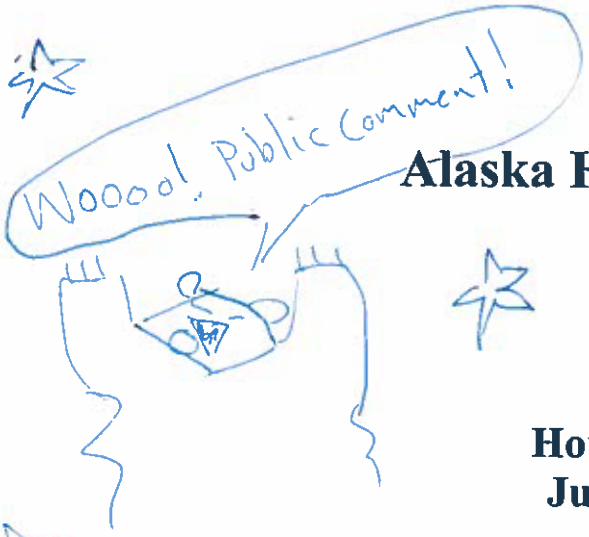
Address [redacted]
Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

I am a third-generation Alaskan, born and raised on Douglas Island, where I make my home now. I want to be able to stay in my hometown, continue contributing to the economy here, and eventually buy a home and raise a family to call Alaska home, too. However, that will not be possible with the devastating budget cuts recently proposed by Governor Dunleavy, because - if these cuts are passed - Alaska will no longer be a desirable or even viable place to find a job, buy a home, raise children, or grow old. Cutting funding for K-12 education, the Alaska Marine Highway, the university, Medicaid, Planned Parenthood, or the numerous other programs & services that are on the chopping block is not acceptable or necessary. Alaskans - even those like myself who are young and don't make much money - are willing to do our part to help save these services and our state. I'll pay an income tax, happily, if it means continued funding for those items. While $3,000 is a lot to me, I would much rather see that money go to our state than in my own pocket. I would rather see small classroom sizes than a big PFD, a large number of communities served reliably by our ferries than a large tax credit to our oil companies, and a fully funded university system than a tax-free paycheck. Don't get me wrong

- I love the idea of having an extra $3,000. I love it - it would be a huge deal for me financially. But I love my neighbors, their children, our elders, and our state, so much more. Please do not "pay back" the PFDs, please make the oil companies pay their fair share - like we are all willing to - and please do what you can to make sure that young Alaskans like myself can have a healthy, strong state to call home.

Thank you!



Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Pat Race

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I'm a filmmaker and illustrator. I was born here in Juneau and graduated from UAF with a degree in computer science. I believe we can fully fund PFD's while also providing the valuable state services we've come to expect as the backbone of our economy. To do this we need to claw back some revenue through a moderate income tax. And we also need to seriously reexamine our share of resource revenues.

I'm a small business owner and it's difficult to see the state prioritize "stability" for multinational corporations over stability for those of us who live and work here.

As you know, the battle for statehood was largely a pushback against corporate colonialism.

When Ernest Gruening was appointed Territorial Governor, he believed the most urgent problem we faced was an inadequate revenue system. Alaska's resources were not being utilized for the benefit of Alaskans; they were being extracted and shipped south.

Gruening saw first hand what ~~happened~~ happens when economic growth isn't tied to state revenue. During WWII we had incredible economic growth but w/o an income tax to capture some of that for state services, it simply left the state when projects were done. And the same thing happens today.

over →

Many people argue that an income tax will stifle our economy, but it was an important step in the march toward statehood.

An income tax in our past didn't stall economic growth, it provided a foundation. It didn't stop the pipeline from being built, it provided the infrastructure for that project to happen.

I'd like to see us pursue a balanced solution. That means responsible cuts, moderate taxes and an increase in our share of resource revenue.

Thanks.

- Pat

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Sheryl Wittig

Address [redacted]

Juneau, Ak 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☐ Yes!

57 year Alaska resident. Four years working in the oilfields on the North Slope, and thirty years (so far) teaching K-12 in logging camps and Juneau.

It is time to resume personal income taxes for all income earners in the State. It is time to end corporate welfare (in the form of oil development incentives.

I'm also the parent of two teenagers. Their class sizes are already too large. Please ~~do~~ not cut funding for K-12.

Likewise - We just bought ferry tickets for a road trip this summer → Why →

Because we don't know if we will <u>ever</u> be able to do it again. I don't know if my "highway" out of town will exist next year!

Don't cut funding for ferries, services for kids, the elderly, the universities....

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Julie Nielsen

Address [redacted]
Juneau 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

I am deeply concerned about the proposed budget cuts. This year, using all the PFD needed to cover the shortfall is fine. But it is a regressive solution to our revenue problem. We need to consider sources of revenue instead of cutting state services. **I support a progressive income tax.**

I would urge you to look at other states and their responses to declining oil and gas revenue. Oklahoma cut education severely instead of looking for alternative sources of revenue. And actually they cut taxes in an attempt to increase economic development + jobs. This did not work – highways crumbled, classes have more than 40 students, 20% of schools open 4 days a week, etc. ~~In 2017, the legislature repealed~~

These ideological tax cuts were implemented in Kansas as well. The "Kansas Experiment" of cuts to income tax was a failure; education suffered greatly. The state was ordered to spend more on education because it was not performing to standards required in their constitution. In 2017, the legislature repealed the tax cuts →

And a bipartisan majority voted to overcome the governor's veto. Conservative republicans voted to increase income tax because they saw that government functions were seriously affected.

The same people that designed the "Kansas Experiment" that failed so miserably in Kansas + Oklahoma are pulling the strings in the Dunleavy administration. Ardinin works with Laffer, who was paid to design the tax cut. Americans for Prosperity are hosting ~~[illegible]~~ Koch bros. town halls.

My hope is that there is bi-partisan realization that these cuts are ideological and would harm Alaska! We have empirical evidence that such cuts do not work in other states.

Thank you so much for allowing public comment on this, and your efforts to do the best thing for Alaskans!

Julie

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Griffin Young

Address [redacted]

Loop Road

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

My name is Griffin Young, I was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska and I went to School here in Juneau from Pre-School to 11th grade. Something the School System here helped me achieve was going to School and graduating in Dalian, China. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget. ~~China too had~~ Being in China helped me ~~reflect on Some of the Problems our State faces~~ appreciate the freedoms we take for granted. To See our education budget along with other State Services be Cut ~~in the name of~~ is a disservic to the People who work to make Alaska the wonderful Place it is.

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Quinn Tracy

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

A successful society takes care of its elderly, educates its people, and takes care of the ill and those most vulnerable. This budget fails society. Please fund education, our Pioneer Homes, and the resources that help those in need. Please restore adequate funding for the Alaska Marine Highway. The budget is not a mathematical problem, it's a policy problem. I favor fair taxation of the people and the corporations that extract and sell our resources.

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Heather Parker

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

Please invest in Alaskans.

This means investing in education – Keeping + increasing dollars for Head Start, pre-K, + our university system.

This means investing in health care – not cutting Medicaid + essential programs.

This means investing in access to all communities, not just those on the paved road system. This means investing in our marine highway system.

I support a reduced PFD – or no PFD – and a progressive income tax.

Please don't further cut essential services. With these cuts, you will destroy Alaska's future.

Please, invest in Alaskans.

22 March 2019
House Finance Budget Hearings

For the record, my name is Kevin Maier. I have lived in Juneau since 2004, where I'm raising two boys, and work as a fishing guide and professor at UAS. Speaking on behalf of my family.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the budget. And thank you for the hard work you're doing to find sustainable fiscal solutions. We see you and appreciate your work.

I agree with the Governor that the PFD is important to Alaskans—especially our most vulnerable residents. I do not believe, however, that we should be forced to choose between funding PFDs on the one hand, and, on the other hand, funding K-12 and higher education, state ferries, homeless shelters, and the countless essential services we rely on to live in this great state.

The Governor believes his budget is "sustainable, predictable, and affordable." While I'm not sure what it means for a budget to be "affordable," recent evidence suggests its ongoing reliance on the non-renewable resource of oil will mean it is neither predictable nor sustainable. I urge those of you left to do the heavy lifting of crafting a truly "honest" budget to reject these draconian cuts, and to consider a diverse array of revenue instead, including a progressive broad-based tax and using the PFD earnings reserve as necessary to fund essential services.

Thanks again for your time and especially your work to find sustainable fiscal solutions for Alaska. We need you to stand tall for Alaska more now than ever.

Kevin Maier
[redacted]
Juneau AK 9980a
[redacted]mail.com

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Reed Maier

Address [redacted]

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☑

Hi my name is Reed Maier. I am 11 years old and I go to montisori borealis and I am really hoping that I will be able to atend my school next year

Alaska House of Representatives

House Finance Committee
Juneau Town Hall Form
March 22nd, 2019

Name Matthew Berry

Address [redacted]

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget* ☒

As a student veteran, I feel that my opportunity to attend the University of Alaska Southeast is a privilaged one. I earned the right to live in this town to pursue my academic goals and future achievements. These cuts of 134m feel like a betrayal. I could have attended any school in the country and I chose to attend UAS ~~and I ... to the of this magnitude~~, spending thousands of dollars out of pocket to move here. Proposed cuts of this magnitude directly threaten my goals and dreams of being a productive Alaskan resident. ~~A state which does not support its higher education is a state destined to fall behind in the 21st century economy.~~

As a Usarmy infantry ~~[illegible]~~ veteran, I earned the right to be here and studying. ~~and~~ These proposed cuts feel like a stab in the back after my experiences.

Thank you.