

House Finance Committee

Public Testimony

HB 39 – Operating Budget FY20

Packet 2

Emails received to

HouseFinance@akleg.gov

March 23- 25, 2019

From: Betsy Brennan and Mike Wade <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's operating budget testimony

March 25, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I wanted to take a moment to give testimony about my feelings on the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2020.

Cutting the State of Alaska Budget so drastically to pay higher PFD's now and in the future is just wrong. I think the past few legislative sessions had great ideas: using a portion of the PFD to help fund government. The cuts to State services and government proposed by the Governor go too far, too fast. The budget has been cut significantly over several years. Other revenue sources should be brought to the table and discussed. That would include a state sales tax and a state income tax. None of this is an easy fix, but just cutting a budget and not looking at the overall outcome to so many worthy programs is not the way to go.

Here are some of the cuts to programs I am particularly concerned with:

Severely cutting K-12 school funding.

Severely cutting University of Alaska funding

Eliminating Senior Benefits

Cutting funding for the Pioneer Homes

Reducing funding for the Public Defender's office

Eliminating pre-K grants and programs

Eliminating school debt reimbursement funding

Eliminating all funding for public broadcasting

Thank you for your work.

Elisabeth Brennan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nome, AK 99762

[REDACTED]

From: Katy Prussing <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AK Budget

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed budget by Governor Dunleavy and respectfully ask the members of the house finance committee to take action on defining options that more fairly put the burden on those that benefit from the states resources such as limit oil and gas tax credits, an income tax (which will allow us to tax the workers that work in AK and then leave the state). Lastly, I am in favor of the PFD being capped to assist in meeting budgetary needs.

As a 25 year Alaskan with 3 children (one in high school and two in the UA college system) it is important to our communities to have properly funded education systems. I have spent the last 25 years involved in workforce development and the efforts we put in these areas will continue to payoff for Alaska for generations. Thank you for your work to develop a budget that meets the states needs.

Sincerely,
Kate Prussing

From: Larry and Margaret Soden <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Scott Kawasaki <scott.kawasaki@gmail.com>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's Budget Proposal

First of all let me say that I do not envy you folks in the task that lies before you, i.e. reconciling the governor's proposed budget with the real world needs of the citizens of this state and the unpleasant reality of the state's financial situation.

I'm not going to rehash all the pros and cons of the proposed budget as I'm sure you all have heard them many times over from various interest groups as well as individual citizens. I would just ask that in your deliberations you keep in mind that your primary objective should be to restore the state of Alaska to fiscal solvency and to do so with minimum adverse impact on critical programs and services, most of which have already seen substantial budget cuts. It has taken us over 40 years to slide up to our necks in this financial bog. I do not believe we are going to get ourselves out of it by using the meat cleaver approach in one budget cycle. Especially if we continue to offer tax credits to the oil companies that are reaping record profits in our state, or continue to pay ourselves substantial annual dividends from a dwindling fund source. We can't cut our way to prosperity and I think all of you are aware of that. If we are going to be serious about fixing our budget deficit problem we are going to have to at least discuss alternative revenue sources. The oil patch isn't going to bail us out anymore and I believe the majority of us voters do not want to see Alaska deteriorate into a third world state with crumbling infrastructure, inadequate public safety and a pathetic educational system. Again, I understand that resolving our fiscal problem is an incredibly complex and largely thankless task. I just hope you can all keep the bigger picture in sight and make rational decisions based on the long term interests of Alaskans and not on partisan politics or the governor's apparent inability to comprehend the rather significant consequences of his budget actions. Thank you for your time.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Daniel Tate <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Representative.Jonathon.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony 3/25 - Tate, Petersburg

Your honors,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed budget presented by the governor. My name is Daniel Tate and I live in Petersburg, where I am gainfully employed, a homeowner, husband and father to three now grown children who were raised in Petersburg.

I am wholeheartedly opposed to the governor's proposed budget and also his planned appropriation to repay past PFDs.

It is completely unacceptable to gut our essential services, public education, universities, social services, and the ferry. That and the raw fish tax cash grab will devastate communities in southeast, and the rest of Alaska, just to fund a backpay PFD appropriation. The following points resonate with my family, neighbors and colleagues:

- Education should be funded by need and not tied to the PFD.
- The ferry should not be politicized. It needs to be reorganized and managed correctly, outside of politics. It is an essential service that cannot be compared to the road system.
- The raw fish tax belongs to the locals.
- Gross cuts to any and all of these will trickle down and kill our already meager economies.

As a citizen of this state, I would like to see the PFD fund state government when shortages arise as a stop gap measure. A balanced budget is paramount though. New revenue sources are needed to achieve that. If natural resources and tourism can't provide, then I would like to see corporations taxed fairly in this state, but on par with other states in this nation. I want to see money that's earned by out-of-state employees who work here seasonally taxed appropriately. And, failing all else I would accept a state income tax.

I would also like to see the PFD aligned with one's income level. A sliding scale that could pay a larger (full) dividend to the lowest income level and a small dividend to those who's income is high, but only after all state budgetary needs are met.

I urge you to oppose the governor's PFD back pay appropriation. I urge you to protect our essential services. I urge you to put your effort into finding revenue sources to assist in balancing a budget that not just sustains what we have but improves our quality of life.

Respectfully,
Daniel Tate
Petersburg

From: Benjamin Gibson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 39, Operating budget 2020

I would like to urge you to avoid the unnecessary draconian cuts put forth by the Governor in his operation budget. I believe the the simple test of government is whether it makes all of our lives better-- on the whole-- given the price we pay. I don't think anyone can say with a straight face that the value of the existence of ferries, schools, baseline medical care, universities, environmental protection, etc; could be purchased for the mere pittance of a yearly few thousand dollars in a dividend. Further, we do not make these changes in a vacuum-- a cut to education of this scale will render our schools non-viable options for individuals, companies and talent seeking to reside here or relocate here from elsewhere. I commend seeking alternative revenue sources aside from the PFD, including a statewide income tax, and a reconsideration of the disproportionate favor we show the oil companies. However, the PFD is a tolerable avenue to seek bridge funding while other revenues are being pursued.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ben Gibson
Homer

From: Breena Apgar-Kurtz <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Shannon Apgar-Kurtz <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>; [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Stephanie Andrew <Stephanie.Andrew@akleg.gov>
Subject: Breena Apgar-Kurtz's budget statement

Hi,

I am a resident and voter in Alaska, from Anchorage. I live in Airport Heights and have a wonderful rep, Rep. Tarr.

Cutting the budget to get us out of our fiscal mess is not a solution to the long term health and wellbeing of Alaska and its residents. The governor's proposed cuts will prolong the recession in Alaska, hurting its citizens and future. We need to be emphasizing education not just for kids but for adults at the UA system. Education is the key to well paying jobs in Alaska. Even in the traditional resource development company, many of its jobs require not just an undergraduate degree but advanced degrees in geology, engineering and business. These are the best paying jobs in the resource development industry.

If education is cut, it is likely some large communities like Anchorage would raise their property taxes to make up the education cuts. However, this isn't an option for most Alaskan communities. Recruiting teacher to the Bush is already difficult. How are we going to recruit teachers when we can't afford to pay them a competitive salary and benefit package?

As for healthcare, if we cut funding, we put many Alaskans at an unnecessary health care risk. The federal government provides major subsidies for Alaska to provide this healthcare. It has worked well and it should continue. We live in a state with very high health care costs. I doubt many people can afford to pay out of

pocket costs. Health care ranks high in people declaring bankruptcy or being held back from their financial goals. We want to encourage these people to start their own business to grow Alaska's future, not be stuck paying for high health care bills.

I grew up in SEAK riding the ferries. They are the lifeblood of Alaska. They must be preserved. It is the only cost effective and efficient way to bring in goods, locals and of course, well paying tourists. They should not be subjected to any funding cuts. We just invested a lot of money in building new ferries and now we are cutting their service? How does that make sense?

I am in favor of enacting taxes, especially an income tax. An income tax is the most fair way to tax Alaskans. There are many well paying jobs in Alaska and they can afford to pay more than the majority of Alaskans. Enacting an income tax provides long term stable funding that are important for many Alaskans.

Thanks,
Breena Apgar-Kurtz

From: Aaron Surma <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Request

Hello,

I am writing from District 33 to voice my support for increasing revenue to pay for state-funded services.

Our citizens rely on government programs for basic needs like safety, healthcare, education and transportation. Cutting these services will provide very temporary relief in the budget, but will have horrible long-term effects. without basic needs met, substance use, toxic stress and incarceration will increase. these will lead to higher unemployment, costly prison stays and unstable families that will perpetuate the cycle of dysfunction.

Please think more than one PFD check down the road and increase revenue to pay for necessary state services. you can start by reducing the tax credits provided to oil companies. i find no pride in living in a resource colony. you can also implement an income tax or keep using the permanent fund. what state wouldn't be jealous of funding state programs through funding that will exist in perpetuity?

thank you for your time.

Aaron Surma
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
House District 33

From: Amélie Walker <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Proposed Dunlevy Budget

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express opposition the the budget as proposed by govenor Dunlevy. It underfunds the programs that make our state great (education, medicare, & state parks) and safe (Troopers, public broadcasting, & VPSOs). I urge the legislature to ignore Dunlevys' budget in favor of what is good for Alaskans.

As for funding the budget, I know that most people wanted a higher PFD this year, but social services are more important to me than money in my pocket. To that extent, I would also request at least considering putting an income tax forward.

In conclusion, please do what's right for Alaska; protect us from crime, educate us, provide a saftey net for the poor & unwell, and ensure the access to information we need in order to make wise decisions.

Thank you,
Amelie Walker
[REDACTED]

Palmer, AK 99645

From: Wendy RAnney <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB39 & HB40

Hello,

I am a parent and small business owner in Cordova. It is very disheartening to see the cuts that are proposed for the FY 20 Budget.

Small Alaskan Communities rely on our Alaska Marine Highway for medical, business, and general travel. The answer is not to force privatization. With our Air travel hanging in the wind and now our Ferry Service, you are all but ensuring failure for new small businesses in rural Alaska.

Our Communities also rely on the income from the Raw Fish Tax. By depriving the communities these resources, you are limiting us.

The cuts that you are pushing are attacking rural communities and our School system. Our kids deserve any leg up that we can give them. They already have limited resources, and now you want to take those limits even further, you are setting up our children for future failure.

I encourage you to reconsider the devastating effects that these proposed Budget Cuts mean to rural Alaska. We need you to work for us not against us.

Thank you
Wendy Ranney

Wendy A Ranney
Owner

The Whale's Tale @ Orca

[REDACTED]
Cordova, Alaska 99574

[REDACTED] Cell

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

March 25, 2019

To the House Finance Committee,

This is Sue Steinacher, an Alaskan resident for 39 years, with most of that in Nome and the Bering Strait Region, and I am representing myself. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget makes it crystal clear that it is time for Alaskans to help pay for the services we receive. The most fair way to do this is to combine reducing the PFD with a progressive income tax. Not one or the other – but both. This way everyone contributes an equal amount, and everyone also contributes according to their ability to pay based on their income. This proposal is based on the same model that creates congressional fairness across 50 very diverse states.

Please do not give consideration to a sales tax. Life in our hubs, and especially in our villages, is already at a crisis point for many because jobs and wages are far below the exceedingly high cost of living, with many families living in unthinkable conditions. A sales tax will only drive families into further poverty and despair, making life even harder on low income Alaskan children, which will cost the state more money in the long run.

Thank you for looking out for the long-term health of Alaska's economy and future residents –by acting as a government that does not let those with wealth and power perpetuate unequal and unfair conditions across our diverse state.

Thank you,

Sue Steinacher

[REDACTED]

Nome, AK 99762

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From: emil tucker [REDACTED]@mail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:17 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for Public Radio

I am writing to urge you to fund public radio in the 2020 budget. In an era where cell phones, internet access and cable TV seem to be everywhere it's easy to forget that not everyone has equal access to news and information. Public radio is an important state, federal, and locally supported service that gives anyone who has a radio the opportunity to hear local and national news, weather, emergency messages and entertainment programming. Public radio continues to be a relevant means of disseminating information in the internet age and I would like to see funding devoted to it in the upcoming budget.

Thank you,

Emil Tucker
Petersburg

From: Heather Brock [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Finance Committee hearings/budget testimony

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am a resident of Alaska since 1992, and a resident of House District 12 since 2005. I am opposed to the budget cuts and the PFD payout plan proposed by Governor Dunleavy's office.

Public services such as basic education, Medicaid, disability services, the Alaska Marine Highway System, in-state public mental health services such as API and community mental health centers, and the University system directly support the health and future viability of our state.

I am opposed to the payout of the full PFD as well as the "payback" of prior year's calculated full PFDs. We do not have the money for this expenditure at this time.

I support other sources of revenue to support the Alaska state budget if needed, including an equitable income tax for all wage earners in Alaska.

I encourage you to consider a restructuring of oil and gas development tax credits.

Respectfully,
Heather Brock
Wasilla, AK 99654

From: Kelly Cooper [REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 7:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget written testimony

Please record the following budget testimony for the record. This is my written testimony from the House Finance Town Hall in Soldotna on March 23rd.

My name is Kelly Cooper and I am a member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and Finance Chair. I do not speak for the entire assembly with these comments. These comments are mine alone.

Thank you for making the House Finance Committee available to your constituents here on the peninsula.

The budget as proposed by the governor is an example of a shell game. While he campaigned on reducing the budget without raising taxes, this budget may indeed raise taxes through cost shifting to local municipalities.

The elimination of school bond debt reimbursement of \$2.6 million dollars and the fish landing tax of approximately \$727,000 will reduce our general fund.

The loss of the petroleum property tax of almost \$15 million takes another significant hit on our general fund as well as our service areas. As you know, our borough only retains 10 of the 20 mills as opposed to keeping the entire 20 mills like the other boroughs.

For our borough to remain status quo in 2020, the general fund mil rate would have to be increased from 4.7 to 6.29. Our residents rely heavily on our emergency and road service areas. Some examples of service areas that would be hit the hardest are as follows:

Nikiski Emergency Services would have to see a mil rate increase from 2.7 to 6.9

Anchor Point Emergency Services would see their mil rate go from 2.75 to 4.35

North Peninsula Recreation Area mil rate would go from 1 mil to 2.6

The road service area would go from 1.4 mills to 1.87 mills.

I understand and support the need to reduce the budget. But to say the state budget is going to be balanced without raising taxes is disingenuous at best. If these cuts are approved, the borough is faced with reducing essential services or sizable increases in our mil rate. Our seniors on the peninsula do enjoy a property tax exemption of \$350,000.

The reduction of \$22.4 million in education funding is in fact draconian to a district that has reduced its budget annually over the last 5 years. Sadly, I have heard the term draconian to describe this budget more than any other adjective. I know there are folks here that will be speaking to the school budget reduction, but I would like to go on record to say, "I stand against increased pupil to teacher ratios, against completely eliminating extracurricular programs, against school consolidations and closures".

This is not what I envision for our kids. When I think about our education system, it is not kids on dark, dangerous roads in winter for much longer commutes to school.

It is not seeing lost opportunities for scholarships and lost motivation for our students with no extracurricular activities such as sports, debate, music and arts. We know students involved in extracurricular activities score better and tend not to get in trouble when not in school.

And it certainly isn't losing the heartbeat of communities by being forced to select which schools may have to close.

These actions will do nothing but cause the loss of families and jobs.

I will work with you to find reductions, but let's do it responsibly a step at a time while considering the consequences of this proposed budget.

Thank you,

Kelly Cooper

[REDACTED] Homer, AK 99603

[REDACTED]

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME:

Marilyn Menish-Meucci

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):

Self

BILL #:

HB39

Subject

Gen Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME:

House Finance

HEARING DATE:

3/25/19

I'm Marilyn Menish-Meucci. I live in Petersburg and represent myself. I'm opposed to Governor Dunleavy and his out of state budget director's proposed budget. The following is a comment from the budget hearing in Anchorage. Quote" push back to the cuts mostly come from special interest groups who benefit from state money "unquote. That statement is offensive. The people I know that are opposed to the budget want to be able to drive on our state highways, which for coastal Alaskans is the Alaska Marine Highway. We want our children to get a quality education and go to college in Alaska. We want health care to be affordable. We want our Pioneer Homes affordable for our senior citizens. We are not special interest groups. To do this I support repealing the oil tax credits, a state income tax, a \$10 school tax and a lower or no PFD.

Thank You.

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME: Alec McMurren

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: HB 39 Subject General Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance HEARING DATE: 3/25/19

Hello. Alec McMurren in Petersburg. Please take some of my PFD and charge me some State income tax (and make it easy on those that can least afford it) in order to fund the services that allow people to live with some dignity and move forward rapidly. My perspective is informed by an appreciation of what science and technology has brought to modern life here on earth. Hard work and genius have made advancement possible. John Muir and the Sierra Club are sure to be critical of the idea that it has been worth it. Only time will tell. I think that rolling back education and Medical services is wrong headed and short sighted. If there is a future for our State, it will rely on further advancement in research into, and support for, green (blue) economy and this means chatting it up with the other Arctic states and supporting and embracing common goals with these entities, along with throwing money at science and education and maintaining infrastructure in our State. The population in Alaska requires a lot of resources. The government is responsible for taking a lead roll in embracing and supporting science and education and technological advancement that will allow a sustainable future. The government needs to be fully informed by and engaged in climate science in order to chart its path to sustainable future for Alaska.

Alex

From: Barry Bracken [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony to the House Finance Committee

My name is Barry Bracken. I am a 57-year resident of Alaska. I remember paying both state income tax and school tax prior to 1981 and prior to the PFD program. This was an expected contribution from all working Alaskans in order to maintain vital state services. Now in the face of a shrinking budget it is time to once again consider other sources of revenue before cutting or eliminating valuable services. Elimination of essential services now could have negative impacts on Alaska and Alaskans well into the future.

Specifically, I recommend reevaluating the oil tax credit program, reducing the PFD, reinstating a progressive income tax that extracts tax from non-resident/part year workers to the greatest extent allowed by law, and reinstating a school tax to help fund education. Income generated from these programs should not be considered to be fully available for discretionary state funding.

Along with these revenue programs the Legislature also needs to prioritize funding for those services vital to the state. Among these I would rank education (both K-12 and university), public safety, health and human services, transportation, and resource management at the top of the list. New capital projects should be ranked behind maintenance of existing infrastructure and should be prioritized and funded only as the budget allows.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Barry E. Bracken
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK, 99833

From: Brie Drummond [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on HB39

Dear House Finance Committee,

My children go to Paul Banks Elementary in Homer, Alaska. It is an amazing place of learning, love, and support, and it functions as a keystone of our community. I believe funding education should be one of our highest priorities. Please do not cut funding to education. I would rather have an income tax or reduced PFD.

Sincerely,
Brie Drummond

From: Jason Donig [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Jason Donig and I live in Juneau where I have lived for over 20 years. I came to Alaska for the adventure and to commercial fish. I fished for over ten years and in the off season I worked as a youth councilor and with Juneau youth services. Now I own a reused building material store and am a general contractor.

I am sending this letter because I am very confused and concerned by our governor's proposed budget. Our future depends on our youth, their education and opportunities within the state. If the governor doesn't want people to be educated within the state, if the governor doesn't want Southeast Alaskan communities to be linked in anyway, if the governor doesn't want our elderly to be treated with the respect they deserve in assisted living. What the governor is proposing to me seems like an effort to drive people away from Alaska unless they are here to make money NOW with no regard for the future. If taking away our PFD helps even a little then by all means do so. I am not living here for the check I get once a year. I live in Alaska because of the people, communities and surreal ocean and mountains that surround us and I will do and support whatever it is that protects this life we have for future generations. And I do not support the attitude of cutting important infrastructure so that the rich can make more, not concerned with the future. Sincerely Jason Donig Sent from my iPhone

From: Betsy Brennan and Mike Wade [REDACTED]@nome.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's operating budget testimony

March 25, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I wanted to take a moment to give testimony about my feelings on the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2020.

Cutting the State of Alaska Budget so drastically to pay higher PFD's now and in the future is just wrong. I think the past few legislative sessions had great ideas: using a portion of the PFD to help fund government. The cuts to State services and government proposed by the Governor go too far, too fast. The budget has been cut significantly over several years. Other revenue sources should be brought to the table and discussed. That would include a state sales tax and a state income tax. None of this is an easy fix, but just cutting a budget and not looking at the overall outcome to so many worthy programs is not the way to go.

Here are some of the cuts to programs I am particularly concerned with:

Severely cutting K-12 school funding.

Severely cutting University of Alaska funding

Eliminating Senior Benefits

Cutting funding for the Pioneer Homes

Reducing funding for the Public Defender's office
Eliminating pre-K grants and programs
Eliminating school debt reimbursement funding

Eliminating all funding for public broadcasting

Thank you for your work.

Elisabeth Brennan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Nome, AK 99762
[REDACTED]

From: Anne & Bill [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments on state budget

- 1 Start over with Walker's budget.
- 2 Increase funding for healthcare specifically mental health care. Increase funding for AST
- 3 Stop giving away money to oil industry and increase tax on oil extraction.
- 4 As an Alaskan citizen for 39 years I want to contribute to an income tax.
- 5 Stop giving away money via the PFD, if there is money leftover, ok fund a PFD, some years the PFD will be zero. "Needs test" the PFD, even if it goes to the Supreme Court.

My perspective is that the oil industry feels it owns the legislature and you believe them. Prove me wrong. Develop energy extraction/distribution for Alaskans - all Alaskans.

Remember what happened to Nauru.

Bill Witte
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK

From: Kathy Bracken [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed Budget

To the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give written testimony on the proposed budget.

I have been a resident of Southeast Alaska for almost 48 years, and have lived in Petersburg for 43 of those years. I would like to go on record as strongly opposing Governor Dunleavy's budget. Any one of the proposed cuts would drastically lower quality of life in Alaska. If all cuts were implemented, it would be a complete disaster for the State, now and for the future.

I support a small Permanent Fund Dividend, or NO PFD if that's what is necessary to balance the budget and keep our state functioning. In addition, I don't feel that Alaskans need to receive "back payment" for past PFDs whose lower amounts allowed for adequate funding.

During my first 10 years living and working in Alaska, I paid income tax and school tax.

I support implementation of a progressive income tax. Many out-of-state workers make large incomes, use the State's infrastructure, and end up paying an income tax on their Alaska wages in their states of residency. Alaska is subsidizing other states when we should be supporting our own!

I would also like to recommend reinstating the Alaska school tax.

I support a deep vetting of the oil tax credits.

Some believe that the PFD is our heritage and our children's inheritance. It's not! The PFD has been in existence for less than 40 years. There's no heritage or any inheritance involved here. What our children should "inherit" and have a right to is their education.

I believe we should fully fund our educational systems at past levels—Preschool through Universities. I believe that the state of Alaska has a constitutional mandate to do so. The cuts to education in the Governor's budget are not acceptable.

The State budget should maintain and the improve the Alaska Marine Highway System. For Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak residents and for other remote parts of the State, it is our lifeline. It is our highway and is vital to our communities. We need a well-maintained, regularly-scheduled Marine Highway. Just as highways in the interior part of the state are constantly maintained and are available on a regular/daily basis, we in Southeast Alaska deserve nothing less! Instead of cutting back on our Marine Highway, as has been occurring over the past 10 years, it should be reinstated to the service we had 25 years ago.


Public radio is crucial in our communities, and should be funded. Public radio is the emergency contact for the community and outlying areas. Most residents of smaller communities rely on public radio for national, state, and local news and events.

The raw fish tax should continue being paid to the communities. Our fishing communities rely on this resource to fund infrastructure related to fishing as well as other community-related needs.

Healthcare for Alaskans is an expensive life-death matter. We need to continue to fund our Medicaid program, and provide Alaskans exemplary healthcare from prenatal to the elderly, including funding the Pioneer Homes.

Legislators, you must take care of your constituents in a responsible manner.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken


Petersburg, AK 99833

From: Chris Hayes [REDACTED]@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB39 & HB40

House Finance Committee,

Please cut all pre-K funding. People can prepare their kids at home prior to kindergarten.

Please cut all Medicaid expansion that was signed into law by Bill Walker. Address the fraud and abuse.

Pay a full PFD that is required by State statute. This means the 35 year traditional formula, not SB26.

If the people that are willing to donate their dividend to fund State Government send in \$3000 each, this would more than make up the \$1.6 billion budget gap. Problem solved and you should be out of session in 90 days.

Respectfully,

Chris Hayes
17 Year Resident
Kenai Alaska

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

From: Sara Jean DeLeo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AK resident against the proposed budget

My name is Sara Truitt, I have lived in Alaska for the last 9 years. I came here as a National Service AmeriCorps Volunteer and stayed to make this place my home. Every day I read the latest news on the budget and I'm just astonished that we even need to be having a conversation about such deep cuts.

There are so many little communities dependent on the marine highway. There are so many students dependent on the University. So many children dependent on a functioning school system. So many young families dependent on best beginnings and head start. So many low income people dependent on public programs...

How can this possibly be the "vision" anyone would have for our state? How can this possibly be seen as the direction we should go in?

I beg of you please do not let these cuts take affect.

And I get it... I mean, sure, who wouldn't love a \$3,000 pfd this October? But to hold onto that is incredibly foolish and short sighted.

Tax me! I've been saying it for the last several years, but not enough. Tax me! Tax everyone! We live in a wonderful state and it's OK to pay our share. It's completely normal and fiscally responsible. As a transplant I can tell you that at no point did it cross my mind to move here to avoid taxation. Also, don't give us all a full pdf! Don't decimate the states future so

that I can go buy a new tv one time. What happens when our jobs are gone and I lose my home? What good does no taxes and a full pfd do for me then? What good does \$3,000 do for me when everything else is gone?

It's heartbreaking that I and so many other Alaskans find ourselves pleading - not for some pie in the sky dream reality - but for a basic, common sense, fiscal future. Where we have a functioning state with an attractive economy and high standard of living. Please don't cripple us with this absurd budget.

I'm begging you,
Sara Truitt

Sent from my iPhone

March 26, 2019

House Finance Committee:

Thanks to all the Alaska State Legislators for their work in trying to create a workable budget for the state this year.

My name is Rosemary Carlton. I have lived in Sitka for 50 years.

I am in favor of reinstating a state income tax. I also suggest you consider reinstating the "school tax". When I arrived in Alaska in 1969 \$10 was subtracted from everyone's paychecks in January to help fund education. Even though the tax would be higher now, it is still a bargain and an easy way to designate money for schools. I am **not** interested in the Governor's retroactive PFD payments. I would like to have small class sizes in our schools, fairly paid teachers, a reliable ferry system, strong healthcare assistance for those who need it, reasonable Pioneer Home fees, retention of the fish tax that is shared with cities and the termination of **excessive tax breaks for oil companies**. Of upmost importance to me is the continued **protection and full operation** of the Sheldon Jackson Museum with improvements to the Stratton Library allowing parts of the building to be leased thereby providing the state with some revenue. The Sheldon Jackson Museum represents all of Alaska, how can it be considered for sale as an "underutilized facility?"

Thank you.
Rosemary Carlton
[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

From: Meldonna Cody [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; MaryBea Byrne <MaryBea.Byrne@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut the Budget and Save the PFD

House Majority Finance Committee:

An obviously organized union of State employees have shown up en masse to the House Majority meetings, to the great disadvantage of the majority of real, hard working, private sector Alaskans who voted for Governor Dunleavy and intentionally and purposefully voted for both a fiscally conservative Senate, and especially for a fiscally conservative House, knowing that we as individuals expected to personally feel the sting of budget cuts. As you may know, we do not trust the House Majority that wrangled the voted majority away from the will of the Alaskan voters. Please actually hear

us when we tell you we are willing to bear the brunt of these cuts to repair the extreme damage done to our State in the last administration, and so we don't pass down debt to our youth.

Do not talk of taxes until you have made the hard choices of making cuts first. After we see a sincere effort to work within a serious budget, then we will think about a flat income tax that is proportionate and progressive. Taking the PFD is extremely regressive. As one person put it in I believe, the Wasilla meeting: Those who are offering up their own AND everyone else's PFD's are the ones who don't even notice when it gets deposited into their account. Not all of us go to Hawaii, not that it matters, as it is our money and not the legislature's. I for one, have done without an eye exam and dental care ever since Walker started ripping off my PFD. I was also hoping to buy a generator last year, but that did not happen.

As I watched the meetings being hijacked by our spendthrift and failing educational union employees it is apparent that the House Majority ---- with their presentation --- intends to inflict regressive burdens on the middle and lower income Alaskans in order to subsidize the unsuccessful educators. Or to put it another way, they want to take the PFD's from other Alaskans and put it into their boats and planes and raises and puffed up benefits, as they are already some of the highest paid public school educators in the nation. It was also interesting that these State employed union educators had elaborate descriptions of how budget cuts would devastate schools but they never offered solutions to make education better. With a declining (and failing) student population, we do not need to throw even more money that direction.

Please support Governor Dunleavy's plan, protect the full PFD, and return what was withheld.

- Any changes in the PFD should go to the vote of the people.
- Decreasing or removing the PFD harms middle and lower income families and their children. It also harms remote Natives and seniors.
- Anyone wanting to donate their PFD can, and I support the proposal to allow people to donate to the General Fund.
- The ferry system needs cuts. Trust and support private marine carriers to fill the gaps, create private jobs and run more efficiently.
- DO NOT alter taxation on the oil producers, they need stability. This should be clear with the example of all the job losses that occurred on the slope a couple of years ago.
- I worked as an aide, a special ed aide, a substitute teacher(1996 - 2017, KIBSD, KPBSD, also a couple of instructional visits to Bethel, Dillingham and Nuiqsut), and at one dreadful point with First Student bus company. Here are my direct observations regarding Alaska's declining and disappointing public school system:
 - A lot of waste occurs in SPED with time and materials. The spend it or lose it policy wastes gross volumes of dollars. I have watched the head of the SPED department at a KPBSD middle school gleefully order tens of thousands of dollars of programs and equipment they actually knew they would not use.
 - I've watched elementary schools repeatedly spend 2 weeks of classroom time two times (4 weeks total, that's one full month!) per year disrupting the entire student population for Spring and holiday performances at a great loss to teaching time. In one school it seemed more about the music teacher's ego than the best interest of the students. This was the spouse of that school's administrator.
 - Parenting is being shifted to the schools, and the schools are terrible parents. This makes families increasingly dependent on schools and causes disruption to the curriculum, as well as becoming a vicious cycle of families abandoning their responsibilities as they let the schools do the parenting. This increases the need for ever more social services in the school. But hey, this supports an increasing evolution of Union NEA educational support positions! Here is an area where legislation might be needed to encourage and support families to become more involved with their children outside school. The bond and support between parent and child is decreasing. Know that I am a secular person, and was a single Mom, and I am saying strengthen and support parental responsibility. I also used my and my son's PFD's to help pay for private school when I saw how poor our Alaska public

schools were performing. It is one of the best decisions I made, and it was about quality education. In addition, I saved up PFD's and my son was able to use those for college when he was an adult.

- There is a tremendous waste of time and staff in several schools' food service operations.
- The teaching bar keeps getting lowered with weakened student expectations at all levels. There has been a marked decrease in expectations from the 1990's to the 2010's and forward.
- Unreal waste occurs in bus contracts. For one example, SPED busses frequently travel empty of students, but still travel the often 2 to 3 hour routes with a driver and an attendant because parents can't be bothered to call either the school or the bus company to advise of frequent student absences.
- Student behavior on the busses has deteriorated so much that it is nearly gang-like. This seems to be a result of the schools becoming parenting replacements.
- Many other countries and states have much larger class size and have superior results with far less money spent per student capita. (See the book, *Cleavelands: The Secrets behind the World's Education Superpowers* by Lucy Crehan). Parental involvement and high expectations are key. Also teaching "deeper" into fewer STEM-focused subjects seems to improve results. In Alaska they are teaching like a speedboat racing across the bay trying to touch the top of every little wave-ripple, instead of teaching subjects thoroughly and in more depth, which builds learning skills, perseverance as well as critical thinking. Alaska's Teachers are checking off the "standards" boxes and moving quickly on to the next standard. And, in the more successful systems, students actually start school later rather than earlier, which certainly is opposed to the arguments for funding extremely early childhood programs. Give this early responsibility back the the parents.

In addition to the above school system problems that should be cut or restructured more proficiently, below are other areas of the budget that should be cut:

- Medicaid expansion is a farce. I qualified the year it happened, and it took 18 months for approval. In other words, I was approved 6 months AFTER the approval coverage year passed. Retroactive approval did not pay the bills. I tried; the clinics would not pay. November of 2017 I was kicked into Alaska Expanded Medicaid 2018 from healthcare.gov. I received my decline letter this past February 2019. I could not get 2018 insurance as I waited for the Alaska Expanded Medicaid results. I am a retired low-income senior, and was declined because after working from the age of 15 through 62, I do not work any longer, which is a good reason if working is part of the conditions of receiving coverage. But I bet I am counted in the numbers of Alaskans who were supposedly covered during the year of my phony retroactive coverage. I wonder how many other Alaskans are counted but are actually in my not-really-covered situation? Dump Expanded Medicaid and open up ways for us to pool insurance in private classifications with private coverage.
- DOT can decrease costs. I am willing to help out on my side road, or do without as much (great) plowing and grading as I currently receive. No doubt there are other ways to save with DOT.

Please cut the budget and preserve the PFD.

Sincerely,
Meldonna Cody
Clam Gulch

From: Ernestine Massey [REDACTED].net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget

Dear House Finance Committee:

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the State Budget issues. The way the issue has been laid out to the public is a very good strategy to help to help people understand Alaska's finance issues. I attended the open meeting held on Sunday the 24th of March at the Sitka Centennial Hall and was impressed that the folks who spoke to the issues were primarily in favor of a status quo budget but keeping in mind that Alaska Government not be allowed to enlarge. They all spoke in favor of the following:

1. Reduce the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend.
2. Institute an income tax to Alaskans.
3. Charge an annual school tax as we paid when I first came to Alaska in 1961.
4. No cuts to Medicaid as it is a federal program

Had the solutions offered by the Governor's budget listed even these 4 solutions to balancing the budget, the public would have been crying out with negative responses. So the strategy is working! If everyone wants a huge Permanent fund dividend they must give up the major items that do the most good in Alaska. Let's work to generate more income and not be wasting money on handouts.

Thank you,
Ernestine Massey
Sitka Alaska
[REDACTED]@alaska.net

Former President of the State Board of Education for Governor Sheffield's Term
Former Member of Sitka School Board for two terms
Past President of the Sitka Historical Society and Sitka History Museum
Past President of Sitka Chamber of Commerce

From: Claire Pywell [REDACTED]l@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 39 and HB 40

To the esteemed members of the House Finance Committee:

Please protect Medicaid, a program which has ushered a welcome \$1 billion in federal funding into Alaska since September 2015.

Plainly and simply, Medicaid provides 211,759 Alaskans with health coverage. Most of these folks are children, seniors, or people with disabilities.

Contrary to many claims, most of the recipients of Medicaid are working adults who are not covered by their employer. The high costs of private health care coverage cripples individuals, business owners and small organizations alike. We all value our independence. We cannot prevent our community members from receiving critical coverage in good conscience.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Claire Pywell

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Jorden Nigro [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony - Governor's Budget

Dear House Finance Members,

As a 40 year resident of the State of Alaska, I ask that you scrap the Governor's budget and start over. Please work to pass a progressive income tax, restructure the free ride the oil companies currently have in the way of tax credits, and reduce our annual PFD's. We must address revenue!

We have choice right now. If any part of this budget is implemented without addressing revenue, we are choosing Big Oil over Alaskans and we are selling Alaska out to the likes of the Koch brothers.

Please don't do this. There is no reason for Alaska to be in the poor house. This budget is cruel and unacceptable. Let's start over.

Sincerely,

Jorden Nigro
Juneau

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

From: Helen Howard [REDACTED].net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget

It is essential to maintain funding for the University of Alaska, which not only brings in people and money in the form of grants, but a drain of students would be a drain on the State of Alaska. Support for the villages, health care for those who need it. All of the things that were in Governor Walker's budget should be maintained.

Helen Howard
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks AK 99709
[REDACTED]

From: Mary Sackinger [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska budget

Hello-

I understand some of the Alaskan fiscal crisis, and I do appreciate your representation of Alaskans.

However, please discard the Governors proposed budget and develop a new budget that makes the financial burdens more equitable.

I think that there is no need or constitutional intent in a fat dividend payment. Some decrease in state spending is needed, but a more evenly distributed revenue source, like an income tax or head tax might help.

Also, I am amenable to a decrease in oil company credits, requiring towns(like Delta) to become incorporated, or even a seasonal sales tax.

I am sure that we agree on the infrastructure that continues to be supportive of Alaska as a sound, pleasant place to live.

Thank you-

Mary Record

From: Nicole and Alec McMurren [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Date: March 25, 2019 at 5:16:19 PM PDT
To: LIO.Petersburg@akleg.gov
Subject: Alec McMurren Comments on budget

Hello. Alec McMurren in Petersburg. Please take some of my PFD and charge me some State income tax (and make it easy on those that can least afford it) in order to fund the services that allow people to live with some dignity and move forward rapidly. My perspective is informed by an appreciation of what science and technology has brought to modern life here on earth. Hard work and genius has made advancement possible. John Muir and the Sierra Club are sure to be critical of the idea that it has been worth it. Only time will tell. I think that rolling back education and Medical services is wrong headed and short sighted. If there is a future for our State it will rely on further advancement in research into, and support for, green (blue) economy and this means chatting it up with the other Arctic states and supporting and embracing common goals with these entities along with throwing money at science and education and maintaining infrastructure in our State. The population in Alaska requires a lot of resources. The government is responsible for taking a lead roll in embracing and supporting science and education and technological advancement that will allow a sustainable future. The government needs to be fully informed by, and engaged in climate science in order to chart its path to sustainable future for Alaska. Alec.

From: Ashley Lohr [REDACTED]@pcsd.us>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Petersburg Mother and Educator

Hello,

This is Ashley Lohr from Petersburg, AK. This is my 10th year teaching here at Petersburg School District. I've admired the administrators and staff so much that I want to continue to work as a team with them. But my team will be broken up because of your reduction of public education funding. We value our education and education system here so very much. How can the state take such little care of it?

I strongly advocate for public education funding. The programs we offer here are so vital to the future of Alaska and will be yanked away with the proposed cuts. How can PFDs outweigh our youth's future? With the proposed cuts, any strength our educational system has here at all levels will diminish. Why is this the right step?

--

Ashley Lohr
Art Educator
Petersburg City School District
[REDACTED]@pcsd.us

From: Sylvia Kidd [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; finance.committee@akleg.gov
Cc: Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Subject: SoA budget

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am deeply concerned about the effect your proposed budget will have on the economic and social well-being of our state, making Alaska a much meaner place to live. Your proposed cuts include many false economies:

Education improves not only one's own life but the life of the community. For people in poverty it's a leg up. Don't leave our children even less prepared for adulthood than they already are. My own career and contribution to the community were the result of a University of Alaska degree. If our university system cannot meet the needs of our students, those who can will go outside to college where they will accrue much higher student loan debt (and may not return to live here).

Cutting Medicaid will mean that chronic conditions will worsen and many, especially the poor, will go to ERs for medical care, the most expensive option.

I lived in the bush for many years. I know how important NPR is for keeping our rural residents in touch and informed. And as a daughter of Southeast I know how vital the ferry is--the ships are our wheels and the docks are our airports. The commerce of Southeast floats on those keels.

By the way, state ownership of natural resources is, by definition, socialism. So is the program where the state shares the profits with citizens--it's known as a 'guaranteed basic income' or, in Alaska, the PFD. I find it ironic that your conservative peers are currently pounding the liberals who espouse these same ideas as un-American. I'm okay with a socialist Alaska but could do without a raise right now. It simply isn't sustainable to have very low or no taxes and give away the profits, through industry tax credits and super-sized PFDs. "You get a car and you get a car and you get a car" is not an economic plan. Hoping a larger PFD will stimulate the

economy enough to matter is a crap shoot. You can't control how much spending will even remain in the state rather than go to Alaska Airlines, online retailers, Hawaii, outside universities.

Instead of large PFDs, I encourage you to institute a progressive income tax, a progressive payroll tax (to capture out-of-state high income workers) and a modest PFD, all of which could be adjusted as needed so that neither taxes nor PFDs would be static but would expand or contract with the economy, which is what families do.

Respectfully, Sylvia Kidd

From: David Logan [REDACTED]@akdental.org>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FW: Medicaid Letter

From: James McConnell [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:18 PM
To: David Logan
Subject: Medicaid Letter

My name is James McConnell and I practice dentistry in Ketchikan and have for about 12 years. I see only people that are on Medicaid/Denali Care and I see them a couple days a month. My main practice is down in Utah where I reside. I tell you that so that you would know that Medicaid is a small source of income here in the state compared to my practice down south. I do this cause NO ONE sees these people in the quantity that I do down here. They are underserved due to a myriad of reasons. But that's not the issue in front of us right now.

Most Medicaid patients in Ketchikan and I would suspect in all rural area settings when they can't be seen by a dentist they go to the emergency room. The physician sees the patient, maybe takes an x ray and gives them a prescription and sends them on their way and tells them to find a dentist to take the tooth out. Now, State of Alaska has an emergency room bill in a rural hospital setting, which in most cases is going to be close to the \$1150 allotment and the tooth is still in the patients head. Now take the ability of that patient to find a dentist once Medicaid is cut/done away with/whatever. There will be even fewer offices than there are now that are even going to take these patients. In the rural setting, now you are flying the patient out to be seen by someone who will perform the procedure and we are now way past the \$1150 allotment.

Please think before you act. Yes, you can cut the \$1150 away but you will spend it in other areas. I guarantee that.

--
Dr. James F. McConnell, BS DMD
[REDACTED]

From: S J Rogers [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:11 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor Dunleavy's Budget

I am one of the 70+% in the Mat Su Valley who voted for Mike Dunleavy BECAUSE he would put us on a responsible fiscal budget and bring the outrageous spending our government has been doing for years....back under control and get our state living within their means. In our family and the family I was raised in, that is how we lived. We did WITHOUT if the money was not there for special things. We paid our bills FIRST. If any was left, we tried to save it for unforeseen emergencies. We did NOT whip out a CREDIT CARD and spend. We support our Governor and this is not going to be an easy job by any means but WE do not need you folks going AGAINST what the majority elected him to do!!!! You work for us. YOU do not know what is best for us. There are plenty of people who have testified that they do not need their PFD and I think that is fantastic. The money they are willing to give up should help our general fund! We, on the other hand DO NEED our's.....so our situation is different. Not to mention the small businesses that get that amazing boost they need. Ya'll have been taking millions of dollars away from us long enough. GET RID OF THE FLUFF!

We look forward to you doing the right thing,
Jeff & Sandy May
Wasilla

From: Pattrice I [REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support Dunleavy and his budget.
Importance: High

I am emailing to inform you that I fully support Dunleavys budget and his plan to give Alaskans their full dividends. The politicians need to learn to budget the millions they get already.

Pattrice Illguth

Dear House Finance Committee,

3-25-2019

My name is Shannon Vandervest. I am a third generation Alaskan and third generation fisherman, and a first-generation elementary school teacher. I have lived in SE Alaska for 38 years. I have a husband who is a fisherman and three daughters two of which are fisherman and live in SE. The cuts that are being proposed especially to education and to the ferry system will directly affect every fisherman and family in SE Alaska. The cuts to education will overload the teachers, who will be able to keep their jobs, because they will be having to absorb the load from the non-tenured teachers and/or newly tenured teachers who will lose their job. I will lose my job as a first-grade teacher if these cuts go through and also seven other positions will be either terminated or not filled again in our Petersburg district. Class sizes will enlarge and classroom supplies will decrease making it more difficult to leave no child behind. Programs in the schools may be forced to shut down such as our swimming and survival lessons which have saved numerous lives in the outdoors and on the fishing grounds. Other programs that may be forced to end; choir, band, afterschool sports, debate just to name a few. Educational travel for teachers will be forced to end or be severely cut back.

SE Alaska depends on fishing. Some of us fishermen depend on the canneries to purchase our fish. The canneries depend on the ferry system to export some of our fish to fresh markets. These fresh markets are what helps drive the price of fish up. My delivery date of halibut is determined by the ferry schedule. If I can't get my fresh halibut out on the ferry, the cannery has to freeze it and the price drops considerably. My daughters have animals that are on the no-fly list so how will they travel without the ferry?

Alaska is a unique place. I love living here. But if we have these drastic cuts Alaskan will be forced to move away and find employment and better equipped schools. We don't want to see our public radio taken away, libraries unfunded, or our real-estate prices plummet either.

I and many Alaskans are willing to contribute most of my permanent fund in order to create a better budget plan that won't negatively change Alaska as much as the current plan will.

Thank You for your time,

Shannon Vandervest

Petersburg Alaska

From: Kathy Bracker [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:49 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed Budget

To the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give written testimony on the proposed budget.

I have been a resident of Southeast Alaska for almost 48 years, and have lived in Petersburg for 43 of those years. I would like to go on record as strongly opposing Governor Dunleavy's budget. Any one of the proposed cuts would drastically lower quality of life in Alaska. If all cuts were implemented, it would be a complete disaster for the State, now and for the future.

I support a small Permanent Fund Dividend, or NO PFD if that's what is necessary to balance the budget and keep our state functioning. In addition, I don't feel that Alaskans need to receive "back payment" for past PFDs whose lower amounts allowed for adequate funding.

During my first 10 years living and working in Alaska, I paid income tax and school tax.

I support implementation of a progressive income tax. Many out-of-state workers make large incomes, use the State's infrastructure, and end up paying an income tax on their Alaska wages in their states of residency. Alaska is subsidizing other states when we should be supporting our own!

I would also like to recommend reinstating the Alaska school tax.

I support a deep vetting of the oil tax credits.

Some believe that the PFD is our heritage and our children's inheritance. It's not! The PFD has been in existence for less than 40 years. There's no heritage or any inheritance involved here. What our children should "inherit" and have a right to is their education.

I believe we should fully fund our educational systems at past levels—Preschool through Universities. I believe that the state of Alaska has a constitutional mandate to do so. The cuts to education in the Governor's budget are not acceptable.

The State budget should maintain and the improve the Alaska Marine Highway System. For Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak residents and for other remote parts of the State, it is our lifeline. It is our highway and is vital to our communities. We need a well-maintained, regularly-scheduled Marine Highway. Just as highways in the interior part of the state are constantly maintained and are available on a regular/daily basis, we in Southeast Alaska deserve nothing less! Instead of cutting back on our Marine Highway, as has been occurring over the past 10 years, it should be reinstated to the service we had 25 years ago.

Public radio is crucial in our communities, and should be funded. Public radio is the emergency contact for the community and outlying areas. Most residents of smaller communities rely on public radio for national, state, and local news and events.

The raw fish tax should continue being paid to the communities. Our fishing communities rely on this resource to fund infrastructure related to fishing as well as other community-related needs.

Healthcare for Alaskans is an expensive life-death matter. We need to continue to fund our Medicaid program, and provide Alaskans exemplary healthcare from prenatal to the elderly, including funding the Pioneer Homes.

Legislators, you must take care of your constituents in a responsible manner.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken


Petersburg, AK 99833

From: Ronald Spatz @yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:46 PM

To: LIO.Ancorage@akleg.gov; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>

Subject: Proposed Operating Budget Testimony: Ronald Spatz

TO: The Anchorage LIO: LIO.Ancorage@akleg.gov

TO: The House Finance Committee: House.Finance@akleg.gov

TO: The Senate Finance Committee: Senate.Finance@akleg.gov

My name is Ronald Spatz. I have been a resident of Alaska since 1980. I am an independent voter, unaligned with any political party. Thank you for the opportunity to enter testimony about Governor Mike Donleavy's proposed budget.

I strongly oppose the Governor's budget proposal. The proposed radical cuts will cause immediate and significant damage to core services that are

essential for the continued well-being of Alaskans and for the future development of the State of Alaska. Specifically, I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to education (Head Start, K-12, the University of Alaska, and WWAMI), cuts to Health and Social Services (including to Medicaid), and cuts to transportation.

I do favor immediately increasing revenue where possible (before making any cuts) including (1) reinstatement of a progressive State income tax and (2) capping the Permanent Fund Dividend (and, if necessary, eliminating this "cash giveaway" program altogether).

Finally, in this time of extreme partisan politics, I do hope our elected state officials will buck that trend and instead come together and craft a responsible, bipartisan and forward-looking budget.

Thank you for your public service and for your consideration.

Ronald Spatz

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Shirley Tuzroyluke [REDACTED]@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Governor Dunleavy's Budget

I have lived in District 21 for the past 40 years and have paid property taxes for that entire duration of time. Every year I have been comforted that a majority of the property taxes that I paid went into education. I believe that quality education is essential to growing our next generation of leaders and in building a healthy community.

Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget is deficit-minded thinking and wrong for our state. He proposes to cut \$134 million to the University of Alaska — a 41 percent reduction from the \$327 million FY19 budget. In education funding, he additionally proposes to reduce the Base Student Allocation to \$4,880 per student - a drop of \$1,050. The budget calls for more than \$300 million in state funding to be cut from education spending.

We become an ascendant nation by investing in our young people. Other nations had visions and then plans for how to join others economically on the world stage. In South Korea, education has contributed to the growth of their democratic government and has brought on an economic miracle in one generation.

On a global scale, the United States ranks 31 in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). As a nation, we are outpaced by 30 other nations, with Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan scoring the highest.

Governor Dunleavy does not have a grasp of the challenges that the citizens of Alaska are facing today. According to the February Alaska Economic Trends, Alaska has been losing jobs for the last 39 months, for a total of about 12,700 jobs lost. Since 2013, the net out-migration, taking into account in-migration, is about 35,400. Two more people have left for each one that has arrived in the state of Alaska.

According to a 2018 US News research compiled data on the "US Best States Overall Ranking" based on such factors as health, education, economy, opportunity, and crime and corrections and other factors. Alaska ranked 44 of the 50 states in overall ranking.

Alaska represents another grim statistic. Alaska has the second highest suicide rates in the United States, with 27 deaths per 100,000 total populations, according to a 2017 CDC report. It is the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska. Suicide represents hopelessness. When Governor Dunleavy slams the door shut on educational opportunities for Alaskan youth, he exacerbates every other negative statistic like suicide, homicide, drug addictions and contributes to the rise in those involved in the criminal justice system. If "Every U.S. State Were A Country", according to The Prison Policy Initiative, as compared to every other country in the world Alaska has the 26th highest incarceration rate in the world.

According to "The Relationship between Incarceration and Low Literacy," written by Troy Atlms:

- 85 percent of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are [functionally low literate](#).
- Juvenile incarceration [reduces the probability of high school completion and increases the probability of incarceration](#) later in life.
- High school dropouts are [3.5 times more likely than high school graduates](#) to be arrested in their lifetime.
- High school dropouts are [63% more likely to be incarcerated](#) than their peers with four-year college degrees.

Education is where Alaska's citizens prepare for jobs. Cutting the education budget at the Base Student Allocation level translates into higher class size, school closures, a lack of classroom resources, and an out-migration of highly qualified teachers to more attractive career choices and states. And cutting the university budget effectively guts the pathways to training a skilled workforce. Not only does it close the doors to opportunity, it removes the best and most creative minds from our community.

There is not a citizen that I know that wants to live in a world of young people with no prospects for the future.

I'm asking you to advocate for our community and oppose Governor Dunleavy's budget. Do the right thing for our young people. Contribute to hope.

Thank you,

Shirley Tuzroyluke
Shirley

From: Kevin Hall [REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

First, let me remind all of you, the bloated Government in this state is out of control. Everybody knows it but no one has the courage to address it. Our governor comes along and finally points to the elephant in the living room and everyone acts shocked. I'm so tired of people saying, ya, ok, we need to cut the budget, but, for God's sake don't cut anything that might effect me or the sky might fall. I support the Governor.

Second, the PFD is not and never has been a part of the budget. Stop trying to link it to the budget and stop lying to your constituents. And while you're at it, stop avoiding telling us that the State already gets a percentage of the royalties for our oil, you just want more! Be honest enough to tell it like it is. Could it be your afraid if you do, those supporters on the Government tit might not vote for you?

Third, Stop avoiding the word tax when you want to steal our PFD. You know darn well that is exactly what it is and without a vote of the people, that's taxation without representation and we settled that with the king of England a long time ago, but you know that, don't you? That's why you are avoiding calling it what it is. Another good reason to avoid the T word would be because, when you try to convince us that we need an income tax, someone might remind you, WE ARE ALREADY BEING TAXED! It just amounts to the proverbial, pissing on my foot and telling me it's raining and that is insulting. Once again, stop lying to your constituents!

Fourth, you keep bringing up education so let's just use that as an example of the insanity going on in this state. We already spend the most per ca-pita on education in Alaska and rank somewhere around the bottom in outcomes.

WOW! And they are crying like stuck pigs because the governor wants to cut some of the fat there. hmmmmmmmm Not getting a very good return on that investment are we? Money does not equal a better education, obviously.

Fifth, lets just touch on another big spender, Medicaid. One word here; can you say FRAUD! If the medicaid fraud in this state were brought under control, just a little, there is no telling how many billions we could save. Let me give you just one example: I had the opportunity to use the services of Life Med Alaska last year. I had a heart issue and had to be flown to Anchorage and as this group of highly professional individuals are moving me to the plane and strapping me down they are chatting away to each other like I wasn't even there. I overhear one say, "ya, after this we have to make a beer run to Dillingham." My ears perk up and a little later I ask, "what's that about." The EMT explains, "it's a joke." She goes on the explain, "the people in the bush will go to the local clinic whenever they need to go to Anchorage and complain about some ailment they know will get them a free trip to and from the big city. On the return trip they are loaded down with groceries and beer. Some of us call it a, Costco run." It happens so often they have to joke about it and have a name for it! And guess who gets to pay for that; you guessed it, the tax payers! And that is just one example of the rampant fraud associated medicaid and our tax dollars.

I support the efforts of our governor and his budget proposal. I even support an income tax of some sort after some major cuts to the pork. I will never support you people stealing our PFD again and I will never trust any of you until you return what you already took unlawfully. Here's an idea, give out a full PFD, and let those who want to continue to support a bloated state government, donate theirs. We'll be waiting.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
55 years resident

From: John H. Lamont [REDACTED]@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2020 Alaska State Budget

Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify at the Town Hall Meeting in Wasilla on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

I am a resident of Alaska and expect all our representatives who participate in balancing our state's budget at the Capitol building in Juneau to do so with those Alaskans who reside in remote Alaska in mind. If the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend payout to all residents by the state Constitution is cut by you, those in remote Alaska will be harmed the most. The PFD payout is a life saver to those in the Yukon River Delta, if you were to direct the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to reestablish the Yukon River Commercial Chinook Salmon Fishery, then the PFD payout cutting would not hurt as hard.

Other areas that need cutting (or cut out altogether) is the Alaska Marine Highway (which only serves a select few Alaskans with expensive airports in each of their communities) and the Alaska Rail Road (which basically serves the tourism industry not based in Alaska and the owners of the Coal Mine in Healy). We definitely don't need to spend 25 plus million dollars on the South Denali Visitors Center!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully:

John H. Lamont

From: Connie LaPerriere [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony on the Operating Budget

Please submit the following as testimony on the Operating Budget:

I am writing to express my disapproval of the Dunlevy Budget. I live in Sitka, a place that would be greatly harmed by this budget. Among the cuts I do not support, are the cuts proposed for Education, Ferries, Public Broadcasting, Medicaid, the Pioneer Home, WWAMI, or Selling of the SJ Museum.

I think the Education budget proposal is unconscionable. Education is mandated in our Alaska constitution. What is proposed is not education; it is lip service to education. Education should be future funded. Taking what has already been allocated or proposed and including the radical proposed cuts would be detrimental to our future citizens. The proposed cuts to UAS will affect all of our futures. Often when our children leave Alaska to go to school the costs of higher education is great. Looking at the proposed cuts and the impact on Alaska, it would not be surprising if those who leave never come back. What will happen to research that is conducted by UAF? We need the innovative and fresh ideas brought by education. This is more important with regards to the challenges that will come to this state from climate change. WWAMI brings needed medical people back to Alaska. People raised in Alaska understand our needs and challenges well.

Our Ferries are a vital part of the transportation system. Some of the problems of the ferries is that they have been underfunded in the past. Unless there are proposals that would cut roads to places like Palmer or Kenai, this budget unfairly targets Southeast Alaska.

This budget would have a detrimental effect on the Pioneer homes. I hope the governor is not seriously proposing something that would in effect dump our elderly citizens on the street. Not many could afford to pay to be in the pioneer homes with the projected costs.

This budget unfairly targets some of the neediest in the state, especially the cuts to programs like Medicaid.

The budget would also have a negative effect on Public Broadcasting. Small communities rely on local stations for news and safety announcements.

The proposed sale of the Sheldon Jackson Museum is puzzling. Does our government not care about our history? Is it legal or ethical to sell native artifacts? Would we sell a Museum in Juneau or Anchorage?

I think this budget is an attempt to blackmail the people of Alaska into settling for a smaller PFD, a state income tax, or other taxes. All of which I would approve over cutting those services I have listed above. I just don't like feeling like a hostage. I would be in favor of revisiting how we let large corporations do business in this state without paying for our wonderful resources, for instance repealing the oil tax for a more equitable solution.

This budget is already causing panic among the citizenry of Alaska. The effect of this budget would cause many people to lose their ability to have and keep a job. That would result in many people leaving Alaska under duress. Please act in a bipartisan effort to stop this budget. I believe this budget will have a disastrous effect on the economy and more importantly to the people of Alaska.

Connie LaPerriere

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: Jody Tow [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY2020 State Operating Budget

The governor's budget discourages residents from residing in Alaska by cutting essential quality of life funding that keeps us living here.

I am a second generation Alaskan that was born and raised in Petersburg. After attending an out of state college I chose to move back to Alaska with my husband. We chose to do this because we believed that the quality of our lives and our future children's lives would benefit from living in this small town in Southeast Alaska.

We now have two children, ages 9 and 11. Major cuts to public education are extremely alarming to our family. We place a high value and have certain expectations on what our school can provide to our children. If major cuts are made

to education and our local government is burdened with the State's expenses (meaning higher taxes for us) it could very well drive families into moving away from Alaska.

When our Marine Highway system is proposed to be eliminated, which is one of only two ways into and off of our island, this discourages our quality of life. Coastal communities count on the ferry system, it is our highway.

When the Governor proposes to take all of our community's fisheries business tax away from our local municipality this is alarming. The Petersburg Borough needs those funds to balance our municipal budget, to fix our roads, to pay for our police and EMS department. Is our safety and wellness not important?

When the State sets a standard to reimburse GO School bonds and the Governor now proposes to eliminate this reimbursement, this alarms us. The Petersburg voters trusted in the State of Alaska to assist in the repayment of the GO bonds when they voted for these projects. If this is approved how can Alaskan's believe anything our state government tells us in the future?

The State needs to use all of our PFD and the interest earnings to balance the State's budget. Governments should not be giving it's resident's money, it should be investing it in our State's future.

Thank you,

Jody Tow

Petersburg, Alaska

From: Gary Miller [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 2:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Dunleavy's budget does nothing but harm to me and my family. His cuts hurt education, our ferry system, the poor, etc. Please reinstate the income tax. I will gladly pay for state services the same way that I pay for the City and Borough of Juneau services.

Thank you.

Gary Miller
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801-8211
[REDACTED]

Subject: Please forward this testimony on proposed budget to House Finance Committee members
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2019 03:10:41 -0400
From: [REDACTED]@mosquitonet.com
To: Fairbanks.lio@alaskaleg.gov

My family and I do not support Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. Our values align with public support for education from pre-K through university, libraries, parks and recreation opportunities, health care, senior citizen living, the environment and the arts. We want to live in a community where these opportunities are available for everyone. I agree with the perspectives expounded in recent editorials published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and written by Joe Paskvan and Larry Persily. The proposed budget will undercut the very fabric of our community that we value so much. The legislature must lead the state in setting a budget that provides for the best future of Alaska, which is one in which revenue is raised. Revenue options are available and should be established now. Find the compromise, find the middle ground. Be leaders of the citizens of the state!

Elizabeth Schaffhauser
Fairbanks, Steese District

From: [REDACTED]@akfarmland.com [REDACTED]@akfarmland.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 2:33 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget Threatens Alaska Agriculture

Good afternoon House Finance Members;

I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed cuts to the budget that threaten Alaska's agriculture industry and food system.

I am thrilled to hear that House Resources returned the funding to Division of Agriculture and DEC budgets; I hope you will vote in favor of these changes.

- Agriculture is one of the only renewable resources in the State and our industry is growing!
- Programs slated for reduction or elimination from the State Division of Agriculture (Division) include: the Alaska Grown program, the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund, the Farm to Institution program, and nearly all of the services of the Plant Materials Center. In addition to providing marketing and promotion, access to lending, development of new markets, and research on varieties and diseases, these programs also bring in millions of dollars in Federal funds. While the entire Division budget is ~\$1.3 million State dollars, programs are supported and matched with between \$2 and 3 million fee for service and federal dollars annually. Without the Division team to provide support however, these dollars will be turned away and growers will not have access to essential programs.
- The proposed cut of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Dairy Sanitation position would eliminate Alaskans access to grade A milk and put at least one multi-generational farm out of business.
- Services provided by the Division should be considered "core" services. Not only are the dedicated staff incredibly knowledgeable about Alaska agriculture issues, they are highly efficient, budget conscious and committed to supporting the industry as a whole. Alaskans' have benefited from a Department or Division of Agriculture since Territorial Days; industry members are dependent on the knowledge, expertise and unbiased support that Division staff provide.
- The Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC) provides vital services for continued resource development within Alaska. The PMC is tasked with protecting the State from invasive species of plants, insects, animals and disease. Their efforts support natural resource development statewide, for example, Canada Thistle was recently discovered along the roadway north of the Alaska Range, 100 miles south of Prudhoe Bay. This invasive species is a threat to native plant vegetation and wildlife as well as a potential problem for future natural resource development. It is noteworthy that hundreds of millions of dollars are spent annually treating Canada Thistle in the lower 48; this is only to keep it at bay, as eradication is now considered impossible. The PMC staff treated the Alaskan outbreak of Canada Thistle with the intent to eradicate it from the North Slope, maintaining Alaska's pristine environment.
- Alaskans' import 95% of the food they purchase, but have demonstrated their support of Alaska Grown products through their commitment to shopping at Farmers Markets, participating in the \$5 a week Alaska Grown Challenge at

retail grocery stores, and encouraging growers of all products to increase production. To cut off the valuable services provided by the Division now, during this time of incredible momentum, would be devastating to our immature but thriving industry.

- We urge you to support full funding for the Division of Agriculture. Everybody eats and therefore we are all “involved” in Agriculture. Support the industry that can both help strengthen our food security and grow our economy.

Please let me know how I can be of further assistance.

Amy Pettit, Executive Director
Alaska Farmland Trust

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@akfarmland.com
[REDACTED]

From: Brian H [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 2:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: maintain full Alaska DNR and DEC budgets in FY2020

Dear Representatives serving on the House Finance Committee,

I was distressed to read yesterday's news report <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/03/24/didnt-see-this-coming-budget-cut-threatens-to-close-alaskas-last-dairy-and-block-any-new-ones/> and the impact to up-and-coming young, dairy farmers in Alaska. We need local milk production and the required dairy inspection program, instead of sending our dollars to out-of-state (i.e., WA, OR, CA,...) fluid milk sellers. Yes, the state needs to subsidize Alaska dairy farms just like the federal government has been subsidizing U.S. dairies <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/animal-products/dairy/policy.aspx> since 1937.

Please, promote and preserve Alaska farms and farmers! You can do this by retaining key programs that support the growth of Alaska agriculture. Please accept the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) budget subcommittee recommendations to continue full funding of the Division of Agriculture under DNR and the Dairy Sanitation Inspector under DEC. Thank you for your service.

Best regards,

Brian Himelbloom, PhD
Certified Food Scientist
[REDACTED]

Kodiak, AK 99615
Resident since 1987

From: Kathleen Menke [REDACTED].com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 2:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Dear House Finance Committee:

I live in a rural community (Haines) where there was no public venue for the House Finance Committee on the budget.

Therefore, my comments are submitted here.

Alaska's budget must put Alaskans first..

kids (education)

seniors (senior benefits)

ferries (smart investment and sustains healthy communities and small business across the entire state of Alaska).

For a sustainable future for all Alaskans, the state's income needs to be diversified..and Alaska must get its fair share from, and reduce its dependency on) big oil and other extractive industries such as logging and mining. This requires cost/benefit analyses and environmental impact analyses for industrial-scale resource extraction projects. And transparency of this information. There is currently too much confidentiality and too many back-room deals where industry is being subsidized (University timber sales for example). We need to know real costs for all project proposals..including climate change impacts and impacts to salmon watersheds.

Oil tax credits are a fossil fuel subsidy which must be halted immediately.

PFD heists are regressive taxes that harm those who need it most, though it might be time to reconsider the impact of full PFDs for every child and modify that formula.

State income tax that is percentage of federal income tax (for example: 5%) would be a good start to diversifying and sustaining Alaska's future. Someone pays \$1000 to the feds, they should toss \$50 to the state. Easy to administrate and doesn't require folks to do two sets of taxes with two sets of rules.

Alaska will be harmed by a budget with drastic cuts that cost people their jobs, their businesses, their education, their healthcare, and the economic security of their families.

Dunleavy's Koch Brothers budget process is obscene.

Thank you for listening to Alaskans.

Regards, Kathleen Menke, Haines

From: Genevieve Johnson Perreault [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I am frustrated and appalled by the governor's proposed budget. Dunleavy's cuts slice into the heart of our economy and state services. It's especially galling that these draconian cuts are proposed while he shells out hundreds of thousands of dollars in salaries to his cronies who landed unnecessary government positions. Shame on him.

Cuts to the University will irrevocably damage the Fairbanks economy, not to mention its community and culture. UAF is an intrinsic part of the foundation of Fairbanks, and deserves full funding for its academic programs, which have already been trimmed to the bone. Many Fairbanks small businesses rely on the university - students, professors, researchers, staff, and their families contribute millions to the economy. What happens when they disappear?

I support fully funding public education. With three children enrolled at Pearl Creek Elementary, I have witnessed firsthand how budget cuts impact staffing and class sizes. Funding cuts to public education are detrimental to children, our future Alaskans.

I'd love it if the Legislature could put pressure on the Administration of both the UA system and the superintendents of local school systems to prioritize fully funding academic programs and teachers over all else. If cuts need to be made, let them come from Admin first; programs and teachers last. There is always room to look for efficiencies and in times of crisis, the fat that should be cut first should come from bureaucracy. That includes the governor's staff. The First Lady of Alaska does not need an Executive Assistant, especially not one who makes \$60k+/yr.

Look at Kansas as an example of what not to do. Tax cuts caused their budget crisis. A lack of revenue and a failure of leadership in previous Legislatures has caused ours. We needed to address our lack of revenue years ago when the price of oil started falling. I applaud Governor Walker for being willing to touch the third rail of Alaskan politics (the PFD) but we should already have devised a plan for increasing our tax base and broaden our economy.

Instead of a slash and burn approach that throws the baby out with the bath water, we should be looking at increasing our revenues via restructuring our oil tax system and looking at income and/or sales taxes. How many out of state workers come to the North Slope and leave without contributing to our state economy? We are literally giving money away to the oil companies. If it means fully funding education and vital state services (read: not the salaries of Dunleavy's cronies) I am willing and eager to pay an income tax. Give Alaskans some stake in the game - when we start paying for our own services out of our tax dollars, we will be better able to prioritize what we want and hold politicians feet to the fire who waste our money.

Bottom line: focus on new revenues rather than a budget belt that tightens us out of existence.

Genevieve Johnson Perreault

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: Donna Leigh [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education Budget

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter regarding the proposed budget for next year.

As you know, University of Alaska and Alaska school districts have taken cuts the past few years. UA has had major cuts in 4 of the past 5 years. Public education at schools has flatlined at best, mostly decreased, not keeping up with needs in our school districts.

We want to raise educated students locally who want to return to Alaska to be educated at local university. These students at both the public school and university level will contribute to the economy and success of Alaska's future. Great communities are built around education, health and opportunity.

If public education is cut, our undergrad students will not receive quality educations, class sizes will increase beyond what is ideal and many families and good teachers may choose to move out of Alaska. 41% cut to UA will be devastating, not even thinkable! The UA system brings in grants and economic opportunities, and research, reinforces our workforce and contributes to our high schools with dual credits and opportunities for higher education.

Personally, I was educated through elementary and high school in Alaska. Although I received a graduate degree out of Alaska, I returned to Alaska after university and have accessed the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska SouthEast to keep my degree updated and certifications current. Our son is a student at University of Alaska Fairbanks. Beyond that I work in public education in a high school and my husband works for UA. He too has accessed University of Alaska Anchorage to update his employment certifications. In other words--- education is a vital part of my family's life.

Please make good choices and remember how important education is to Alaska and Alaskans.

Thank you for your time,

Donna Leigh

From: Dave Mayo-Kiely [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:35 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

I was unable to attend yesterday's hearing in Anchorage but wanted to weigh in. I do not support the catastrophic budget cuts our governor has proposed. I haven't combed through his proposal with a fine tooth comb but from what I have looked at or read about, I do not support any of them.

For me the priority areas to not cut are: education (preK-universities), health care (medicaid), Homeless Assistance Program, ferries, Pioneer Homes, ferries and public safety.

I very much understand that current revenues do not support this much spending. I do strongly support a reduced PFD (maybe similar to last year's PFD), a modest income tax (a sales tax is acceptable if there are adequate exemptions so it does not impact low-income families (groceries and clothing should be exempt)), and I believe we need to look at oil tax credits. Our governor stated that everyone will feel pain. From what I see, the oil companies won't feel pain with the exception of their employees that flee the state in search of somewhere that values education, safety and health care.

Please consider these revenue streams when deciding on this budget and please, please, please do not enact the cuts the governor has called for. I know my family is not alone in at least looking into leaving Alaska if those cuts come to fruition.

Dave Mayo-Kiely

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: sherijnu@aol.com [REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:29 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>

Subject: The Budget

Hello,

I am a 51 year resident of Alaska. I love this state. I want it to succeed and I want the government of Alaska to provide the necessary services to the citizens of Alaska. Those services included education, police & fire protection, judicial courts, and access to affordable health care. The governor's proposed budget would gut many of the items I just listed.

If we need to balance the budget, so be it with an income tax. A progressive income tax would capture the wages of out of state workers as well as those of us who can afford to pay. The time is NOW. Do IT!

Sheri Williams
Juneau, AK

From: Beth Short-Rhoads [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on Governor Dunleavy's operating budget

Dear House Finance Co-Chair Foster, Co-Chair Wilson, and members of the Committee,

I would like to submit my comments from yesterday's hearing in Sitka to ensure they are recorded as official public testimony.

Thank you Representatives and Senator. My name is Beth Short-Rhoads. First a question: Will we as Alaskans allow Governor Dunleavy and his partnership with multinational corporations to dismantle our schools, public infrastructure, and economies? We have the power to answer NO—but we'll all need to say it strongly and loudly many times in the weeks and months to come.

Second, this budget is a manufactured problem. As Finance Co-Chair Natasha von Imhof has said: "We don't have a fiscal crisis. We have a priority crisis." Unquote. Part of this priority crisis is the governor's proposed \$2.3 billion dollars in supplemental PFDs. I support modest PFDs, while keeping in mind they were established when Alaska had a state income tax and no oil tax credits. If we want bigger PFDs than what the state can afford, those 2 issues need to be addressed.

My solutions to Alaska's current and future budgets include any or all of the following: vote down the supplemental PFD payments in Senate Bills 23 and 24, pay out small PFDs this year, reinstate an income tax, and repeal oil tax credits. Thank you.

Thank you for your service,

Beth Short-Rhoads
Sitka

From: Mike Coons [REDACTED]@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support teachers request

I attended the Finance committee hearing on Saturday in Wasilla. At least two, if not more of the red shirt teachers complained that they can't get Social Security retirement and wanted that. So, I came up with this idea to grant that request.

Legislation that ends teacher retirement TRS. Place all teachers and administration, etc. on regular salary criteria like the rest of working stiffs! They then pay full boat taxes, Social Security and Medicare payroll deductions. Then take the existing TRS for each, hand over to Social Security and then when they hit 66 or as it goes up, 67-69 (projected) then get their SSN check, minus Medicare and minus taxes. I get \$1571 minus \$134 Medicare and minus 7% for taxes. Hmmm wonder how much lower that is to TRS? Per Alaska Commission on Aging Senior Snapshot 2017/2018 average TRS for 2018 \$2,965 per person! So they would have to do a 401K (I would advocate no matching) like anyone of us working stiffs!

I would go further to do the same thing as to PERS, which from the same source ACoA Senior Snapshot 2017/2018 average is \$1,872 per month. I find it interesting that teachers get average \$1,093 more than PERS, which I think includes State Troopers?

I know between funding PERS and TRS they take a big hunk of money out of the budget. It would be interesting to find out how much of the budget costs would be decreased without PERS and TRS?

I'm sure the Unions will scream very loudly! I am also sure that with this session, this would not go anyplace. However, the Governors Budget has created a lot of discussion as this would as well.

Mike Coons
President, Greater Alaska Chapter AMAC

March 25, 2019

Representative Neal Foster
Alaska House of Representatives

RE: Alaska Medicaid Dental Services, Denali Kid Care

Dear Representative Foster,

I am writing to provide you an alternative perspective to the Alaska Medicaid Dental Program, (and proposed cuts,) other than what you may be hearing from the Alaska Dental Society, (of which I am an active member), as well as other organizations and entities.

As a brief introduction: I have been a practicing dentist since 1985. I have both Public Health and Private practice experience, having served with Indian Health Service for 9 years, until 1994, and maintained private practice here in Alaska since then. I also have extensive experience in delivering dental care in villages in the Bering Straits region of Alaska, and at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (94-95) and Talkeetna Sunshine Clinic. Currently, I maintain a Prosthodontic practice in Anchorage, and provide specialty care 6 weeks a year in Unalakleet.

Since 2008, I have had the contract as the dental professional reviewer of the Dental Medicaid program which is currently administrated by Conduent. Former administrators include ACS/Xerox, and First Health. This year, Conduent added Dr. Owen Mandanas, DDS, of Anchorage, as a second reviewer. As far as I know, we are the only dentists in Alaska who can provide a 'trench level' view of what is occurring, and how this program, especially the Medicaid Adult

Dental program has exploded out of control, and is fraught with poor controls, potential fraud and abuse, and, in many situations, care that is detrimental to the recipient's best interest.

In my tenure as the reviewer, I have witnessed the program explode from providing basic dental services to a program that seems to be without limits. A review of the expenditures for Dental Services for Children, and services for Adults over the past 5-7 years will reveal some staggering numbers, especially on the adult side. Several factors contributed to this increase including:

- Poorly written Dental Medicaid policy.
- Former Medicaid personnel who, without apparent reason, added a volume of covered services far beyond basic dental services without language as to when such services would be considered medically necessary.
- Former Medicaid personnel who re-interpreted the Alaska Legislature's intentions for the 'Double Denture' program, thus doubling the intended Enhanced dental benefits provided to the recipients.
- An influx of dentists and clinics who actively market to Medicaid patients, viewing the program as lucrative.
- An influx of recipients who have moved to Alaska to obtain our Medicaid benefits, since the States they came from has lesser coverage. (yes, this really happens, and has been told to me by several individuals through the years)
- The inclusion of IV sedation coverage without controls. This has become a key marketing tool for providers.
- The program's allowance of improper billing of services which go against the standard of practice and definition according to the American Dental Association Guidelines.

I recognize that most dentists providing dental care to Medicaid and DKC recipients are honest, and care for these individuals as they would others in their practices. However, there are 7-10 entities that seem to treat these individuals merely for the unlimited funds they can receive by a combination of excessive treatment and/or creative billing.

The Alaska Medicaid Dental program is segmented into three main programs, each with its own set of rules; Children (under 21), Adult Enhanced, and Adult Emergent services. I will address each one separately.

First is the children's program, which comes under the CMMS Federal rules for those under the age of 21. Under the CMMS rules, SOA is required to provide preventive and basic dental services and treatment for medically necessary and/or handicapped conditions. There is no annual cap for this group. The primary abuses I see in this age group are over treatment, such as placing full porcelain or gold crowns, when fillings would suffice, and an increase in IV sedation use to pull out wisdom teeth at younger ages. I have seen many cases where 14-18 year olds have received as many as 20 crowns, all without prior auth.

Second is the Adult Enhanced program, where-by each adult is allotted \$1150 per year for basic and preventive care. The enhanced program has its own list of covered services. This program covers annual hygiene, periodontal care, and restorations and dentures. The recipient can obtain services in this category, paid by the program up to the cap. After that, any treatment in this category is the recipient's responsibility. They can elect to pay for their care, or delay treatment until they are given a new allotment in July of each year. This is the program that is effected by the 'double denture' rule where the recipient can choose, when needed, to have their upper and lower denture made in same fiscal year, but they relinquish their \$1150 allotment for the following year. However, previous personal at Medicaid opted to change the definition of a denture, thereby allowing the patient to obtain dentures or partial dentures, and keep still have their \$1150 per year available. This is against the intention of the legislation.

The abuses in the Adult Enhanced program include overbilling, or un-bundling procedures to seek higher compensation.

Finally, the Adult Emergent Services. The services covered in this program are meant for the relief of pain and/or infection. There is no annual cap to this program. These services include emergency exams, xrays for the affected area, and extractions, and IV Sedation. In my opinion, the separation of the Adult Enhanced and Emergent programs is the number one reason why the program is facing budgetary problems, while at the same time leading to excessive, and in

some cases, abusive dental care. Several providers and entities have figured out that if they provide more services under the Emergent list, there is no dollar limit capped. Thus, recipients that may be seeking care for pain in a tooth, or region, often leave with no teeth, having been told they should have all their teeth removed and dentures placed. Thus, the provider now obtains reimbursement for IV sedations, evaluation, xrays, full mouth extractions, surgical revision of the bone, and the denture. Well in the \$8000-\$10,000 range. Many times, the teeth they are extracting were restorable, and with proper triage, they could be saved over time. I cannot tell you how many under 30 year olds have fallen to this ploy, and are now dental cripples the remainder of their life.

Again, I will reiterate that not all dentists are abusing the program in such a way. It remains limited to several, high volume, entities.

In light of all of this, I would like to propose the following initial action items that could have a positive impact in reduce expenditures:

- Eliminate coverage for IV sedation, except by Oral Surgeons. In my over 30 years as a dentist, I have never used IV sedation, and I have provided every service that providers are performing by utilizing adequate local anesthetic techniques and oral sedatives. This includes full mouth extractions, removal of third molars, and treatment for the extremely apprehensive patient. The complex, severe services that require IV sedation are usually out of the scope of practice for general dentists. Dropping this is also safer for the recipients. Oral Surgeons, (most of whom are also MD's) have at least six months of anesthetic training during their residencies compared to a 2-4 day course that general dentists take to obtain their certificate.
- Reduce the number of covered procedures, covering only basic dental services. Alaska's list of covered services exceeds many other states, even for children. Covering less procedures, but keeping reimbursement the same for providers, (who have high overhead costs) can help control the budget, and allow fair compensation to the providing entity.
- Require more prior authorizations for services beyond basic dental care.
- Enforce the legislations intentions on the 'double denture benefit' rule.
- Develop a way to merge the Adult enhanced and emergent program, providing an annual cap for both programs, or a newly developed merged one.
- Re-write the Alaska Dental Medicaid Policy, to include specific criteria as to when services are deemed necessary, and covered. Referencing the policies of other States can assist in this.
- Create stricter controls and criteria as to when Orthodontics is deemed necessary.
- When fraud or abuse is discovered, seek compensation or penalties from providers. (Reference the Lookhart case, many providers are doing the same thing he is charged with).

In summary, I am pleased that a serious look at the Dental Medicaid program is being undertaken. I trust that my comments will lend some insight into the current situation.

If I can be of further assistance, or answer questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Dale F. Burke, DDS
Advance Dental Solutions
Anchorage, AK

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: Mark Janes [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Budget

Please use the Permanent Fund, income taxes and a reduction in oil tax credits to fully fund our State government at current levels. We have been slashing government since the oil crash and we need to responsibly establish revenues that are not based on speculation.

Thank you,

Mark Janes
PO BOX 191
Seldovia 99663
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Community Budget Hearing Fairbanks

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for the hearings your committee is holding around the State. Yesterday's hearing in Fairbanks was a significant public service and opportunity for residents to be heard by our decision makers. The Governor should take note of what a public constituent meeting looks like. Representative Wilson and the Fairbanks LIO ran an efficient meeting and accommodated an overflow crowd comfortably and gracefully. Thank you to Representatives Wilson, LeBon and Wool for listening to a very engaged population.

I did not speak at yesterday's meeting, so this is my testimony. I agree with the many speakers who reject the Governor's proposed budget that includes severe cuts to services government should provide.

I support:

- A reduced PFD of no more than \$1000.
- Please reinstate a graduated or progressive income tax. Non-resident workers should contribute and this is the best mechanism.
- Please consider an education tax.
- If reasonable, please consider changes to the how oil producers are taxed as several speakers advocated. I don't have the skills to understand the financial data, but the State should not subsidize producers or have an unreasonably low tax on oil production. I trust legislators and their expert advisors to make these decisions.
- Fund the University of Alaska at the level requested by the Board of Regents.
- Maintain current funding for Health and Social Services to continue the Medicaid expansion, the Senior Benefits program, and Pioneer Home fees close to their current level.
- Maintain current funding for education or increase for inflation. K-12 and pre-K programs are important.
- Support the Marine Highway System at current levels to continue an essential service for our southeast community.
- Continue or increase funding for the Village Public Safety Officers program.

I don't see how the State's economy could survive with the Governor's budget. How many residents would lose their jobs? How many vulnerable residents would lose supportive services they need to exist? How many federal dollars would be lost because the State cuts Medicaid and University research support?

My hope is with the Legislature, and I look forward to seeing what the Finance Committee brings to the full House.

Thank you,
Mary Zalar

[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](#)

Residence: [REDACTED], Fairbanks 99709

Mailing: [REDACTED], Fairbanks 99708

From: Stephanie Allison [REDACTED]@acsalaska.net>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:41 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>

Subject: The State Budget

Dear Esteemed members of the House and Senate Finance Committees,

As a 40 year resident of the State of Alaska, I feel that it is time for our citizens to begin paying for the state services we receive. That payment can be in the form of dividend earnings used for state services, income taxes or a combination of the two. To expect the state to successfully function at the level of our dwindling revenue is short-sighted and I fear will have unexpected repercussions that cannot be predicted. I expect the legislature to develop a plan which restricts the amount of withdrawal from the permanent fund investments so that the investment earnings continue to grow and are available for future Alaskans, into perpetuity.

I expect my fellow State of Alaska employees to continue to identify and implement cost saving measures. I believe that the cuts to travel are more than reasonable. I would very much like for the concept of costs savings with Shared Services of Alaska (SSoA) to be reviewed, to determine if the concept is actually working. From my point-of-view in the Department of Education and Early Development, it is difficult to see any increase in efficiency that has led to a cost savings.

Thank you for your time, and your service to the Citizens of Alaska.

Stephanie L. Allison, CPA

[REDACTED]
[\[REDACTED\]@acsalaska.net](#)

From: Alyson Currey [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:10 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget testimony

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Governor's proposed budget cuts and PFD payback plan on Friday, 3/22. Below is my written testimony for the record.

Like many organizations and individuals across the state, I do not support the drastic and unprecedented cuts in the Governor's budget to nearly every program in the state. These cuts are immoral and unsustainable.

I want to live in a community with strong education and health care systems accessible to all Alaskans no matter where they live or their income level. I would happily not accept PFD paybacks and am willing to pay my fair share through a state income tax to fund and increase investment in the critical services our communities need to thrive. This state needs equitable, fair, and stable revenue sources so the legislature never has to consider kicking low income individuals off their health insurance, denying social services to individuals in need, closing university campuses, or slashing K-12 and early learning program funds.

I'd like to thank the HSS finance subcommittee for not supporting decrements to public health nursing or Medicaid services. I also appreciate the HSS co-chairs for submitting a memo to the standing Finance committee asking them to not support a proposed 5% Medicaid rate reduction to any health care providers. These cuts would be devastating to our health care system and public health. And, thank you to the education subcommittee for maintaining investment in early childhood from the legislative budget numbers passed last year, and for a modest increase for Parents as Teachers.

I sincerely hope the standing finance committee recognizes the need to maintain these vital programs and will support adequate funding for Medicaid, public health nursing and early learning.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Alyson Currey

Juneau AK, 99801

ktatakis@gmail.com

From: ktatakis <ktatakis@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:10 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Object STRONGLY to proposed budget....

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the Governor's proposed budget cuts. I am a 3rd generation Alaskan and was born in Anchorage in 1972. My mother was born in Petersburg. I am a graduate of ASD and have 3 children currently enrolled in ASD.

My 16 yr old had to write a short essay about where he see's himself in 10 years and where he see's his community. It was interesting to read. He voiced concerns about the direction Alaska is headed. He mentioned how sad that the governor didnt seem to be able to get along with the law makers in Juneau. He wondered why they can't see how this budget as it is currently drafted will affect our young. He went on to say he plans to attend school outside Alaska and to hopefully start a career somewhere in the pacific northwest. He said, he does not see a reason to stay at this point.

We then talked about revenue versus spending. My son has watched his dad and I get a little over extended financially and also how we are working to solve our financial issues. I explained to him that because we had to much spending happening (to many bills due) we increased our revenue (money coming in.) . I (mom) got a second job and we sold some assets to pay our cars off. He then asked me the million dollar question everyone wants answered, why can't our reps in Juneau and our governor get along and do that same, without it causing harm to the most vulnerable, our kids and our elderly.

I tell you this because this budget as written will effect so many negatively. I remember in high school when the housing market crashed, people left in droves. That is going to happen again that is certain if we stay on this path. Please cap the PFD, introduce a sales tax, tourist tax, do something. Not everyone will agree and not everyone will be happy but our kids did not ask for this nor did they create the current mess we are all in. Fix it and do it soon.

--

Kathy Tatakis
[REDACTED]

From: Barry Bracken [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:53 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony to the House Budget Committee

My name is Barry Bracken. I am a 57-year resident of Alaska. I remember paying both state income tax and school tax prior to 1981 and prior to the PFD program. This was an expected contribution from all working Alaskans in order to maintain vital state services. Now in the face of a shrinking budget it is time to once again consider other sources of revenue before cutting or eliminating valuable services. Elimination of essential services now could have negative impacts on Alaska and Alaskans well into the future.

Specifically, I recommend reevaluating the oil tax credit program, reducing the PFD, reinstating a progressive income tax that extracts tax from non-resident/part year workers to the greatest extent allowed by law, and reinstating a school tax to help fund education. Income generated from these programs should not be considered to be fully available for discretionary state funding.

Along with these revenue programs the Legislature also needs to prioritize funding for those services vital to the state. Among these I would rank education (both K-12 and university), public safety, health and human services, transportation, and resource management at the top of the list. New capital projects should be ranked behind maintenance of existing infrastructure and should be prioritized and funded only as the budget allows.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Barry E. Bracken
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK, 99833

From: Carrie Messervy [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:43 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget vs. PFD

To Whom It May Concern,

The Permanent Fund Dividend provides a much needed stimulus to the Alaskan economy. It provides small businesses and even large businesses with a surge of income that is usually pretty desperately needed. Alaska has a very high cost

of living and it's astronomical in the rural areas. Most Alaskans are living paycheck to paycheck just keeping their heads above water. The PFD pays for the big ticket items that people need but can't afford on a regular basis. It helps pay down credit card debt and loans. It buys the replacement washer or dryer. It pays for heating fuel, or electricity. It's the money people use to pay for Christmas presents for their family.

Our current budget is bloated with unnecessary spending. It's full of "small" projects that don't actually NEED to be done right now. It pays for high salaries and massive benefit packages. There is plenty of wasteful spending that can be cut. That our past, and current, legislature seems unwilling to make those necessary cuts is ridiculous. We cannot keep taking money from reserves and hiking up taxes. Most Alaskans are already barely treading water.

The PFD was set up to go to Alaskans and it has been working just fine. The former Governor and legislature had no business taking the PFD earnings that were set up to go to Alaskans. The fund should be put back to its original intentions. If the Legislature wants to make changes, then it MUST be put to a vote of the people. If Alaskans decide they want to give up part of their PFD, then that would be the will of the people. This is not something that should be decided by the government.

Personally, I will not be voting for anyone who tries to take the PFD without a vote of the people. I will also not be voting to give away my PFD until I see the Legislature make actual cuts. If the government continues to spend like there's no tomorrow, then there will be no tomorrow. You cannot tax working Alaskans into state prosperity. All you will end up doing is pushing Alaska into a recession.

Sincerely,

Carrie Messervy

3/24/19

Dear Alaskan Representatives of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you so much for coming to the people to hear our thoughts on the proposed budget. One of the reasons Alaska has meant so much to me these 26 years has been the fact that our elected officials live among us. You are in touch your neighbors, families and friends and we share a history together. The relationship of the government to the people of Alaska is now threatened by outside monied interests.

The \$3000 PFD promise made during the election was a bribe to citizens and will soon become a consolation prize if Dunleavy has his way, as the state as we have known it will be eradicated. This proposed budget has triggered a fight for the very soul of Alaska. Do we honor the native peoples, sourdoughs, infirm, homeless and/or addicted, and our children, or do we assume the template of life in Michigan, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Montana and other states where the Koch Brothers and other corporate cronies have bought their way to robbing those citizens of a quality life and the respect they deserve?

Do we use a foreign budget developed by an outsider devoid of the understanding of the collective history and values of this state and its peoples? It is interesting that importing values from outside is acceptable for Dunleavy as evidenced by the budget, but that he cannot recognize that the PFD, by the virtue of its existence, makes us different? That income tax is not an untouchable if he pushes his lower 48 specialized financiers? We are the only state without an income tax, right? The State of Alaska has always been different and unique- isolated geographically from the United States.

The Alaskan people are more than data! The UAA ISER report determined that 13000 jobs would be lost if this budget passes. I have seen a figure of 17,000. What a catastrophic disruption to the lives and livelihoods of so many. How many fractured relationships in a state that has thrived on relationships given our isolation from the rest of the US? It will destroy the ties that bind us. Teachers who earn no retirement nor social security benefits have no reason to stay when we tell them their jobs will indeed be very much harder next year. Some of our best and brightest have left over the past four

years and there is a mass migration underway of the best and brightest heading out now not just from our school districts and UAA, but in many fields.

Yes, I agree that some areas of the budget can be tweaked. I support an income tax and a lowered PFD payout. Whoever heard of services without payment? But, I wonder how lower income families will be impacted if they must pay income tax on the PFDs. Can you define this for us? I believe many people, particularly in the Valley, are tired of feeling like they are ripped off by large families who tap large numbers of PFDs and live off the rest of us through government assistance. Can that be defined or is that a myth? What happens to rural communities, native communities, when they are taxed for their dividends and PFDs? Can this be defined?

I have an outrageous proposal. Let's cede from the US and define life for ourselves because this budget is attempting a coup by proxy. It is an effort to redefine our state and erase its history while turning over 1/3 of the US (AK) to the profiteers- corporate America. The 1% must be chomping on the bit as they await the passage of this budget. We have a chance to ensure that they don't rape and pillage one of the last pristine environments on earth. Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden look like Alaska yet they take care of their citizens and retain the things that make them who they are. The people are valued through education, healthcare, social services, environmental stewardship. They have a high standard of living and people have high quality lives. What if we became more like them than casting aside the young, the weak, and the infirm among us? Instead of embracing disembodied corporate entities that have no allegiance here. The above-mentioned countries preserved their integrity while accessing resources. At the very least, take away the oil and gas tax credits.

If so many jobs will be created by the private sector, let's let them come now and negotiate. Let them contractually agree to employ only Alaskans and donate a portion of their profits to our state government to pay for the infrastructure and service they will use. Let's contractually bind them to number of jobs created, and specific corporate citizenship/stewardship of our lands and its peoples. In the meantime, let's honor the elderly, the sick, the impoverished, the addicted, the mentally ill, and our children with good health care, education and social services.

Our state has the highest rate of alcoholism in the country. We also have the highest rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Nationally, 1 in 20 students has an FASD. The means the incidence of down syndrome, autism, spina bifida and other disabilities pales in comparison to the number of children experiencing this spectrum of disabilities in our systems. We know the rates are exorbitantly higher here. These children become homeless adults, unemployed adults, mentally ill adults, suicidal adults without supports such as those available through Medicaid. The highest increase in drinking is among white, educated, middle aged employed women of child bearing age (www.cdc.com). I hope this dispels one myth about who gets FASDs. The reading and math scores of our students do not begin to tell the tale of what educators face and the services we provide to the human beings in front of us. Those scores measure drops in the ocean of humanity. Public schools, health care, social services are essential government services. Individuals with disabilities and hidden disabilities like FASDs will be negatively impacted, as well as their families, by cuts in services that will affect all of us. I heard someone say that the state should not be the parent. If we cut these essential services to those in need, you can be sure we will need to act in other ways to address the societal ills that will multiply in the wake of withdrawal.

I was so proud to sit and listen to the articulate testimony of so many Alaskans today. Please do not forget the community of people you come from. Help us retain a state that we can continue to know/recognize, love, and be proud of.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mannix
Anchorage

From: April Rezendes [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:34 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Comments

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my opinions on the proposed budget. I have lived Juneau for 6 years and would like to continue living here for many more. However, the proposed drastic cuts will devastate the state and make it hard for anyone to continue to live and thrive here.

While Medicaid spending is a huge chunk of the general fund, it is an investment that saves the state and residents money in the long run. The cost of caring for uninsured individuals just gets passed on to other consumers. And, when people are uninsured, they delay seeking care until their illness is a much greater burden on themselves and society. Also, much of Medicaid spending is matched by federal dollars at vastly higher rate, so it is actually bringing money into our economy.

Cutting the ferry system is not the way to save money. It is our highway, and it is what makes living in many of our smaller communities feasible.

Similarly, the proposed drastic cuts to the University system will only drag our state backwards. Kids will leave the state to go to school and not come back. And those who cannot afford to leave the state will simply not get an education. Please do not back-pay the PFD. This will bankrupt us. And, the idea that giving individuals more money will make up for cuts is short-sighted. An extra thousand dollars will not cover health insurance for someone who is uninsured, it will not cover the difference in out of state tuition for everyone who now has to send their kids down south since our university system will be essentially gone, and it certainly will not make up for the thousands of people who have lost their jobs due to the proposed cuts.

Also, shifting the burden of these costs to the communities while taking away their ability to tax for oil and fish is not an answer. The smaller communities will die out and with it many of the things that make Alaska great.

We do need to make some cuts and have a smarter budget. But, we also need revenue. This state has gone long enough without any form of tax. An income tax is the most equitable, and I encourage you to continue to explore and push this avenue.

Thank you for your time,

April Rezendes
Juneau, AK

Comments to House Finance Committee
March 25, 2019

We Alaskans have lived for thirty years with an artificial revenue stream that has atrophied our common sense.

Yes, we should 'live within our means' but our 'means' have been conveniently ignored in hope that oil revenue would be never ending.

I have lived in Alaska forty years and remember paying income tax and a school tax. I remember too there was much discussion of the permanent fund as a savings account to be used when the oil money ran out and the PFD was to share in the state's windfall and discourage using the money all at once.

It is disingenuous to think we can continue to receive state services for free and I am willing to step up again to support the common good.

My preference would be a capped PFD and a state income tax that would be a percentage of federal tax. I also think that the unorganized boroughs should be more responsible for their school costs.

A needs-based PFD would be difficult to administer as would a more complicated income tax formula.

It is difficult to imagine the reasoning behind the budget Governor Dunleavy has presented. His budget would be a disaster for the state and its people. There is more to Alaska than being a 'natural resources warehouse'.

Thank you for your time.

Marty West (Mary West White)

Ketchikan AK 99901

[\[REDACTED\]@kpunet.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@kpunet.net)

From: Emily Wright <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:47 PM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD and FY20 Community Discussion

Honorable Representatives:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts and comments. I cannot attend the community discussion tonight, but I wanted to take a few minutes to write.

I am a Juneau resident and a proud graduate from both the University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Southeast. I returned to Alaska after law school because I love this state and I am proud to call it my home. I work everyday in the area of criminal justice to help make our communities safe. What an amazing place we live - a place where no matter where you go we share a passion for our way of life and a connection to each other that no one in the lower 48 could possibly understand.

I write to you to express my unwavering position that I would give you my whole PFD for every year necessary and I would pay taxes for the rest of time - if it means that we support our children, our schools, our rural communities, our amazing university system, our ferries, and our first responders (police, VPSOs, and many more). The list certainly goes on and on - but the bottom line is that I am willing to do my part to invest in Alaska. I am willing to do my part to help you balance the budget without cutting these important services. I would rather you keep the money and invest in the things that make living here possible and truly wonderful.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for all the work you have done over the past few years and the work you continue to do. You managed to balance our budget last year and I have faith you can do it again - you have my support (and you can have my PFD).

Thank-you.

Emily Wright

Juneau AK
99801

From: Laura Fleming <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 11:53 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget written testimony

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for accepting public testimony on the FY 2020 operating budget.

Here is a list of things I do not support, and that I do support.

I do not support the Governor's proposed FY 2020 operating budget, and I do not support amending the state Constitution, particularly to enshrine the Permanent Fund Dividend levels or a spending limit.

I do not support the Governor's drastic cuts to education, including K-12 and early childhood education. I do not support issuance of a mega-PFD, and I do not support doing away with the public assistance "Hold Harmless" for PFD recipients.

I do not support the elimination or re-purposing of the Power Cost Equalization program.

I do not support the destruction of the Alaska Marine Highway system.

I do not support selling Sheldon Jackson Museum and its collection (as if you even could).

I do not support the holding of quasi-public meetings about the budget being financed by private interests.

I DO SUPPORT the following:

I support instituting revenue enhancement and stabilization measures including a personal income tax, and a PFD size limit.

I support revisiting the oil tax credit.

I support addressing climate change as Alaska is feeling the dramatic effects already.

I support the Alaska State Legislature offering ample opportunity for public comment.

Thank you very much.

Laura Fleming

[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: Jennifer McNichol [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:25 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: State Operating Budget

Greetings, House Finance Committee members.

First, a sincere thank you to your committee for holding the community forums this past weekend. This represented a truly democratic and public way for citizens to provide direct feedback on issues that directly affect every Alaskan. I was fortunate to be able to attend the Sitka event hosted by Representative Ortiz, with assistance from Representative Kreiss-Tomkins. I would like to submit my comments for the record:

My name is Jennifer McNichol and I am a 22 year Alaska resident. I'm a parent, a pediatrician, and a Sitka School Board member. I speak today on behalf of myself and my family.

The Governor's proposed budget, and very importantly, the associated proposed additional legislation and constitutional changes, emperil Alaska's future. This agenda will trigger a death spiral in terms of our economy, our unique culture, and our social fabric. Even just proposing these changes has started that process as people begin planning moves out of state. I have already been approached to provide letters of recommendation for highly qualified individuals looking at opportunities Outside. Young families will be the majority of those leaving as they are most impacted by further cuts to education and social support services, including Medicaid. So many Alaskan jobs are directly or indirectly tied to government support – this is a fact in our unique state. Those few who benefit from oil profits may stay, but wage gaps and inequity will only increase.

A real long-term economic plan involves a broad-based and equitable income tax and reasonable PFDs. It does NOT involve a continued and exclusive dependence on one volatile industry. Even novice investors know that diversification is the key to long-term success.

I also advocate strongly for both legislative bodies to follow through on the FY20 education previously passed. And I echo the appreciation already expressed for bipartisan efforts to move forward – this is the only proven path.

Finally, two reminders:

First, this Governor was not elected with a mandate, particularly if you count the number of eligible voters who actually voted for him. Second, please do not forget the perspective of those who are not comfortable providing their input to you – these are frequently the individuals and families who will be most affected by these draconian cuts.

Thank you again for providing these opportunities for citizens to weigh in. Please listen carefully to our voices. I cannot underemphasize the wisdom, eloquence, and passion which my fellow Sitkans expressed yesterday – and all who spoke opposed the proposed budgetary agenda.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McNichol, M.D.

██████████ Sitka, AK 99835 / 907-738-6635

From: Michael Cottrell ██████████@pcsd.us>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:23 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please limit the PFD to \$400 or \$500 and let the rest pay for government.

Thanks,
Mike Cottrell

From: █████@aol.com █████@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:12 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on Budget

Overview: Taxes on the PFD is a REGRESSIVE income tax that disproportionately puts the cost burden of funding government on LOWER to MIDDLE income FAMILIES like mine. This is not fair, equitable, or moral and does NOT protect the poor and the vulnerable. The Permanent Fund and DIVIDEND (not capped) should be protected for all future generations of Alaskans.

SOLUTION: I support BUDGET CUTS and using a BROAD BASE FLAT INCOME TAX based on Adjusted Gross Income: It would apply to non-residents, reduce the amount of money taken out of the private sector (compared with PFD cuts), and results in ALL Alaskans contributing a proportionate share of their income.

Copy of Public Testimony/Comment I gave in Soldotna on 3/24/2019

I am here to discuss an idea outside of this box of "Its your PFD or Services" This is a false choice. Framing the argument in this way is wrong, short sighted, and lazy. There's a lot of debate surrounding budget cuts...as there should be. Alaskans have demanded to see an economic impact analysis of these cuts. There's a lot of concern out there about protecting the vulnerable and the poor. Many have expressed that cuts should be equitable and well thought out.

But an equally important discussion needs to take place....and that is about the Various Revenue Options. If cutting all the way to a balanced budget doesn't pan out, as I suspect it wont, we will need revenue. So the question we need to ask ourselves is "Who pays?" for government spending. So lets take look at "Who pays" for SPENDING with PFD cuts. Taxes on the PFD is a REGRESSIVE INCOME TAX that requires the lowest income earners to pay the highest INCOME TAX rate. And the highest income earners pay the lowest tax rate. Taxing the PFD puts the cost burden of funding government almost entirely on the backs of middle to lower income families.

Example: Let's use House Finance committee numbers of balancing the budget with a 630 PFD payout.

+A very low income family of 4, contributing 9,480 from their PFD's making \$20,000/yr pays an eye popping 47% tax rate

+A lower/middle income family of 4 making \$34,000/yr pays a 27% tax rate

+Middle income family of 4 making \$58,000/yr pays a 16% rate

+Upper Middle family of 4 making \$95,000/yr pays a 10% rate

+While the top 20% income bracket making \$250,000/yr pays a rate of 3.8%.

How is that fair, equitable, or moral?! Its not. How does this protect the poor and vulnerable? It doesn't.

Under your \$1600 PFD payout plan which is equal to a 1400 dollar PFD cut/person, 80% of Alaska households will pay more than they would under a Flat Tax.

I support a BROAD BASE FLAT INCOME Tax based on Adjusted Gross Income. It would apply to Income received by Non Residents. It reduces the share of money taken out of the private sector and Results in ALL Alaskans contributing a proportionate share of their income.

So for those of you that are here that say "I want services and I'm willing to pay for them." If are willing to pay your Fair Share for spending, you will say you are willing to pay an income tax. Because when you say you are willing to take a PFD cut to pay for services, your really are advocating for a REGRESSIVE INCOME TAX that puts the cost burden almost entirely on the backs middle to lower income FAMILIES....like mine.

I urge you all to demand more out of your legislators. Demand to see an economic impact analysis of ALL revenue options so we together can make informed decisions about OUR Future. Lets not be so quick to risk and destroy Alaska's greatest achievement and Legacy which is our Permanent Fund and its Dividend.

Catherine Felt
██████████
Kenai Ak 99611

From: Kevin McCabe █████@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:07 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Testimony to legislative Finance Committee.

My name is Kevin McCabe and I am representing myself.

Thank you for having a meeting somewhere where the voters and your constituency could attend.

I am here to talk not about budget cuts but about spending cuts. I support the DuLeavy Plan

I heard some legislators in Juneau think that there is limited support for Governor Dunleavy's budget out here in the real world. Nothing could be further from the truth.

137 days ago Alaskans voted for a Governor who promised us a transparent budget process that would Focus on core functions that impact most Alaskans; He promised a budget that would Maintain and protect our financial reserves; One that would Minimize the financial burden on Alaskan families; and one that was sustainable, predictable, affordable and would fit within our means. He promised a spending cap.

Why would any reasonable person want something different?

We also voted a republican majority into the House. Yet you all have seen fit to usurp that democratic political process in what can only be described as sneaky and underhanded scheme, by some, to steal power - frankly, that unethical maneuver was an egregious and shameful abuse of your constituents trust.

Republicans, especially, need to step back and evaluate just why they were elected.

We MUST fit our spending inside our revenues.

I wanted to address several issues. First off, it is apparent to all of us that the budget you are working from is NOT the Dunleavy budget proposal. In fact it is Walkers budget. I urge you in the strongest terms to work from Governor Dunleavy's budget. Zero based budgeting, based on NEEDS, instead of wants, is the newest, best, and most fiscally responsible way to approach state budgeting.

Second, it is a shame that school administrators have pitted teachers against our Governor. We don't need less money for education, we need less money spent by school districts on opulent offices and huge infrastructure. The school districts need to have some sort of accounting to the legislature for the money they spend.

UAA needs to be self sustaining. Many other Universities in the country are moving towards, or already are, self-sustaining. They use little or no state funds. We have the Cadillac of all Cadillacs of a university system with too many satellite campuses and incredibly high pay for administrators and regents. It is apparent that the only way for them to change is for you, the legislature, to force change through budget cuts. So do it.

Alaska Marine Highway. What a great program....for too few Alaskans. A full PFD would allow both SE resident and interior and other villages, such as Nome, Kotzebue, and Dillingham, that do not have ferry service to buy plane tickets. Cutting the PFD to supplement a budget which includes so much money for AMHS is an unconscionable act of favoritism towards certain members of the state at the expense of others. AMHS is a money sunk effort. The cost benefit is just not there. I have personally ridden on the Tustumena from Homer to Kodiak with a total of three people on the entire Ferry. Not efficient. AMHS needs to be privatized or at the very least cost neutral. Perhaps it could be structured like AKRR?

To recap – I support the Dunleavy budget. I support zero based budgeting.

Thank you.
Kevin McCabe

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME:

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):

BILL #: Subject

COMMITTEE NAME: HEARING DATE:

I'm now a retiree who lives in Petersburg. I've lived and worked here for 10 years. I need the AK Marine Highway System and discounted travel for senior citizens. I live on an island and can't fly to other places. It's my only transportation. Please provide good year-round service to all Ports. I also need state funding for Public Radio. I DJ shows and it's my only source of news and emergency notices.

From: Audrey Saylor <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:51 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: governors budget

My name is Audrey Saylor I live in Anchorage. Thank you for taking comments.

1. Revisit oil taxes (we didnt get what was promised) (the oil companies laid off people even though they promised not to)(no million barrels a day)

2. Start adulting and put a progressive income tax in place.
3. A reasonable pfd
4. Stop listening to people that say taxation is theft. It is not. I expect to pay for education, roads, parks, snow services, health care and seniors.
5. It is not a choice between services and a pfd.
6. I do not want to see my 90 yr old neighbor eating cat food while oil executives eat at the Petroleum Club.

Audrey Saylor

[REDACTED]
Anchorage Ak 99507
[REDACTED]

From: Charles Elliott [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:48 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget response

Let the Governors budget stand. Do what is fiscally responsible and build a more stable, durable Alaska. Do not sell our future for today's desires. Do not stick our kids and neighbors with a financial burden crushing to their success and prosperity.

Respectfully, Charles Elliott
Sterling 99672

From: Kathryn Kelly [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:45 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2019 Proposed Budget/PFD

March 24, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee:

I was very disheartened to read the governor's proposed budget. As a 34 year resident of the State of Alaska, I believe in programs and funding that are for the greater good of the state and the people. I believe that there are services and programs which we as a state and as responsible citizens should have and provide to ensure quality of life for our state and our people (education, healthcare services, roads, parks, a ferry system (southeast roads), public safety). I do believe in responsible spending and balance are necessary to function responsibly, and if that requires using part of the PFD, invoking a state income tax, changing tax regulations to make that happen, then that's what we should do. I do understand that the days of the big oil money are over and we need to spend more responsibly, but it should not be an either or situation. Regarding the PFD:

- I do NOT believe there should be back payment of the PFD 2016-2018.
- I DO believe that it is acceptable to moderate PFD payouts, when necessary to fund government, as was done in previous years.
- I DO believe that we should work toward a responsible budget, not one that guts the state, with the objective of large PFD payouts, back pay and no services.
- I DO believe we need to generate new revenues through any variation of the following and more: income tax, sales tax, using part of the PFD earnings, revised oil tax credits, etc.

Some additional thoughts:

EDUCATION:

I do NOT support cuts to public education. We owe it to our children, to the future....to provide the best public education possible in this state, starting with FULL funding for primary and secondary education and continuing with the university system. Funding the University of Alaska is essential, as college programs are so limited in our small state, that is so far removed from the rest of the lower 48 and the world. While there are some that may be able to afford to send their children (and themselves) out of state to expensive colleges, many people cannot, it is often their only opportunity for higher education.

HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL SERVICES:

Before you start making extensive health care and social services cuts, I encourage you to consider what it would be like to try to get medical help and social services with no health insurance or resources to pay for them. You as legislators, all have health insurance, GOOD HEALTH Insurance (as do I) but MANY do not. My husband had the flu last month...he was billed \$195.00 for the doctor appointment and just one of his prescription (out of the 3 prescribed) was over \$400.00, for an ear infection!? Fortunately, my family has health insurance...consider those that do not.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Climate change is real and it is here. Deal with it, don't pretend it isn't happening. Whether you believe it is manmade or a natural phenomenon, it now shows in many forms here: rapidly thawing permafrost, communities facing accelerated erosion, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, it cannot be missed. Simply look at a thermometer for evidence, it will affect us all.

In closing, I encourage you all to support a fair and reasonable budget that helps people that need it and supports good government policies and programs: public education, healthcare, public safety, roads, a ferry system (southeast AK roads), the effects of climate change, etc. I am willing to pay for these things through taxation and lessor PFD's and I encourage you to do the same. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kathy Kelly
[REDACTED]

From: Kathy Johnson [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:43 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Head Start funding advocate

Greetings!

I am writing to advocate on behalf of Head Starts within the State of Alaska. Both of my children each attended our local Rural CAP Head Start in Kodiak for 2 years.

Head Start helped prepare them and myself for them to enter elementary school. It also helped me gain parenting skills. My children were at or above level in all areas of their learning in kindergarten and through Elementary school. I believe this it is due to their early childhood preschool experience, they were able to learn much more than what I could do with them at home.

My youngest child had an IEP for speech when he entered Head Start at the age of 3. Having the early intervention and two years of preschool helped him tremendously so that he didn't have to have an IEP when he entered kindergarten so that he was at the same level as his peers when he entered kindergarten. Without programs such as ILP (Infant Learning) and Head Start for early intervention, this may not have been a success story.

Our community has a wide variety of different cultures and is like a melting pot of cultures. We have a lot of ESL learners. This is also another reason why I advocate for funding for Head Start in my community. Often, families that are new to the community don't know all the community resources, may be unaware of their child having a developmental delay being an ESL learner, and Head Start is able to help them access the resources they need to be successful not only in school but to ensure their family basic needs are met (accessing WIC, local food banks, applying for heating assistance, providing information on parenting, etc...) .

Please continue to fund Head Start and other early childhood programs within the State of Alaska.

Thank you,

Kathy Johnson

House Finance Testimony 3/23/18

My name is Terry Snyder. I live in Palmer and have lived in Southcentral since 1975 and am testifying on behalf of myself.

First I want to thank the members of the House Finance Committee for bringing the process to listen to the public to the valley.

I have talked, written and visited some of you in your offices in Juneau and I think it a very valuable investment for you to be here in communities outside of your districts and hear how the cuts and cost shifts in the proposed governor's budget will affect local areas.

It was a rough start for the house this year but I am heartened by the bipartisan majority that was formed which I know required a lot of compromise from you. And compromise is what we need on the path to resolve on this budget. This hard hammer approach in the governor's budget is not what Alaskans want or deserve. We deserve a more thoughtful process.

I am glad you are here because I fear you may have gotten the impression that residents in this part of the state are ONLY interested in the PFD's and rally around the campaign cry of cuts. I can assure you that they ALL don't just care about the PFD and cuts.

Have no doubt Matsu residents care about a fully funded public education system. The district has already made significant cuts that has resulted in the largest classrooms in the state. All but one of the schools in Matsu are title one and they serve many more

functions than the schools of past. The poverty level is higher than you might think in here.

The schools, public libraries, fire stations are the centers of communities out of the core. There are many people here in the valley living on the edge, profoundly poor and making hard choices every day. They are depending on you to make some hard choices too.

We are ground zero in growth for the senior population. The fastest growing area of the state on both ends of the spectrum. Kiddo's and seniors. No Alaskan and especially seniors who have little option to now add to their own income stream should have to choose between a roof over their head, food, medical care or filling a prescription. Medicaid expansion and the senior benefit program is essential. It has been a lifeline for many seniors finding themselves raising their grandchildren with the sweep of the opioid crisis that has come through. Some seniors have found the Pioneer Homes as one of the limited options for seniors to age in place when it is not an option in their own homes. To jack these rates up as proposed to the Pioneer Home with a long list of people waiting to get in is morally wrong for the state and a poor priority choice for cuts.

So what is the solution. Bring back mixed revenue. We should all know by now that it takes not only more revenue but cuts and efficiencies are also a multi year approach and that any drastic cuts should be only proposed with the data to support not only the reasoning but the proof it isn't just merely cost shifting to another department or governing body.

We should not be cutting programs that leverage federal dollars unless it is proven that the return is not worth the administration of the program and Alaskans depend on it to improve their lives.

In her speech to the legislature this year Senator Murkowski reminded us of the mantra during the Reagan administration that was "Personnel is Policy." Keep this is mine as you look at the new policies presented to you.

I am here to tell you that I am more than willing to begin reinvesting in my state by paying an income tax just like I did when I came here.

I am willing to pay the modest school tax proposed by Senator Bishop as well

I do not support a regressive sales tax that would only be layered on existing city taxes in the valley.

The state has not adjusted its fuel taxes in decades. It's time. It would be great if some of that revenue could be in the way of investment in public transportation and non motorized alternatives. It would be great if we could invest in healthy communities instead of health care to pick up the pieces of bad health choices and options.

It is also time to take a hard look again at that wedge issue oil taxes. It doesn't escape Alaskan's that the oil companies haven't been asked to shoulder any of the burden of these proposed cuts in the governor's budget. A per barrel tax credit cut and a hard look at mineral and mining taxes is in order. If the development of those resources come to fruition as forecasted by the governor an adjustment is needed in those areas sooner than later since it has been proven those conversations are practically impossible to have after development. Let's bring them up to date now and manage the expectations of investors.

Household budgets rarely get in fiscal peril in one year nor does it take one year to pull them out and the state is no different. Mistakes were made. Some are still in the legislature when they were made. We can't change that for now. But we can take a measured approach of a balance of reasonable reductions made through well researched efficiencies that are data based through a multi year and multi revenue approach. To do anything else would be disingenuous and careen our state off the cliff.

Thank you for hearing my perspective and that of many other residents of Matsu.

Terry Snyder

[REDACTED], Alaska 99645

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: Rebecca Bezdecny [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:06 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony

Good morning,

Please accept this as my written testimony re: the House Finance Committee's open forums throughout the state.

I do NOT support the Governor's proposed budget. If we want to be "open for business" we need an educated populace, care for the elderly, temporary assistance for those in need of it, and a transportation system for communities serviced currently by the AK Marine Highway System.

I understand that cuts are part of balancing a budget and that they are difficult to make. However, too many cuts and no new sources of revenue is a formula for failure.

The PFD could easily be converted to a need-based payment. State income tax could capture revenue from the out of state workers collecting wages here, but living in the Lower 48. Oil tax credits need to be examined.

Please do not allow the Governor to burn this state to the ground. We are relying on you and your House colleagues to uphold the best interest of the residents to this state.

Thank you.

Rebecca Bezdecny

██████████
Kenai, AK 99611

From: ██████████@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:59 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: pfd payback

cut oil tax credits and slowly cut other programs over time and give us our full dividends. if someone wants to donate their dividends to run our over inflated budget then they can

thank you
Donna hood

From: Chelsea Tremblay ██████████@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:49 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support Alaska, oppose cuts

In lieu of the proposed cuts, I would rather see the following:

- A reduced PFD
- Income tax
- Eliminate or reduce the subsidies to oil companies
- using a percentage of the interest earned from the principle of the PFD fund.

As a graduate of Petersburg high school, a volunteer of our local radio station, and resident of a community reliant on steady ferry service, a public highway, please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Chelsea Tremblay
Petersburg resident

From: KENNETH FEDERICO ██████████@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:46 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: CUT THE Budget

To the Committee, I would like to address the up coming budget. There has been a big hue and cry with many entities that this budget would affect. While standing to testify in Anchorage, I heard many state and Union employees discussing the budget ramifications. I just stood and listened, without giving any clue to my own thoughts. Let me say this is a concerted effort by these groups to hang onto the gravy train that they have been accustomed to. I could not believe the selfish attitudes of those standing and talking around me.

For the state paying almost \$5.00 a mile for the state ferry is outrageous. I have been up here 40 years and used the ferry one time. I wonder how many people have this luxury of a state paying so much so they can go grocery shopping.

The University system is totally out of control and broken. When the president of same says he can't cut the budget without neutering the University, it's time to get a new president at half the salary and tell them to perform what is needed.

The amount of engineers in DOT is just insane. When it is time to cut the budget, they cut snow plow drivers and sanders first. It seems they try to make a point of their budget cuts by leaving mass amounts of snow for days and cry they don't have enough people. Cut upper management in all departments!!!!

The majority of Alaskans voted in Mike Dunleavy. I don't care how many people are looking to keep their state sponsored jobs and show up to testify. Cut the budget!!!

Ken federico, [REDACTED]

Good morning, my name is Larry Barsukoff.

Alaska doesn't have a spending problem. We spend very very easily. It is a bipartisan problem. To say the state was spending like drunken sailors is insulting to sailors. Sailors typically will quit once they sober up and report back for duty.

We spend like addicts and alcoholics. Oblivious to the consequences, we spend public funds on any number of programs and projects with little or no regard for their efficacy or alternatives. We seek to do all things in places for all people.

We don't have a spending problem. We have a priorities problem. Everyone has their pet priority. And for too long, oil tax dollars have made the spending easy.

The days of easy are over.

I fully support Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal. We cannot continue funding every program and project. I vehemently object to talk of additional revenue sources. That talk is fully premature. We have to get spending under control.

Per resident, Alaska has more state employees to administer and provide public services than any other state. Per student, Alaska spends more on education than any other state. Our Medicaid rolls were expanded to add 50,000 mostly able bodied people to public benefits. Nearly one third of our working age population is on Medicaid.

Let's talk about outcomes and oversight. The Port of Alaska is in danger of falling into Cook Inlet. Roads and bridges that have been studied and debated for years remain unbuilt. We have no rail connection to the lower 48. Our schools are failing our students. We are dead last in the nation in reading proficiency and near the bottom in math. Our school of education lost its accreditation. We haven't just provided a safety net. Alaska has created a security blanket that smoothers any sort of ambition, initiative, and drive that thousands would otherwise have to exercise.

In my informed opinion, this is absolutely untenable.

Juneau wants to pay more? Please. By all means. They can tax themselves. I remind you all that that will affect you more than me. But keep your fingers out of my wallet. State spending has pumped more money into the system and has brought us to where we are today. This hasn't worked. We need to reduce state spending.

From Matsu LIO

From: Johnny Thorn [REDACTED]@lksd.org>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:16 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget priorities

Greetings,

As a Special Education teacher working for our Alaska students for over nine years, I am compelled to urge our legislators to stand for our children's well-being over the the governor's myopic focus of prioritizing the immediate gratification of PFD over the long term well-being of our students and the financial health of our state. Why is our state being directed by the Koch brother's financial influence? Please stand up for the long term well-being of our Alaska.

Respectfully,

Johnny Thorn

--

*Johnny Thorn
William Miller Memorial School
Napakiak, AK*

Special Education

"Curiosity opens our hearts and minds."

March 24, 2019

Dear Sen. von Imhof and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and House Finance Committee:

Thank you for all the work you are doing on the state budget. I know that the job of state lawmakers is more difficult this year than perhaps any other year in Alaska's recent history... at least in the 33 years I've lived here.

I implore you and the other state legislators to do your best to make Alaska's state budget work for our citizens. What Gov. Dunleavy has advanced in his budget proposal does NOT work for Alaskans. The campaign promise he made about restoring full permanent fund dividend payments pandered to greed, and his budget does not reflect reasoned fiscal sense or awareness of the key services and infrastructure that are the responsibilities of government.

His argument rings false that the budget is a mathematical problem. He seems to expect every state department pay for itself. Since when was government supposed to operate as a business and pay for itself? Please show me in the constitution of America or in our state constitution where this is a stated mandate. Also, his mathematical expression completely shuts the door on new revenue.

Granted, cuts may be needed to trim fat and reduce duplication, but the governor's budget is a hatchet job. I do believe this budget, if passed as is, will devastate our state. Even passing just half the cuts that Gov. Dunleavy has requested will severely damage our economy and citizens. By the way, I am NOT responding to this budget with "emotional sensationalism" not have I been implored by "community organizers... to act like children who are

threatened with the loss of a toy," as Rep. Josh Revak suggested in his opinion column today in the Anchorage Daily News. I am deeply concerned as an independent, thinking citizen who understands the serious fallout and effects of the governor's budget.

I appreciate the public hearings that lawmakers have been holding around this state this weekend. Today, March 24, I'm sitting in the overflow room at the LIO in Anchorage. I agree with the many speakers who offered alternatives to the governor's budget, who shared their personal stories about how the cuts will play out in their communities.

Adequate forward funding with inflation proofing for public education, continued funding of the marine highway system for Southeast and the Alaska public broadcast network, continued support for Medicare and senior citizens, and funding the programs that enable the state to accept federal grants are a few of the items that top my concerns.

Here are some suggestions as the legislature tackles the budget: Limit the Permanent Fund dividend to \$500; factor in fair and equitable new revenue sources including an income tax (with a sunset clause if needed for passage); revisit oil tax credits and make sure the large extraction firms are paying their fair share.

In short, please devise a state budget that can maintain quality of life, decency for citizens and a future for children.

Thank you for your service to our great state of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Linda Hulen

From: Kerri Mullis [REDACTED]@akleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:32 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Ferry System

Good Morning, I would like to give input on the ferry system. I believe that there have been a long overhaul on the ferry system coming. I also believe that the state cannot continue with programs, which are bloated and a loss every year. The ferry system, if it closes, would provide the potential of private enterprise to come in and pick up the slack, and allow them an opportunity to make it work. The fact that you have high paying employees, on an empty ship almost all winter, shows that the management is not prone to making good solid solutions to save money. Since these employees are union employees, I understand that there is a large push from the union industry to stop any job loss, and protect the rights of the ones that pay them dues. That isn't the State's problem, and to be honest, I believe one of the main reasons the State is now at poverty level as opposed to years back, we were the wealthiest state, is the influx of all the unions.

I digress, anyway, shut the ferry system down, or let the ones who love the ferry, take it over. Sink or swim so to speak. Thank you.

And, yes, I have ridden the ferry system three times in the almost 30 years I have been here, and it was the most expensive -because I also brought my truck and trailer. It would have been way cheaper to drive the Alcan. Also, I am aware that Angoon, Kake and other small communities rely on the ferry system. Let them invest in it, the ones that love the system will find a way.

Kerri Mullis
Fairbanks, AK

From: Denise Gubernick [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:26 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save SE Alaska!

I am a 63-year-old woman hoping to return to Petersburg, Alaska next year to semi-retire. I lived there for 14 years through the 80's. I loved it, but personal reasons took me away. I want to bring my experience, my talents, and my love

of the area back to enhance life for me and those around me. Reading about the governor's budget not only makes me rethink this decision, but also feel scared for the future of my grandchildren who live there. The one thing that has remained constant is the Excellent education provided for children in that town. Evidence-based results should be Respected and presented! If I move back to Mitkof Island, will I not have ferry service? That is the highway for Southeast Alaska. Privatization is not a good idea. Lack of regulations always come into play. Will I not have jet service? Will I be stuck on an island? Beautiful as it is, that doesn't seem to be an option. I have family and grandchildren in the Seattle area that I would occasionally like to visit. The permanent fund dividend has always been an attractive program. It does not need to be \$3000!! What seems reasonable to me is a reduced PFD, and a state income tax. I want to move back to Alaska, but I'm scared!

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Suzanne Paulsen [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:26 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: budget

To the Members of House Finance,

I urge you to resist the draconian budget cuts outlined in the governor's plan. Keep education funding at current levels. Keep financing for public radio. Keep ferries running.

To pay for this, reduce the PFD to whatever it takes to make the budget balance while keeping our infrastructure and our services strong. Institute an income tax. Reduce the handouts to oil companies.

Do not permit misguided budgeteers to appropriate the fish tax from our coastal communities. This would be devastating, as you know, to Petersburg and other towns. Generations of Alaskans have spent time and money to make our state a great place to live. Eliminating essential public services will take it back to territorial days and cause economic disaster.

Sue Paulsen

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK 99833

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 7:54 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Comment on budget

Ensure Alaska's future.

Support education, ferries, and public broadcasting.

Smaller PFD / income tax can make these services sustainable.

Chris Weiss

Petersburg

From: Tim Kellar [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:47 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Protect the Permanent Fund Dividend

We must protect the Permanent Fund dividend for generations to come. Alaskans' PFDs should be paid in full using the law that has worked for decades, and the PFD should be protected in the Constitution, now and for the future. Governor Dunleavy has introduced two bills for the back-pay owed to Alaskans on their PFDs. The legislature should act swiftly on those bills. Every penny of that PFD money due Alaskans is sitting in the Earnings Reserve Account, and is available for distribution.

Because our government spending far exceeds the revenue we take in. Kicking the can down the road for years, wiping out billions from savings, and then taxing the PFD, all the while just hoping for another oil boom -- it simply doesn't work.

There should be no change to the PFD without a vote of the people.

Sincerely,

James Kellar

Palmer, Alaska, 99645

[\[REDACTED\]@yahoo.com](#)

From: Silversurfer Angela G. Birt [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:13 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: I Support Governor Dunleavy's Budget

You must cut the bloated State government. We cannot sustain the sucking chest wound Governor Walker inflicted on this State with the Medicaid Expansion and it's time to stop paying top dollar for the dead last results in education. I support Governor Dunleavy's tough but fair cuts to services - 1/3 of this state should not be on Medicare or Medicaid. Stop stalling and start working.

I also support penalizing Legislators who fail to fulfill their duty by completing their business in the mandated session. NO SPECIAL SESSIONS. Do your job!

Angela

Ms. Angela G. Birt,

[REDACTED] Boulevard,

[REDACTED],

Eagle River, AK [REDACTED]

Msg Address = [\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.com](#)

From: travisrector [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:53 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Don't cut education or healthcare, keep the PFD, and cut oil tax credits

To the house finance committee, I offer these thoughts:

- Don't cut education. It is unfair, and immoral, to place the burden of balancing the budget on children. Education (including pre-K, K-12, and UA) is the long-term investment in the economic growth of Alaska.

- Cuts to the PFD primarily hurt the poor, and especially those who live in rural communities on a subsistence life. I support a graduated tax. It's time Alaskans learned to pay for the services they use.

- It's time to repeal SB21. When it was passed in 2014 it promised a million barrels a day. That hasn't happened. SB21 gives giant tax credits without any sort of requirements. Repealing the oil tax break will be enough to cover the budget deficit. At the very least the law needs to be rewritten so that the tax credit isn't given unless oil companies match promised performance goals.

Thank you for listening.

Regards, Travis Rector

From: Cindy Lelake [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:39 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I so appreciate your taking the time to listen to Alaskans all over the state the past several days! I listened to most of the meetings and attended the gathering in Anchorage.

I was heartened by the hundreds of people who came to share their thoughts with you.
If nothing else, the Governor's budget has inspired unprecedented civic engagement.

My greatest point vices, of opposition to Mr. Dunleavy's budget are ideological: first and foremost, the budget is incredibly divisive. It seeks to pit urban Alaskans against rural Alaskans, Alaska Native needs against other Alaskans' needs, big oil and industry against the citizens of our state. Further, it portrays all of you as greedy politicians eager to work against Alaskan interests.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to mitigate cuts to essential government services, develop a responsible plan for a reasonable dividend and explore alternative revenues as your work continues.

Respectfully,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

From: Andrew Gray [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 5:24 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: The Dunleavy Budget

To whom it may concern:

I would rather have my PFD completely cut than see the Dunleavy budget approved.

I would rather pay a state income tax than see the Dunleavy budget approved.

Please, let's fully fund state services. Find other sources of revenue to balance the budget. Do not institute the extreme spending cuts proposed by Governor Dunleavy.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Andrew T. Gray
99507
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@acsalaska.net <[REDACTED]@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 2:50 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

My fellow Alaskans can we get real, for just a moment? I mean, what the heck. You are blaming Gov. Dunleavy for the budget he has proposed? Seriously? He had nothing to do with the fact that oil prices declined, or that we had a crappy governor who, for 4 years, refused to deal with our budget excessive spending, but instead spent our money on his pet project, the never-to-be-real gasline, like a drunken sailor, or that we had an irresponsible House that just couldn't say no to any special interest but instead waisted their efforts in Juneau trying to wring more out of us through taxation and taking more of our dividend.

We all should be celebrating that we finally have a governor willing to take on the special interest and stop spending money we don't have and reducing our budget to a sustainable level. Come on, enough already, anyone can see we cannot sustain these stupid spending levels. We have burned through \$14 billion of our reserve account in 4 years and there is only \$2 billion left. The last governor stole \$2 billion from our dividend, not so he could pay down our budget shortfall but just in case he needed it for his boondoggle project. That money hurt our economy in devastating ways, exacerbating the downturn in our economic picture.

Unemployment continues to rise, wages are stagnate, and potential growth stymied by a House run by liars and thieves. Here I am referring to Representatives who lied to their constituents about their true beliefs and affiliations, and of course the stealing of our PFDs. And contrary to the stupid notion we can tax our way out of this, just do the math. Never has there ever been a successful effort to tax into prosperity. What a silly notion. The more wealth confiscation through taxation, the worse our economy will get.

The only short-term solution is to balance the budget spending to current revenues. Then start looking at our natural resources to increase those revenues. Anything else is a waist of time and only takes us closer to the brink of collapse.

Come on!

Duane Christensen

From: Emily Florian <[REDACTED]@floriponics.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: DEFEND PFD and CUT THE BUDGET

House Finance Committee,

I support Dunleavy's budget and I support maximizing the PFD to Alaskan residents.

We need to build infrastructure and foster private enterprise to enhance the economy rather than spending money on social programs and environmental agendas that destroy the economy rather than building it!!

I firmly believe that greater government inhibits the economy of Alaska.

I am open to considering a state income BUT ONLY AFTER we have eliminated all the entitlements, the kick-backs, pork-barrel politics that are prevalent in Alaska now.

Respectfully,

Emily Florian
Floriponics LLC
[REDACTED]

From: Leigh Sloan [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 1:05 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut the Budget, Restore the PFD

I am a resident of Anchorage District 15. My Representative, Gabrielle LeDoux, does not uphold my conviction to cut government spending in accordance with Governor Dunleavy's plan. We elected Dunleavy because we wanted him to do exactly what he is attempting to do— create a sustainable budget by putting government spending on a big diet.

We who hold these views are not heartless or lacking sense. We are tired of being stripped of our decision-making power as individuals. We are tired of the arrogant assumption some politicians have that government programs can manage our money better than we can. Give the power back to the people to make our own decisions by restoring and repaying the full PFD and refusing to raise taxes. Anyone who feels that they should not receive one can either refuse to file or give their PFD back to any program they wish. The PFD supports Alaskan families, bolsters Alaskan nonprofits, increases educational choices for our children, and stimulates the Alaskan economy.

I support more school choice options for parents to make in the best interests of their children. Pouring more money into the public system has not been proven effective thus far. The school system is not the same as real education. If you move toward empowering the parents with greater school choice options and allow healthy competition among schools for students, I wouldn't be surprised if we could eventually cut our education budget in half.

Leigh Sloan

From: Bill Price [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Budget

I'll keep it short.

I don't know how much longer I can afford to stay in Alaska. Until the last few years, we have been able to squeak by on my engineers salary, paying off debt with each PFD and tax refund. In 2016, I lost a very good job due to Capital Budget "cuts". What actually happened was Walker construction project funds and used them to pay off his union backers,

while pretending to cut the budget. Construction project funding went away, and so did my job. I landed at another engineering firm, however I took a significant pay cut to do so.

It really is frustrating (and illuminating) to see how much more this legislature values public sector jobs over private sector jobs.

Based on past performance I have no faith in the AK legislatures willingness to cut anything but PFD's and private sector jobs. I fully expect them to steal the rest of the PFD this year, and continue to spend my children's future.

Therefore, I have been looking for work outside of Alaska, and if I can find a suitable job before I can find a way to pay my bills in Alaska I will be gone. You will loose another private sector engineer, though I don't think any of you tax and spend politicians care. Your inability and unwillingness to look beyond the next election is obvious.

I want to stay, and I am willing to contribute in the way of a flat tax, but in order for that to work, cuts must come first. I've been around long enough to know that a politicians word doesn't mean anything, and unless you have found a way to magically turn back the clock to get us the subsurface rights to our own land, the PFD is not yours to spend.

Bill Price
Alaska voter, and Dunleavy supporter.

From: Jennifer Bundy [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY20 Budget

To The House Finance Committee,

I respectfully request that you sincerely look at what the Governor has offered in his budget proposal. I know there are significant cuts that have been suggested, but I think we are at a time where some serious cuts need to be made. I acknowledge that you have spent much more time poring over the proposed budget than I have, and I thank you for that time. I know you have listened and read many personal opinions on the subject. I know there are some hard choices to be made, however, I feel that our budget has been bloated and overdrawn for the past several years. The decision to make cuts and curb spending should have been made years ago, but it wasn't, which is what makes it so much more difficult now.

I know that you are hearing lots of input from those that support no cuts to education, but I feel there have to be cuts. One of the arguments in favor of no cuts that I have been hearing is that it will take the future away from our children if cuts are made. In fact, I have heard people asking for a larger budget for education than was given last year! My feeling is that if there isn't money to run our state, and the people are overtaxed so they can't support their own families, let alone a bloated government, there will be no future Alaska to hand over to our children in a few years.

I wish that there was more transparency in our education departments. I am very involved in my children's education. I volunteer many hours a year. I am in the schools and I know it is not always an easy or pleasant job. I know those that work in the schools do amazing things with our children. However, at least here in Anchorage School District, the student numbers have been declining, but the budget has still been going up. That just shouldn't be. I know that if cuts are made, it is up to the individual school districts to figure out how to implement them. I wish scare tactics of cuts down to the classroom weren't the first thing that was always brought up. I wish that the school districts would realistically look at their budgets and figure out what cuts are reasonable and possible to have a more balanced budget. Schools have grown so much beyond just education and have added so many programs and additional parts to the school program. Some may be needed, but there are others, that in a time of financial crisis, should be looked at and evaluated more closely to see if they can be postponed, run differently, or cut altogether.

In my personal home, debt is not something we strive for. If we have debt (and we have had some), we do our best to eliminate it as quickly as possible. That means that we go without extras. We talk with our children about the decisions we have to make and why. We figure out what money we have coming in, and that is all we can spend. We also work to have money in our 'emergency fund' to help cover those times of financial crisis. These principals are tried and true and ones our government should strive to implement- which I have been happy to see Governor Dunleavy working on.

I do not want to add any additional taxes.

I support full PFD's.

I support cuts to our budget.

You don't have an easy job, but I thank you for stepping up to do it. Please weigh my words in with your final recommendations and voting.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bundy
Eagle River, Alaska

From: Charity Wilson [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD BACK

We should be our own voice on what we want with our PFDS. Since you guys want to use it in a Unfit manner, like giving OPEC the right to Screw us over with lowering our Oil Barrels to 35\$ and Raising Venezuelas to 100\$ a barrel because they were a Bad economy not only that , You lowered our Oil supply and our economy... Very Unfit manner, We should be able to do What's right for us as citizen's and Get every penny that's owed to us.

From: Charles Bingham [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska budget testimony

All,

I had every intention of attending Sunday's budget hearing in Sitka, but woke up feeling really sick and ended up going back to bed.

Anyway, my comments are my own, but I wanted to let you know I am president of the Sitka Local Foods Network and I am a governing board member of the Alaska Food Policy Council. Many of my comments relate to Alaska's food security, or lack thereof, and how this budget makes the country's most food insecure state worse.

I find the governor's budget reckless and irresponsible. I also worry the costs to Alaska will be much greater than any initial dollar savings from his cuts. For example, when you cut Medicaid and other safety net services you will incur long-term costs in higher health care expenses and reduced ability of smaller rural hospitals to provide charity care.

The state receives hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government, but we need state support for the programs that money funds and state buy-in to keep those programs in place.

I also don't like the way Gov. Dunleavy's budget keeps the oil tax giveaway in place, even though getting rid of the oil giveaway is about equal to Dunleavy's stated budget deficit. We need to stop giving money to corporations for work they already should be paying for.

It's long past time for a state personal income tax; we never should have gotten rid of this tax in the early 1980s. By having a personal income tax, people now have a personal stake in Alaska's government. It also means that some of the non-Alaskans working in our state (more than 20 percent in some industries) now have to help support our infrastructure. As much as I understood Gov. Walker's reductions to the PFDs, I thought that move should have been a last resort, coming after we reintroduced a state personal income tax and reconfigured many of our industry taxes (such as mining) that haven't been changed in decades. Cutting the PFD only impacts Alaska residents, and the impact is higher in rural communities where there isn't much of a cash economy, while adding a personal income tax gets money from everybody including the non-Alaskans working in our state.

Anyway, here are some talking points on the budget from the Alaska Food Policy Council that I wanted on the record.

Some programs/funding streams we want to protect include:

Programs that support Alaskan agriculture:

- Agriculture is one of the only renewable resources in the State and our industry is growing!
- Programs slated for reduction or elimination from the State Division of Agriculture (Division) include: the Alaska Grown program, the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund, the Farm to Institution program, and nearly all of the services of the Plant Materials Center. In addition to providing marketing and promotion, access to lending, development of new markets, and research on varieties and diseases, these programs also bring in millions of dollars in Federal funds. While the entire Division budget is ~\$1.3 million State dollars, programs are supported and matched with between \$2 and 3 million fee for service and federal dollars annually. Without the Division team to provide support however, these dollars will be turned away and growers will not have access to essential programs.
- The proposed cut of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Dairy Sanitation position would eliminate Alaskans access to grade A milk and put at least one multi-generational farm out of business.
- Services provided by the Division should be considered "core" services. Not only are the dedicated staff incredibly knowledgeable about Alaska agriculture issues, they are highly efficient, budget conscious and committed to supporting the industry as a whole. Alaskans' have benefited from a Department or Division of Agriculture since Territorial Days; industry members are dependent on the knowledge, expertise and unbiased support that Division staff provide.
- The Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC) provides vital services for continued resource development within Alaska. The PMC is tasked with protecting the State from invasive species of plants, insects, animals and disease. Their efforts support natural resource development statewide, for example, *Canada Thistle* was recently discovered along the roadway north of the Alaska Range, 100 miles south of Prudhoe Bay. This invasive species is a threat to native plant vegetation and wildlife as well as a potential problem for future natural resource development. It is noteworthy that hundreds of millions of dollars are spent annually treating *Canada Thistle* in the lower 48; this is only to keep it at bay, as eradication is now considered impossible. The PMC staff treated the Alaskan outbreak of *Canada Thistle* with the intent to eradicate it from the North Slope, maintaining Alaska's pristine environment.

- Alaskans' import 95% of the food they purchase, but have demonstrated their support of Alaska Grown products through their commitment to shopping at Farmers Markets, participating in the \$5 a week Alaska Grown Challenge at retail grocery stores, and encouraging growers of all products to increase production. To cut off the valuable services provided by the Division now, during this time of incredible momentum, would be devastating to our immature but thriving industry.
- We urge you to support full funding for the Division of Agriculture. *Everybody eats* and therefore we are all "involved" in Agriculture. Support the industry that can both help strengthen our food security and grow our economy.

Programs that reduce food insecurity and support access to food:

- The Senior Benefit Program funding of \$24.4 million will be eliminated, and the Governor is seeking a full repeal of the program altogether. This program provides cash assistance to more than 11,000 low-income Alaskan elders so they can afford necessities like food, heat, and medication. The loss of this funding combined with other proposed cuts, like those to the PFD hold harmless fund or to Adult Public Assistance, means that some low-income seniors could be seeing multiple layers of resource cuts.
- Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) funding of \$1.38 million will be eliminated. This is one of the only funding streams to support operations for basic needs services like food and shelter. Many emergency food providers, including Food Bank of Alaska, Catholic social Services, Covenant House Alaska, and many others, receive this funding. The loss of these funds to the anti-hunger network would be compounded by the decrease in other benefits for low-income Alaskans, which creates additional need and puts additional pressure on their network.
- There is an overall \$35.4 million cut to public assistance, including cuts to Adult Public Assistance (for low-income seniors and disabled individuals), tribal assistance program, and the PFD Hold Harmless Fund, which will likely reduce eligibility and benefits for many public assistance programs.
- While child nutrition programs weren't cut directly, the massive 25% in reductions to public education will almost certainly result in the reduction of the school meal program in many districts. Some rural districts have already cut this critical program because of insufficient budgets, and this is of huge concern to us, given the critical role that school meals play in addressing childhood food insecurity. The State of Alaska Child Nutrition Programs are reporting that they already have several districts not committing to operating a school meal program for fear of budget cuts.

Thanks,

Charles Bingham
 [REDACTED]@gmail.com
 [REDACTED]

From: Scott Cichoracki [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
 Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:39 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget Town Hall

Good day,

I am a Juneau resident who resides in House District 34. After reading multiple overviews of the town hall meetings sponsored by your committee and held throughout the state I felt the need to write and give my views. I was not able to attend your Juneau meeting due to prior commitments and do not feel voices from all sides are being heard. I have read our State's Constitution regarding the PFD and feel the use of the funds' earnings for anything other than distribution to us citizens is counter to the intent of the law. There was also an election since last year, your constituents spoke with a loud voice that we wanted a change in leadership with the election of Governor Dunleavy, and it was by a wide margin. To see the political maneuvering for leadership in the House was to say the least, embarrassing and for the current leadership to use the PRIOR administrations proposed budget is a slap in the face to the majority of your constituents who elected our current Governor.

I am willing to bet that you all, in your homes, do not spend money you don't have. The PFD is not intended to be a tax on Alaska residents and that is EXACTLY what has been proposed. You esteemed members expect your constituents to believe that the only way for the state to run is to take away or reduce the PFD? You were elected to serve the citizens of Alaska, not steal from them. If law needs to be amended to adjust how oil companies are charged, so be it. That may be the more difficult way to go, but you all know as well as I that it is the right way. Oil companies post record profits year after year and while I am a major proponent of capitalism, I also believe that business need to pay rent when its required. One day we will not be able to rely on petroleum to run the economy, but for the foreseeable future we do. Adjust as necessary (be it changing how we bring in money from the oil companies or reducing state spending) I don't care, but the PFD should not have ever been an option! Stick to the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Scott Cichoracki

[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

From: John Henry [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:31 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

Representatives,

I support the Governor's budget plan. I support the unpaid portion of the PFDs from the last 3 years being distributed to the people that should have received them. I realize that not all cuts are realistic, but new revenue needs to be implemented to pay for things that we need to fund. The PFD should not be touched, but could be used to offset a flat tax on AGI to fund needed services. The oil credit issue needs to be fixed. K-12 needs attention, we are spending the most and receiving the least for our dollars. UA cites that 61% of AK high school students that attend UA need remedial math and English, this is unacceptable and costly. UA's state funding needs to be brought down to realistic levels. Close satellite campuses or turn them into community colleges. One administration for all of the university. "Spend as much as you feel comfortable taxing."

Thank you for your time,

John Henry

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK. 99725

From: Kathy Steadman [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I wanted to voice my thoughts on the upcoming budget. It is proper the governors budget plan should be scrutinized and worked on. But it should not be disregarded or scorned. We have a spending problem. Unless we address this spending problem and enforce a spending cap we will always spend more then we bring in. This is irresponsible! I am not allowed to do that in my own life, government and those elected to serve us should not be allowed to do so either. We must WORK within our means. Government must show they are serious and able to make cuts and work within a sustainable budget before asking for MORE money from the people or it will never be enough. Please work with our governor to spend only what we have.

Kathy Steadman

From: Tracie [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support Gov. Dunleavy

Hi all. Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I have lived in Alaska for 49 years and I am a registered voter. I am writing this email to let everyone know that I support our governor Dunleavy 100% on all budget cuts and protecting the permanent fund dividend for the people of Alaska and the future generations.

Tracie Rector

From: Richard Nims [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavys budget

we voted Dunleavy into office cut the fat and follow his budget and do not tell me the is not fat to cut just do it yes people loose there jobs , i have been cut meany times due to down play in economy just do it we are out of stop spending what we do not have

From: philip osborn [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavey's debacle

Hello, I am writing to express my dismay at Governor Dunleavy's proposed cuts to everything important to all Alaskans. We need a wise leader, with wise council, to steer our ship of state in a prudent, sustainable direction. I believe firmly that Alaska needs increased revenues from: a more equitable tax on our oil production, a graduated income tax, and a sales tax which spares low income folks from contributing.

It is unbelievable that the Koch brothers should have a hand in this discussion and our future as a state. I've lived here since 1968, and am proud of how well we've done in meeting the needs of our citizens. It is imperative that our economy benefits from pragmatic new sources of revenue, and if that means lowering or abolishing the permanent fund dividend, that is far superior to cutting UAF's operating budget, cutting state infrastructure funding, and holding private meetings only open to those who promise to obey rules of the Koch brothers while pledging allegiance to their agenda. Wake up Alaska, we need clear headed thinking to save our bacon. In utmost sincerity,

Phil Osborn

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks Alaska 99712

From: Phil Brna [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: My Comments on Budget Proposal

I did not want to wait in the line today to testify in Anchorage, so I am submitting the following written testimony:

In my opinion, the governor's proposed budget is morally bankrupt. I do not support it. I have lived here for over 42 years and I am appalled at this proposed budget. It is one of the worst things I can remember in State government. We need to maintain funding for K-12 education, medicaid, our seniors, the University, a healthy transportation system, State ferries, environmental protection, and our State agencies. We can't cut our way to prosperity. His proposal will result in devastation of the Alaskan economy. We need to get rid of oil industry tax credits and implement a fair and reasonable income tax.

I am particularly concerned with Dunleavy's "public meetings" paid for by the Koch brothers. This is unacceptable. I hope the legislature can censure the governor for this.

Phil Brna

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507
[REDACTED]

From: Margaret Swart [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:07 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please forward this email to the House Finance Committee

The proposed budget is based on a financial template used in Kansas during Governor Sam Brownback's two terms. After living in Alaska from 1953 to 1981 I moved to Topeka, Kansas. I lived there until September of 2014 when I returned to Fairbanks. I experienced, first hand, the devastating effects such drastic cuts had on that state. Don't let what happened in Kansas happen in Alaska. Financially gutting education, medical assistance programs, infrastructure such as our marine highway system, senior benefits, etc. is a nightmare to be avoided, not embraced. I know. I lived through it. In the aftermath Kansas is strapped by staggering debt. The educational system is so deeply compromised it will take untold years to recover. Reject this budget. To enact it would undermine a way of life that is unique and precious. Don't bring the deplorable mistakes made in Kansas to Alaska. Protect our Alaskan way of life from a misguided influence that has no concept of what is required to live in our Alaska. Make the Alaskan people and their needs your only priority. All that we love is at risk. Kansas is a tragic example of that fact.

Sincerely,
Margaret Swart
Fairbanks, AK
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Janet Daley [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget issues testimony

I have already sent this letter to the Interior Delegation but want it to be recorded testimony as part of your Finance Committee budget deliberations.

I want to take this opportunity to provide feedback on the budget proposal put forward by the governor. As legislators, I believe it is time for you to stop giving any further consideration to the governor's proposal and start over again. Look at new sources of funding, i.e., income and/or sales taxes and use of permanent fund earnings for the essential services that every Alaskan deserves. Start planning long-term, with an eye to making the state a robust and inclusive place to live, work and raise a family. Consider the economic and social impact of any service you propose to cut. Look at how a small investment by the state brings in grant and contract revenues from the federal government and other private sources, all of which gets plowed back into the Alaskan economy. Do not look at a single cut without considering what that service provides, which populations (particularly the vulnerable) benefit, how the service will be provided if it disappears and whether there will be a long-term impact. Make sure you look at the effect on the economy of the departure of thousands of workers and their families when jobs are cut. Please do not forget that many families require 2 incomes to keep their heads above water and the loss of one job may of necessity, push the family to leave. As people leave so too does the money they would spend locally which will have a negative effect on local businesses and services.

Please also look closely at what this proposal does to the education of our children. Not all kids are "average". Some need special services, others benefit from advanced classes. No child does well in large-sized classes where they cannot get attention. All kids benefit from the availability of extra-curricular activities. Pre-K is proven to give children skills they need to succeed. Cutting Head Start programs and pre-K not only means that children's educational success will be jeopardized, it also means that working parents will not have a safe and stimulating environment for their kids when they are at work. Education is a right enshrined in the constitution of Alaska. Do not consider any cuts that would reduce the number of teachers, increase class size and cut educational programs.

Do not look with disdain at the working poor. Do not view them as being drains on society. Embrace and retain Medicaid expansion. Many jobs, even some with certification requirements (eg. Certified Nurse Aides) pay low hourly wages. These people want to work and want to contribute but often rely on public services such as Medicaid and SNAP to supplement their income and be able to pay their rent and continue to work. Think about that. Think also about the elderly. It is already difficult enough to keep our elders at home in our state. Charging 3-4 times as much for services such as the Pioneer Home will ensure that families have to send their aging parents outside, away from their homes.

The University of Alaska is the preeminent Arctic Research Institute in the world. The research programs have made numerous discoveries over the years. How do they do that? A relatively small input from the State brings in more than 5 times that much in research dollars and much of that is spent right here in Alaska by providing employment and purchasing goods and services. The university has already sustained significant budget cuts in 5 of the last 6 years resulting in closure of programs and loss of jobs (which as noted above means that many of those workers have left the state). Further cuts at all, never mind cuts as dramatic and devastating as those proposed, will have dire consequences on the ability of the university to multiply the money provided by the State. The University also has many programs and services available to the public that make our communities better places to live. These include sports facilities and teams, the symphony, plays, dance and the arts, venues for lectures and other events. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has the only university-managed Rocket Range in the world. Hundreds of people drove out to Chatanika a couple of Saturday nights ago to an Open House in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Range. While funding for the Range is primarily from NASA, the Range could not operate without the overhead provided by the University. I repeat that having an educational institution provides much more to the community than teaching students.

I will say up front that I am a proponent of income taxes. A small income tax is the price each citizen pays in most cities and states and all countries. It is the price one pays to receive the services that provide a social net for the vulnerable and poor, for a variety of human services, for arts and sports, quality education, transportation needed in our unique Alaska landscape, etc. As a finance manager of a small Fairbanks-based consulting business, I can vouch for the fact that when I send an employee outside to work on a project, we pay taxes to the state where that project is located. Why do we not have the same in reverse? Many people come to Alaska to work on the slope. They come, work and take their paycheck in full with them when they leave without putting money back into our economy. Alaska is the ONLY state where there is neither an income nor sales tax. That is unsustainable.

Please think about the future of the State of Alaska. You can create a one-sided budget based only on the volatile price of oil or you can think long-term and start implementing a fiscal plan that will make our economy stable, provide needed and expected services and make the state the wonderful place to live, raise a family and grow old in that it was in the recent past.

Thank you for your time.
Janet Daley

Mailing address:
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Physical: [REDACTED], Fairbanks

[REDACTED]

From: Carl Nelson [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore the PFD

I support Gov Dunleavy! Any who do not support him and his policies will have my ire during the next election cycle!

Because our government spending far exceeds the revenue we take in. Kicking the can down the road for years, wiping out billions from savings, and then taxing the PFD, all the while just hoping for another oil boom -- it simply doesn't work.--

Carl Nelson
[REDACTED]

From: Suzanne Rich Osborn [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:39 PM
To: Fairbanks.lio@alaskaleg.gov; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

From: Martha Rich
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Ak. 99712

Public Testimony:

I am opposed to Gov. Dunleavy's State budget plan. As I see it, our State of Alaska needs to join with other states, cities and communities that are rapidly converting to green CLEAN energy. For example look at Copenhagen, Denmark, they are in a Northern climate as well as Burlington, Vermont. I would love to see Fairbanks LEADERSHIP in making the transition off of fossil fuel. This creates jobs, clean air and lasting free power sources. Gov. Dunleavy would merit a huge positive legacy blessing all the people!!! A state tax, plus sales tax could help foot the bill. In other US states people pay taxes. Join the club and feel the delight in delivering the public services all people need.

Sincerely and Urgently, Martha Rich

PS. I have savings in the UAF College fund to help pay for my grandson's college education. He lives in Maui, Hawaii. Now with the Dunleavy budget plan, UAF no longer seems viable. I would plan to send him to Oregon, another state where we have relatives.

From: Betsie Hill [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support Dunleavy's Plan

Cutting a budget is hard but sometimes you have to. A year ago I lost my second job and my income was cut in half. My husband and I had to determine what our family actually needed. We had to cut down on electricity and heat and completely redo our normal menu. Even things we needed got cut.

Education starts at home. Parents need to be more involved with their kids. My kid's PTO does a lot for the school also and I support them when I can.

There is so much waste on a WIC check. Look into it. There is actually one that requires 8 half gallons instead of 4 gallons. Out in Big Lake a half gallon costs the same as a whole one. That's just one example.

The PFD was never meant for the budget, it is for the people. People should get full Pfd's including withheld money. People have individual needs whether it be heater fuel, medical bills, groceries, or just some fun. If there are people who think the government can spend their money better than they can they should Pick, Click, Give.

Sales Taxes and income taxes are a good way to drive business out of Alaska. Alaska needs to be a place where people want to do business. If oil revenues are up they will spend more money. I was the scheduling manager for four years at a fast food restaurant and I can tell you when dividends are up and there were books in the economy I was able to hire more people and schedule more hours.

I support the governor as does over 50% of Alaska according to the last vote.

From: W White [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:22 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Perm Fund give it take to the Alaskan People!

I moved to Alaska 6 years ago and fell in love with the land and people of Alaska immediately. The people look out for each other like family. Then the government takes away a part of Alaskans lively hood by cutting the perm fund. You live in your fancy houses with food on the table , warmness surrounds you. Then there are others living pay check to paycheck , wondering where their next meal is gonna be or if they will have enough heating oil to keep from freezing just one more night. Things you take for granted , there are others who live without because the Governor tries to give back what's Alaska Constitutionally given to the people and he gets vetoed ..why do we even have one if he tries to find solutions and gets shut down. Guaranteed most of the money of perm funds goes back in Alaska's pocket by spending it in Alaska. Quit hurting the people of Alaska and do what's morally right!!! Blessed Be!

From: Tammy TM [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 7:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: "rep.adam.wool@akleg.gov;Ashley.Strauch"@akleg.gov
Subject: Great state of Alaska - take my PFD please!

Greetings,

I feel I am contacting you from an alternative universe where the budget proposal from Governor Dunleavy cannot possible be true. I am disheartened and join others in consideration of leaving the state. I have a job I live at the University of Fairbanks Alaska, guiding future leaders of this state. My husband is gainfully employed in the water/sewer industry.

As a somewhat-educated constituent, I hope my voice will be heard by the Alaska legislature.

The three-pronged approach is one for which I support:

1. increased revenue from some sort of tax

2. change or dismiss the PDF disbursement
3. decreased spending at a reasonable amount

This one-method approach of a unfathomable budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy is absurd. It not only effects the targeted areas, but all infrastructure and support systems.

I end with this question:

- What data supports the fact the majority of Alaskans want a fully-funded PDF dividend? I say little or no dividend please so I may stay in this great State of Alaska and enjoy its bounty and continue to educate the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration as takes on a harrowing budget scenario.

Tammy Tragis-McCook, UAF School of Management

██████████, 99709

From: Becky Magowan ██████████@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 7:38 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

To the Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Rebecca Magowan, e-mail – ██████████@gci.net, home – ██████████ Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Committee Members:

I have lived in Alaska my entire life (68 years) and was in my 30's raising a family when the dividends came along. It was a gift and we saw it as such. I still see it as a gift. There were years when it arrived just when I needed it but I would have survived without it. I also see the lack of state income tax as a gift. These windfalls are not our right.

I believe that we need to provide health care – including mental health care – to all Alaskans. We need quality K-12 education for all including art and music programs. We need the Heath and Social Services Block Grant funds that help provide many individuals help through local non-profit agencies.

I would miss the PFD but I would rather give it up (or see it reduced) than to see many Alaskans be deprived of services (which are already seriously lacking in the case of mental health services) they desperately need.

Thank you for your time and for giving us the opportunity to share our feelings on this issue.

Rebecca Magowan

From: Walter Tape [REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 7:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fairbanks meeting March 24

I was signed up at your meeting in Fairbanks today, but I could not stay long enough for my name to come up (#75). I will just repeat what many other speakers were saying. I am happy to pay for the many necessary things that state government provides. A reduced PFD or even a discontinued PFD is OK with me, (A graduated PFD might be more appealing politically.) Various taxes, including an income tax, should also be considered.

Thanks for listening to all of us.

Walt Tape
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99708

From: kristen homer [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 7:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I do not support Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Below is the testimony I gave at the budget hearing held in Sitka this afternoon:

My name is Kristen Homer. I have lived in Sitka since 1998. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here to tell you that I oppose the drastic cuts proposed in Governor Dunleavy's operating budget.

I did not vote for Dunleavy. I do not believe in balancing the budget on spending cuts alone. I do not believe that additional PFD payouts could possibly make up for the devastation that will result from Dunleavy's proposed cuts to education, the Alaska Marine Highway, Medicaid and other social services programs.

This budget lacks heart and soul. It will leave Alaska's most vulnerable populations even more vulnerable. It will drive many Alaskans to leave the State. It will cause irreparable harm to Alaska's small communities.

I have 2 daughters who have benefited from the quality education and opportunities afforded them through the Sitka School District. I work as a nurse practitioner in a school based health clinic at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Every day at home and work I see the benefits to Alaska's youth that come from investing in quality education, access to health care, cultural enrichment, transportation and community.

Alaska needs to continue to invest in its individuals, communities, infrastructure, and future. It should do this by reviving the state income tax, saying no to the additional PFD payments proposed in senate bills 23 and 24, paying out a modest PFD and repealing the oil tax credits.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: Traci Donahue [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: How not fully funding the PFD will hurt the states economy

We all already know how expensive prices are in Alaska and with out the PFD our family and many other will stop spending in many areas as well as simply going without. I have already been researching online and have found that our family can get many of our household items and neccessities far cheaper by buying them through Amazon prime. Yes this is an inconveniacte as we'll have to wait until our items arrive but we will also spend less on gas driving the hour long drive into Wasilla to shop, which is always a day long trip. We'll also save on not eating out on our shopping day if we're not shopping in Wasilla. We will no longer be able to afford buy cords of wood for the winter and will need to havervest our own from our own lot. Our family will begin cutting back now and spending less in Alaska until we hear that the PFD will be fully funded in 2019 and protected for furture generations.

I believe that it would be a foolish and economic disaster for the states econmy to steal the people's PFD. Not only hurting families but the state.

As for Dunleavy's Budget I believe that it should be approved though I do not believe that the Adult Medicaid Dental should be cut as without it most Alaskans can not afford Dental care and this directly affects overall health and will lead to more medical costs long term.

I also believe that the Marijuana tax revenue should not be going only to the Opiod addicts. I believe that these fund should got into the general fund and fund other needs of our state. I know that Opiod Addiction is a serious promblemn in the larger citites but I have seen no evidence of it being a problem in the smaller rural areas such as Willow and Talkeetna. Why should we suffer and pay the price for big city doctors over prescribing these serious drugs and creating addicts? Instead fine doctors that are over prescribing these drugs and not more closely monitoring their patience taking these medications. This would cut back on the number of people addicted and the fines collected from negligent doctors should go to help those addicted.

Thank you for your time.

Traci Donahue

From: Madeleine Grant [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 6:13 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony re Budget Crisis

Hello

The Dunleavy budget is bad for the state on so many levels: please support the University System & public education; without which we have no economic future. Please support Medicaid & addiction treatment without which we are cruel to our fellow citizens. Please support reasonable infrastructure including the ferry system & needed port repairs. We need government & Alaskans are willing to contribute to this. I will happily accept a smaller PFD, & while I believe the an income tax is the fairest system, I would support a sales tax Respectfully Madeleine Grant

From: cecilia preziose [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 6:03 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: MY PFD not the TAXMAN"s

Hello,

The PFD is small luxury to look forward to at the end of the year. A shot in the arm for the holidays.

BUT for some it is a portion of our premiums for healthcare, school supplies for our kids, and how about our seniors, they need to the PFD to cover food bills.

People will start rethinking living here and start to think there are more hospitable places to live. Lets keep it here!!!

--
Cecilia Preziose
[REDACTED]

From: Angela Schmidt [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 5:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Community budget hearing testimony

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a 24-year resident of Alaska who moved from the midwest to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from UAF, I chose to make Alaska my home. My husband and I live in Fairbanks. I work for UAF. My husband leads a local architectural and engineering firm. We also own a small business in downtown Fairbanks. In short, we have put down roots and have invested in this community and this state, and have planned to make Alaska our life-long home.

I am vehemently opposed to Governor Dunleavy's budget proposals, and believe this year's budget should not drop lower than last year's. Proposed cuts to education at all levels are particularly egregious. **I welcome a progressive income tax, support a cap on the PFD, and would like to see lawmakers consider a readjustment of oil tax credits.**

Thank you for providing this opportunity for me to provide my thoughts.

Regards,
Angela Schmidt
Fairbanks, AK

--
Angela Schmidt
MillerSchmidt, LLC & The Music Room
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99775
[REDACTED]

From: Linda Bruce [REDACTED].com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 5:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: My official support of and comments on the PFD and budget

Hello to all,

I am unable to attend any of the public meetings being held to allow input on the PFD and budget but definitely want my voice heard regarding this subject.

I will begin by stating that I am a registered voter in Alaska, I live in Ninilchik, I've lived in Alaska for more than thirty years and I care very much what happens to us in terms of budget and the PFD.

I agree with the Dunleavy budget proposal and support the proposed cuts because we need two things: 1) to set a sustainable budget (which we do not have now) which cannot be done without major cuts, and 2) a full and unimpeded PFD.

I think Governor Walker was wrong in his approach to using the PFD as a budgeting tool, it should never have been reduced, and it does not belong in the general fund for use on government spending.

The Permanent Fund belongs to the people of Alaska. I didn't support changes to the fund to allow the diversion of the PFD during the Walker regime and I definitely do not support changes to the Fund and the PFD without a vote of the people. The Fund is NOT a government spending account and was never intended to be. The Fund needs to be allowed to grow for the future to benefit ALL Alaskans and the Alaskan economy.

I am undeclared as far as political status so I do not consider this a Republican or Democrat issue but rather a non-partisan collaboration to do your jobs to get this state back on track. I find the resistance to Governor Dunleavy's budget repugnant because it appears that as a whole this is a political issue with more emphasis on each of you getting re-elected rather than truly looking at this budget as an opportunity to right-size our government, right-size many programs and services and work toward getting us balanced without an income tax or the PFD. This is YOUR opportunity to prove to the people of this state that you care enough to do what's necessary without the Permanent Fund or the PFD even being in the equation. For too long, you've failed us by not doing your fiduciary duty to look out for this state and us by spending far beyond our fiscal capabilities. Now is your chance to begin reversing the reckless spending of the past 10-15 years.

If you have any questions about my position or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by return email or my phone number [REDACTED]

Thomas Brook

From: Linda Bruce [REDACTED].com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 4:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: My official support of and comments on the PFD and budget

Hello to all,

I am unable to attend any of the public meetings being held to allow input on the PFD and budget but definitely want my voice heard regarding this subject.

I will begin by stating that I am a registered voter in Alaska, I live in Ninilchik, I've lived in Alaska for at least thirty years and I care very much what happens to us in terms of budget and the PFD.

I agree with the Dunleavy budget proposal and support the proposed cuts because we need two things: 1) to set a sustainable budget (which we do not have now) which cannot be done without major cuts, and 2) a full and unimpeded PFD.

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I am undeclared as far as political status so I do not consider this a Republican or Democrat issue but rather a non-partisan collaboration to do your jobs to get this state back on track. I find the resistance to Governor Dunleavy's budget repugnant because it appears that as a whole this is a political issue with more emphasis on each of you getting re-elected rather than truly looking at this budget as an opportunity to right-size our government, right-size many programs and services and work toward getting us balanced without an income tax or the PFD. This is YOUR opportunity

to prove to the people of this state that you care enough to do what's necessary without the Permanent Fund or the PFD even being in the equation. For too long, you've failed us by not doing your fiduciary duty to look out for this state and us by spending far beyond our fiscal capabilities. Now is your chance to begin reversing the reckless spending of the past 10-15 years.

If you have any questions about my position or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by return email or my phone number [REDACTED]

Linda Bruce

From: Traci Donahue [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 4:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Protect and pay out the Full PFD to the Alaska people

Many Alaskans depend on the PFD to get through the harsh Alaskan winters especially the many Alaskans that live in rural area and tiny towns that depend on tourism for their earnings. Many people in these areas such as Willow and Talkeetna most people are layed off for the winter months. Without the PFD many will go with out food and heat. Stop the Politian's that continue to steal the Alaskan people PFD. Stand up for the people that vote these people into office and for our rights. Approve Dunleavy's Budget cuts and uphold the PFD in Full with pervious years paid back Sincerely,

Traci Donahue
[REDACTED]
Willow, Alaska, 99688
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
[REDACTED]

From: Dave Nebert [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 4:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on Governor's Budget, 24 March '19

Thanks for the opportunity to provide my input on the governor's disastrous proposed budget.

I find the Koch Brother's entry into Alaska's politics extremely chilling. The Koch brothers invest in order to control and make money, not for us but for them. I advise the legislature to be very cautious with anything to do with the Koch Brothers as they do not have the best interests of Alaskan in mind. The same would be true if an outsider like George Soros was involved.

There was in very articulate and well written Community Perspective in Saturday's News-Miner (23 March) by Ed Linkous that expresses my views and those of many of us who have lived in Alaska for decades, well before income taxes were removed. Alaska was doing relatively well back then and we were looking forward to a better Alaska. Had we retained our income tax, perhaps reducing it a bit in light of the oil windfall, we would be well positioned for growth now. We would have the money to improve education, develop a capital budget for capital projects and the expansion of businesses, and have all of the other amenities that make Alaska a good place to live. These are the things that encourage folks to come to Alaska to raise families and help Alaska grow. This is in stark contrast to the gloom and doom budget proposal offered by our governor. If it goes forward without a strong legislative challenge, many of our best and brightest will leave the state and no one will want to come. It's already happening at our universities.

I've lived in Fairbanks for over half a century, well before the Alaskans stopped thinking we needed to contribute to society for our needs. As Ed Linkous clearly stated, we need to reinstate a **simple income tax**, the **education tax**, and up the **gas and diesel tax**. Ed's novel idea of combining our income tax with any PFD has merit as it will reduce the amount of money going to the federal government from any PFD, if the

legislature decides to keep the PFD. The PFD should not be enshrined in our constitution. It was intended as a hedge against a rainy day, and I think it's pouring.

Education is key to advancing into the future. Every dollar spend improving education is returned many-fold in dollars and in providing an Alaskan educated workforce. Remember the slogan (paraphrasing) "we don't care how they do it on the outside". We need educated Alaskans so we can make our own best decisions, rather than depend on outside educated experts to make decisions for us. Please support increases in education funding at all costs.

I'll summarize by saying are all a part of a community, and we need to contribute to it if we want a good quality of life here in Alaska. That means ALL Alaskan, not just property owners.

David Nebert (Fairbanks resident)

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Vendetti's [REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 3:45 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for LIO in Anchorage 3/24/19 - to be read into the record

Good afternoon;

I visited the LIO this afternoon with my Claire, who many of you know as a young disabled Alaskan advocate; my permanent sidekick.

I was thrilled to see the number of people present who are adding their voices to the conversation about the budget. I also realized I would never be able to stay with Claire long enough to testify in person.

I love Alaska. I am appreciative of the services through Medicaid, SDS and education available for my girl and so many like her. I believe the 9 children

I parented received a quality education K-12. My oldest adopted daughter graduated UAA in December and is hoping to stay in Alaska for her career.

I know those who reside at the Pioneer Home that are on limited incomes and are terrified what will happen to them; who will care? The senior subsidies mean that some seniors buy groceries along with their medication.

Early childhood services have been well researched and data provided as to the value of early intervention carrying throughout a child's life.

I want a police officer to respond to my call for help and I want to be able to drive on safe roads.

I want to know that education is important in this state and will continue to be funded.

A society's values are visible through how they care for their children and their seniors; their vulnerable citizens who are disabled or those in economic crisis.

Yes, I believe there will always be a small percentage of fraud. I believe that there are areas within departments that can save funds through more efficient operations (listen to the ideas offered by citizens). This is the real world and we aren't perfect but for the last 4 years we had been moving forward more focused on our citizens than on other's wallets. I don't believe the amount of loss on the table at this time.

Some school districts are performing so well, others I believe are balancing their budgets on the backs of our students who receive special education funding. These districts should be called out and forced to fix their issues.

So many medical professionals have already agreed when accepting Medicaid, to accept less money. Further cuts will mean many will leave or just not take Medicaid patients any more. What a loss of talent. How frightening that so many of us will have to rely on medical care sought in the emergency rooms.

This budget doesn't focus on the true resource in Alaska; our people! We are already seeing others leave state whose jobs and care have been impacted. Salmon, oil and minerals will still be here but the most valuable part of Alaska will be gone. We need to take a hard look at who wants to forward this agenda and who profits.

The hardships facing rural Alaska under the proposed budget are actually cruel. We should value this cultural heritage, honor it and help preserve their way of life.

A sales and income tax would be fair. We should pay for the services we use just like states in the lower 48 do. It has been nice not paying taxes but it has never been realistic. Stick to Governor Walker's plan for PFD payout to preserve it for future generations. Stick to Walker's outgoing budget.

Invest in new revenue sources rather than only having one egg in the basket with oil. Think outside the box!

Please do not let outside opinions, interests and money affect your judgment and hard work. Alaskans need you to protect our quality of life and our lives themselves. Show Alaskans that we matter.

Thank you for your service in Juneau.

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99501
[REDACTED]

From: Tim Shawgo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 3:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I am writing to encourage your support for Governor Dunleavy's Budget Plan. I voted for him to make cuts across the board and his plan will do what I wish it to do. I also support plan that keeps the PFD going to the people and the amount owed by the past Governor be repaid to Alaskan citizens.

Thank you

Tim Shawgo
[REDACTED]
Wasilla, Ak
[REDACTED]

Temp Washington Address
[REDACTED]
Silverdale, Wa
98383

From: Joshua and Marissa Banks [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for State Budget

Good Afternoon,

First we would like to thank you for your service to our community and State, and though no one will completely agree with all of the decisions you must make regarding the PFD and the State budget, we appreciate

your willingness to make these decisions. Being a legislative aides for 5 years has shown us how underpaid and under appreciated legislators are.

We urge you and the Legislature to oppose any form of a progressive income tax. The largest study on millionaires in America was recently done and nearly all of them believed that we as individuals have some control of our future and they are not waiting on around for the big break or job promotion to come, they are controlling their spending today so that tomorrow they can live & give like no one else. They are paying their mortgages off, sending their kids to college and enjoying retirement because of yesterday's choices to spend less than what they make. They didn't wait on anyone, they went and got their dream.

We are urging Alaskans to go get their dream of having a state that is continuing to be a place where everyone wants to be and to not just wait for program funding. To sacrifice today's wants for tomorrow's needs. Please continue to put more scrutiny on the State budget and avoid placing additional strains on our economy through a progressive income tax.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joshua and Marissa Banks

From: Tim Shawgo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 3:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I am writing to encourage your support for Governor Dunleavys Budget Plan. I voted for him to make cuts across the board and his plan will do what I wish it to do. I also support plan that keeps the PFD going to the people and the amount owed by the past Governor be repaid to Alaskan citizens.

Thank you

From: Chuck Berray [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 3:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: A responsible budget that won't destroy Alaska.

To the Committee members:

Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal, if passed as is, will destroy modern Alaska. And that's really not hyperbole. It would fundamentally change this State for the worse.

I support removing oil tax credits immediately. I still think sb21 should be rescinded.

I support a reduction in the PFD. I know it would be painful for many low-income families, but constitutionally we can't make it needs based.

I support the institution of a graduated income tax. Let's capture some of that payroll that flows off the North Slope and out of State. Right now the only people making any money off those out-of-state slope workers are the bartenders at the airport.

I support education, and happily pay taxes for schools even though I don't have kids. I want to live in a smarter society. I think the BSA should be raised, not cut.

I support the University system for the same reason.

I support the AMHS. Privatization is in no one's best interest. Year round service is.

I support AST and the VPSO program.

I in no way support the Dunleavy/Arduin budget proposal. Her track record should be a huge red flag.

Let's save this State instead of turning it into another failed Kansas experiment.

Thank you.

Chuck Berray

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK. 99516

From: Dana [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:56 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for AK State Legislature House Finance Committee

I would urge the legislators to please continue to fund the critical services needed for the citizens of Alaska.

The PFD is not sacrosanct. The impact of trying to fully fund the expected payments from the last years in a single year, if ever, will cripple this state, not only now, but long into the future.

The main issue of funding for this state is that there is a single revenue source that we have no control over and is unlikely to ever recover to be able to fund the government as we need. The governor's budget is short sighted in that it does nothing to address that issue.

The elimination of the state income tax should never have occurred. This decision has contributed to the expectations of Alaska citizens to not have to contribute to the services that they receive from the state.

There needs to be a balanced approach of taxes that fund the state for all of our citizens. We need to recognize the money that is earned by out of state workers who do not spend that money in the state. We need to balance the impact on those who have limited income, such as retirees and those who practice a subsistence lifestyle.

The shift of the property taxes from the boroughs to the state is an inexcusable decision when the governor touts that he is not raising taxes.

I moved here in 2002 to work for the University of Alaska. I moved from Illinois, having graduated from a state university there. I attended Illinois State University due to economic constraints, but received a quality education that has allowed me to contribute to the University of Alaska's mission.

I believe that the graduates of any of the University of Alaska campuses have also been able to attend due to both the degrees offered as well as the affordability of the programs. The 41% reduction of the state funding as calculated is a 17% direct reduction, but it will impact other funds that the university receives, so overall the reduction can not truly be stated to be only a 17% decrease.

I have spoken with many people who have children who will soon be of college age. Due to the uncertainty of funding from the State of Alaska, they are telling their children to look beyond our state for further education. This loss of our educated young will not help to address our ongoing shortages in nursing, education, and other professions.

The comparison of the University to lower 48 schools is not an apples to apples comparison due to the type of student that attend the University. We have many students that are non-traditional, returning to school while working, changing careers. They will take longer to graduate.

In addition, since the university is open to all to attend. We do not have a minimum ACT or SAT score. Many of students attending require additional support in order to be successful. Please recognize that this impacts the funds needed to support the students as well as distorts the ability to compare the university to others that do not have the same population of students.

Thank you for your time.

Dana Platta

Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Mike Williams <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Date: March 22, 2019 at 9:13:41 AM AKDT

To: Representative Tiffany Zulkosky <rep.tiffany.zulkosky@akleg.gov>, "Alaska Governor Michael J Dunleavy (GOV sponsored)" <governor@alaska.gov>, "Sen. Lyman Hoffman" <senator_lyman_hoffman@legis.state.ak.us>

Cc: Greg Lincoln <[REDACTED]@deltadiscovery.com>, Kyuk News <[REDACTED]@kyuk.org>, Lori Townsend <[REDACTED]@aprn.org>, Willie Kasayulie <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>, Andrew Guy <[REDACTED]@alistacorp.com>, Sheila Williams <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, KKI IRA ADMIN <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Bookkeeper <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Anna Davidson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Balasia Tribal Admin <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Stony River TC <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Tuntutuliak Traditional Council <[REDACTED]@avcp.org>, John Andrew <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Kipnuk TC <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Kwk Tribal <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Walter Jim <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Raymond Watson <[REDACTED]@ykhc.org>, Daniel Waska <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Sharon Williams <[REDACTED]@napaskiak.org>, Wayne Morgan <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Will Hartman <[REDACTED]@georgetowntc.com>, Martha Whitman-Kassock <[REDACTED]@avcp.org>, Vivian Korthuis <[REDACTED]@avcp.org>, Sammy Jackson II <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>, Moses Owen <[REDACTED]@yupiiit.org>, "Ivan M. Ivan" <[REDACTED]@yupiiit.org>, "Mary K. Henry" <[REDACTED]@avcp.org>, <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, George Guy <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, "Roland P. Andrew" <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Bea Kristovich <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>, Mark Lear <[REDACTED]@gci.net>, Fritzsharon Charles <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Laura Simeon <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, James Landlord <[REDACTED]@gci.net>, "David L. Andrew" <[REDACTED]@avcp.org>, Lynn Hootch <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Nightmute TC <[REDACTED]@live.com>, Liz Ivan <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>, Lamont Albertson <[REDACTED]@svc.net>, Mary Peltola <[REDACTED]@kritfc.org>, Joe Demantle <[REDACTED]@msn.com>, Norma Williams <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>, Chariton Epchook

[redacted]@hotmail.com>, Harold Napoleon [redacted]@paimiut.org>, Zak Brink [redacted]@yahoo.com>, "Jackson I. Sam G." [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Yupiit of Andreafski [redacted]@gmail.com>, Timothy Zaukar [redacted]@gmail.com>, Bonnie Persson [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Golga Frederick [redacted]@yupik.org>, Pitkas Point Village [redacted]@yahoo.com>, "Nick P. Andrew Jr." [redacted]@gci.net>, Umkumiut Tribal Council [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Mary Hill [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Cheforak TC [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Hooper Bay Native Village [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Lime Village [redacted]@gmail.com>, Algaaciq Tribal Administrator [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Anna Rose MacArthur [redacted]@kyuk.org>, Steven Alexie [redacted]@gmail.com>, Kirsten Kinegak-Friday [redacted]@calistacorp.com>, "Carl T. Jack" [redacted]@gci.net>, Jonathan Samuelson [redacted]@georgetowntc.com>, Iqurmiut Traditional Council [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Тимофей Тихонов [redacted]@yahoo.com>, Atmautluak Traditional Council [redacted]@hughes.net>, Margaret Pohjola [redacted]@calistacorp.com>, Mike Williams [redacted]@yahoo.com>
Subject: Opposing the current budget proposal by Governor Dunleavy
Reply-To: Mike Williams [redacted]@yahoo.com>

TO: Governor Mike Dunleavy;

FROM: Mike Williams, Nunavut Alaska Provisional Government

SUBJECT: NAPG react to the devastating cuts in State Budget

Good morning Governor Dunleavy;

The March 20, 21, 2019 session of the Nunavut Alaska Provisional Government, a consortium of Tribal Governments in Western Alaska, reviewed your proposed 24% cuts to K-12 School Funding, 42% decrease to U of A which would affect the Rural campuses. reduction of state Medicaid assistance by \$225 million dollars which would affect the federal funds reductions, elimination of payouts that protect public assistance after the PFD's are received, we want to make sure that those that are receiving will not be affected, raid on the PCE program fund destabilizing the fund, elimination of public broadcasting funding which would devastate one of our only source of information to our residents, elimination of Tribal Assistance Programs, large cuts to Fish and Game management, reduction of small and rural airports, elimination of state council on the arts, elimination of health career scholarship fund. These are some of the cuts that we reviewed and object to the reductions or elimination of programs. We can do better than that instead of hurting our communities.

The current funding to our small communities are not adequate in the first place, but we have been operating with bare minimum funding.

Governor Dunleavy, we know that the Leadership in our State can find and protect these essential programs by identifying possible raising and restoring revenue resources in which the state with our renewable and non renewable resources.

Our Leadership will be meeting with our State Representative Tiffany Zulkosky on Saturday, March 23rd in Bethel with more detailed responses by our state constituents. Thank you for your time and the beginning of restoring the essential programs that we truly need in our communities.

From: Judy Andree [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Subject: State of Alaska Budget Proposals by Administration

March 24, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee members,

We are writing to share our thoughts on the current budget crisis in the State of Alaska. You have received much input from constituents on the current proposal to slash education, the ferry system, healthcare, and other essential services to residents of Alaska. We need to add our voices to that input.

We have lived in Alaska since 1966, raised five children here, and built our careers and retired here. When we arrived in Alaska, the North Slope was non-existent, the ferry system was the main method of travel between major Southeast ports, and we paid an income as well as an education tax to the State of Alaska.

When former Governor Walker attempted to ease the looming budget crisis, we testified for the renewal of the income tax and did not complain about the reduced PFD. We were dismayed when the leader of the Senate refused to consider the hard work done by the House to find a way to stabilize the state budget. We can't help but think that today would be a much brighter fiscal moment if that bill had passed.

So for the record, we support the following:

1. We support a fully-funded Alaska Marine Highway system as part of the Alaska road system. A large PFD will not cover the added expenses incurred by Southeast Alaska residents as they travel from community to community.
2. We support adequate funding for Pre-K through post-secondary education. The proposed cuts to public education and the university system will decimate education in Alaska.
3. WE support a progressive income tax that eases the burden for those at lower income levels. This continues to be an important consideration given that Alaska is one of only a handful of states with no income tax. Relying mainly on non-renewable extraction industries for our income is unhealthy and financially naive.
4. We support a stabilization of the PFD that might be tied to oil and PFD income so that in boom years (if that should ever occur) the dividend might be higher. We appreciate that many Alaskans depend on the dividend program, but they also depend on such services as education, healthcare, and public safety. A balance is needed, and the dividend amount must be an amount that the state can afford while providing other important services. We can't afford a dividend amount that shifts costs to the municipalities, a shift that would raise property taxes and rents and touch the lives and finances of all residents. A \$3000 dividend will not cover the increased individual costs of healthcare, housing, college tuition, and other impacted services should the administration's proposed budget be enacted. It is as if the administration is ignoring the relationship between the state and its communities, as if the administration is effectively saying that we can make the state look good and "open for business" while we decimate the communities within that state.

In addition, we believe the following:

1. We are not sure the state is getting a fair price for the people's oil resource. We were promised in SB 21 (which we did not vote for) that we would see more oil flowing and hence more income. Apparently that has not happened. We need to revisit our financial deal with the industry.

2. We also believe that Alaska is not "the natural resource warehouse" for America. What is suggested here is that we are ripe for the unregulated picking. However, we are not some uninhabited territory without a history, without families, without traditions and lifestyles that can be bulldozed over and scraped bare for temporary jobs for the many and ultimate riches for the few. We are not a place where long established renewable resources upon which fishers and traditions depend can be threatened for short-term financial gain. This is not to say that we cannot develop resources, but this development must be done carefully and reflect in its profit projections the cost of environmental and renewable resource protection that will stand the test of time and not fail the natural environment long after an extraction industry has disappeared from the landscape.

We appreciate the House Finance Committee's efforts to hear from a wide swath of Alaska's peoples. We understand that you are dedicated to the hard work of finding sensible solutions that require all proposals be looked at carefully. There is much to consider here and decisions must be made with careful thought, research, and fact-based discussions.

Sincerely,

Bob and Judy Andree

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: Gordon Williams [REDACTED]@me.com>
Date: March 24, 2019 at 2:35:54 PM AKDT
To: fairbanks.ljo@alaskaleg.gov, housefinance@akleg.gov
Subject: Testimony

This is my testimony from today. I was the second speaker.

Hello, my name is Gordon Williams.

In my view, there is no budget crisis. Well, there is, but only to the extent that we don't have the will to do what is necessary.

There are two sides to a budget, as anyone who has struggled to come up with rent money on time can tell you. There is revenue, and there are expenses. For too long in this state we have focused on cutting expenses. When spending is profligate, there is wisdom in this approach. But. Continuing to cut essential services that the government provides — the roads, the schools, the prisons, the cops, the care of the indigent, the incapable and the infirm, the biologists, the regulators that protect us from the excesses of industry and unethical business actors — at some point that becomes self defeating. We have passed that point.

Tax me. Tax us. Tax the income generated in this state for the benefit of its citizenry. Use some of the earnings on the permanent fund— that's what it was set up for.

Support all levels of education. To do otherwise is to eat our seed corn. We need researchers, and highly trained

professionals, and high quality education for our young people if we want to expand and diversify our economy in this state, and to have people equipped to solve the very real problems we face.

And for gods sake, do not privatize the prisons. The profit incentive is incompatible with rehabilitating offenders, it aligns instead with putting more people than necessary in prison, keeping them there as long as possible, and with treating them as poorly as can be gotten away with.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Best wishes,
Gordon

From: Diana Redwood [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska budget

Hello,
I am writing to express my opposition to the Dunleavy budget proposal. We can not cut our way to sustainability. Please, please work on an income tax- I support it as do many other Alaskans.
Sincerely,
Diana Redwood
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Thea Agnew Bembien [REDACTED]@agnewbeck.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on Governor's proposed budget

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I am a lifelong Alaskan and an owner of a small business in Anchorage with 23 employees. I urge you to reject the Governor's proposed budget and to instead use the December proposed budget as the starting point for your deliberations. I reject the Governor's idea that we have a \$1.3B deficit. What we have is an opportunity to mature as a state. I have received the PFD every year since it was created. It is an excellent method for maintaining citizen involvement in government and an excellent boost to family finances, especially for low income families. That said, the PFD has always been allocated by the legislature each year based on the finances of the permanent fund and the needs of government. It cannot and should not ever be considered a replacement for funding government services. When we determine additional revenue is needed, we should tax ourselves proportional to our incomes to provide it.

I have invested in Alaska: I have operated a successful business for 16 years; I recently bought a house, the third one I have owned in Anchorage; I have two children in school; my husband did all of his pre-med schooling at UAA. We are invested in Alaska past, present, and for the future. The State of Alaska must also invest for us to have a future worth having. We need great schools, the university system, health care, especially for people with low incomes, a ferry system, a seafood marketing program, all the things that help us to function in our communities, to grow, learn, and live. Without these essential elements

of community life, we will not be able to attract and retain workers and fellow community members. We will not be able to meet the needs of those who are growing up, or have grown up, without adequate family support, and those who are aging in our communities. These are the functions of government, which are critical for those of us in the private sector to do our part to build our economy and communities. It is not one or the other, it's both.

Please reject the governor's proposed budget and its dead end vision for Alaska's future. Any governor who can put in a public letter that he is "agnostic about the future of the university system" is, in my opinion, fundamentally opposed to the future of our state. Please be brave and put forward a positive vision for our future and know, when you do, you will have plenty of support from those of us who are invested in Alaska today and for the decades to come.

Thank you for your service,

Thea

Thea Agnew Bemben
Managing Principal

Engage, Plan, Implement. Agnew::Beck

From: StocksFam Alaska [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 2:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pfd

We ask the you follow the original PFD law and we stand behind Dunleavy and a full pfd.
The PFD is not for the government to use and abuse.
PFD theft is not a choice.
We also ask that the PFD be protected by law so that what Walker did does not happen again.
You all are in your positions by the people, now do what is just and right For the people.
Alexandria Stocks and Jereme Stocks

From: Claire Norton - Cruz [REDACTED]hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 1:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for Community Meeting 3.24.19

Dear Alaska State House of Representatives Finance Committee Members,

I wanted very much to attend this meeting in person, but it's not working out with the toddler nap schedule today, so I am sending in testimony via email instead. I am very disturbed by the direction this administration is trying to take our great state. My husband and I made a conscious decision last year – which required a job change for him to a different firm – to stay in Alaska and raise our daughter and [hopefully] future sibling. I have been volunteering with an organization that is raising funds for, and helped to get School Board approval for, a new French Immersion School at O'Malley Elementary, where our daughter will attend preschool in 2022. We decided not to move to Seattle (which had very attractive school options) with his past employer, and instead stay here and raise our family, since we both deeply love this state in which he was born, and I have lived for 27 years.

The proposed cuts to education will be absolutely devastating to the quality of our public schools and university system. My husband is a graduate of UAF, and I attended classes at UAA before finishing my degrees elsewhere. A well-regarded and robust university system is key to the success of our state and a pipeline for employers to find well-trained employees, not to mention the contributions that UAA and UAF make to our public discourse, scientific exploration, and economic forecasting.

I worry about our state's ability to attract and retain quality teachers for our schools, amidst the dismantling of their benefits and the constant stress of pink slips for the newer teachers. I also worry about public safety, and Anchorage becoming more of a dangerous, crime-ridden city than it already is. We, ourselves, have already been victims of property crime, as have tons of other people we know. Further hurting our justice system infrastructure with deep cuts, from troopers to prosecutors and public defenders will only make these problems worse. Also, shifting cost burdens to the city of Anchorage, as the Governor would like to do, hurts our ability as a city to continue to provide optimal levels of police, paramedic, and firefighter coverage to our residents.

As a small business co-owner, and a person who holds a BA in Economics and an MBA, I am also keenly aware of what these cuts would do to our state's economy. It is the spending of middle-class and lower-income households, and small businesses, that are the lifeblood of the economy. Please do not think *for a second* that we could get away with cuts of this magnitude without prolonging and deepening our recession. Thousands more jobs will be lost, and small businesses in EVERY single industry will feel the effects. I already notice the increased vacancy rates around midtown and downtown, and that will only get worse, as more restaurants and stores go out of business. Speaking for my own business, which is a medical practice, we have seen more patients move out of state mid-pregnancy, and our patient collections suffer when people lose their jobs, and need to make \$10/month payment plans while they're subsisting on one income, or just dodge their bills entirely.

The thing that disturbs me most about all of this, is that we have a Governor and a lot of legislators who are refusing to even look at the revenue side of this equation. SB21 has been a dismal failure at promoting new development on the North Slope, and it's obviously had the effect of starving our state's tax revenue – not to even mention all the oil tax credits that we pay to these companies. Hearing that Alaska is ConocoPhillips most profitable region in the world by a factor of about 2 is sickening. Clearly our legislators – some who are even on their payroll – have done a terrible job of figuring out the sweet spot to tax them at, where they can continue to make enough profit to maintain operations up here at a level that we're all used to, but still pay our state the money that it needs to provide services to its residents.

I am fully in support of a state income tax, in order to keep funding critical functions of our government (like quality education and public safety) at acceptable levels. To me this seems fairer than a sales tax, which is regressive, dampens consumption, and would also not affect the 25% or so of people who earn income in our state but don't live here. By the same token, cutting or eliminating the PFD only hurts Alaskans and does nothing to capture revenue from these people making money in our state and taking ALL OF IT out of state. My husband and I have to file an income tax return in the state of Virginia this year, because, as an employee of his former CPA firm, he did a lot of work on a client located in Virginia, and now he has to pay tax on the portion of his income derived from that job. While I was not excited to hear this news, *that's the way it is*, and all these out-of-state residents who make money in our oil, tourism, and fishing industries can certainly pay their share of keeping our state healthy, and helping pay for the parts of our infrastructure and government that they use.

I want to see us get our fair share from our oil, first and foremost, but I am also more than willing to pay for a government that takes care of its children, public lands, infrastructure, and the health and safety of its residents. Forcing Alaskans to choose between their PFD and the health of our economy - *as if that is the only choice that exists* – is political malfeasance of this highest order. I really hope our legislators can see their way to creating a veto-proof

majority behind some of these common sense ways to keep our economy from tanking further, and doing irreparable harm to our institutions that will resonate for generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Claire Norton-Cruz

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

From: Amelia B <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 1:43 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Operating Budget Testimony

March 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Amelia Budd and I want to first thank you all for your time and your service to our state, and thank you especially for initiating this public process of visiting communities to collect testimony.

I live in Sitka and I'm writing to you on my own behalf and not in any official work-related capacity. I've worked in social services and education for most of my career. I am also a former small business owner and a current University of Alaska graduate student. I'm the parent of a child about to enter our school system, the child of a parent in the Sitka Pioneer Home, a Mt. Edgecumbe High School graduate, and a concerned community member.

I am writing to strongly urge you to reject Donna Arduin and the Governor's state operating budget and support funding for pre-K, K-12 education, the university system, the Alaska Marine Highway system, the Pioneer Homes, public broadcasting, and the many other community services that have always been supported by the State of Alaska. Candidly speaking, it feels like a slap in the face to myself and to all Alaskans who in good faith, have built lives and invested in homes and businesses and careers here, put our children in Alaskan schools and our elders in Alaska's Pioneer Homes, and made Alaskan communities our homes.


The governor's plan would clearly have fallout including devastating Alaska's economy and quality of life. From campus closures to reduced home values, a shuttered Alaska Marine Highway System to classrooms with 45 students, the potential impacts are far-reaching. Even as a parent grappling with the high cost of living, I would strongly support a reduced or eliminated PFD and a broad-based tax over this devastating budget. I also believe we need to change the conversation and look to you, our legislators, to lead this charge.

Like many Alaskans, I see the false premise we're being delivered by the Governor's administration that we have two choices: we can have a PFD *OR* we can have funding for infrastructure. I believe we can have both, and I think the facts and numbers support this. Why are non-resident workers, who make up approximately 21% of Alaska's workforce, not paying taxes on their often profitable seasonal jobs? Why are we continuing to pay over \$1 billion in oil tax credits?

Alaskans want a different conversation with all options on the table, with the people and communities of Alaska prioritized, and not outside special interests like oil companies. Like many Alaskans, I support and hope for growth in our communities, but innovative and sustainable growth that includes keeping teachers and a ferry system and a robust public university and public safety and broadcasting and elder care. This is the kind of state people want to live in, the kind of state people put down roots in, the kind of state people invest in.

Thank you for your time and again sincere thanks for your service, especially in these difficult and uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Amelia Budd
PO Box 6582
Sitka, AK 99835
@gmail.com

**Comments concerning the proposed State Operating Budget
Presented at the House Finance Committee hearing on 3/24/2019
By John Bruce Gazaway**

Thank you to Representative Ortiz and Representative Kreiss-Tomkins, and to all other members of the House, for providing this opportunity to speak on this important issue.

The Dunleavy Budget represents a radical departure from the practices of previous Administrations. Clearly our State is in the midst of a budgetary crisis that demands decisive action. However, not all decisive actions are equally effective. I believe that the budget proposed by the Administration will cripple the patient in the effort to cure the disease. There are other solutions available that will cure the problem without causing the same level of damage to the Alaskan body politic.

The damaging aspects include the drastic cuts imposed upon education, devastating cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway system and the loss of funding to local governments across the state. These budget cuts will cripple the economies and the communities of South Eastern Alaska.

To me the obvious solution involves increasing revenue sources combined with the existing efforts by State agencies to control costs and create efficiencies. We must utilize some portion of the profits from Permanent Fund Dividend to support essential Governmental Services. We must re-impose a State Income Tax.

I grew up in the territory and then the State of Alaska. One of my first full time jobs was to process State Income Tax returns. Every Alaskan paid state income taxes in the early days of Statehood. We each helped support the schools and the ferry system ... and it did not hurt us to do so.

Submitted by
John Bruce Gazaway
[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835

From: Dave [REDACTED]@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 1:02 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget testimony

The vast majority of Alaska's are testifying against the budget as proposed by the Governor and its effects. Although important, the focus, at this time, should be on what could be loosely defined as a coup against the people of Alaska. Due to a series of unfortunate occurrences, the 2018 election gave us Governor Dunleavy. This was a planned effort by shadowy, and not so shadowy, out side groups. Governor Dunleavy was not elected as a Governor of the people of Alaska, but rather as a willing participant in an attempt to coop Alaska, and its riches, for their own interests. The group, building on their failed efforts in Kansa and Oklahoma, are attempting to foist the same actions on Alaska. After the complete failure of their "plan" in other states, they are attempting to continue with the same failed experiment with Alaska. There is no reason to believe that the outcome would be any different here. The potential is there for it to be much worse, Kansas and Oklahoma have a greater population and larger tax base. That provided somewhat of a shock absorber, but still ended up in utter failure.

It now becomes the job of the legislature to stand up against these actions. I have little faith in the Senate, but I do feel the house has enough members who understand basic economics that might be able to foil some of the more egregious parts of these attempted actions by the Governor's "budget director" and the other hangers on surrounding this administration. It is a travesty that the best the state can hope for is to minimize some of the wounds.

In simple terms, a successful budget is a combination of strategic cuts, and revenue. Governor Hickel stated once that "There is no vision, no hope, no future, no agenda for Alaska, if your only philosophy, if your only cause is to cut the budget". This is as true today as it was then. Governor Walker will be remembered as the Governor who made the necessary cuts, however unpopular they were. There is simply a very minimal number of further cuts that Alaska can withstand without turning in to a wasteland. There will be significant long-term damage to the State of Alaska if portions of this failed experiment are propagated. If fully implemented, I am not at all certain that Alaska could recover. That belief is shared by most conventional economists.

The elimination of the oil tax credits, which run around 1.4 billion or so this year, would balance the budget along with a moderate amount of taxation. I am pleased to see a former banker on the House Finance Committee, he, more than anyone, should understand that revenue is an essential portion of a successful business, and by extension, Government. I suspect, know, that the Senate will not take up the issue of the credits. They will continue to attempt to gaslight Alaska by stating that they are already gone. They aren't. They are the same group that states that our oil taxes are in the 35% range, which is typical for most areas, they aren't. Once credits are factored in, the real rate is approximately 4.5%. We simply cannot survive as a State by giving away resources. The Governor has stated that no revenue will be considered. That is a recipe for failure.

There is no way to undo the outcome of the 2018 election. The best Alaska can hope for will be courageous legislators who will stand up for Alaska and stop as much of this potential disaster as they can. Going forward, do the legislators want to be remembered as a Vic Kohring or as a Wally Hickel? The choice is there's.

From: Sarah Ferency [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 12:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reject Governor's budget

Sarah Ferency

[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

March 24, 2019

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify. My name is Sarah Ferency. I oppose the Governor's proposed budget because it does not reflect Alaskan values. I came to Alaska 23 years ago as a visitor, and I never left. When asked why I stay, I often cite the sense I got that first summer, backpacking around the road system, that we're all in this together. Life in the North is too harsh for an every-man-for himself culture.

The Governor has framed this budget debate as a choice between PFDs and essential community services. This is a false choice, because it leaves out new revenue and oil tax reform. I urge you to develop a balanced system for supporting those services that are provided more efficiently and effectively by government, such as K-12 and University education, the Alaska Marine Highway, elder services, and Medicaid.

This system should include new revenue, such as a modest income tax. Over 20% of the Alaska work force does not live in Alaska, including highly paid North Slope workers and itinerant medical professionals. Alaska has been good to these people, it is reasonable to ask them to pay their fair share. An income tax might cancel out my family's dividends, but I don't mind if it means we have schools worth sending our children to, and if it keeps money in the parts of the state with very small cash economies.

We also must reconsider the current oil tax credit system, which serves only to deplete our collective natural resources while enriching multinational corporations and their Outside shareholders. We have the lowest effective oil tax rate of any major US oil-producing state, and yet there is no evidence of increased production as a result.

In Alaska, we all pull together to survive and thrive. These are the Alaskan values that drew me to settle here, and that keep me here today. Please reject the Governor's proposed draconian budget cuts, and the false choice he would like us to believe in.

Thank you so much for your service.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ferrence

From: Chris Coffman [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 12:49 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Oppose Cuts to State Services

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Chris Coffman and I live in Fairbanks, where I am a member of the faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am writing to ask for your help in preventing the debilitating effects to our state that the adoption of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget would impose. The Governor's proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget will significantly cut education, healthcare and other government services, all of which provide Alaskans with the support they need to prosper under the special conditions inherent in our state. I believe the administration of the Alaska PFD can be managed in a fashion that is equitable and that embraces a prosperous future for all Alaskans; I believe that oil companies based outside of Alaska should not be granted extensive credits and incentives that come at the expense of the opportunities and well-being of Alaska's people; and I believe that there should be a tax on income that applies both to Alaska residents and to those who work in Alaska but live outside of the state. I respectfully ask that during budget deliberations you lobby strongly against the proposed cuts and instead support a policy approach that considers the good of all Alaskans now and into the future.

Each of the cuts proposed by Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget fatally affects the ability of a program or service that contributes to a better life for Alaskans. As a vital part of the University of Alaska, I can attest to the meaningful and oftentimes life-changing educational resources it provides to the people it serves and how those people in turn make Alaska thrive. I can also attest to the need for a wide selection of academic programs at all three of our main campuses, which serve many students who are place-bound and deserve the same opportunities enjoyed by students who live in more populous states. My interactions over the years make it clear that all Alaskans want their state to grow and prosper and they want that same prosperity for their children, grandchildren and all the generations that follow. Alaskans know that the best way to ensure sustainable prosperity is through enlightened policy that considers the larger picture for all and avoids the appeal of short-term individual gain. This year, more than ever, Alaskans need proponents in the legislature that will advocate for fiscally responsible policy that looks to the future for all Alaskans. I am asking for your support towards that goal.

My colleagues and I understand the difficult task the legislature faces and have deep respect for the challenges you currently face. This year's state budget puts clear choices before all of

us but I hope that you agree: it is in the best interest of the great State of Alaska to consider all of the options for funding services. I ask that you oppose the Governor's unneeded statewide cuts and vote to override any veto action he may take.

Thank you very much for your service to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,
Chris Coffman

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Meggie [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 12:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written testimony for budget

Hi,
My name is Meghan Aube-Trammell, I am a Palmer, AK resident. This is my written testimony against the Governor's budget.
I think his budget is the worst a Governor has ever proposed, he is proposing cuts to our state that are essential. We need to instead increase funding to education, the university, and health and human services. We should not be raising the cost for seniors to live in the Pioneer Homes. we need to keep funding our ferry system.
I think we should cap or suspend the pfd. I believe we need a state income tax and we need to be able to tax seasonal employees and north slop workers who don't live here. We need to get rid of the oil company subsidies. We need to increase taxes on oil companies.
Thank you for your time.

Dr. Meggie Aube
Percussion Performer and Educator
President, Alaska Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Kate Johnson [REDACTED]com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 12:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Operating Budget.

Hello, I plan to testify in Sitka this afternoon at 2. But here is my written testimony as well. Thank you again for your time.
-Kate Johnson

I read that these hearings are the first of their kind in Alaska. This means the House Finance Committee is going above and beyond to listen to the constituents of Alaska. Your dedication is appreciated and is heartening to us: Thank you.

I am here to speak against Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. I believe it is bad for our state and even worse for our rural community. The cuts to public education, the University, health care, the Alaska Marine Highway, the Pioneer Home, and Medicaid are unacceptable.

The governor's proposed budget is creating a crisis for local communities, which will not be able to absorb the high costs of what will be lost. Local governments are already talking about raising taxes and are scrambling to mitigate the drastic effects of these cuts.

I don't believe the impacts of this budget have been properly studied. The economic impacts alone seem yet unclear, even to those tasked with analyzing them. Putting these cuts into place without realistically knowing whether they will trigger a recession, or an increase in the unemployment rate is irresponsible. There is fear that these cuts will lead to continued migration out of Alaska. I believe these fears are valid- we need only talk to our friends and families to know how many people are thinking of leaving.

I also don't believe the real-life effects of these budget cuts have been properly studied. As a parent who spends time in my daughters' schools I know what will happen if we lose 30 teachers. I know that the students will suffer and their education will be diminished.

I do not support these cuts to our state budget. I support a state that invests in education, health care, senior services, ferries, public radio, substance abuse treatment, mental health care, and public safety.

I want to live in a state that provides for our future by investing in our children, a state that protects the most vulnerable among us, and a state that values the voices of Alaskans.

I do not support repealing the petroleum property taxes and fisheries taxes, which will harm our rural communities. These repeals shift the burden onto already financially-strapped local communities. I do not support the retroactive payment of past PFDs, which will only provide short-term relief.

I do support a broad based tax to pay for the services we want and expect in Alaska.

However, if cuts are to be made I expect them to be made with continued bipartisan cooperation and continued input from the communities and people who will be affected. I expect the impacts of these cuts to be realistically studied before being implemented. I want any changes to be carried out in a way that cause minimal impact, rather than enormous cuts that will cause harm to our state and the people of Alaska. We deserve better than what is being offered.

Thank you again for your time.

From: Valerie Luczak [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 12:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

Dear Representatives,

The constitution of Alaska, as an owner state, requires that the state receive the maximum benefit from our minerals. There is no SHOULD about it, but it must have been overlooked by overzealous politicians who disregarded this fact and pretty much sold us "down the river". Yes, bad contracts were made but they can be amended to a more equitable result. Promises made were not kept, and people were duped through slick advertising that this was the way to go.(SB21)

The new oil coming on line belongs to the federal government, not the state, so are we liable for those credits and incentives as well? It doesn't help that former governor Parnell and many in the legislature work/worked/are still working for these corporations the OTHER nine months of the year either...how do they consider their vote...basically sitting lobbyists for their special interests.

I appreciate the fact that you did not have to take a loyalty oath to the governor, but can be the voice of the PEOPLE who LIVE here and YOU represent advocating for a fair and equal share for Alaska, at LEAST for oil, gas, gold, copper, timber, whatever.

Losing 17,000 jobs in Alaska, to pay for a full PFD, will put our state into a tailspin of recession, with the absence of those families to the rest of the economy (this money should come from any one of many sources, the incentives to the outside oil companies based on empty promises, or other mineral extraction entities, or state taxes to those who don't drop a dime here (oil workers, fishermen, tourist/guide industry, you name it, non resident workers...) It's as if this governor/government is intent on creating chaos in recession, depression, when there is 2 billion sitting in the reserve account, which could solve the problem this year, before it gets frittered away. AND THEN, work for an more equitable tax regime for all the raw resources.

Please face this squarely and honestly and do not rationalize it as a done deed for the corporate sponsors...who are daring you to compromise the state constitution for their benefit...history will not look kindly on this period if allowed to continue on this path on which we find ourselves, mired and hopeless.

Thank you for your consideration, Valerie

val

From: Sam Friedman [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:56 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony regarding Gov. Dunleavy's program

To Whom It May Concern:

Gov. Dunleavy's proposed cuts to the Alaska budget are unacceptable.

While I have a problem with all of them, the two that personally affect me the most are the cuts to Medicaid and the University of Alaska. As a person with a chronic illness, I rely on Medicaid to live; cuts to Medicaid would, at best, result in my hospitalization, at worst in my death. I'm also a graduate student at UAA in my second-to-last semester. Cuts to UA's budget as large as Dunleavy proposed might easily mean the termination of my degree program, rendering the money and work I invested into it worthless.

I am obviously not the only one whose health and education would be imperiled by the proposed cuts; thousands of Alaskans rely on Medicaid and the University of Alaska for their health and education. For rural Alaskans who are not Native, Medicaid travel may be the only way they can afford to travel for necessary medical treatment. Similarly, while the state ferry system is expensive, it is as necessary for Alaskans who live on islands as roads are for those of us in Anchorage.

Please oppose Dunleavy's cuts to the state budget. For the record, I would support the creation of a state income tax or a reduction of the Permanent Fund Dividend to accomplish this.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Friedman

--

Sam Friedman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99501
[REDACTED]

From: kenneth mcLeod [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:48 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony regarding PFD use

To the members of the house finance committee,

I was extremely upset 3 years ago when the Governor took half of my kids and my PFD. He took that money without my permission. Where I come from, that's known as theft. I was even more upset when the legislature continued to steal from my family without allowing me any say. I responded in the only way left to me. I voted against those responsible for the theft. I voted for a Governor who promised to return what was stolen from my family; to make us whole again. Now, the legislature is working again to steal from my family. I say it to you now. STOP. Cut the budget so that we are living within our means. Stop trying to take what doesn't belong to you. Pass the Governor's budget and approve his plans for the PFD. That's why we elected him.

Sincerely,

Kenneth McLeod

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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

From: kim nelson [REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:38 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Follow the original PFD law

Please follow the original PFD law
And do your job to reform our budget
The people spoke unanimously for our Governor. You need to follow suit and go to work on a sustainable budget.

Kim j Nelson

From: Sabra Jenkins [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:34 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

I do not support the current budget for the state of Alaska for the harm it would cause for Alaskan citizens. Sincerely
Sabra E. Jenkins

From: Joe Austin [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:21 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

We voted in this last election on the reasoning of reducing government spending and protecting the PFD. I'm done with the government constantly wanting more and more money to fund to many programs that are not needed.

It's time to put the money back into the citizens hand and let them fund the program's they want to support. This constant money grab is theft to the Alaskan residents.

The PFD also needs to be added into the constitution and it needs to be done in the terms it was originally created with.

Joe

From: Kristine Fulton [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save Education, Pioneer Homes, Medicaid, Medicare--I will gladly pay taxes--I will give up my PFD

Dear House Finance Committee of Alaska,

Thank you for all the great work you do for all Alaskans.
I have lived in Alaska since 1981. I have seen this state grow to provide top notch education, top notch health care and continued Assisted Living for our elders with the Pioneers Homes of Alaska.
The Budget cuts proposed by our new Governor would devastate all these progress, and probably cause these programs to cease to exist. It takes years to build these institutions up, to create programs, to get accreditation and to compete with the outside world, yet Alaskans have done this.
As an Alaskan who has lived and worked in this state in Health Care for almost 38 years, I strongly encourage you all

to keep full funding for Education, Health Care and the Pioneer Homes. Alaska needs these to continue to grow and make Alaska a place where people want to and can afford to live.

Taxes:

I would gladly pay taxes to provide these services. Yes, I will be a senior citizen, and yes, I would still pay taxes. It is important to me that the children of this state continue to have educational resources here, and available to all.

PFD:

The PFD provides a very important source of income for many native families living on the edge, so I would not want to see this go away. However, I am totally against a big handout at the whim of the current Governor.

Alaska Marine Highway

The Alaska Marine Highway provides a very important service to coastal Alaska. Shutting this down without other options in place would be criminal to all involved. This service requires a transition, not a shutdown.

Thank you for your continued work and support of the people of Alaska.
We are counting on you to keep our communities viable, healthy, and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Kristine Fulton

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

From: Caitlin Purdome [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:04 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget concerns

Hello,

My name is Caitlin Purdome, and I live at 315 Highland Dr in Juneau. I am gravely concerned about Dunleavy's proposed budget and the impact it could have on all Alaskans. Services like the university, K-12 education, the ferry system, and Medicaid, are critical building to sustaining a strong state.

I would like you to reduce the PFD and establish a progressive income tax to help the state be financially sustainable into the future.

Best,
Caitlin Purdome

From: Lisa & Gary [REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:33 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

Members of the House Finance

Your job is to agree on a tight budget, the States spending has become out of control. The idea of raising taxes or adding more taxes to the people are not acceptable. We will be taxed out of our homes and will not be able to afford the necessities. The fnsb has allowed the school district to sit on 30 mil and when called out on this the school district spent the funds. Our government needs to be held responsible along with the people of the excessive spending. We Alaskans are suppose to live with our pay checks and balance our spending so should the government. People will be unhappy with less services but would be unhappy with higher taxes. Please weight the budget and cuts as a responsibility to correct the over spending if the state.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs Young

Sent from my iPhone

From: Estella Cotter [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:19 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD theft

I am a resident of Alaska, living in North Pole since 2011. I stand with PRO-PFD ALASKANS. Follow ORIGINAL PFD LAW AND REFORM THE BUDGET. Support Dunleavy!!

Estella Cotter

[REDACTED]
North Pole, AK 99705

From: Susan Berg, M.D. [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:41 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Susan Berg M.D. [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: State Budget Meeting, talking points:

Dear House Finance and State Budget Meeting:

Are you still meeting from 2-5 pm to discuss the state budget at Fairbanks Legislative Office, today, 03/24/2019?

Thank you,
Susan Berg, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK
99701

[REDACTED]@gmail.com
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Stephen Courtright [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:00 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating budget/SB14

It has been 30 years today since the Exxon Valdez disaster and it is impossible to calculate all of the ways in which that oil spill cost Alaskans income, food, homes, and way of life.

What we can calculate is the billions of dollars in oil tax credits that Exxon and other oil companies will receive every year from the State of Alaska. Please continue doing your work to pass a responsible operating budget and also introduce and pass companion legislation to SB14, which repeals those credits.

From: Karen Morton [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 4:07 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

I am in favor of government cutbacks and full PFD being paid please.
Karen

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ronald Johnson [REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: my AK budget testimony

We need a balanced approach to produce a sustainable budget. This should include, (1) a PFD much less than \$ 3000, (2) modest reductions in our UGF spend, (3) continue with the POMV draw plan, (4) a larger motor fuel tax, and (5) an income tax that is a flat % of the federal tax [ie- keep it simple] and/or a sales tax. We could triple our motor fuel tax rate and still have a tax less than many states.

Some details include:

I'm totally against SBs 13,23,24 which will pay out the statutory dividends for the past three years.

I can't believe the legislature can support paying out this year about \$ 4 B in PFDs or paying out extra the next two years. How can we possibly justify this when we are struggling to prepare a sustainable budget? Should we spend \$ 4 B on PFDs this year [SB 13], which is greater than the HESS, DEED [Education & Early Development], and UA unrestricted general fund budgets combined?

Even paying out about \$ 1.9 B this year [for a \$ 3000 PFD] is equal to the salaries and benefits of all the state employees.

If we want to help the economically disadvantaged, then cut the PFD to, say, \$ 800 and use part of the \$ 1.4 B saved to beef up the HESS [Health and Social Services] budget to help the truly needy.

It is ironic that senators like Scott Kawasaki [my senator] and Bill Wielechowski say they want to fully support DEED, HESS, UA, etc. and also pay out \$ 2 B a year in dividends as well as a comparable amount in back dividends. This can't be done without a huge increase in oil industry taxes plus a large income tax and other taxes.

This will not happen this year. I'm not against an income tax that involves minimal paperwork.

If there were a \$ 400 PFD, we could spend as in FY 2019, including the percent of market value draw, and have a balanced budget. The POMV draw concept is critical if we want to maintain a viable AK Permanent Fund for the future.

--
Ron Johnson

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Lili Misel [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments for state operating budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work on this difficult budget situation created by Governor Dunleavy. I had hoped to testify on Sunday at the Fairbanks event but I hope this email will help in providing feedback to you.

My family has been in Alaska since 1899, when my great-grandfather traveled north to mine in Nome. My family has lived in the Fairbanks since the 1920s. I have a deep and lasting connection to this place and this state. However, the cuts proposed by the Dunleavy administration will have a devastating effect on my family and Alaska. I encourage you to not sell out our state to pay full dividends. My reason, and my family's reasons, for staying in Alaska have never been built on the PFD.

I encourage the finance committee to ignore the governor's budget. Please start again with a balance of using the PFD, putting in a small income tax -which will also tax out of state workers, and increase the gas tax. Do not shortchange Alaskan and please help us stay out of a recession which will happen under the Dunleavy budget.

I also encourage you to speak out against the Koch brother's involvement in our state government. If we wanted libertarians running the state, we would have voted them in.

Thank you for your work on this important issue,
Lillian Anderson-Misel
Fairbanks, AK

From: Gemmabaquiran [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Subject: Protect save our PFD

Sir/Ma'am,

Action speaks louder than words. That's why my family, friends, and acquaintances voted for Gov. Mike Dunleavy. Even Mr. Beigich promise our pfd, he will probably do the same thing like Walker. We hope that Gov. Dunleavy feel our trust for him to do his job and keep his promises. We the Alaskans voted and trusted him.

Wish we could be there, but I have family members who have health issues so we may not be able to attend the rally to protect and support our PFD. It is very clear that we the Alaskans voted for Gov. DUNLEVEY. Please help save, protect and defend our PFD.

Thank you for your diligence in protecting and defending our PFD.

Thank you,

Baquiran Family

From: Kandy Swedberg [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:27 PM
To: House Finance<House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Town hall meeting Soldotna

I didnt get a chance to testify so I would like to voice my opinion.

I would like to have a balanced state budget.
I have Three very talented Kids that just out and are in college.
They all go to college out of state with some scholar ships.
With out a balanced budget there is no hope for them to ever come back to Alaska
There is no future here without a functioning government.

I also think we all deserve our PFD . You took it from us. That is not your right to Tax us in that way.
So MAKE CUTS BALANCE THE BUDGET & give us FULL PFD

Kandall Swedberg Soldotna AK

From: Josh Hejl [REDACTED]@mail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony for the record.

1. Move the Legislature from Juneau to Southcentral Alaska – Anchorage has space and could accommodate the many elected officials already traveling through Anchorage to Juneau, and this would allow greater access for all Alaskans to the Legislative process.
2. Please eliminate all tax breaks and credits, and incentives for the oil companies immediately. They aren't going anywhere as long as there's oil in the ground.
3. Implement a State income tax and/or a State sales tax to allow for a more stable revenue stream for the State.

4. Fund our schools from Head Start through the university level at the rate it was originally in last year's budget.
5. Provide a guarantee of funding for our schools at three years at a time so they can spend more time teaching, researching and contributing to our communities and less time working to secure funding.

Josh Hejl

[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](#)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 23, 2019

Debra Syvertson

[\[REDACTED\]@mtaonline.net](#)
[REDACTED]

Wasilla, AK 99654

Community Budget Hearing

Permanent Fund Dividend & FY20 Budget Discussion: Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue before you.

My name is Debra Syvertson, born and raised in this great state of Alaska.

Alaskan resources are extracted from the land and seas.

Historically, worker wages from the extraction of our resources are leaving Alaska, such as oil, mining, and fishing etc.

Most recently, due to the Alaska Oil Tax Credits and lower oil prices, our revenues fall short (1.6 B).

Obviously continuing to lower revenues is not the answer.

In the last four years, good work has been done to begin to solve these issues.

Thank you for saving the PFD with the Partial Budget funding appropriated by law for the last three years.

Now is what matters, the issue is priorities in this year's appropriations.

My comment is simply: Please continue staying strong with appropriate follow-thru of the Alaska Permanent Fund with the Percent of Market Value structure, while continuing to reduce Oil Tax Credits, and find another revenue stream like broad based tax or sales tax from people that continue to freely use the resources of Alaska.

Finally, Education spending should focus on training the students of Alaska for the work in Alaska.

Thank you for the work you do.

Committee chairs Wilson and Foster and members of the House Finance Committee, I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you regarding the state budget. My name is Tor Anderzen, I am a Palmer resident and the president of the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. We are a professional organization with 150,000 members worldwide and over 800 members in Alaska. Our organization is comprised of Civil Engineering professionals who serve both in the public and private sector for agencies and local businesses across Alaska.

The reason I am here to testify before you today is to bring awareness to the infrastructure needs in our state. As Civil Engineers, our commitment is to serve the public and to protect the safety, health and welfare of the public in all work we do. We are responsible for making it possible to have clean drinking water, functioning roads, airports, dams, railroads, and ports to name a few. We are also responsible for ensuring that schools and hospitals are safe and structurally sound for our children and family members during catastrophic events, like earthquakes. One of ASCE's most critical missions is to advocate for our infrastructure needs, because failing infrastructure impacts not only our economy, but also to the safety and livelihood of all Alaskans.

We recognize that we are in a time when the budget need to be reduced, but want to encourage you to find a sustainable budget that allows for maintenance of and capital investment in our infrastructure.

In 2017 the ASCE Alaska Section released the first Report Card on Alaska's Infrastructure. This forum does not give me enough time to go into details regarding the report card, and I offer to follow up with an email to the committee to give details.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the committee.

The report card was a comprehensive evaluation of nine infrastructure categories in Alaska. The report included Airports, Dams, Roads, Energy, Ports, Harbors, the Marine Highway System, Water & Wastewater, and Solid Waste. Over 40 volunteers poured over countless publicly available

reports and came up with a cumulative grade of C- for our infrastructure. A common theme throughout the report is that our infrastructure is aging and needs repair. Parts of our state are suffering from the effects of thawing permafrost, coastal erosion, and sea level rise, where communities are literally sinking and falling into ocean. We have roads and airports that are not receiving adequate maintenance because it continues to be deferred due to budget cuts and has resulted in the closure of several maintenance stations. We have areas of our state where families do not have access to clean drinking water in their homes and still use "Honey Buckets". We also have a major port that is sitting piles that are in a state of such corrosion, that its structural integrity is compromised. There are many other examples that are included in our report card and we encourage you all to read it.

We ask that you take these examples into consideration, as these repairs are necessary and the cost to repair will only compound over time. Alaskans deserve better, so we must build a solid foundation by providing the needed funding to maintain and improve our infrastructure.

Here follow a brief summary of the 2017 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure.

The lowest grades were drinking water (D), marine highways (D), and ports (D).

Category	2017 Alaska Grade	2017 National Grade
Aviation	C	D
Bridges	B-	C+
Dams	C+	D
Energy	C-	Not graded
Marine Highways	D	D (inland waterways)
Ports & Harbors	D	C+
Roads	C-	D
Solid Waste	C	C+
Water & Wastewater	D	D for both water and, D+ D+ wastewater)
GPA	C-	D+ (16 categories)

Key Messages

- Infrastructure is Alaska's economic backbone
 - Our infrastructure needs to work a bit differently than the rest of the country to support our way of life
 - We're eight times more likely to use Aviation for transportation than the rest of the country
 - We face subarctic temperatures that need different solutions for things such as solid waste management
 - Remote communities often do not have modern infrastructure, such as running water
- The state's budget challenges put our infrastructure at risk
 - We need long-term, sustainable funding to ensure our infrastructure gets the improvements it needs
- We can solve our infrastructure challenges:
 - All infrastructure owners and operators should create and fund capital replacement plans for both immediate and long-term needs.
 - Alaska's infrastructure needs routine maintenance.
 - Elected officials need to lead the effort to improve Alaska's infrastructure for today and in the future.

- Alaska should support and encourage innovative solutions to infrastructure funding.

Aviation

- The people of Alaska are eight times more likely to use aviation as transportation than people in the rest of the country.
- Aviation in Alaska is a huge economic engine, contributing approximately \$3.5B annually to the state's economy.
- Alaska's largest airport, serves approximately 5.4 million passengers annually. ANC is also a cargo airport second only to Memphis in the U.S and among the top five globally.

Bridges

- Alaska has about 1,400 bridges, the majority of which are less than 50 years old.
- While less than 10% of Alaska's state and local bridges are rated as being in poor condition, the critical and economical time to maintain this key infrastructure is before problems arise;

Dams

- There are currently 178 dams in Alaska
 - including 20 hydroelectric dams regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - 28 with high hazard potential
 - Currently, 25 of Alaska's 28 high hazard potential dams have emergency action plans.

Water/Wastewater

- Alaska's water and wastewater systems can be generally divided into two categories: municipal and rural.
 - Most municipal systems that serve more densely populated areas are stable and have good management and funding to operate and maintain those systems.
 - However, many homes in these communities still rely on individual well and septic systems due to the high cost of expanding existing systems.
- The state has over 280 rural communities, 31 of which have no centralized water or wastewater system and must rely on hauling water from rivers, lakes and ice to meet their needs and on outhouses for wastewater disposal.
 - For those rural communities that have water and wastewater systems, their systems are degrading due to the high cost of energy, lack of population to support higher than average maintenance costs, and a shortage of experienced operators to maintain the systems.
- Alaska has a total estimated funding need of \$1.5 billion for water and wastewater systems based on current conditions.

Energy

- Alaska's power generation systems are generally in excellent condition in the larger, urbanized and highway-accessible areas of the state
- Transmission systems, however, have not kept pace, and portions of the system do not provide sufficient capacity for efficient and economic power delivery.
- Many energy facilities, including generation units and bulk fuel tank farms, are in fair to poor condition.

Marine Highways

- In 2015, the Alaska Marine Highway System served 288,133 passengers and 100,547 vehicles, two-thirds of which were Alaska residents.
- The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) supports commerce throughout the state,
 - providing 1,700 jobs
 - estimated \$273 million in direct and indirect spending.
- Alaska has 6,640 miles of coastline, and the AMHS serves 33 communities using 11 ferries.

Ports & Harbors

- The Port of Anchorage, which receives 85% of all consumer goods entering the state, is unable to adequately fund a needed modernization project.
- There are 125 small boat harbors in Alaska.
- The conditions of the small boat harbors vary significantly based on the economic viability of the municipality
- numerous facilities are unable to maintain and repair aging infrastructure due to the lack of local funding

Roads

- The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities maintains 5,609 centerline miles of roadways, 3,737 miles of which are paved.
- The pavement conditions of state roadways are “fair” and the state is experiencing a budget deficit, which has led to budget cuts for the highway program.
- Without an increase in maintenance and the capital budget, Alaska will not have sufficient funding to preserve existing roadways and for future development

Solid Waste

- Alaska’s size, extreme weather, small population, and high costs make solid waste management a unique and challenging problem
- Collecting waste from Alaska’s outermost communities has to be done by air, sea, or left in a class III landfill in the community.

If you are interested in reading more about the Report Card for Alaska’s Infrastructure, you can

find it at www.InfrastructureReportCard.org/Alaska

Thank you for your time.

Tor Anderzen P.E.
Palmer, AK
President of Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers
[REDACTED]

From: Robert Duke [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 6:34 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Hearings on the State Budget

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express concern about Gov. Dunleavy's proposed budget that would balance the budget by cutting Medicare, public safety, education, and the Univ. of Alaska, to name just a few of the programs that would be cut deeply. These cuts are primarily needed to "fully fund" the PFD.

As an 8-year resident in Alaska, while I've appreciated the PFD, I can't see this proposed trade as optimal. I don't benefit from Medicare, but I'm concerned for those who depend on it, and I'm willing to forego some or all of my PFD not to cut Medicare. The same is true of public safety (though I retired from public safety, so in fairness, this is something that impacts me--even if only in a symbolic way). My kids have used and continue to benefit from the education system; and I am employed by and a student at UAF.

Though I don't live in a village, I don't see how we can expect villages to live without VPSO's, mental health care, or local schools. Education is important today for our kids, but beyond for the economy and our system of governance, it's so important to raise good citizens who are ready to compete in the workforce. As for UA, I've worked for a few universities and, in my experience, UAF is an excellent product and service. Students are well-served by the UA system, leaving with excellent prospects for good paying jobs in Alaska and beyond. UA can't be compared with Michigan or Washington for all the reasons more qualified experts than I have already testified. It's the right university for Alaska, and it gets better every year. Please don't cut it to the point where it can't continue to be the economic engine that it is now.

In summary, even those programs I don't use are valuable to someone in the state--a significant number of individuals--thus, I'm willing to give up some (or all) of my PFD to support these. Furthermore, I'm strongly committed to trading my PFD for the things that most effect me: public safety, education, and the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jon "Rob" Duke

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Michael Backus [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 5:57 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: House Finance Committee Community Meeting

Michael Backus

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

Wasilla, AK 99654

Thank you for having the confidence to come and talk in an open and public way without requiring us to sign any terms and conditions to speak. Thank you for being willing to talk with people that may disagree with you. Thank you for

standing up to Governor Dunleavy. Thank you for taking time to get your house in order. Thank you for not just voting along party lines.

I was very concerned that a republican controlled executive and legislative branch would make poor decisions. Instead, you guys are putting the breaks on a run-a-way train that's leading to a prolonged recession. While the majority may want their PFDs, the minority deserves representation as well. Instead of doing everything Dunleavy has proposed because he won by a slim majority in a convoluted three-way race, I propose a compromise. Let's make cuts. But let's not make the draconian cuts that Dunleavy has proposed. Those cuts will result in the loss of tons of federal funds.

The number we keep hearing is 1.5 billion in cuts, but that's misleading. How much in federal funds are we going to lose? I'd like to see that number?

As for the spending cap, seems to me that is a bit of a joke. Why would we need a spending cap in a democracy? We are just tying the hands of future generations. They can make that decision for themselves. Indeed, that is their right. We have a tax cap in the valley, and as a consequence we lose out on state dollars because we contribute to our schools less than any of the other major population centers.

A fiscally responsible state government would have a diverse revenue stream. The vast majority of Americans pay a state income tax. The vast majority of conservative republicans in America pay a state income tax. Why should Alaska be any different? An income tax and continuing to use a portion of the PFD earnings would provide the fiscal certainty that businesses need in order to have the confidence to invest in our state.

Every once in a while I hear people give Dunleavy credit for starting the debate. I consider his actions irresponsible. Just releasing his budget has created enough uncertainty that Mat-Su regional has already put \$67 million in expansion projects on hold. That's real work that Alaskans will miss out on this summer. We all know they're not the only ones rethinking construction projects slated for this summer.

It is not fiscally responsible to increase the size of government handouts when we are trying to balance the budget. It is not responsible to push the costs on to local governments. It is not responsible to deprive local governments of their ability to collect their fair share of taxes. And it is not responsible to deprive this generation of their right to an education.

Whether we like it or not we are going to pay one way or another. We are going to pay in the form of more local taxes, more expensive higher education, a less skilled workforce, a poor healthcare system, more crime, more homelessness, more drug addiction, or a reduced PFD and/or an income tax.

We can try to solve our problems by giving everybody \$3000 and hope that they'll be able to fend for themselves, or we can invest in services that have a bigger bang for the buck than we could possibly achieve on our own.

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

From: paulette laberge [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 5:42 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

I support the PFD and budget plans.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Walter Majoros [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 4:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's FY 20 Budget

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I would like to offer some comments on the Governor's proposed FY 20 budget on behalf of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition. As you may know, Alaska has the second highest rate of suicide in the country, and suicide is the leading cause of death among Alaskans ages 10 to 64.

In order to prevent and reduce suicides in our state, an array of services is necessary to help youth and adults address the social problems that contribute to suicide. The following programs provide needed support to vulnerable Alaskans and are targeted for cuts in the Governor's budget:

- Medicaid
- Safety Net Programs such as Adult Public Assistance and Tribal Assistance Programs
- Housing and Homelessness Programs such as the Special Needs Housing Program and Homeless Assistance Program
- Senior Benefit Program
- Youth and Early Intervention Programs such as Head Start, Early Childhood grants and pre-kindergarten grants.

Please do all you can to restore funding in these and other areas in the Governor's budget that will have an adverse impact on suicide prevention efforts in our state. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Walter Majoros
Steering Committee Member
Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition

From: Eryn Sims [REDACTED]yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 3:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State tax and PFD

My Name is Eryn Sims

I am writing to let you know that a state tax would devastate me financially.
I am on Social security, I barely make enough to afford my bills as it is.
Taking even a little bit of my PFD hurts me .
I use it like many others to pay for my Winter expenses.
Heating oil, high electric bills , preparing my house for the Winters.

You are hearing from people who make good money in Juneau.
They are mostly state workers and teachers.
They have jobs where they can afford to loose a couple thousand dollars and be taxed on their income.
My Husband and I make barely enough to survive with him working 6 days a week and overtime.
If there was a tax we would loose our house here and no longer be able to afford to live in Alaska.
We pay less on our mortgage than most places rent for here.

I cry because the Politicians here are only listening to organized special interest groups that have the time and money to come show up and talk with you.
I live in Fairbanks, I am disabled and don't drive.
So Who's going to listen to me?

When will you get to hear from us poorest citizens?

I'm not part of a Union that will pay me to show up, neither is my husband.

We voted for Governor Dunleavy.

That was our say, I know his budget cuts are tight, I also know they are needed.

I am angry that the teachers Unions want to steal my money to pay for a bloated, failing school system.

I am disgusted that the University has the gal to even consider asking for a dime when they have so very many ways they can and should cut their budget.

This is University that has a Graduation rate that is Shameful, a University that can't even get accreditation for programs because it's run so badly.

Why are We throwing good money after bad?

As for the fairies, I have not and will never ride one, I live in Fairbanks.

Why should my money be stolen to support my family so others can have fairy rides?

Privatization is a better way to go for the fairies.

Certainly not taking from people that will never benefit from them is cruel and just assinine.

Please, PLEASE consider All of Alaska's citizens when you make your decisions not just special interest groups and the wealthy well paid citizens.

Thank you !

Sincerely, Eryn Sims

From: Therese Lewandowski [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 3:54 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Salaries

Dear House Finance Chair and Members,

I don't know if you are the committee to ask this of but I would like it to be made public the salaries of the governor and his administration.

Amidst all the budget cuts surely they are taking their fair cut?

Thank you,

Therese Lewandowski

District 31

From: John Lamborn [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 3:24 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Pfd

Please support the Dunleavy budget.

Sincerely,

John Lamborn
[REDACTED]

Wasilla AK 99629
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cindy Himmelberger [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 3:00 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD/ Budget

I believe the PFD belongs to the people and should be protected. The government needs to learn to budget its money. There are many other options to fund the government. Hands of My PFD.

Cindy L Himmelberger
[REDACTED]

Ketchikan Ak 99901
[REDACTED]

From: vassili yakovlev [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:42 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Assistance fundings

If your making decision on funding Allocations keep in thought of human rights and the rights to assistance funding for villages with fewer population. Since 2005 higher fuel prices our region then by 2007/08 financial distress effected small Tribal Villages and the utility rates rise. At that time I advocated our second class cities to raise revenue sharing to help keep our bulk fuels fill so we can keep our electricity running and many unemployed and low income families keep heat and lights in homes. I know some of the Villages miss their Rev Share. Allocations due to not conforming with funding policy but this missed funding shouldn't be allocated for other cities but use it on members if the village particular for PC equalization and if plenty use it to benefit the village members who are on food stamp.

From: Dave Rife [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:33 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD

All Alaska Politicians;^)

For years, our state legislature has Grown government and dipped into savings to cover annual budget shortfalls. The Alaskan People are sick of your political games! State legislature has opted to kick the can down the road rather than spend responsibly, we can't spend more than what we have. Come up with a budget that will put us on a path to fiscal sanity and leave a better Alaska for our children.

David Rife

From: ROBERT AND CYNTHIA [REDACTED]@msn.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:16 PM

To: Finance <finregs@akleg.gov>
Subject: In Support of Gov. Dunleavy's Budget

I live in Ketchikan and work for the State of Alaska. Although I belong to the ASEA GGU Union, I do not share their advertised sentiments regarding the State Budget. I am in full support of Gov. Dunleavy's budget that is sustainable and balanced. I do not want to see any new taxes or lose any portion of the PFD.

Sincerely,
Cindi Davis

[REDACTED]
Ketchikan AK 99901
[REDACTED]

From: Maggie Hejl [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Mat Su Budget Town Hall Meeting

To whom it may concern,

I would like to go on record for the following:

1. Move the Legislature from Juneau to Southcentral Alaska – Anchorage has space and could accommodate the many elected officials already traveling through Anchorage to Juneau, and this would allow greater access for all Alaskans to the Legislative process.
2. Please eliminate all tax breaks and credits, and incentives for the oil companies immediately. They aren't going anywhere as long as there's oil in the ground.
3. Implement a State income tax and/or a State sales tax to allow for a more stable revenue stream for the State.
4. Fund our schools from Head Start through the university level at the rate it was originally in last year's budget.
5. Provide a guarantee of funding for our schools at three years at a time so they can spend more time teaching, researching and contributing to our communities and less time working to secure funding.

Our PFD's are all very nice, but I would rather have a reduced PFD and have state parks, schools, roads, and health services that are excellent in our State.

Thank you again.

Maggie Hejl

From: [REDACTED] net [REDACTED] net>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 1:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Subject: LIO Hearing in Wasilla

Good Afternoon,

My name is Martin Spargo. Thanks for taking the time to connect with Alaskans directly. I have lived in Alaska since 1975. I own a business, a home and have raised four children, all who live in Alaska. I have seven grandchildren.

I will address my main points first.

I am adamantly opposed to the governor's budget proposal. Spending within our means is one thing, how we get there is another. We need you to work cooperatively as representatives of the people and I hope Alaskans can put partisanship aside and be amenable to crafting solutions that benefit all.

These are things I believe we should do as a State, that combined will get us out of our deficit spending, or put another way, balance spending with revenue:

- (1) Institute an income tax based on a percentage of Federal taxes.
- (2) Modify the royalty payments from oil to reflect either the State's original language and agreements, or base the payments on other world and States royalty averages. We are underpaid.
- (3) Use the(a) portion of PFD earnings designated to appropriations for State spending needs. I am fine with the POMV plan.
- (4) Do not back pay PFD. When you find yourself in a hole stop digging.
- (5) I am not sure where we are with incentives to encourage participation from the oil industry. If we have past obligations to pay we of course have to honor that. Moving forward we should not continue to subsidize exploration and development.

These are proactive and positive things we can do. You have expert input and analysis to these specific things that I will not try to belabor or emulate.

Regarding an editorial about the PFD I recently read (wish I recalled who wrote the piece): I also believe the Permanent Fund was created so as to have a legacy fund to draw from when oil revenue would eventually decline. And I also recollect the narrative that the Fund was created so as to not allow the legislature unfettered access to the royalty pool of money, that it allowed the "people's" oversight as a braking mechanism to spending. That there was a time when some of the profits could be given directly to the people was a blessing for sure, but was not the original intent. This has become a twisted and convoluted story, one that I believe is a false narrative. It is also a plot that, to become an elected official one has to subscribe to. I suppose my question is, "who will put the bell on the cat"? If I am mistaken in my understanding I can accept that, as long as the misunderstanding is succinctly spelled out by facts and timelines.

I would like to share an anecdote regarding education and the Governor's proposed budget cuts. My daughter recently went as a volunteer with a program that sends people to Western Alaska to teach children outdoor skills and recreation, in this case cross-country skiing. She is with a group that will work with kids for I think a week. My daughter sent a text that she has given me permission to use, which will follow. The point I will be trying to make is how the impact of the proposed cuts will have on schools and programs, and the safety net those institutions provide. This is my daughter's text to me:

"This place is amazing, but I have so many conflicting feelings about it. There's this incredible joy and pride to living a traditional lifestyle out here. An overwhelming number of the kids don't live with their parents, though, because the parents are dead (lung cancer, boating accidents, suicide) or they were taken from them at a young age. So they stay at school from breakfast through (if no one sends them home) open gym in the evenings. And Sikuku (Cross Country Skiing) is a great activity that lets them stay at the school longer. I think the majority of students eat only two meals a

day, both of which the school provides. But everybody acts like family because it's the family they have. There are so many little girls here that have asked me to be their mom, and if they can come stay with us."

I am from Wasilla, and had planned to speak at the LIO today (Saturday), but the crowd was quite large. From what I can gather the messaging is pretty much the same, 'don't touch my dividend'. I do not ascribe to that notion, and am hopeful for a problem solving push from our legislature as you move forward.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Martin Spargo

From: Yvonne Begley [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 1:16 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD FOR DISABLED

Stopping the federal hold harmless for disability recipients is tantamount to a death sentence for some of us, including myself. It usually takes years to get on SSI or SSDA now. It also takes money to hire a legal expert to help, plus doctor visits, which would no longer be covered by Medicaid. I and many others, would never live long enough to make it through that mess.

Survivors would also be subjected to being homeless during those years. This will increase homelessness and all of its attendant costs. Local and federal medical costs will skyrocket, as will social services and police. Any legislators who still have any humanity left might also want to consider the human suffering involved.

The state will spend much more than it saves from this stupid, cruel, and useless move.

Thanks for your consideration. Yvonne Begley

From: Lisa Admin [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 12:18 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please shrink my PFD, charge an income tax and facilitate the government working for the greater good.

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your service and holding a hearing last night in Juneau. Sorry I was unable to attend.

I don't understand why the earnings on the Alaska Permanent fund is not considered State earnings. Please consider this state earnings just like all the other funds the state earns. When you do this, many of the recommended cuts are not necessary. As the governor request, our expenditures can equal our funds. Paying out huge PFD's and cutting education, ferries, mental health resources and so many other things on the chopping block is like cutting off one's nose despite your face.

I moved to Juneau, Alaska in 2000 for a teaching job. At that time teaching in Alaska was a pretty good deal, although not as good a deal as ten years earlier, where it was one of the higher paying states in the country. I stayed the first year because, I figured you should give any town at least two years. I stayed the second year because I love skiing and kayaking and what other town can you do both with in 15 minutes of your house. I stayed the third year because of the people. Eventually I stayed because this was a great place to raise kids. I bought my house because it was near a great Alaskan public school. I was one son receiving special education

services and one in the TED program. Both of these programs are positive contributing to our family. However, I would like more resources. The Occupational Therapist at our school serves 4 other schools as well. I worry with the suggested cuts, our public schools will become below par. As schools get more and more cuts, less qualified teachers will stay or be attracted to work here. Special Education teachers will be spread thinner and thinner. I worry with the cuts we will have more unemployment that will lead to less safe communities. I worry with the cuts we will have more drug problems.

Please use your position to help make Alaska a place where the state helps provide great schools, infrastructure so that we can get to and from communities that are not on the road system, and supports those in need.

Thanks for your time,
Lisa EaganLagerquist
Douglas, AK 99824

From: Candace Cahill [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:55 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Discussion

I am opposed to the current budget proposal by our Governor. The cuts to the budget and the plan to pay a larger dividend are completely idiotic.

The many vital services and programs, including schools, universities, AMH, Medicaid, Public Broadcasting, just to name a few, must not be sacrificed, in an attempt to "balance the budget." In addition, the plan to redirect taxes from municipalities to the state is lazy.

Although I wouldn't be the only person happy to get a \$3000 dividend, I am also not the only one who is more than willing to give that up for continuation of our programs and services.

However, I instead would encourage the state legislature to consider the adoption of a state income tax and/or a state sales tax. The implementation of a state income tax would also allow for collecting taxes from the many seasonal workers and businesses.

Kind regards,
Candace Cahill
Skagway, Alaska 99840
[REDACTED]

From: Rosemary Carlton [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:50 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony for March 24, Sitka

[Please find attached my testimony.](#)

Rosemary Carlton
March 23, 2019

Good afternoon, my name is Rosemary Carlton. Thank you to all the Alaska State Legislators for their work on the unusually difficult job of creating a workable budget for the state this year.

I am in favor of reinstating a state income tax. I also suggest reinstating the "school tax" which was subtracted from everyone's paychecks in January when I arrived in Alaska in 1969. Even though the tax would be higher now, it is still a bargain and an easy way to designate money for schools. As an historian I heard once say, "taxes are the price we pay for civilization."

I am not interested in the Governor's retroactive PFD payments. I would like to have small class sizes in our schools, fairly paid teachers, a ferry system, strong healthcare assistance, and the retention of the fish box tax that is shared with cities. And, I support the continued **protection and full operation** of the Sheldon Jackson Museum and improvements to the Stratton Library allowing parts to be leased thereby providing the state with revenue.

Thank you.

From: North Creative Design Co (via Google Docs) <[REDACTED]@google.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:41 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony

Dear Honorable House,

Did you know that early childhood education teaches TEAMWORK. It reinforces cooperation, respect, patience, and confidence. These kids develop with the desire to actually want to learn- and learn more. It inspires greater curiosity and forms better readers.

Our children are our future leaders. Dunleavy's budget pulls on the very string that will undo years and years of hardwork and dedication developing programs and services for the betterment of Alaskans. In the case of our Rural CAP Headstart, it relies on state funding in order to secure federal dollars. Even more so- they help connect Alaskans to resources, and serve at-risk, low-income families, and in other instances- even homeless ones.

I speak from personal experience watching my child grow into skills she didn't know she had- to learn cause and effect, write, spell, name all the planets, and even ask questions that leave me having to do my own research - under the guidance of her wonderful program at our Headstart in Ketchikan.

What makes Southeast Alaska so special, is that we support each other. We believe in each other, and we all understand we have to work together. We understand that something has to change and cuts do have to happen. Because if you change nothing- nothing changes. But I fear this budget only accomplishes one thing. It firmly demonstrates its power to divide all of us.

It will divide up Alaskan Families who have been here for generations.

It will divide communities from one another and this budget will limit the connections to these communities, and in some cases- entirely.

It cuts off our supply and access to each other dramatically, to our right to education, to programs that train our youth to stay and work and contribute back to the society and community they came from.

It threatens the very quality of life that make people want to live here.

And for our Governor to simply put it as, Alaskans "will have to do what they have to do"- is not good enough.

This budget was not made with Southeast Alaska in mind. We are not a budget item you can simple cross out. There are real people attached to this.

Please see images attached.

Sincerely,
Spring Barry,
Lifelong Ketchikan Resident, Entrepreneur, and Young Alaskan Family

From: David Stockton [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:26 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Ak budget

I fully support the governor's budget. Its time Alaska got its spending under control. I see waste at the state level daily. I don't get to live beyond my means it's time the state learns how to. Sincerely, David m Stockton. Klawock, Ak

From: Oliver P [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:57 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comment for public record

Dear Representative Merrick and all others concerned,

I cannot attend the March 24 public hearing due to family commitments, please include these comments in the public record.

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Further cuts to education will have adverse affects to the quality of education and the ability of our state to keep high quality educators in state.
- Cutting university funding will force our children to leave our state to seek higher education. A less educated population means a less diverse and moving economy.

-Cutting budgets for government services will result in job losses (layoffs) and also reduced services. Reduced services will reduce public safety, cause higher unemployment rates (which are already the highest in the nation), lead to more crime, and cause more people to leave our state. This in turn will result in more houses being sold, which will result in our housing market suffering, which will result in less revenue for the municipality, which will lead to more layoffs and further reductions in public safety.

-On the elimination of veteran services to the rural areas: People will die as a result of this. Rural Alaska has very high suicide rates among veterans. Cutting these services will cost lives. I've lost enough of my brothers and sisters to suicide, don't do this.

-On the Marine Highway System: It doesn't generate revenue for the state.... Neither do the highways connecting Fairbanks and Anchorage, or Seward, or Homer. Highways aren't there to generate revenue for the state. They are there to facilitate transportation for economic and social development. Killing or privatizing the marine highway system kills businesses that rely on it. We can't afford for the state to kill business.

-On cutting senior citizen services like Pioneer Homes: I've seen an elderly man with a kitchen cabinet filled with cans of dogfood. He couldn't afford to buy groceries because of cut government services and being on a reduced fixed income. Don't cut this. This is monstrous.

Why do we even need to fight for this??? This is the greatest and richest country in the world and we're cutting our elderly and veterans and our children??? We cannot afford our tax subsidies to the oil companies. We must seek additional revenue. Strangling our state through further budget cuts serves only to strangle our economy. And to your republican peers who seem intent on blaming everything on the democrats I say this: Republicans have been in charge of this state for the last 20+ years. Our economic woes didn't start in 2016, they started at least a decade before that. Our current fiscal crisis is a republican baby. Take responsibility for your own actions instead of doing what a four year old would do; blame everyone else and refuse to be accountable.

-Oliver Schiess

Concerned citizen of District 14.

From: Brandon Erickson [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:55 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: tuckerman.babcock@alaska.gov; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; kevin.meyer@alaska.gov

Subject: Budget Comments

House Committee Members,

I would have liked to come to a meeting in Juneau and discuss this in person, however with my work schedule, I'm unable to.

I want to voice my support of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. While we certainly may need to introduce a tax at some point, we first need to get our state in order. We have a lot of "nice to haves" that aren't an essential and when we are flush with income, go for it. However, when we are in a tight financial spot, those simply have to go.

I enjoy riding my snowmachine on nice groomed trails in the MatSu. I enjoy looking at the pretty colored lights installed on the Muldoon overpass. I enjoy many of the nice things, like the convenience of the Eagle River campus of UAA. However, none of those are essentials. We should have cut out spending years ago to avoid it being so painful today. The budget for the state needs to be reduced significantly in order to preserve our future.

The Permanent Fund is a separate matter and should NOT be used to fund government in lieu budget cuts. The Fund was set up to help manage the funds derived from responsible resource development. The State Constitution established that the resources of the state belong to the people of the state. Any attempts to use the Fund for budget

purposes is simply stealing from Alaskans. The Fund payouts should revert back to pre-Walker schedule of being decided by the Fund managers according to established perimeters. I fully support repayment of the money that has been stolen over the last few years. That money was never reallocated and remains in the Fund. Give it back!

My fear is that too many of the voices you hear belong to those who believe that the government should tax everyone at a high rate in order to drive equity of living standards. I, like many others, feel that while everyone deserves an equal opportunity, the outcome of our lives is what we make it ourselves, without excessive government intrusion.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my support of aggressive and meaningful cuts to our budget, both operating and capitol. Before we consider any taxes, we must reign in our spending.

Brandon Erickson
Anchorage, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: Frank Bodiker Jr <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:28 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Support Full PFD and Budget Cuts

I support a full PFD and budget cuts.
Just voicing my support for full PFD and for cuts to big government spending.
What's left after PFD account is gone, taxes. And taxes never go down once they have started. Look at California and New York and many other States.

Keep government spending accountable, its time to reduced spending.
I wanted to voice my support for SB 23 and 24.
PFD's need to be reserved for future generations.
Government needs to live within it's means just like any Alaska family or business.
Revenues fall, a family or business cuts back on their spending.

Thanks,
Frank Bodiker Jr
North Pole, AK.

From: barbara dyer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:15 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

I am in Talkeetna and unavailable to attend the meeting today. Please consider my input.

The PFD belongs to the people. The government has stolen it. It needs to be returned to the people.
No matter what anyone thinks about the money ...Theft is wrong....that is the issue.

From: Liz Jackson [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:35 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Mat Su Budget Town Hall Meeting

Dear Representatives of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to go on record concerning the State Budget.

I would like to go on record for the following:

- 1) Move the Legislature from Juneau to Southcentral Alaska – Anchorage has space and could accommodate the many elected officials already traveling through Anchorage to Juneau, and this would allow greater access for all Alaskans to the Legislative process.
- 2) Please eliminate all tax breaks and credits, and incentives for the oil companies immediately. They aren't going anywhere as long as there's oil in the ground.
- 3) Implement a State income tax and/or a State sales tax to allow for a more stable revenue stream for the State.
- 4) Fund our schools from Head Start through the university level at the rate it was originally in last year's budget.
- 5) Provide a guarantee of funding for our schools at three years at a time so they can spend more time teaching, researching and contributing to our communities and less time working to secure funding.

Our PFD's are all very nice, but I would rather have a reduced PFD and have state parks, schools, roads, and health services that are excellent in our State.

Thank you again.

Liz Jackson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

From: Michael G Decker [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:26 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

I strongly support SB23&SB24!

From: Arlene Ronda [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:10 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Correction

Dear Representatives Foster, Wilson and Finance Committee Members:

In my email to you yesterday I addressed you as Senator. Please accept this correction.

Arlene Ronda

From: Meldonna Cody [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:07 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support Budget Cuts

Please support the budget cuts.

Only allow changes in the PFD by vote of the people.

We knew what we were voting for, and expect to see cuts. We also know it may be hard for us directly.

What we did not vote for was to have the majority stolen from our clear intention of having this state run in a conservative manner.

--

Meldonna Cody
Clam Gulch, Alaska

From: Olivia Fellers [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:55 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

To Whom it may Concern:

My husband and I are Seniors who live in the Mat-Su Valley. We use this money to pay bills and stock up on things we will need for the winter as well as getting some needed repairs done on our home.

Many of our friends are Seniors and we all live on limited funding some below even poverty level according to the statistics we are not looking for handouts we live modestly we watch what we spend and by the way we spend this money locally feeding it back into our economy. This money was never meant to be part of Government budget it is a separate entity and was not meant to balance our budget the way to fix this is to stop spending money recklessly and carelessly cut things that are non essential and stop flying people where they don't need to go on the taxpayers dime. There are so many places to cut spending without leaving the schools and other projects abandoned you all need to look harder and leave the money where it belongs to the people of Alaska.

Thank you,
Olivia C.Fellers

From: Roger Schmidt [REDACTED]@fineartscamp.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:46 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State operating budget

Please use pfd fund and create an income tax to continue providing essential government functions that include education, public radio, and state ferry.

Our state is the wealthy state that pretends to be broke.

It is unethical with the abundance in our state to short change in the future of our children by cutting education.

Education funding needs to increase each year to reflect the rising cost and inflation.

Sincerely,

Roger Schmidt

Sent from a phone

From: James O'Neill [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:35 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support Gov Dunleavy

Alaska's history of not adhering to an actual budget is shameful at best. Do your jobs and get the people's house in order. Alaskans have to live within their means. We are a wealthy state with vast resources and a vibrant economy. Please use the resources that hard working Alaskans provide to you properly. If virtue signalers want to forgo their PFD, there is nothing stopping them from doing so. I read an article in the Juneau Empire last week where a resident of the Glory Hole opined that "he expects to see crime increase with people out on the streets in need of ways to get food without the shelter available." Aside from the fact that his thinly veiled threat reeks of ingratitude, it highlights the folly of getting people addicted to big government. To borrow a quote, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

From: Carol Carman [REDACTED]mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 7:52 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget & PFD

I guess I have 3 things to say.

1. Your town halls are a waste of our time and money. We have them with our own legislators and tell them what we think. You should listen to them, and listen to the voters who put Governor Dunleavy in office. Not only did he win the majority of votes, but he did so in a 4-way race (not even including Walker).

2. Basic education ideas attached.

3. Budget... also see attached chart, but here is my comment regarding it:
It is pretty simple to see (using very round numbers from the chart) that if we were spending around \$2 billion in 2006, but \$4+ billion in 2018 that our spending has more than doubled in a dozen years. Has our population doubled in a dozen years?

(chart is from page 9:) http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp...

Why don't we go back to 2006, and adjust spending according to population growth (and inflation of course), instead of trying to maintain our current spending status quo? That certainly seems reasonable to me. I bet it would come nowhere near \$4 billion. Probably not even \$3 billion, unless our population grew by 50%, and I am quite certain it didn't.

US Census: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ak/PST045218>

We had a dozen crazy, wild, spending years, but the party is over. Time to settle down and be reasonable.

Carol Carman
Chair, ARP District 9E

From: Stan Barge [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 4:08 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposition to budget cuts in education healthcare and ferry service

I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to education, healthcare and the Alaska Marine Highway.
I support keeping the PFD at current level and a state income tax in order to maintain essential services.

Thank you,
Nancy Barge

From: Rob and Rose Welton [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:24 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rob/Rose Welton <robbrose@gci.net>
Subject: Public Comment on Budget

The proposed budget from Governor Dunleavy is unfair. Throughout the Walker Administration, approximately \$3 Billion dollars in cuts (from \$7.8 billion in FY 13 to \$4.4 billion FY 18). Now Governor Dunleavy proposes roughly another \$1 billion in cuts for FY2020. The cuts are too deep, which many others have addressed. I believe the cuts are fundamentally unfair. The one glaring omission in all of Governor Walker's budgets, and in Governor Dunleavy's as well is asking the oil companies to put a little more into the hat. Last week there was a story that oil companies make over \$20 in profits per barrel of oil, compared with the low teens in other areas of the United States. The people of Alaska have done all the suffering, while the oil companies rake it in.

Why are they not asked to also kick in? It's the legacy of the "Corrupt Bastards Club" from the early 2000's. Sarah Palin showed backbone and stood up to them. But as soon as lobbyist in chief Parnell took over, the club got back together and oil taxes were rolled back. We had an initiative recently on the topic. Big oil ran a high dollar scare campaign to spook voters out of ending their sweetheart deal.

It's no coincidence that Governor Dunleavy's biggest contributor was his oil executive brother. It's also no coincidence that the Koch brother's group, Americans for Prosperity, will fund our oil can Governor's dog and pony show on the budget. The governor chooses corporate elites and their propaganda arm over ordinary Alaskans.

During the Walker administration, we have cut enough. ISER reports show that our per capita unrestricted general fund expenditures, adjusted for inflation, are about where they were before the oil boom. I watched the other compelling

testimony tonight about the public's opposition to large additional cuts. It's time for everyone to put some revenue on the table to balance the budget. The oil companies have to kick in too. The oil credits program would be a good place to start.

The question before the Legislature as a body, and each individual Legislator is whether to side with oil company elites or the people of Alaska. It is time to choose. The choices that each of you make will follow you for the rest of your lives. I pray that you an honest look, and make the morally upright choice to side with the people of Alaska over the oil companies.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Welton, Jr.
Juneau

From: matzev66 [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 12:44 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony FY 20 operating budget

Please see attached file a testimony for the meeting in Ketchikan on March 23rd at the Ted Ferry Center.
Thanks

Public meeting coment

My name is Matthias Volkmann, I'm married have 1 child and a Ketchikan resident for over 20 years. I work for the Alaska Marine Highway Systems for almost 18 years .

I'm really concerned about the future of Alaskas residents especially SE Alaska and Ketchikan , but not just because I work for the Ferry system , which of course worries me as a head of a family. But I also worry about , that many people in our beautiful State have been and will be fooled by politicians . Some people are maybe ignorant or just have no interest in politics do too lack of time disinterest or other legit reasons . Unfortunately right now it's not the time to look away or think "It's gonna be all right".

Now it's time to get involved. We elected a Governor who turned out to be a "Wolf in a sheep skin "and he's ready to tear apart Alaska's Social Services, Department of Corrections, Medicare AMHS the list is ongoing . He apointed his cabinet with varios controversial candidates and a Budget director with a radical devastating record in the lower 48 . He anouneced a so called "Alaska Road Show "a "Statewide Discussion for a Permanent Fiscal Plan "

Sponsored by the "Americans for Prosperity -Alaska " a branch of a group founded by the Koch brothers.

We all can imagine where this is going .

And he's not even coming to the State Capital or Southeast Communities.

What about that ?

What is he afraid of ?

Any criticism , resistens or strong opposition ?

Off course. He would get all of the above and maybe more .

This meeting is so controversial and has two different speakers list one for the Americans for Prosperity and the other one which is on the Governor's office web site with some speakers left out.

There is also a list of controversial conditions in order to attend these meetings like everyone has to sign in with their Alaskan ID , no party affiliated pins or stickers can be worn and selected press . Attendees give the permission to be filmed and photographed.

Sorry , that reminds me of STASI methods done by the East German Secret Police .

To me it looks like we're getting into a big scam here . The Governor already anouneced , that he will veto if the Legislators will vote against his budget plan .I think, he is on an agenda and he has already made up his mind without listening to his Legislators who represent the people of Alaska .Insted he is listening to his staff members, he put in key

positins and sponsors with a big money back up .

And he is trying to sell his plan to the public with foolish proposals and is trying to change the Alaskan Construction and then secure the Permanent Fund and guaranteeing a "No" for a State income tax .

I'm totally aware, that we have to cut government spending in order to minimize the deficit, but the way it is going, if he gets what he wants , I see a lot of hartship for many Alaskan people and families .

His cut proposals will affect everyone sooner or later but I'm afraid people will wake up , when it us to late .

I'm not an economist and have no general solution , how to get out of the deficit. But one of my idea would be to pick up again on the Carbon off set tax incentive program that , I believe the Walker administration started to work on a while back .

I hope this will open some eyes and give people some inspiration for some contructive conversations within the communities and support their local representatives.

Matthias Volkmann

From: Mary Beall [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 11:00 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject:

The PFD belongs to the people. Not to balance the budget. Restore the PFD to the full amount to the People of Alaska!!!

From: linda [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:57 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: state budget

Dear Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose the Governor's proposed state budget. The cuts to education and the ferry system are particularly egregious. I have two sons in the Sitka school system who participate in music, sports as well as drama/debate and forensics; both are also taking AP or independent study classes. These extra-curricula activities and advanced placement courses are enriching their education and keeping them engaged in learning. Music creates connections to other students and inspires growth. All of these opportunities would be eliminated under the Governor's proposed budget. If Alaska will not invest in education, then Alaska is jeopardizing its future.

The ferry system is the most affordable means of transportation for students traveling between towns; the ferries also provide rural Alaskans with access to health care, more affordable shopping, and recreation. Eliminating the ferries is punitive to coastal Alaskans.

I support a reasonable limit on Alaska's permanent fund dividend of \$1000. I oppose all retrospective PFD issuance. I also support a modest income tax. Right now, far too many people are earning their livelihood in Alaska then leaving the State to spend what they have made elsewhere. Alaska provides services to these people during their time in state; those who earn a living here should contribute to maintaining those services. An income tax makes sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Linda Behnken

From: Linda Morrison Goss [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: What will you do when the PFD money is gone?

If you don't stop pushing to use the PFD money instead of right sizing our government spending the PFD money will be gone. What a terrible legacy you will be leaving for future generations of Alaskans.

Its always painful to work with a smaller budget but we have too. If you keep kicking the can down the road and fund the bloated government there will be no PFD money left to take then what?????

The handouts need to stop. Cuts need to made and we need to explore new sources of revenue. Think about what a family would do, would they rob a bank to pay their bills? would they rob their neighbors? would they continue to purchase things they can't afford? NO they would find additional jobs to support their family, they would cut out the expenses that they did not need.

Once you start draining the PFD money it won't stop till you bleed the fund dry.
Then what will you do??? Where will the money come from then???

Be adults.....cut the bloat and save the PFD for future generations.

Linda Goss
65 yer resident

--

From: Beth Stewart [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The Proposed Budget

Dear House Finance Committee:

My name is Beth Stewart (2767 John Street, Juneau, Alaska. 99801). My family moved to Alaska in January, 1958. I graduated from East Anchorage High in 1968. I moved to Juneau when pipeline construction began and Anchorage went through it's boom town expansion. I am now a PERS retiree.

As you can see, I've been here through some changes. Before pipeline construction we had excellent schools in Anchorage and other urban areas. Unfortunately it took litigation for the rural communities to get local schools. This forced rural residents to send their kids to boarding situations in the cities. The lifeblood of any community, is multiple generations with a stake in that community's future.

Governor Dunleavy's proposed education budget will literally kill those communities. I will not stand for that. That budget will also overcrowd classrooms in our urban communities. If we aren't investing in healthy communities and our children, why are we here?

We had a functioning marine highway system. Most of this state, unlike the railbelt, cannot be connected by roads. Instead we depend on a strong marine highway system. The only ocean going ferry, the Tustamena, is nearly as old as I

am, and it needs to be replaced. This something that was predictable. I thought we'd be talking about that in this budget. Instead, we're forced to talk about closing the entire system.

This budget also strips away raw fish tax revenue sharing with communities that rely on that money. They have invested in improvements that keep fishermen, processors, and support businesses running. Alaska is country's number one supplier of fish in the U.S. Fishing is based on a renewable resource. It has sustained this state in good times and bad. We can be proud that those who framed our constitution designed a system of fish and wildlife management that puts sustainability first. Our system created lay boards that have local advisory committees throughout the state. These committees and everyone with an interest can propose and comment on every hunting and fishing regulation.

This is an indication of the public reliance on our wild, renewable resources.

I could touch on more things that are wrong with Dunleavy's budget, but I will stop here.

In closing, I would say that you, our Representatives, need to set this budget off to the side. The oil industry has given much, but they have profited even more. Fix the oil tax problem. Oil is not a renewable resource. It will only be here a short time. We cannot cripple our schools and communities to enable the wealthy to become wealthier.

Thank you,

Beth Stewart

From: Deborah Rudis <[REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget comments

I am not interested in past years PFD payback. Please use these funds to support the university system, public education, and the state ferry system.

We cannot cripple the future of Alaska by cutting funding for these critical services.

Thank you for considering theses comments.

Deborah Rudis
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska
99801
[REDACTED]

From: Joyanne Bloom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget-cents Get rid of SB21

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Here's what you can do.....get rid of SB21. The choice is not between PFDs and services. There are other choices. Stop giving money to the oil companies. Give our money to our children's future. Save our rural communities served by the ferries. Provide medical care. Help our less fortunate. Preserve the future of Alaska by sharing our wealth not with corporations but with people.

Thank you for doing the right thing,
Joyanne Bloom

--
Joyanne Bloom

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]
-----Original Message-----

From: David Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on Governor's Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

The cuts proposed in the administration's budget for education at the pre-k, k-12, and university levels are unconscionable and show a total and complete lack of morality or thinking on the part of the administration. In addition, they show absolute contempt for Article 7 of the Alaska Constitution which mandates the State to provide high-quality schools and a University system open to all Alaskans.

Education is one of the core building blocks of a society and to throw it away in the garbage, as this administration is proposing to do, destroys the future. I ask the House to move forward with an Education budget that funds excellent education for all children in Alaska. In closing, I'd like to express that the budget crisis is NOT a math problem and we need to ask ourselves what kind of state do we want to have? Do we want a state that values education and invests in human capital or do we want a state that follows discredited voodoo economics? The answer to me and I hope to you as well is a state that values education and wants to provide the best possible future for its children.

Sincerely,
David Phillips

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Ron Howard Jr [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Leave my PFD alone

To whom it may concern,

Create a budget to live within your means. My family and I do it every year!

Ron Howard Jr.
Ketchikan, AK

From: Crystal Bourland [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments on Community Budget Meetings: Juneau

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Wilson, Rep. Ortiz and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding these public hearings throughout the state. I echo the comments of so many of my Juneau neighbors provided on March 22, 2019. I hope similar and overwhelming pleas for a sustainable budget, broad-based tax, and a reduced PFD will be heard from around the state over the next week.

Good education, the dignity of our elders, the safety net of vulnerable Alaskans, and economic opportunities for all Alaskans require investment.

The Governor's proposed budget is an insult to children, young families, healthcare providers, state workers, teachers, and to all of us. This budget would sink us not sustain us.

Most concerning to me are the drastic cuts to Medicaid which would hurt our entire healthcare system and threaten thousands of Alaskan's access to coverage and healthcare. State reductions to Medicaid means a loss of federal dollars which negatively effects our healthcare providers, rural clinics, hospitals, and economy. Medicaid creates jobs and access to health coverage and care saves lives. Please preserve the Medicaid program.

Incredibly concerning to me are the Governor's proposed reductions to numerous housing and homelessness programs which will immediately result in a rise of homelessness, housing insecurity, and put other safety net programs at risk. We have a strong statewide housing and homelessness coalition and so many committed Alaskans working to house our neighbors and increase public safety. The Governor's proposed cuts would devastate housing programs, such as Housing First, which saves lives. Please preserve funding for Housing and Homelessness programs.

When I arrived in Juneau (by ferry) nine years ago, I planned to stay for one summer and have loved living here for nearly a decade. The opportunity has been great and I have made living wages working in tourism, the school district, and nonprofits. I married a life-long Alaskan and we want to raise our family here. I recently applied for a masters program through UAA and would love to continue my work in nonprofit management and social services. **But my future in Alaska feels threatened under the Governor's proposed budget.**

I'll close this email as I started it. Please preserve our budget and pass a broad-based tax, including a state income tax, and a reduced PFD. I hope you and your colleagues preserve what many before us have worked so hard to build. Thank you for hearing me and considering my comments as you negotiate the budget choices ahead.

Sincerely,
Crystal Bourland
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

From: Paul Kelly [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:02 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written copy of spoken comments on March 22, 2019

Please find my comments attached.

Thank you,

Paul Kelly
Member - Juneau Board of Education
[REDACTED]

Testimony before House Misc Committee
Friday, March 22, 2019 at 5pm
Adams Room – Alaska State Capitol

Representatives and Senator,

My name is Paul Kelly. I am a state employee, and a member of the Juneau Board of Education. I am speaking on behalf of my constituents and myself. So, I thank you for hearing me today.

I have had the privilege of being raised in Alaska, and I consider myself a success of both our public school and university systems.

I'm a success of the public school system in our state, because of the life lessons I learned from adults who cared, and the adult they inspired me to become. I remember my honors world history teacher in high school, who taught me that the world wasn't too big for me to have an impact. You can at least in part thank her for me being here today. I remember my orchestra teacher who allowed me to compose and perform my own music in concert. I thank him for fueling my creativity at an early age. And I remember my running coach, who taught me that goals weren't meant to be set, they were meant to be passed. I thank him for encouraging my tenacity.

And while it's true that our school system prepared me academically for the life I now live; learning from those educators to be empowered, inspired, and motivated has helped form me into the man I am today.

What kinds of successes do we hope for our students tomorrow? When we cut even 3% we're not just crowding students into classrooms, we're deciding which academic, extracurricular, and vocational programs to cut. We're taking away the experiences that form these young lives.

You have some difficult decisions ahead of you. And I empathize. I ask that you remember my testimony as you weigh how to allocate our resources, and our options for revenue. Remember the educators who made a difference in your lives. Remember that these children who will some day sit where you are today are more than a line item or a compromise.

They are our future.

Thank you.

From: Andrew Brewer [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The State Budget is tied to the PFD

Resolution of the Dividend question is absolutely necessary for our State to move forward, form a Budget, and recover from the recession.

Having the annual Dividend "float" based on the perceived needs of the State Gov't was never the intent of the Founders of the Permanent Fund or the Statutes pertaining to the same on the Books. Jay Hammond refers to the 50/50 split and categorically condemns any attempt to cap or cut the Dividend. Yet this is now perceived as the way forward ?

The Fund itself requires inflation proofing and the annual revenue of 25% of the royalty share. This goes without question. The problem arises with taking 50% of the 5 year average for the Dividend, before inflation proofing, and then expecting the Gov't to receive its 50% share.

So fix the Statutes first. From the total fund performance subtract the amount for inflation and establish the real return each year. Do not exclude "unrealized gains and losses", since this can be a substantial percentage. (It made sense to exclude those when we were dealing with capital income for the UGF.) Fifty percent of the return, via asset holdings, goes to the Dividend Account, and 50% goes to the ERA for Gov't use.

Using a 5 year average, the Dividend will be paid out to the People from the Dividend Account (which is invested like the rest of the Fund), and a POMV will be paid out to the UGF from the ERA at 2.5 - 3% of the total Fund value. (Once things move to a Const. Amendment, which is necessary, the POMV will not be restricted to the ERA.)

The State of Alaska will thus receive a smooth and guaranteed revenue stream, and the citizens of Alaska will continue to receive their dividend as per the traditional method. And that's a win for both sides...

Thanks for your consideration,

Andrew Brewer
Eagle River, AK

From: josef quitslund [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

I'm applauded at the new austerity cuts to government services, and consider how it adversely affects economic sustainability, we need a lot of infra structure in this state, which comes at a cost, but also supports economic growth, and quality of life.

It seems this deficit came about with tax cuts to the oil companies, and the state is fortunate to still have reserves from that fund to give a dividend to share with Alaskans still. Governor Walker made some tough choices to keep things running, and maybe an income tax would be a way out of things now along with taxing oil companies again. I utilize the ferries a couple times a year, and know it is an important transportation corridor to much of the state, this Governor seems to have no interest in South East, and listens more to out of state monied interests.

We also as a community rely on public radio for so many things as well as school funding which makes this an attractive place to raise kids.

I know Oil won't be a saving grace for long as climate change heats up Alaska will have many new challenges to contend with so finding new revenue sources will be key in our future sustainability. I would like to advocate the ferry system be funded, public broadcasting, schools, various other government funded projects, and services which create Alaskan jobs, and infra structure, even if that means an income tax other other such revenue generation.

Thank you for your service in sorting this budget out.

Josef Quitslund of Petersburg

From: Ani Torgerson [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The Governor's budget

Dear Legislators,

Please do what you can to ensure that as a state we continue to invest in our future and our citizens by funding education, vital transportation like ferries, by caring for the elderly and the underprivileged, by safeguarding our environment and our fisheries. If we need to balance our budget we must look to additional revenue such as state income tax rather than decimate our state services. If class sizes rose dramatically in my kids schools or if I lost my job with the city of Juneau due to budget cuts I will have to consider moving to another state although I was born and raised here and love this land dearly.

Thanks for your efforts.
Ani Torgerson

From: Rai Behnert [REDACTED]@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

I would appreciate your consideration of the following ideas in regard to our on-going Alaska fiscal crisis and the proposed budget of our new governor:

1. Potential additional revenue sources need to be fully considered in addressing the estimated \$1.6 billion revenue shortfall of our new governor's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year (and for the budgets of the years ahead). Simply declaring that no additional tax revenues will be considered in making the proposed funding cuts that have been put forward is both illogical and a deviation from sound business practice. The legislature always needs to enter annual budget negotiations with all its revenue options on the table.

I think the biggest potential additional revenue source is still our petroleum sector. I find it astounding that Norway, which has a petroleum resources development history comparable to our own, has been able to amass over a trillion dollars in its Oil Fund (see Background information below) since 1990 while we Alaskans have only been able to amass about 60 billion in our Permanent Fund. On the surface, it would appear as if we've "given away much of the farm" to the oil industry over the years despite how seemingly well we have fared since oil was started flowing down the pipeline. How can we now find ourselves with insufficient oil and gas revenues to support even a pared back level of government services? Perhaps the greatest challenge facing this legislature is to find the will to make corrective amends in the way we do business with the oil and gas industry in order to raise more needed revenue.

Other folks have also spoken out recently about the need for oil tax reform. Please read Jack Quisenberry's March 6 Letter to the Editor in the Juneau Empire about how little we realize from our oil wealth and Joe Paskvan's March 14 My Turn article in the Juneau Empire regarding the proposed elimination of Alaska's oil tax credits. Doing just the latter would greatly reduce the revenue shortfall, if what Mr. Paskvan has to say is credible.

2. Consider switching to a petroleum taxation system like the one Norway uses to increase revenues. Alaska's Oil and Gas Production Tax under AS 43.55 is 35% based on net value at the point of production less all qualified leases expenditures. Alaska oil companies are also subject to corporate and property taxes, as well as royalty oil payments (which vary by lease agreements). Lease expenses – estimated at \$4.51 billion in 2017, for example – are what it costs the companies to extract the oil and are therefore deductible. (See Alaska Journal of Commerce, April 23, 2017). Rich Ruggerio, the last legislature's oil taxation consultant was quoted as saying that “Alaska's tax is among the most complex system with as many moving parts as any like tax system he's studied worldwide.” (See Alaska Journal of Commerce, March 12, 2017).

Norway has a net profits petroleum taxation system based on the rules for ordinary company taxation under its Petroleum Taxation Act. Because of the extraordinary returns on production of petroleum resources, oil companies are subject to an additional special tax. In 2017 the ordinary corporate tax rate was 24%, and the special tax rate was 54%. Consequently, the marginal tax rate on profits within the petroleum sector is 78%. (See Norwegian Petroleum, www.norskpetroleum.no/en/economy/petroleum-tax). The taxation system also contains incentives for companies developing new oil fields on Norway's continental shelf which seem more logical than Alaska's experiment with oil tax credits.

Norway's taxation system seems fair to the oil industry (even though I've read Norway's tax rate is the highest in the world and is borne by some of the same major oil companies who operate on the North Slope), it seems less complex to administer than Alaska's system and, if a similar system were to be applied here, would likely increase the annual revenue the State now receives from the oil industry by a substantial amount. This in turn may alleviate much of the revenue shortfall the State is now recurrently facing. I suggest doing a comparative analysis of how the Norwegians and we Alaskans currently tax oil and gas production, through the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER)} at the UAF, to validate these points and to estimate how much additional revenue might be realized.

The ISER analysis should also include a listing of all the potential revenue sources we have to fund our government and grow our Permanent Fund, but which we have chosen to largely “leave on the table” since oil and gas production began. It should be known if a similar net profits taxation system could be equitably applied to the production of Alaska's coal and hard rock minerals to raise more State revenue. Alaska only collected \$11.5 million in taxes from the mining industry in 2016. The SE Alaska Mining industry alone had a production value of \$432 million in 2017 according the industry's February 2019 public flyer). Figures like these make me think we're not getting a fair share of the mining industry's profits.

3. Reinstitute a progressive State Income Tax. We Alaskans now enjoy the lowest tax burden in the nation. We need to diversify our revenue sources and learn to start paying more of our own way again. And just how many dollars have we not rightfully collected from out-of state workers alone since we repealed our State income tax in 1980? Is this good business practice? I am in agreement with former governor Jay Hammond's objections to repealing our income tax.

4. After increasing and diversifying our revenue sources, gradually grow our Permanent Fund to at least double its current size through periodic legislative appropriations from oil and gas revenues, by capping permanent fund dividends at \$1,000 annually (adjusted for inflation), and by plowing any rightful dividends over \$1,000 into the Fund). I think it is in Alaska's long-term interest to grow the Permanent Fund into a much more sizable long-term nest egg; one that would bring us to parity with the Norwegians on a per capita basis and perhaps even larger for when our oil and gas resources become economically depleted. A more sizable Fund will put future Alaskans be in a much better position to cope with their fiscal challenges after the oil and gas really runs out. Our generation shouldn't be the only beneficiary of Alaska's oil and gas wealth.

Lastly, I oppose SB23 and SB24 in order to provide immediate needed funding for our state ferry system, public education, public safety, environmental protection and other essential government services. We need to buy ourselves more time to consider and phase in new revenue sources, and to find ways to make state government more efficient, than is available during this legislative session.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the above comments.

Sincerely,

Rai Behnert

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Katherine Brown [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Early child education

Greetings!

I am writing to you in regards to all the early education programs that may be threatened by our proposed new budget. I am a Mother to a 4yr old, and I don't know what I would have done or where I would be today without the support of these extremely important services. Parents are at a disadvantage to start because at some point we all start with no experience. These groups provide that crucial experience & support to keep families healthy and understanding each other. For the sake of all generations to come and our society of the future, *please* do NOT cut these programs!!! They touch more lives than you can possibly imagine!!!

Most Sincerely,

Katherine Brown

From: bwhistler@gci.net [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments on the proposed state operating budget

House Finance Co-Chairs Foster and Wilson, Vice-Chair Johnston and Members of the Committee:

It is my understanding you are taking public comments on the state operating budget this afternoon. I would like to provide the Committee with my comments.

I wish the discussion was in the context of additional revenue measures for the state in addition to the ongoing actions the past three or more years to cut the operating and capital budget. Alaska went through this same approach in the mid-1980s and the result was a prolonged recession. I believe Alaska was the only state heavily dependent on oil revenue that did not pass new revenue measures or increase existing revenue through state taxes. The approach coming out of the legislature the past

several years seems to largely follow the same path seen in the mid-1980s through early 1990s. The last recession seemingly was resolved with spending by Exxon to clean up the spill with the following Gulf War. If the approach is to continue trimming the budget without additional major revenue sources it seems uncertain what will bring the state out of the current recession.

The dramatic reductions proposed in the Governor's budget will seemingly steepen the recession. I have heard the rhetoric of not taking money out Alaskans pockets with the reductions in the permanent fund dividend or taxes. This budget approach will likely take as much or more out of the pockets of Alaskans with aspects including increased university tuition for college students, cost shifting to those with insurance with the Medicaid reductions, drops in home values, job loss, cost shifting to local government which will result in increased local taxes and user fees. With state reductions it will likely hit communities outside Southcentral Alaska harder with state job losses, closing regional offices and for Southeast the proposed cessation of the state ferry system. Job losses often fall on those with less experience in seniority based systems so a significant impact will be on young adults and families. As in the 1980s, affected families will often move south as they lack the reserves to cope with employment changes in the recession environment with few job alternatives available.

Twenty to twenty-three percent of Alaska's workforce are non-residents. In a resource development state the income tax offers the best approach to capture some of the earnings with resource industries. An income tax is a policy instrument and it could also be used to help offset the higher cost of living in Alaska by offering the permanent fund dividend as a tax credit and/or a credit for local property taxes. I've seen a number of local families move south with the worker in Alaska traveling back for seasonal or shift work - largely this is a decision based on the lower cost of living elsewhere. The income tax could be structured to make these financial decisions more favorable to stay in Alaska.

These policy discussions should assess the unintended consequences of these budget reductions. I would encourage a broader approach to the state budget deficit that includes revenue sources. Like anyone else I'd prefer not to pay more taxes, but I don't see a way for a more stable economic future in Alaska for my children and grandchildren without addressing the revenue side of the equation. The proposed budget reductions are too deep and potentially too devastating as proposed by the Governor.

Sincerely,

Brad Whistler, DMD

Juneau, AK 99803

From: Kathryn Clark [REDACTED]mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Permanent Fund Dividend

To the Legislature,

I would like to have my voice heard in regards to the Permanent Fund Dividend that was illegally kept from the people of Alaska for the last three years. I am 100% behind Governor Dunleavy in returning those funds to the people of

the state. They never should have been taken in the first place! It was Governor Hammond's intent that the PFD was to pay dividends to the people of Alaska for the resources that were taken from our land. It is not meant for politicians to use to continue their bloated spending spree. Yes, we need a balanced budget and yes we need to do some deep cuts to that budget and they are going to hurt, but using the PFD to continue spending the way the state has been is irresponsible and unfair to the people of Alaska.

Best Regards,

Kathryn L. Clark

[REDACTED] mobile
[REDACTED]mtaonline.net

From: [REDACTED]@alaskan.com [REDACTED]@alaskan.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's proposed budget

AK House of Representatives

The infrastructure of Alaska has been carefully crafted over a half century. The Governor's proposed budget would wipe out and off the books many of these valued services. Yet we must live within our means. We recommend that the "super-sized" PFD be abandoned and that our regular PFD be downsized with the balance used toward the state budget. We also propose that a graduated income tax be adopted. We can help pay for our state services.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Beran

Philis S. Beran

[REDACTED],
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Arlene Ronda [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY 20 and Perm Fund Div.

Dear Senators Foster, Wilson and Finance Committee Members:

I'll be as brief as I can.

I have been a citizen of Alaska since pre-oil Territorial days and have never been more concerned about the future of our state and the welfare of its people than I am today.

The Governor's budget should be a non-starter. It's blatenly designed to destroy the very government that should work toward serving all its people. Governments that fail are ripe for special interest takeovers.

No responsible budget would propose further cutting departments and services that have already been downsized until they squeak, and completely ignore the obvious— REVENUE SOURCES.

As you recall, many legislators have worked conscientiously over the last few years to both downsize responsibly and to propose fair and balanced revenue sources, only to be blocked by members in the Senate seemingly determined to put us where we are today.

Let me list a few revenue proposals:

- restructuring the oil and gas tax;

- preserving the permanent fund while adjusting the yearly dividend;

- sales taxes;

- property taxes;

- use taxes;

- a graduated income tax based upon a percent of the federal (which would capture taxes from out-of-state non resident workers—the most evenhanded it seems to me.)

Have I missed any?

None of these by themselves are enough. Some are already used by boroughs and cities for their budgets. But ALL in combination should be considered by responsible citizens and their representatives.

I hear many Alaskans agreeing. TAX US.

To do less makes us vulnerable to SPECIAL INTEREST TAKEOVERS.

You have awesome responsibilities.

Thank you.

Arlene Ronda

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

From: Julianna [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:19 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Proposed Budget

Dear Legislators,

I am very concerned with the state budget cuts that have been proposed by our governor. Deep cuts to education, the ferry system, the Pioneer Homes, to name a few, will wreak havoc on our state and its citizens.

Please stand up to the pressure from Gov Dunleavy and push for an income tax instead of larger PFD's to help bridge the funding gaps.

Thank you for listening,

Julianna Humphreys

Juneau, AK

From: janalee gage [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:42 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Dunleavy's Budget

Honorable House,

I do not even know where to begin. It appears we have dug such a hole, there is no way out.

Usually I have one or two items being cut on a state budget that I speak to, but this, this is something none of us have ever planned for.

I have this list that just seems to go on for miles and I bet I am not alone. As a Born and Raised Alaskan Living with a disability, who became disabled 24 years ago on May 31st 1995 getting my hair done I have come to realize as we live and work in our bubble we don't always understand what going on in our neighbor's bubbles.

I ask you to look at and revert the Senior and Disabilities Medicaid services back to a separate account. The legislature never intended for senior and disabilities funding to run out before the end of the budget year. This is not asking for more money. I am simply asking that the allocation be separate so it is not being used up by other programs.

It's funding needs to be in a separate appropriation or it will again run out of money due to cost overruns in other Medicaid programs.

You can stop this by simply making an amendment to the governor's operating budget that places the same amount of money into a separate appropriation for senior and disabilities. We are not asking for additional money. We just want the money you budget for our programs to stay where it belongs.

Next Alaskans across the state need to understand the value of our communities outside of Anchorage and the landlocked communities. Because apparently it is a widely shared view that everyone should just move to the city, because those of us living in the villages and smaller communities are just sucking off the tit of the larger communities, as if they are the ones supporting us. I believe the following needs to be addressed here.

Anchorage is the state's largest city, With just under 300,000 people, Anchorage accounts for about 40 percent of the state's population. YET, Anchorage has no sales tax.

In 2017 Alaska's tourism economy accounted for one in 10 jobs in the state and more than \$4 billion in total spending.

2018 was also a record year for Alaska tourism, bringing in more than 2 million visitors to our state.

2019 should be even brighter as the state greets even larger ships and cruise liners provide an increased number of itineraries. Projections of 1.3 million passengers.

SOUTH Central which includes Anchorage sees 960 Million in Tourism spending yet no sales tax, (43.9% revenue dollars from tourism) to Southeast Alaska's 705 Million in Tourism spending (32.2% revenue dollars from tourism with sales tax)

By shutting down the Alaska Marine Ferry you are implementing Forced Migration on it's people.

My guess is that the Dunleavy administration sees no value in our village communities or Southeast regions, and this has been very apparent in the fact that he believes cutting access to these communities and spending billions on moving the capital is a priority. Forcing people to move to the larger communities to survive leaving their homes forever, or worse those of us who have made Alaska home since time began, move out of state, leaving only the rich to squander our lands and resources.

The first sign of this is the very visible land grab by the Dunleavy administration on the oil revenue, fish tax, natural gas, and other incomes from our North slope, southwest, interior, and southeast regions implemented just shortly after releasing his budget plan.

Next he attacks our education systems, Alaska, ranks #40 in the national educational overview in education.

This budget attacks the very fabric of our communities. It screams shut down village schools and send everyone to boarding school. I feel we are going backwards not forward and this alone seems like a very familiar attack on the people who stood up against him in 2003 in the Northwest region of Alaska.

About 93% of Alaskans Graduated from high school, and is home to a few four-year colleges, who see a large number of students coming to Alaska for it's programs from some place else. Why would we under fund our most precious resource? Our people. Here is what I see, remove education so it is hard to get to, or access because un-educated people are easier to take advantage of. Regardless of whether or not you thought about this as the outcome, if you follow through with these cuts this is what you will do to the people and our future.

I haven't said a lot of positive things in this letter, so I do want to add one here, a big thank you to the House Finance Subcommittee for Administration for approving the level funding for public radio, television and the Alaska Public Commission.

and for funding the satellite service that many of our stations rely on for content and translator connections. This is very good news but very preliminary in the process of a final FY2020 budget."

Thank you. But we still need to restore funding for public radio, tv and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission and restore the funding for the satellite that we rely on for content and translator connections.

Why you ask is this important to me and our communities, not just in southeast but all around the state.

Because these are vital connections to the outside world, emergency alerts, weather alerts, etc and keeps our communities safe. Other broadcasters in our listening area monitor our signal and rebroadcast the alerts so that we reach as many people as possible, not only in Ketchikan, but in the Village of Saxman, Metlakatla on Annette Island, and the communities of Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, and Hollis on Prince of Wales Island. We also reach fisherman and sailors. KRBD sits at the table with the LEPC and is actively involved with educating community members on the best practices in the event of a disaster. KRBD also has a Radio in the box, which allows for an emergency transponder if a tower goes down, due to natural disaster or other means, they will always be first line of contact and info for people.

You may think I am exaggerating by using the term forced migration, usually reserved for those who are forced out of their homes by violence, persecution or danger, but is this not in reality what this budget is sending as a message to those of us living outside of Anchorage.

Even if we don't talk about Alaska's current issues with climate change and the effects it is having on villages all across our state. If we only look at the Dunleavy budget which clearly attacks all those who live outside of the city of Anchorage.

It has to leave you asking yourself, how is this not an attack on the communities who have worked hard to make this state what it is. His absence from the discussions of this budget also has to make you question his integrity and leaves me wondering if it is due to his inability to control his temper. I am guessing if he were to attend any of our town halls that are not inline with his thinking, everyone would get a taste of who he really is. Those who worked and lived in Kotzebue under his regime know what I am talking about.

I represent myself in this statement and no other body. I hope that you consider the ramifications of this budget and aggressively begin implementing an income tax and maybe talk to anchorage about implementing a sales tax. Or do a state sales tax that is implemented on communities who do not have one.

If you all can't agree on an income tax, etc. put it on the ballot, let the people vote!

You might just be surprised, most of us will pay to keep our services in tact, they are what makes Alaska great,

Thank you for your time, I know it is little and you have so much on your plate.

I wish you well, and the energy to work through this test of time.

Sincerely,

Janalee L. Minnich Gage

[REDACTED]

Ketchikan, AK 99901

[REDACTED]

From: karen shearer [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 23, SB 24

Hi my name is Karen Shearer. I live in Homer, Alaska. I support the Full PFD Payback. It is not the governments money. The PFD is not taken from our states operating budget. It's the People's of Alaska's money and an unethical tax to Cut our PFD. You need to reform the budget and raise other revenue. Not Steal from Alaskan's with a regressive tax! We Alaskan's demand the PFD to be Protected and put in the Constitutional Amendment to guarantee our Full PFD. Stop Raiding the PFD. Abide by the Law and Repay these PFDs. Thank you for your time. May God Bless Us All!

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Comment for 3.22 Juneau Town Hall Meeting

Good afternoon,

My name is Hannah Weed and I am sending this email as I am unable to attend tonight's town hall meeting in Juneau. I live in Juneau and am a resident of Alaska.

I want to start by thanking the House Subcommittee on Education for voting to preserve education funding - education is vital to the success of our state and I am glad that was recognized.

I do not agree or support many aspects of the Governor's proposed budget and support finding alternate funding sources, including state sales tax or income tax, to preserve and ensure services to Alaskans are maintained. I would choose to receive no PFD over seeing cuts in social services that impact Alaska's most vulnerable populations - children, elderly, individuals with disabilities and mental health problems.

I ask the House Finance Committee to support youth and early intervention efforts that promote healthy development, early recognition and intervention for disabilities and behavioral health disorders, and prevention of serious problems later in life - services including Head Start Grants, Early Childhood Grants, Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers Grants, and Pre-Kindergarten Grants.

Please protect funding for programs that provide "safety net" services to low-income, disabled, and senior Alaskans—including Adult Public Assistance, Permanent Fund Hold Harmless, Tribal Assistance, and Assistive Technology for people with disabilities.

Please maintain support funding for behavioral health programs that serve Alaskans with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual/developmental, and cognitive impairments.

Please protect funding for senior and disability services that support Alaskan seniors and people with disabilities with limited incomes in living with independence their communities.

Please support community programs that provide temporary, supportive and/or permanent housing to low-income, disabled, and senior Alaskans. Please reverse recommendations that reduce resources to homeless and housing programs, shelters, and food banks statewide.

Thank you for your hard work,

Hannah Weed
[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801

From: Linda Morrison Goss [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hand off the PFD

Be responsible, cut the fat!!!! We have turned into a welfare state. What happened to the state and territory I was born in?? Where we all worked and saved and spent only what was in our budget. We did not rely on others to pay our bills.

I am embarrassed by the solutions that are being considered by you for my State of Alaska. Leave the PFD money alone. It is not part of the budget!!!

Please don't respond with the same old response "well where should we come up with the money to pay for education etc". What did we do before we had the oil money I ask. We spent only what we had. Go back to the roots of this great State. Cut where cuts can be made just like you do in your own household to live within your means. I am sure you don't take money from your friends and family to pay your own bills. For goodness sakes are we as a State that desperate where we are considering STEALING from from our residents and also future generations.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE PFD MONEY IS GONE. YOU WILL ALL BE REMEMBERED AS THEIVES FOR STEALING MONEY WITHOUT THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

Stop whining and start doing the jobs you were elected to do!! This is getting so ridiculous I can't believe group of hopefully educated elected officials cannot come up with solutions other than to take money that does not belong to them to.

I have out of state family and friends that have been watching what this Legislature is doing and find it outrageous. Where else in the world would it be allowed to steal the residents money to pay for a bloated government. NOWHERE!!!

Linda Goss
resident for 65 years

From: Bridget Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 11:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony for Public Meeting on State Budget March 22, 2019

House Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature

March 22, 2019

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

The 2019 state budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy is noteworthy not only for cutting nearly everything in a reckless and incomprehensible way, but also for the lack of analysis done by his administration on the effects of such an outstandingly bad budget. Others have written more eloquently than we have on the disastrous cuts to our Marine Highway system, the Pioneer Homes, K-12th grade education, the University of Alaska system, healthcare and other vital services; what these cuts would do is severely damage our economy as well as eliminate thousands of jobs. The budget is nonsensical and we were pleased to see that some subcommittees have already rejected some of those cuts.

We cannot continue spending down our Permanent Fund and making unconscionable cuts to public services in order to provide larger PFDs.

Every state in the Union has either a state sales tax or a state income tax. Many have both, except for Alaska, which has neither. We need to pay our own way again. We need a state income tax as well as a state school tax, which both of us paid before and never questioned. At the same time, we need to protect the Permanent Fund and stop giving oil tax credits worth billions of dollars to the oil companies for benefits which we have not received.

Thank you for your work as public servants in including public input in the meetings that you are holding statewide.

Sincerely,

Bridget Smith and Jim Asper

137 Sixth Street

Juneau 99801

Bridget Smith

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

> From: Debbie Sherfick [REDACTED]@mtaonline.net>

> Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:27 AM

> To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

> Subject: PFD and State Budget

>

> I am tired of the state legislature always having to borrow from savings to pay for the budget! PLEASE BALANCE THE BUDGET! If you can't pay for it, don't spend the money! I agree with Governor Dunleavy that the budget will have to take some drastic hits, because you have been spending too much for a long time. NO WE DO NOT WANT MORE TAXES TO PAY FOR YOUR EXTRA SPENDING. JUST PAY FOR WHAT THE STATE CONSTITUTION SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AND NO MORE!

>

> As for the Permanent Fund Dividend ... This has nothing to do with the budget and already provides money to pay for state spending. PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND TO COVER YOUR OVERSPENDING! Governor Walker and previous legislatures should never have done that and neither should any future state legislature! We deserve our full PFDs! That is how Governor Hammond set it up and it should not be changed just so you can spend more money!

>

> Once again... PLEASE BALANCE THE BUDGET WITH THE MONEY PROVIDED (NO EXTRA TAXES) AND GIVE US OUR FULL PFDS!

>

> Debbie Sherfick

> Willow, AK

> Please also note that I am a member of AMAC in Alaska! Thank you!

Debbie Sherfick

Willow, AK

From: Nathan Ball [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:53 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pfd

As a longtime resident of the state of Alaska and Fairbanks I am very concerned with this talk of elimination or reducing the pfd and implementation of any state income taxes. As an individual I must live within my means or face the consequences. The state must do the same. Implementation of taxes and raising the pfd will do nothing to slow or stop the expansion of the state government. The only response solution is to drastically cut back on state services, positions and programs. We cannot afford to keep funding every legislators pet project. Cut everything that's not specifically required by the state constitution.

Alot of Alaskan residents depend on the pfd to fill their oil tanks and pay other expenses. The PFD belongs to the residents of the state not the state government. New taxes and pfd cuts are not the solution to our fiscal crisis. They will only drive people out of the state, then which will in turn decrease tax revenue, so taxes will have to be raised. It will create a never ending cycle. We cannot become California with a tax on everything and everyone.

To summarize. I support the governor's minimalist budget, service and personnel cuts. I DO NOT support any cuts to the pfd, implementing new taxes or raising current taxes at the state or brough level.

Thanks

Nathan Ball
[REDACTED]

From: George Reifenstein [REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budgeting Realities and Responsibilities

I am a 50 year Alaska resident and have worked in both the public and private sectors. I am saddened to see the Administration's budget showing a disregard for basic services and a failure to prioritize people over dogma. I am encouraged to see Legislators reaching across the aisles to come up with workable solutions.

When I was 19 years old and started working a summer position on the AMHS among the first documents I filled out was authorization for the first \$20 of my pay to go to "school tax". Although the amount went up slightly, this was a tax that every working Alaskan and all seasonal workers paid out of their first paycheck. I believe that along with instituting a state income tax, dropping the oil exploration credit scam and capping the Permanent Fund at \$1000 we need to go

back to a school tax. I would gladly forgo a Permanent Fund payment if it meant continuing the services that bring our state together while promoting commerce, culture and education. Public safety, the court system, transportation, education and social services are some of the prime reasons people choose to relocate; when these are good there's an influx and when they are lacking there's an exodus.

Thank you for considering these comments and be steadfast in showing the courage, emotional integrity and compassion that is so obviously lacking in Governor Dunleavy's Administration.

Respectfully,

George Reifenstein

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: Ann Gifford <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:38 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: request for a budget plan

Dear House Finance Committee members,

Please work to create an economic plan for Alaska that incorporates sources of revenue other than oil royalties and taxes. We can't have a prosperous state while relying on oil revenues alone. We need to attract and develop other types of businesses. To do that, we must have reliable, effective public services. Those include good hospitals and schools, a strong research-oriented university, effective law enforcement in the bush as well as in municipalities, effective social services to help people overcome addiction and poverty, and reliable means of transportation, including ferries.

Taxes are part of a reasonable plan to provide governmental services and strengthen our state's economy. Providing permanent fund dividends is not the most important function of government. When we must make budget cuts to reflect the reality of declining oil revenues, reducing and/or eliminating dividends should be one of the first things we look at, not the last.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely, Ann Gifford

--
Ann Gifford
Juneau, Alaska
[REDACTED]

From: Francesca A <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:01 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HANDS OFF THE PFD

Dear Committee,

Restore Alaskan's trust.
Restore our Royalties.

The Permanent Dividend Fund is owned by Alaskans. It is Alaskans royalties from shared mineral and resources rights. Taking an owners resources is theft. Return our withheld royalties.

Cut the budget. Stop the greed. Do not steal from me, my child or any Alaskan. I do not consent.

Balance the budget. Do not pass a deficit budget. It is irresponsible to spend what you do not have or own.

Thank you,
Francesca Allegrezza

No taxation without representation!

From: Bo T [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support the pfd

I support the pfd and it's entirety of payments to the people. I support the pfd budget that follows thru with its original promise and purpose to the folks who reside in Alaska and are qualified for said pfd.

I also support the reimbursement of previously cut pfds.

Bonnie Thumma
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

March 25, 2019

House Finance Written Testimony for HB39: FY20 General Operating Budget

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the Governor's approach to the budgeting process.

My name is Eli Ribich and I am a retired ^{Alaska} educator as is my wife.

I believe at the heart of this budget is a clear set of divisions made worse by what I perceive are political considerations:

First is geographic:

Rural vs. urban;

Southeast vs. rail belt;

Coastal vs. non coastal.

The second division is cultural:

Each geographic region has its own set of cultural values that are threatened by the over-bearing nature of this budget.

Each region has a way of life developed in part by geography,
In part by economics of place, by language in some places,
and by a system of beliefs based on the above considerations.

As Alaskans, we have always found ways to help each other during challenging, even threatening times. This is one of those times that could be made worse by creating divisions.

I encourage that the budget be better balanced by the following, more conservative approaches:

1. A modest PFD dividend, all the while knowing it is needed most in rural areas where employment opportunities are less.
2. A modest income tax so we all share in the burden of diminished oil revenues to the State.
3. A modest raise in tax revenues to profitable oil companies who drill beneath Alaskan soil.
4. Investment in diversifying Alaska's economy. i.e. an expanding visitor industry.

Ways in which Alaska and its residents are brought together:

1. An exemplary public education system that provides opportunities for all students in the State wherever they reside;
2. A vibrant University system that extends those exemplary educational opportunities;
3. Sustaining a broad Alaska Marine highway system that unites geographically disparate coastal communities equal to communities joined by an existing and extensive road system;
4. A public radio/television system that unites geographically diverse and disparate regions;
5. A health care system that cares for all Alaskans wherever they are and whatever their health care needs.

3/25/19

To the Finance Committee:

My name is Julie Hursey and I live in Petersburg. I urge you to reconsider the drastic cuts in the proposed budget which will have devastating impacts on rural Alaskan communities like mine. In particular I ask you to put money back in for Public Radio. This is an essential emergency communication service for rural Alaska in cases of Tsunamis and earthquakes as well as other disasters.

Please reinstate funding for the marine highway. This is our transportation link especially in Southeast Alaska, and an economic driver all year round moving people and goods up the Inside Passage and on to points north.

Funding Public education is an investment in our future. We want to keep families in Alaska.

Petersburg Medical Center is a Critical Access Hospital. Cutting funding would jeopardize both community health care and the economy of our town.

My concern is that when funds are withdrawn for Public Broadcasting, the marine highway, schools and hospital, it is a death blow to infrastructure. Once these services are eliminated, there may be no way back to reinstating them, once the negative impacts are apparent.

Take my Permanent Fund Dividend. Reinststate an Income tax. I am willing to pay part of the price of these services. Reevaluate the amount of tax industry pays for the privilege of doing business in Alaska. Alaska can be open for business, but it does not have to give its precious natural resources away to encourage investors.

The budget cuts as proposed gut rural communities, and strives to balance a budget too fast and too cruelly on the backs of our relatively small population. The destruction to local services may create an economic death spiral we cannot recover from.

Taxes is not a four letter word. Five letters that could ease the economic suffering that would result from this budget.

thank you for listening,
Julie Hursey

Kake CEDS Committee



Kake, Alaska 99830

March 16, 2019

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for Alaska Marine Highway System

The Kake CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Committee is writing to express its strong support for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The Kake CEDS Committee includes representation from our two local governments – City of Kake municipality and Organized Village of Kake tribe, Kake Schools as our local school district, and our village ANCSA corporation Kake Tribal Corp. The Kake CEDS Committee offers unified planning for the socio-economic welfare of our community and beyond. We have published four editions of the Kake CEDS Plan since 2004 and will soon begin work on a fifth edition.

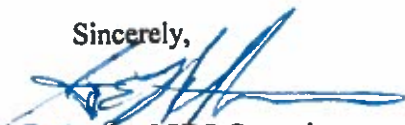
Based on our planning work we can say without doubt that the AMHS is crucial to the socio-economic health of Kake and many other communities. It is our road link to the basics of life, including transport of goods and services, and business and personal travel, exactly as over-the-ground roads links to other places. Transportation is an essential service that needs to be continued at its current level.

We understand budgets and the need to live within our means, but the state has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain essential services for its citizens and communities. If there needs to be adjustments to make our marine highway system run more efficiently (both in operational costs, but also increasing service which in turn will increase ridership and thus more operations income), then please do so expeditiously; but do not cease or reduce operations while doing that. If more revenue is needed during any system redesign and ongoing operations of our essential marine highway system, then options to raise that revenue for essential transportation needs to be developed.

For the sake of brevity, we will not discuss the long list of basic needs and uses served by AMHS that have been expressed by others giving testimony, but will point out that all segments of the population rely on our marine highway system for essentials ranging from business, commerce, health, education and the list goes on and on. Any reduction in ferry service would result in significant damage to our socio-economic welfare, including loss of functionality/infrastructure and/or unreasonable cost-of-living increases. To remove our established marine transportation link would be grossly unfair to the citizens in AMHS communities and would have negative impacts on the rest of our state.

Please contact us for any additional information, comment, or if we can serve in any way on this critical matter. As a single point-of-contact for our Kake CEDS, please call 907-321-3577 for any follow-up.

Sincerely,



for Kake CEDS Committee

**cc: Senator Bert Stedman
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Southeast Conference
City of Kake
Organized Village of Kake
Kake School District
Kake Tribal Corporation**

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-874-3013 Fax: 907-874-3955

Name: Jenn Miller
Address: [REDACTED] Wrangell, Alaska 99929
Representing: _____
Bill #/Subject: HB 39
Committee: House Finance
Hearing Date: 03/25/19

Written Testimony

I am not in favor of a PFD check if that means education won't be fully funded, the ferry system is cut, or our fisheries are not supported. Education, the ferry system, and our fisheries are vital to our communities across the state. No PFD is fine by me, if that means monies can be allocated where they need to be. FULLY FUND EDUCATION, FERRIES, and FISHERIES! None of these should have to compete with the PFD. In addition, take care of our senior citizens!

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-874-3013 Fax: 907-874-3955

Name: Brian Merritt

Address: [REDACTED]

Representing: Self

Bill #/Subject: HB 39

Committee: House Finance

Hearing Date: 03/25/19

Written Testimony

The budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy is a joke! The PFD needs to be canceled or only given to people that are handicapped or over 65. Further, people receiving a PFD (IK) that are handicapped or over 65 can submit receipts for heating or food costs only up to \$1,000.00 a year. Instead of cutting education, transportation, and AK government an income tax should be imposed at 5% of the ^{Yearly} Federal Tax Return.

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-874-3013 Fax: 907-874-3955

Name: Ryan Howe

Address: PO Box 403 Wrangell

Representing: _____

Bill #/Subject: HB 39

Committee: Howe Finance

Hearing Date: 3/25/19

Written Testimony

My family and I recieved a \$1,000 PFD last ~~year~~ year and it did not represent an undue hardship for us. It was a nice bonus. On the other hand, the local tax increases that would be necessary to offset the reduction in local funding through these disastrous cuts at the state level would more than equal a \$3,000 PFD to say nothing of the cost to us if we lose our jobs as teachers.

It is insulting to hard-working teachers, police, state, and city workers to say that we are in a fiscal crisis when we are doling out \$3,000 ~~per~~ entitlement. We want nothing but to keep our jobs. None of us is asking for a HANDOUT.

22 March 2019

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Tammie Wilson, Co-Chair
House Finances Committee
Alaska Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representatives Neal Foster, Tammie Wilson and House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concerns about proposed funding cuts for programs that seek to prevent and end homelessness. As a social worker, for the past ten years I have worked for programs that share this goal in both Anchorage and Juneau. Now in retirement, I address you as a concerned citizen.

Ending homelessness may sound like a bold vision but we have been making progress towards that goal in spite of its challenges. I would like to specifically highlight grant funding to housing programs that have been key in our hard-earned successes including: the **Special Needs Housing Grant, the Homeless Assistance Program, the Community Initiative Matching Grant Program and the Human Services Community Matching Grant**. Locally these resources that help fund shelter, housing and homeless prevention supports are shared between agencies that are working collaboratively. Additionally they have helped to leverage additional funds from other funding sources.

A few examples of this money at work:

Here in Juneau, we celebrated the opening of the Housing First facility, Forget-Me-Not Manor, that is now providing permanent supportive housing to over 30 individuals with histories of chronic homelessness. Within 6 months of opening there were 230 fewer Emergency Room visits from this population and 352 fewer nights of supervision for persons sleeping off alcohol intoxication.

For the family who stays ahead by just one or two paychecks, losing your job, or experiencing a health emergency can easily put you behind in your rent. The Homeless Assistance Program has provided emergency rental assistance that has prevented numerous families from eviction thus preventing the homelessness. Statewide, 659 Alaskans benefitted from the Homeless Assistance Program in 2018.

Having witnessed the progress made with the help of this funding, I find it heart-breaking to learn that these essential tools may be no longer available or severely reduced. Additionally, the uncertainty of future funding hampers our longterm strategies to end homelessness.

I urge you to restore full funding to these programs and thereby prevent the inevitable increase in the number of Alaskans experiencing homelessness.

Respectfully,
Laura Lucas MSW

Juneau, Alaska 99801
[REDACTED]@gci.net

State House Finance Committee

I,m writing this to all of you that thinks its ok to steal money from the residents of Alaska. The PFD belongs to us not you. Here you are setting there not willing to cut to balance the budget. If you take our PFD from us it will mean about 9000 jobs lost in the State of Alaska. And the economy will suffer. We finally have a governor that wants to take the bull by the horns and do what we should of done a long time ago.

I urge all of you to support the governor's budget. I am not a Government employee. I am retired and live on my retirement and a part time job. To support my wife and I. I was born in the territory of Alaska. And I would like to live here forever. The PFD helps us to live. Look at what it cost us live in the State of Alaska. Cost of groceries, gas, electric bills, heating fuel, cost of ever day items. It is at least one of the most expensive place to live in the United States .

Thank You

Neal Sullivan

Neal and Dianna Sullivan

[REDACTED]
Ninilchick Alaska. 99639

Email Address [REDACTED]@alaska.net

Telephone [REDACTED]

AK house Finance Committee,

03/24/19

My name is Emma Mayfield I have been raised in Alaska since the age of 6, and am a resident physician in Anchorage. I was hoping to attend the meetings today in Anchorage but was unable to due to extenuating circumstances.

I echo the concerns of my husband Jeffery Mayfield, and wanted to supply my testimony in conjunction to that of his. I work with many people in need of healthcare that are directly threatened by these budget cuts. Increases to the rates of the Pioneer Home will also decrease positive health outcomes in our community by limiting the resources of the elderly and decreasing the income they have to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Other sources of revenue should be examined before we take away resources from the most vulnerable members of our state: the sick, the children, and the elderly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Dr Emma Mayfield

AK house Finance Committee,

03/24/19

My name is Emma Mayfield I have been raised in Alaska since the age of 6, and am a resident physician in Anchorage. I was hoping to attend the meetings today in Anchorage but was unable to due to extenuating circumstances.

I echo the concerns of my husband Jeffery Mayfield, and wanted to supply my testimony in conjunction to that of his. I work with many people in need of healthcare that are directly threatened by these budget cuts. Increases to the rates of the Pioneer Home will also decrease positive health outcomes in our community by limiting the resources of the elderly and decreasing the income they have to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Other sources of revenue should be examined before we take away resources from the most vulnerable members of our state: the sick, the children, and the elderly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Dr Emma Mayfield

WILLIAM M. TOPEL
[REDACTED]
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE
ON THE PFD & GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY'S PROPOSED BUDGET
March 24, 2019

To: House Finance Committee

House.Finance@akleg.gov

Representative Neal Foster Co-Chair

Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov

Representative Tammie Wilson Co-Chair

Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov

Representative Jennifer Johnston Vice Chair

Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov

Representative Dan Ortiz Member

Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Representative Andy Josephson Member

Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov

Representative Gary Knopp Member

Representative.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov

Representative Bart LeBon Member

Representative.Bart.LeBon@akleg.gov

Representative Cathy Tilton Member

Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov

Representative Kelly Merrick Member

Representative.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov

Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard Member

Representative.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov

Representative Ben Carpenter Member

Representative.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov

Good afternoon Co-Chairs and Representatives. I could not stand any longer at the Anchorage LIO after 1 ½ hours today, so I'm submitting my email testimony. My name is William Topel from Anchorage. I came to Alaska in 1966 and I'm representing myself. I remember the days of the formation of both the Permanent Fund and the PFD by bipartisan legislative members of the Republican Party, the Democrat Party, and the Libertarian Party, & Gov. Jay Hammond. I'm a Senior Citizen living on a fixed small Social Security income and occasional part-time or seasonal work. I'm also a UAA graduate. I am NOT a public employee union member. I am NOT representing a state-subsidized non-profit organization. I support a full PFD, the back capped PFD payouts, & Gov. Dunleavy's sustainable budget with some caveats.

We cannot sustain the bloated state government we've had over the past decade plus. Our state government should concentrate on essential government services first. This discussion should NOT be the PFD vs. the budget's state services. As envisioned by its Founders & corroborated by many to this day, the PFD belongs to the people, not state government. The PFD was NOT a part of the budget except for the past decade or so. I would encourage this Committee to keep the PFD & any past capped PFD payouts off-budget (not an appropriation). This way there would be more dollars available for essential state services plus some. ISER's own March 30, 2016 report ("Short Run from Economic Impacts of Alaska Fiscal Options") called any PFD cuts as thus: "The impact of the PFD cut falls almost exclusively on residents, and it is highly regressive, so it has the largest adverse impact on the economy per dollar of revenues raised."

(https://pubs.iseralaska.org/media/f3f5d181-791a-4766-94e0-d8a9019123bc/2016_03_30-ObservationsOnAlaskasEconomy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2V_h_nZ-KxvILcyRO_qV0jv5jpWIXR1jVze0KU8he-Yk9y36uWjNKPvG4).

Cutting the PFD is a tax which hits the low income & middle income families the hardest. Why would you want to be unfair & prioritize public sector employees over private sector employees and the families of those living on the margin? Let's go back to Gov. Hammond's 50/50 plan for the Earnings Reserve Account, where 50% is reserved for state spending & 50% is reserved for the people's PFDs.

I support Gov. Dunleavy's budget with some caveats. I would hope that his budget does not eliminate any Senior Property Tax Exemptions or the Senior Bonus. I just applied for the property tax exemption because I pay EXORBITANT Anchorage property taxes. The meager \$76 a month I get for the Senior Bonus and the PFD also helps me stay within my own budget & pay my bills, which includes rising taxes, rising local utilities costs, rising food costs, & rising medical costs. Senior citizens can provide the experience & wisdom to the younger generations, especially to those who are new to Alaska. It's time the state stays within its own revenue stream like people & families have to do, without resorting to swallowing our savings accounts or the PFD.

Concerning Medicaid & the University of Alaska portions of the budget, those discussions can last a long time on their own, so I will be brief. Many of us warned former Gov. Walker & the Legislature not to expand Medicaid as the state's share of costs would increase & they have. The University of Alaska system is bloated with high administrative costs & salaries, but has a low graduation rate among the three main campuses with high per capita subsidies (UA System 4-year rate: 10%, UA System 6-year rate: 28.6%, UAA 4-year rate: 7.3%, Average state subsidy per student in Alaska of \$16,391 or \$98,346 over 6 years versus Average state subsidy per student in all 50 students of \$7,642). Clearly, the UA System and UAA needs some changes, and the Medicaid expansion must be curtailed.

For those who want to be taxed to pay for government services, then they should be allowed to do that voluntarily, including donating their PFDs, but don't force taxes on the rest of us. I support the full PFD, the back capped PFD payouts, & Gov. Dunleavy's budget with my caveats. Thank you for your time & this opportunity to testify.





Akiak
Akiachak
Alakanuk
Andreasky
Aniak
Anvik
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Slough
Chelornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chulioonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Grayling
Hamilton
Holy Cross
Hooper Bay
Kasigjuk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mountain Village
Napa mute
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogomut
Oscarville
Paimute
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Shageluk
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Toksook Bay
Tulaksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkum'ut
Upper Kalskag

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE FY 2020 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REQUEST

MARCH 23, 2019

Bethel, Alaska

Testimony of Dan Winkelman, President & CEO Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

I. Introduction.

The Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) has been contracting with the federal government to provide health care services for over thirty years. Our organization is made up of 58 federally-recognized Tribes and we operate 41 village clinics, 5 large sub-regional clinics and a regional hospital in Bethel. We provide a broad array of services including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, substance recovery, long-term care services, dental, optometry, behavioral health care, a prematernal home, and health education services, among others. YKHC provides comprehensive health care to approximately 30,000 people, largely from Athabascan, Cupik, and Yupik tribes that live in Western Alaska. Nearly 2/3 of our patients are Medicaid beneficiaries and another 10% have received coverage thanks to Medicaid expansion.

We are the largest employer in our region, sustaining approximately 1,400 jobs each year. Many of our employees are home-grown and we are proud that over half of our workforce is Alaska Native. Our budget is over \$200 million per year—funds which are all spent here in Alaska, and we are currently in the middle of a \$340 million addition to our hospital, which will ensure we can meet the existing volumes and growing healthcare needs of our patient population. This investment in the future of our people will bring hundreds of new jobs to the region and improve our local economy. In order to attract talented medical professionals, we will also need strong schools; health care access across the entire State, not only in urban areas; and comprehensive social services that adequately respond to community needs.

The region we serve is largely roadless and is larger than the entire State of Oregon. The official unemployment rate in our villages is over 20%, and over 30% of our patients live below the poverty line. Unofficially, many have stopped looking for work and the unemployment rate is much, much higher. In our main hub city of Bethel gas is \$4.79 per gallon, and in our villages it is \$6-8 per gallon, the same price we pay for a gallon of milk. Many homes in our region have no running water or sewer hookups and over 6,000 homes in rural Alaska do not have safe drinking water. Many of our residents live a traditional subsistence lifestyle mixed with the cash economy.

The costs of living in rural Alaska have only increased over time. Airfare continues to rise, and the cost of a trip from an outlying community to a sub-regional clinic or to the Bethel hospital may be impossible for most of our patients to afford. If these patients are not covered by Medicaid, they simply will not receive care beyond that provided in their local community, leading to far greater and far *costlier* health care needs over time.

For example, if a Kotlik man needs medication for high blood pressure, he will need to see a provider in Bethel. In order to get there, he would likely take one plane for the half hour trip to Emmonak, located near the mouth of the Yukon River, and then transfer to another small airplane for another hour and a half to Bethel. The round-trip ticket is \$560. For a patient who routinely requires access to health care and is unable to work, this \$560 is impossible to afford. If that man is choosing between feeding his family or buying fuel to keep the house warm in winter, that medical care simply won't happen. Medicaid pays for medically-necessary travel only, not elective care. So, if this *medically-necessary* trip doesn't happen, it is likely this patient will end up having a stroke and needing emergency care, including a \$20,000 medevac to Bethel; a prolonged stay in the intensive care unit, which costs thousands of dollars per day; and a nursing home placement, which costs hundreds of dollars per day. The Medicaid program still pays these emergency costs, but now the cost to the Medicaid program for this one individual have skyrocketed due to the failure to provide up front access to care. Unfortunately, this situation will likely increase if there are not substantial changes to the current FY 2020 budget.

YKHC asks that the legislature fully fund the Medicaid program, reject any cuts suggested by the Governor, and make no changes to the eligibility requirements or types of covered services or rates paid to providers. Medicaid provides essential health services to the people of our region, and for most of our patients, the federal government reimburses the State at 100%, meaning this program is budget neutral. (Actually, as explained below, Medicaid expansion actually brought more federal money to Alaska.) Cutting Medicaid will not save the State any money; instead it will likely only increase costs over time and intensify health disparities between rural and urban Alaskans.

II. IHS funding is not enough to make up for Medicaid cuts.

We serve many Alaska Native patients, and some may have the impression that if Medicaid funding is decreased, the federal government—through the Indian Health Service (IHS)—will simply pick up the tab and pay for that same care. That is simply not true. The tribal health system is not funded on a needs basis. Instead IHS funding is tied to historical levels and does not increase with inflation, population, or in response to the actual costs of providing medical care. The IHS budget is currently funded at approximately 1/6th of the actual need, meaning individual programs like ours do not receive enough federal funding to keep our doors open. To put this in perspective, in 2016, the IHS spending per patient was \$2,834, compared to a national average of \$9,990 per person, the VA average of \$9,404 per patient, and a Medicaid average of \$7,492 per beneficiary. To make matters worse, this funding inequality persists despite the fact that Alaska Natives and American Indians tend to have disproportionately high rates of cancer, diabetes, suicide, unintentional injuries, and tobacco

and opioid abuse. Cutting Medicaid will likely only increase these health disparities.

The federal government recognizes that IHS funding is not sufficient to provide even basic medical care. That is why federal law requires us to bill each and every patient that walks through the door that qualifies for an alternate resource, including Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. These third-party revenues are what tribal programs rely on to keep the doors open and provide adequate care. If our Medicaid billing goes down, IHS funding will not increase in response.

And, even if Medicaid is cut, we still have to see emergency room patients. However, there will be more of these patients if other Medicaid services are cut, and if Medicaid eligibility is cut, more of them will have no way to pay for their care. These costs will not simply be absorbed by YKHC or by the federal government, they will be shifted to everyone else, including back to Medicaid. The end result is that, even though fewer patients will be covered by Medicaid, the per patient cost will likely go up and the program will see little to no savings.

III. Increased Medicaid coverage brings substantial money to the State.

Rolling back Medicaid expansion is a popular target of politicians looking for cuts. However, Medicaid expansion is good for Alaskans, expanding access to *necessary* medical care, and good for Alaska's struggling economy. The entire Medicaid program brought \$1.44 billion to Alaska in FY 2018. This staggering amount is not just a number, it brings thousands of high-wage jobs and people that live, work, and invest in Alaska.

Medicaid expansion has allowed nearly 48,000 Alaskans to access necessary medical care. We see a direct impact from this expanded coverage: each month we have seen encounters increase by over 1,000 more than in prior years and our outpatient clinic numbers are up 18%, in part, due to Medicaid expansion. We have responded by hiring more health professionals to respond to the increased need, bringing more residents with well-paying jobs to our region. This increased care will result in significant long-term savings. As our example above shows, obtaining necessary medical care on the front end (i.e., paying for the visit to get blood pressure medication) avoids the need for even higher cost emergency services later on (i.e., the need for a medevac due to stroke). Moreover, hospitals report that due to expansion their uncompensated care has dropped by over \$30 million, lowering insurance premiums for working Alaskans.

Medicaid and Medicaid expansion also bring substantial federal funds to the State. From FY 2020 on, the federal government will reimburse the state for services covered by Medicaid expansion at 90%. However, services provided to Alaska Natives through a tribal facility, like YKHC, *will continue to be reimbursed at 100%*. Alaska Natives are 1/3 of the Alaska residents that have gained coverage through Medicaid expansion. That means the State is fully reimbursed for covering these individuals, and the State is reimbursed at 95.8% when all Medicaid expansion enrollees are considered. Given the 100% federal reimbursement, tribal facilities should be excluded from any Medicaid rate reductions or cuts. Imposing any such cuts would not save the State money, but would reduce the federal reimbursement dollars Alaska

receives.

The same is true for imposing Medicaid work requirements on Alaska Native patients—it does not save the State money, but would reduce federal funds coming in. If the State were to consider such requirements, it should follow Arizona's example and exempt Alaska Natives and American Indians.

Moreover, the increased coverage has reduced the burden on traditional Medicaid and other State benefit programs, more than covering the State's funding of Medicaid expansion. For instance, in FY 2018 alone, increased tribal health capacity resulted in a \$20 million reduction in State spending for the non-Medicaid expansion population. Overall, since FY 2016, Medicaid reform collaboration with Tribes has saved the State \$105 million. Cutting these programs may look like it will save the State money, but that simply is not the case.

IV. Recommendations.

We respectfully request the Legislature to:

- 1. Fully fund the Medicaid program, reject any cuts suggested by the Governor, make no changes to the eligibility requirements or types of covered services or rates paid to providers, and protect the Medicaid program, including the individuals that gained access to care under Medicaid expansion and the array of services currently covered. This recommendation produces a net savings to the State with hundreds of millions of dollars more in Federal matching dollars than State dollars, keeps thousands of jobs, and keeps more Alaskans healthy;**
- 2. If cuts must happen, hold Tribal Health Organizations (THOs) harmless from rate reductions and any other cuts to the Medicaid program since THOs are reimbursed at 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) which costs zero dollars to the State of Alaska's general fund. This recommendation would not violate the State Medicaid Plan and is similar to the State's proposed budget that holds harmless critical access hospitals. Further, this recommendation produces a net savings to the State with hundreds of millions of dollars more in Federal matching dollars than State dollars, keeps hundreds of jobs, and keeps more Alaskans healthy; and**
- 3. Exempt THOs from any Medicaid work requirements as was done by the State of Arizona in its January CMS-approved Section 1115 waiver. This recommendation is consistent with treating Alaska Natives as members of tribal governments that are political entities, not racial groups, and who suffer from living in areas with chronic, high unemployment.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the approximately 30,000 people we serve.



Akiak
Akiachak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Anvik
Aimautluk
Bethel
Bill Moore's Slough
Chitlerak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmanak
Georgetown
Grayling
Hamilton
Holy Cross
Hooper Bay
Kasgluk
Kipmuk
Kongiganak
Kotik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Lower Katskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mountain Village
Napaimuto
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Nevrok
Nightmute
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogomut
Oscarville
Paimute
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Shageluk
Steelmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Toksook Bay
Tululsak
Tuntulukak
Tununak
Umkumiut
Upper Katskag

**PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
ON THE
FY 2020 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REQUEST
MARCH 23, 2019**

**Testimony of Walter Jim, Board Chair,
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation**

My name is Walter Jim and I am here on behalf of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC).

YKHC has been providing health care services in our region for over thirty years. We currently operate 41 village clinics, 5 large sub-regional clinics and a regional hospital in Bethel. We provide a broad array of services that provides comprehensive health care to approximately 30,000 people. Nearly 2/3 of our patients are Medicaid beneficiaries and another 10% have received coverage thanks to Medicaid expansion.

We employ about 1400 people, and over half of our workforce is Alaska Native. We spend over \$200 million per year in Alaska, and we are currently in the middle of a \$340 million addition to our hospital, which will ensure we can meet the growing healthcare needs of our patient population.

The region we serve is remote. There are no roads that connect many of our communities, and the unemployment rate in our villages is high. As a result over 30% of our patients live in poverty. Many of our patients live in homes without sewer hookups or safe drinking water. We survive on a traditional subsistence lifestyle.

Many patients do not have the money to pay for a plane ticket to Bethel or even to a sub-regional clinic to get necessary medical care. And when patients don't get the care they need, it ends up costing more on the back end because they show up in the emergency room or need a Medevac out of the village. When the patient cannot pay for this emergency care, these costs get passed on to the patients with health insurance and back to the Medicaid program itself.

Medicaid provides essential health services to the people of our region, and for most of our patients, the federal government fully reimburses the State at 100% for this care, meaning the State pays nothing. Medicaid expansion also brought more federal money to Alaska, helping to bring our State out of recession.

Cutting Medicaid will not save the State any money. If the State reduces its funding, the federal government will not make up the difference. Instead, it is other Alaskan patients and the Medicaid program itself that will bear the burden. The result is that while Medicaid may cover fewer people or fewer services, the per patient cost will go up and the State will be paying the same amount for less health care. This is not a good solution to solving the State's financial problems.

YKHC asks that the legislature fully fund the Medicaid program, reject any cuts suggested by the Governor, and make no changes to the eligibility requirements or types of covered services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the nearly 30,000 people we serve.

THE CLOSET IS EXPLODING

Adventures from a 4th grade class with 35 students, at Inlet View Elementary

By Hollis Crosby (with typing assist from his Mom)

March 24, 2019

The closet is exploding: every hook has more than two items on it and the floor is a disaster. It takes a long time for everyone to get ready for recess since kids are stepping all over each other's things.

It takes longer for the teacher to shush everyone when we need to be quiet. We need to be quiet every time we leave the classroom, and also sometimes in the classroom.

The classroom is crammed with desks and chairs and there is no aisle space. You can only walk around the perimeter, turning sideways in some spots.

We skip playing certain games in class because it's impossible for everyone to have a turn in the time allowed.

I don't get to answer questions in front of the class very often—too many other kids.

We have to move all the desks every time we want to sit on the carpet together for read aloud time.

When we go to Art, there are not enough seats for everyone.

When we go to Music we have two kids per instrument and 4-6 kids have to sit out. The teacher tells us what to do instead of showing us on her own instrument.

In gym, everyone has to spend more time sitting out and waiting for turns with the equipment.

There is not enough storage in the class for all our props and tools. Our teacher has to store them under and on top of her desk.

If we had 5 more kids (40!) we would have to wait even longer for our teacher to explain things to each person individually.

It's hard to find a time to talk with my teacher alone because she's always helping someone or explaining something to the class.

I can't imagine having a class any bigger. I don't want to imagine that. Please keep class sizes down.