

Jake Almeida

From: Rick Caulfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Reject SB 23 & 24

Senators:

I respectfully ask you to reject SB 23 & 24 and to develop a FY20 budget that protects early childhood and K-12 education, our university, the ferry system, and services for the most vulnerable in our society. We can address our budget challenge with a reduced PFD and much more modest cuts. I would support a modest progressive income tax that ensured low income Alaskans would pay little or no tax. With such a tax, those of us making more—and including high income earners who live Outside—would pay a fair share. I paid an income and school tax when I came to Alaska 45 years ago, and I'll do so again because it contributes to a just society.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Rick Caulfield
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Deena Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 9:07 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Rep. Harriet Drummond
Subject: I oppose SB23 and SB24

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose SB23 and SB24.

I believe that Alaska has a bright future, if we are willing to invest in that future. Good infrastructure and outstanding education (pre-K through post-secondary) are critical to vibrant communities, as we see in growing communities in the lower 48. We can also have wonderful growth for Alaska if we are willing to invest. We are emerging from our 3-year long recession and poised for modest job growth in 2019. However, the governor's proposed budget would eliminate 17,000 – 20,000 jobs and plunge us into a downward economic spiral.

As a school board member, it is hard to make cuts each year based on revenues that do not keep up with rising expenses. The proposed deep cuts to education would cause such large class sizes and program cuts that we will pay the price for decades. Even simply presenting the governor's budget has caused damage, as folks look at the nationwide teacher shortage and low unemployment in the lower 48 and decide to go where the economy is more stable.

I value public services and the ability of the state to leverage federal funds, and urge you to work toward long term sustainability for a vibrant Alaska by exploring new revenue sources (including an income tax) and the POMV approach to dividends.

Sincerely,

Deena Mitchell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99517

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage.lio@akleg.gov 907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Wende Nick

REPRESENTING: _____

BILL#/ SUBJECT: SB 23 + 24
COMMITTEE & _____

HEARING DATE: _____

I am opposed to SB 23 + 24

I am a first generation Alaskan + a 40 year business woman in Anchorage. This Bill will devastate our economy and is incredibly short sighted.

We need to build a vibrant University System that uses our incredible natural environment to help the problem of global warming, fish management and resource development.

We should be leaders instead of small thinkers.

We each should have skin in the game with a reasonable income tax like every other state.

Jake Almeida

From: Cory Crossett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:54 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: Testimony regarding SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Senators,

I am writing today as an Alaskan, to express my absolute opposition to SB 23 and SB 24. I have been a resident of Alaska for over twenty years. My wife and I raised our children here and intend to remain throughout our working years and into retirement. Sadly, this proposal could very well threaten our ability to do so. This is essentially a choice between long term, appropriate and reasonable government services and a short term PFD dividend payout.

The benefits of reliable and reasonable government services including predictable, stable education funding, ferry funding, senior care funding and medicare funding to name a few. Stable funding of state government services far, far outweighs any one Alaskan's political ideology or any groups wishes to receive a large dividend. These proposals strike at the very heart of a functional state and the citizens it serves. These proposals must be roundly rejected by our representatives. The answer to our state's budget problems will not be found in austerity measures. We need to increase revenue through the use of the PFD earnings, a sales tax, an income tax or some combination of the above.

It's time Alaskans once again get used to paying for a state government, that provides the structures that support us all. A lessened PFD payout is a small price to pay for such long term stability. There are other ways to deal with our budget woes than the short sighted Draconian cuts put forth by the Governor. I encourage you all to stand firm against this misguided disaster of a budget proposal. My family, my community and most of my fellow Alaskans are depending on you.

Sincerely,
Cory Crossett

[REDACTED]
Juneau Alaska, 99801
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Monty Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD Payback Comment

Hello,

Please consider my comments below on the Governor's proposal to provide a full PFD and repay back years.

I am opposed to a full size PFD and paying back past years' PFDs. I am in favor of a reduced PFD accompanied by a modest income tax and seasonal sales tax to close our budget short fall. It is impossible to create a stable budget based on the price of an unstable commodity (i.e., oil and gas). A modest income tax and sales tax will contribute to a stable budget. Please continue last year's Legislature's work and stick with the percent of market value draw from the Earnings Reserve Account. This is predictable and stable.

To me it boils down to only in Alaska, do we teach our kids to expect a free handout (i.e., the PFD) and pay their bills with someone else's (i.e., the oil and gas industry) money. It is time we all begin paying our bills instead of relying on others. I'm not saying we eliminate or change oil and gas taxes; just that AK residents and the folks who visit our state chip in a bit. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Monty Rogers
Alaska Resident*

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99502
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Jake Almeida

From: Patty Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:12 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: oppose PFD SB 23/24

Dear Senator Shower and Members of the Committee

A bonus PFD check sent to me hardly compensates for the cuts to core state government services essential for the health, education and safety of Alaskans.

Please put my PFD towards important services now while working to increase revenues for the future.

Sincerely,

Patty Owen
Lifelong Alaskan 65 years

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jake Almeida

From: Alex Wertheimer - NOAA Affiliate [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 and SB24

Dear Alaska Senators,

We are opposed to SB23 and SB24. The Permanent Fund was not set up to provide annual payouts for Alaskans, but as the rainy day fund to support essential state services when the oil money ran low. Guess what, its raining and we are running on empty! Please focus on passing a budget that maintains state support at least at current levels for education, health care (including Medicaid expansion), the Alaska Marine Highway system, and the University of Alaska. Please focus on determining what mix of revenues (including a proportion of the permanent fund earnings, a graduated income tax, reduced oil company credits, and a fair share of oil revenues for the state) are necessary to fund a budget that will actually meet the needs of Alaskans. Do not be misguided by the governor's budget that will devastate the economy, do deep harm to our education system, and leave tens of thousands of Alaskans without health care.

Sincerely,
Alex and Peggy Wertheimer
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Nathan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Dividend

Please do not repay dividends that were vetoed. It is more than a little insane that we are talking about an extra large free handout and closing schools and huge portions of the University at the same time.

Please prioritize state funds reasonably.

Thank you,

Nathan Erfurth
State Resident
Kenai, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Paul White [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: PFD

Senator Shower and Senate State Affairs Committee:

I oppose additional PFD payments from previous years and support using that revenue for education, the ferry system, and other essential services. The education of our children and young adults, our transportation and ferry systems and other essential services are far more important than individual PFD payments. Please keep our priorities in mind.

Respectfully, Wanda White, Sitka Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Jane Stokes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: PFD

I am writing to express my opposition to "paying back" the PFD. It is a ridiculous idea that we cannot, according to the Governor, afford.

Jane Stokes

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Ak 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Deborah Rudis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD payback

I am against getting any payback PFD money. We need to support education at all levels, the state university system and the ferry system. These are important to the future of our state! Giving out the payback of PFDs will not lead to a prosperous future for Alaska.

Thank you for considering these comments

Deborah Rudis
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska
99801
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Mary McDowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 8:02 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Written testimony to Senate State Affairs Committee opposing SB23 and SB24 (pay-out for prior years PFDs)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of The Senate State Affairs Committee,

I write in strong opposition to Senate Bills 23 and 24.

While all of us would, of course, love to receive even more big checks from the state (if circumstances were different), passage of these two bills at this time, when our state's fiscal situation is so dire, would ultimately do far more harm than good to Alaskans and Alaska.

The fiscal decisions made over the last several years by the legislature and governor, including budget cuts and reductions to PFD payouts, were difficult but necessary. Alaskans can and should be grateful that we have continued to receive substantial PFDs and pay no state income or sales taxes, while state revenues have been plummeting and the costs to provide needed state services have, naturally, continued to climb. I believe the legislature will make sure that Alaskans get a fairly substantial (but, hopefully, reduced significantly from the "formula" amount) PFD again this year. Even doing that will be a big hit to available revenues at a time when the state services upon which we all depend are facing severe reductions. I think it would be foolish and irresponsible to also go back now to second guess the tough decisions and compromises made to achieve past years' budgets to make additional cash payments. Doing so would both reduce the funds available for future needs and dividends and result in a far more dire and potentially irreversible fiscal and economic crisis for the state.

Please reject these two bills quickly so you can get on with the difficult task of navigating your way through developing a reasonable FY20 budget, which will be plenty difficult without the enormous additional burden that would be imposed by this legislation.

Thank you for considering my views and for your legislative service at this tough, critical time.

Sincerely,

Mary McDowell

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99802

Jake Almeida

From: Chris Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 3:57 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: No refund please

Given the option between fully funding education and receiving a PFD refund, I urge you to fully fund education. Education funding should not be dictated by the price of a barrel of oil. Thanks.

Christopher Brown
Homer, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Cindy Bettine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 11:38 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: I'm against paying back the PFD. I'm ok with using 1/2 for government.

Cindy B

Jake Almeida

From: Lisa Webb/Fellows [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 7:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Dividend at the expense of what?

Please understand that the state of our communities cannot bear to pay back the PFD at the expense of basic operating systems. We are not to be bribed by a measly \$6000 to strip our state of education, healthcare, jobs, infrastructure, and transportation.

If a budget is your purpose, then it is about time that the burden of taxes is taken off the backs of the property owners who live here and lessened by the thousands of employed people who leave the state every winter when their jobs are finished or the hundreds who work two weeks on and two weeks off in another state. We need an income tax.

Right now you are bankrupting this state with this inane proposed budget. Property prices will drop as the value of communities is stripped resulting in lower taxes. Be smart...and know that a PFD repayment is not worth it!

Respectfully submitted
Lisa M Fellows
Homer, Alaska
Sent from my iPad

Jake Almeida

From: Nicole Lyke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 6:48 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Use PFD funds for public schools

Please do not decimate our public school systems. I am in full support of using PFD funds for education and other public services.

Sincerely,
Nicole Lyke
Nikiski, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Tamra Wear [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: I'll happily give up my PFD and pay an income tax!!

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

I am writing to tell you that I would happily give up my PFD and pay an income tax to help my state out of this financial crisis. Oil is a finite natural resource and alternate revenue sources should have been addressed decades ago. It should not be the responsibility of Alaskan children to pay for the lack of foresight on the part of public officials who have neglected the inevitable. Governor Dunleavy's proposal to cut 25% of education is another irresponsible step by a politician and fails to address the underlying issue of a finite natural resource coming to its end. It may sound nice to the Governor to give out a big PFD but the reality will be that a lot of it will go to higher property taxes and moving expenses when there is a mass exodus of people leaving the state.

People have to get out of the me me me, mine mine mine, take take take mindset and start giving back to the state. If we want healthy, functioning communities we have to be willing to pay for them.

Thank you for your time,
Tamra Wear
Soldotna

Jake Almeida

From: chris.jenness [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

My name is Chris Jenness and I am a small business owner, artist, and educator on the Kenai Peninsula. I, like everyone, appreciate the PFD I and my family get every year, but it makes no sense to me to continue to receive this entitlement when so many other areas of our state are struggling, particularly education. And lest you imagine that I'm just another teacher attempting to feather his own nest, remember that I am also a father and am highly committed to living in a place with the best possible education possibilities for my two children. For years my wife and I have talked about the other places in the country we might live, new experiences we might have and the different kinds of salaries and benefits that would offer. But time and again we have chosen to stay here specifically because the Kenai Peninsula is a great place to raise children. Eroding school funding removes that benefit for many. The schools have cut nearly everywhere they can and are now struggling as it is. If I have to give less, or even all, of my PFD to ensure that this remains a place I want to live, it's a small price to pay.

Chris Jenness

[REDACTED]
Nikiski, AK 99635
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Cynthia Krehbiel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24

Good afternoon Sir or Madam,
Please count my vote as a "no" on SBs 23 & 24. These bills are not sensible for the health of Alaska's economy.

Thanks for considering my opinion,
Cynthia Krehbiel
3rd Generation Alaskan Born Resident

Jake Almeida

From: William Severson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Pfd

I am against the draconian cuts of the Dunleavy administration. We were on a good budgetary path with Walker. I am a fiscal conservative and I voted for Dunleavy, but I did not vote for his budget. I also don't want my pfd back at the expense of education and basic services. The PFD is welfare and I don't believe in government giving free money. I will take the \$, but gladly vote it out of existence if it means these kind of budget cuts or eventually having an income tax.

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Peggy Talerico
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Jake Almeida
Subject: FW: Hearing testimony Senate bill 24 and 26

Just in case you need another one, PT

From: Larry Freeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hearing testimony Senate bill 24 and 26

Dear Senator Coghill,

I respectfully submit this email in lieu of in-person or call-in testimony to the hearing this evening as I will be travelling between Juneau and Fairbanks. I am a retired geologist after 23 years in the mineral industry and 16 years working for DGGs. I've worked long enough in the state that I remember paying state income tax and the school payroll tax. I disapprove of the Governor's plan to pay full PFDs and to restore full PFD for the 2016 and 2017 years if it means the \$ 1.8 reduction in funding of education and other state services that in the Governor's proposed budget. Alaska has by far the lowest state and local individual tax burden, 6.5% (<https://taxfoundation.org/state/alaska/>). State expenditures have been reduced over the last five years; current State expenditures, per capital, real dollars, are the same as they were before oil started flowing in the TAPS. Since that time the State has taken possession of nearly all the states allotment of public lands and has grown the infrastructure. Alaskans and transient workers earn high wages and can afford to help fund important state services through some sort of income tax and value added tax. We can not effectively address public safety and substance abuse issues without a robust well-funded education system and a robust health care system. Yes, I am retired, but through pension and investment income my annual earnings are at or above Alaskan's median income, and I would expect that I would pay a state income tax, if such a tax was implemented. I would support a full PFD only if state services can be funded at current levels through new revenue streams.

Thank-you for your attention.

Larry Freeman, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, 99709 [REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Alison & Kurt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Written Testimony on SB23 and SB24

Honorable Senators:

I am writing to express my opposition to SB23 and SB24, providing for the payment of "make-up" dividends for 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Given the state's current fiscal situation, we should not be going back to years past and approving transfer payments to state residents simply to satisfy the formula that set the dividend payment rate in prior years when state coffers were flush.

Past legislatures and the previous governor determined the level of dividends in 2016, 2017, and 2018 based on the state's fiscal situation at the time. Let's move on to more important business!

Thank you very much,

Kurt Egelhofer, P.E., Retired
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99501

Jake Almeida

From: Jenna Ginnaty [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 and SB24

I am reporting my opposition to Senate Bills 23 and 24. How is taking money from our reserves to pay a dividend to every citizen somehow in line with *balancing* our state budget?? Meanwhile removing funding from critical state services, and putting the weight on the shoulders of local governments, will cause devastating impacts on our economy and our communities. Do NOT approve these absurd bills.

Thank you,
Jenna Ginnaty

Jake Almeida

From: Judy Neary [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Representative.jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: SB 23 and 24

Dear State Leaders,

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to "pay back" Alaskan's PFDs (SB 23 and 24)

Humans are generally selfish individuals. When a public figure lures its' voters with promises of free money without fully disclosing the true "catch" to its' end result, the "majority" of people will vote for that person -which is what has gotten us into this mess.

I do not agree with paying Alaskan's back with our Permanent Fund. I don't even agree with using the PFD to help balance the budget. Seeing that I'll never run for office, I urge you to consider solving our budget problems with an Income Tax.

As leaders of our state, it's necessary to plan ahead and be the "parent" to those folks not considering the ramifications of slashing budgets that eliminate or dismantle essential services. I will no longer be proud to be an Alaskan if our state doesn't value education, or ignores the challenges of elderly requiring 24/7 assistance. Eliminating the lifeline of reliable transportation with our Alaska Marine Highway or programs that keep us safe are already impacting locals and tourists interested in visiting or moving to our state. If we do not come up with solutions to balance the budget that are fair and fiscally responsible, we will be losing vital members of our communities who call Alaska their home.

I have lived in Alaska for 37 years and am retired with a 27 year old daughter embarking on a bachelors of nursing in Anchorage. She wants to complete her UAA education, continue to live in our great state and work in the health care field. With the dire predictions of doom and gloom, we are essentially gambling with the most important resource to our state...it's people.

We need backbone in our legislature. We need to leave the PFD untouched while also not using public service monies to balance the budget. We need to tax on income.

Thank you for listening and serving our State,

Judy O. Neary
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Kim Kiefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Mia Costello; Senator.Jessie.Kiehl@akleg.gov; Sen. Tom Begich;
Senator.Cathy.Giessl@akleg.gov
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24 comments

Dear Senate Affairs Committee Members,

Thank you for reading my comments regarding SB 23 and 24. **I do not support either bill.** The Permanent Fund Dividend was never set up to be an entitlement.

Thank you for your service.
Kim Kiefer
Juneau, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: David Brighton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24

Dear Senators,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to and read our comments, I am deeply concerned by the proposed legislation. I believe the permanent fund was created for the public good of all Alaskans. The dividend is an indulgence that we need to be very careful about. It creates a problem where citizens get more money than they pay into the state which can be a strong impetus to justify cutting services. I support a cap to the dividend which would maintain the benefit to the economy but allow us to use some of the proceeds of the permanent fund for essential services.

I believe proposed legislation has been left out of the Governor's budget for a reason, to hide the comparison of proposed cuts and the expense of paying out the funds in these bills. While this election was a referendum on the PFD it is unfortunate that the real cost was never discussed. When you put this "repayment" in context I hear the vast majority of Alaskans standing up to say they don't want to see drastic cuts to education, and many other services.

I reject the claim that we have a spending problem. You have cut billions from the budget in recent years without any change to revenue. It is time to balance the equation. I am willing to pay a state tax. I like the services we have. I like our schools and they have cut budgets for years due to inflation, I think public radio is critical to many Alaskan villages, the ferry system is a life line for many of our communities.

Too many Alaskans are accustomed to free services and change is hard, but change is necessary. I don't complain when I pay for my hunting/fishing license because I love the opportunity to have fresh wild protein to feed my family. I will support a head tax to pay for education. I could support other forms of revenue as well, the key is to do something now, not just cut the budget. ISER reported today that it would deepen our recession. Thousands of jobs would be lost. Many families will leave. My wife and I are having that conversation right now, and the theme is: Do we want to live in Dunleavy's Alaska? My answer is no.

Regards,
Dave

David Brighton

[REDACTED]
Soldotna, AK 99669
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Naomi Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 10:06 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Oppose SB 23 – The appropriation for SB 24

I am writing to you because I strongly oppose SB 23 and 24 and ask that you do as well. As a lifelong Alaskan I remember applying for my first PFD in the Dimond Center when I was a small child. It seemed like such a bonus for our family. Suddenly we had the ability to do back-to-school shopping, plan family trips and get ready for holidays. Today the situation is vastly different. I oppose a budget and supersized PFDs if they come at the cost of my children's education and our future in the state. A budget that does not invest in the education of it's residents at EVERY level is not a state that receives commitments from families. I oppose a budget that isolates the state by removing the ferry system; privatizing the ferry would make travel as unobtainable and expensive as airline tickets thereby increasing isolation and silencing rural voices. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of a few cities acting as the voice of the state. I oppose a budget and reject a PFD payback plan that makes my family and many that I know question their commitment to staying in a state that does not value us. I guarantee that the insecurity I feel about my family's future with the state as employees and residents is not unique and that any PFD we receive will not go to "generating the economy". We cannot afford to spend when the Governor's budget put the future in such peril. Further, we cannot spend our way out of the deficit. Instead, I fully support a state income tax and cap the PFD. I want to keep my state thriving and am willing to support it with my tax dollars. I also believe that the free-ride for non-resident oil workers and the tax break for oil companies should end. They need to pay taxes on the income they receive for work in our state.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work for our state and us, Alaskan residents.

Naomi Davidson
Juneau, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Emily Ferry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 7:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Mike Shower; Senate State Affairs; Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: How can my daughter go to college if there is no college?

Good morning,

I would like to add my testimony to the many who highly oppose super-sized PFD's at the cost of slashed education, ferry, and social services budgets.

I have tucked each of my kids PFD's into a college savings account. I am grateful for these funds. But the other day when my 8-year-old daughter announced that she wanted to go to UAS, I realized that there might not be a UAS if the bills like SB 23 and 24 pass. I also don't know if she will continue to love school if she gets less personal attention from her beloved teacher and fewer opportunities to do stimulating self-directed project-based work.

Given the state's budget situation, handing out super-sized PFDs is the last thing the state should do. Instead, please invest in our kids, our educational system, and our state's future.

Sincerely,
- Emily Ferry

[REDACTED]
Juneau AK, 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Iris Neary [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:58 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; senate.jesse.kiehl@akleg.gov; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: SB 23 Testimony

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to 'pay back' Alaskan's PFDs (SB23 and 24). I am a mid-20's Juneau born-and-raised student who is currently pursuing a second bachelors degree at UAS with the hopes and dreams to enter the Bachelor's of Science of Nursing in Anchorage in 2020. I love the culture, communities, and remoteness of Alaska, and I intend to raise a family here and work in the health field to serve my friends, neighbors, and community. I am also a poor college student, and an increase in an annual check from the AK government would significantly offset my current tuition and book prices.

However, it could never buy my future children an education. The increase in PFD payment is not worth the destruction of organizations for the education, health, and connection of our young and old in this state. When, as a poor student, I need to travel to Sitka, or down to Ketchikan, or up to Skagway, I take the Alaska State Ferry. I see people from all walks of life on the ferry, shopping for a month's worth of groceries at Costco, visiting a friend in a nursing home, or travelling for the Public Health Fair for an affordable way to check the regression of their prediabetes diagnosis. And when I spend every free minute of a waking day either working in a coffee shop to earn money for my own education, or doing endless homework for Anatomy and Physiology, I feel even more stress clenching my chest as I imagine trying to afford nursing school in Anchorage when tuition inevitable skyrockets after the UA budget is completely obliterated. All because we think it would be nice to eventually get paid the total of \$4,000. \$4,000 is not even going to make a dent in the increase in my tuition to a two-year program at UAA. \$4,000 is not going to buy an education for the elementary school students in Hoonah.

I love Alaska. But the harm that these slightly-inflated PFD checks will inflict on the integrity of our basic necessities is not worth our future. Let us remember what is important for a healthy and well-rounded life; quality education for everyone, affordable health care, and human connection.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Iris Neary
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jake Almeida

From: Dan DeSloover [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:00 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 and SB24

Hello Members of the State Affairs Committee and Staff,

I'm writing to express my opposition to both SB23 and SB24. As demonstrated in the Dunleavy administration's budget, paying out these dividends will require enormous cuts to many of the state's most critical programs. While our state economy may see a short-term boost from larger dividends, the massive losses in civic infrastructure, including cuts to public education, elder care, health care services, and transportation will almost certainly far outstrip any temporary economic gains in the long run. Cuts in public services will also affect primarily the Alaskans who can afford it least, including our seniors and people with disabilities. To ensure our long-term prosperity, our state should be making larger investments in the health and education of all of its citizens. And our resources are best leveraged when they are pooled, not by splitting the critical resources of the state into a time-limited bonanza. We should work towards a sustainable budget that includes broad based tax revenue, more funding for education and health care, and reasonable dividend payments. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Dan DeSloover
[REDACTED]

Douglas, AK 99824

Jake Almeida

From: Brenda Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:54 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24

Dear Senators,

Thank you for asking for input from the public about SB 23 and 24 via public testimonies and emails. I have no new arguments to add, but I want to be sure to add my voice. I am not in favor of this legislation.

I have lived in Alaska (Valdez and Juneau) for 22 years now and raised two children with my husband. I am grateful for the quality of life that our family has had and for the education that my children have received. The collective services - ferries, pre-K, K-12 schools, universities, Pioneer Homes, public radio, etc - that allow us to live and flourish in this state are only possible when the community pays for them as a whole. I cannot use my PFD to buy part of a teacher or a ferry route.

A conversation that I heard on a talk show when I first moved to Valdez has stuck with me. A man called in to complain about the high income taxes that he had to pay. I was completely confused and amazed. I had moved from a state (NY) where I had paid both state and city income taxes to Alaska where, not only did I pay no state income tax, but was actually given money by the state every year. The talk show host queried the caller further, trying to point out that 1) Alaskans get back more from the federal government overall than they pay in taxes and that 2) we, of course, pay less in state taxes than every other state. Frankly, I feel that Alaskans have become spoiled as a result of the PFD and no taxes and now expect to get something for nothing. That is neither logical nor ethical and certainly not a value that I want my children to embrace. We all need to contribute to the greater good. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

I understand that some people rely on their PFD for some basic needs; fine. Let's make it sliding scale. However, we need to save and use the great majority of the PFD earnings to make our state be wonderful now and far, far into the future, not hand it so much of out it for individuals to spend.

My children are now 18 and 21. They both love Alaska and love math and science and, I'm sure will have many choices about where to bring their energy, work ethic, creativity, and STEM skills. I hope that Alaska continues to be a place where they will want to live and raise a family.

Thank you for listening and thinking carefully about the long-term health of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Brenda Taylor
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Shayna Rohwer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee Members:

My name is Shayna Rohwer and I've lived in Juneau for the last 12 years. I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bills 23 & 24. I'm currently finishing nursing school through UAA, and plan to work here at the hospital in Juneau. I am shocked and horrified by the governor's budget. The proposed budget negatively impacts all the things I care deeply about: the University that allowed me to change careers, my children's schools, and the healthcare that many of my hard-working friends depend upon. While we all love getting our PFDs, the short term payout with these disastrous cuts, would result in an economic downturn which would cost my husband his job, devalue our home, and make our children's schools struggle even more. I believe the governor's budget is short-sighted and will destroy Alaska's economy, and would much rather invest in our state, in education and in healthcare than giving out windfall PFD checks. I support a progressive income tax and using the earnings reserve to pay for essential state services.

Thank you for your work,

Shayna Rohwer
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Erin W [REDACTED]
Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:59 PM
Senate State Affairs
SB 23/24

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition of SB 23/24. I grew up in the public school system here in Sitka, and I also received my Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alaska having attended the campuses in Sitka, Juneau, and Fairbanks. The effects the budget would have on our education system would be devastating. Alaska is such a large state that the multiple locations of the UA campuses allow access to higher education for many people who would not otherwise be able to attend; not to mention the reach of the satellite campuses.

I feel very fortunate to have been a student of the public school system here in Sitka. We have great teachers and a lot of great programs that not only prepare students for college, but teach vocational skills as well. We cannot sacrifice education for the sake of a supplemental PFD. It is scary to think what the future of Alaska will look like if class sizes become so large that teachers cannot give students the attention they need to succeed. I think it would be much more beneficial to decrease the PFD and give more money to education.

In addition to being grateful for the education I received here, I was also fortunate enough to be a part of athletics. Here in Southeast, we cannot drive to compete with other teams; we must fly or ferry. Losing the ferry system would make traveling much less accessible and affordable. Many of us are land-locked down here and air travel can be very expensive.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and again want to express the necessity of maintaining our education system and possibly some of the ferry system. Taking a cut to the PFD to put more money into education would be a much better option than taking money away from education for a supplemental PFD.

Thank you,
Erin Weekly

Jake Almeida

From: Melissa Riordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 7:36 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate bills 23 and 24

I do not approve of making a special appropriations from the earning reserve account for the payment of permanent funds dividends for years 2016 to 2018 when the state has not found alternative methods to raise revenue to pay for crucial public services such as education and transportation. To pay Alaska residents back payments for pdfs that helped balance previous budgets with no alternative revenue sources is reckless, and irresponsible. We need education and transportation to continue to be a place where people want to live. Obviously state government needs to balance its budget, so figure out how to produce revenue without drastic cuts to crucial services, and then pass legislation to refund past pfd amounts. Senate Bill 23 and 24 should be shelved until the state legislature and governor agrees to an alternative method to raise revenue. So I ask you to please discontinue these bills until that time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Riordan
State resident for 20+ years
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Jake Almeida

From: Macy Kenworthy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 7:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

We don't NEED the PFD. It'd be nice. But we'd much rather have education and law enforcement.

Macy Kenworthy
Kotzebue, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:28 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24

Dear Senate:

Our legislator told us that the oil tax credits to oil companies are absolutely inviolable. I urge you to change this. Alaska has an agreement with the oil companies to deliver these tax credits, and the oil companies will be hurt if they depended on the tax credits and do not get them. However, the schools will be hurt if they do not have teachers. The economy will be hurt if we do not have a ferry system. Everyone will be hurt if we do not have law enforcement. I urge you to reach a compromise with the oil companies and reduce the tax credits, or implement them incrementally tied to state revenues. You say the credits are set in stone. Do something to crack the stone.

Also, it is time to implement an income tax

Every sector has to give something: Reduce the PFD, reduce the oil tax credits and/or make them incremental, implement an income tax.

It is past time to implement a comprehensive state economic development plan that will diversify the economy into non-resource industries that access global markets. A resource-based economy will forever be boom and bust whether it is timber, mining, oil or whatever. We need a broad mix of industries across the economic spectrum. Formulate legislation that mandates the state economic development department to promote and develop alternate industries. We have made great strides in mariculture, and that is all to the good, but shellfish farming, while an appreciable initiative, will not make a significant blip on the economic diversification scale. Wake up and look at the efforts of other states and countries.

If we don't start now, it will never happen. It should have started 4 years ago as I urged Governor Walker to do this.

Sincerely,



*Deborah Hayden, CEcD, EDFP**

Managing Director
Swiftcurrent Ventures, LLC

[REDACTED]
*Certified Economic Developer, Economic Development Finance Professional

Jake Almeida

From: P VH [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:17 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Dear Sir?Madam:

I have lived in Alaska since 2004, worked with the schools in Juneau & on the Kenai Peninsula. Along with working in the seasonal tourist season in Juneau.

From everyone that I have discussed this matter with their conclusion along with mine for the PFD issues that we are all having. The solution could be that every eligible Alaskan receive their full PFD along with paying out this system so we can return to the way Alaska was prior to this becoming part of Alaska. Meaning that every Alaskan would get paid in full of any & all money due to them for the PFD. This would be the last payout that we as Alaskans would receive. Once this is done then the state of Alaska could incorporate a state and federal income tax. Don't feel that these should be introduced until the pay out for the PFD has been completed where we no longer receive these yearly. Other states don't have a PFD annually.

Closing the PFD fund would benefit so everyone wouldn't be upset about having a State & Federal Income Tax.

Get the zero balance on the PFD account and let everyone stop fighting over this. At least with income tax everyone wouldn't need to worry about things. This will be done yearly when each Alaskan files their income tax return.

Thank you and have a nice fay.

Sincerely,
Pam Van Hoozer
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Pete Schneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: SB 23 & SB 24

I want to speak up regarding these senate bills. It is so disappointing that the legislature cannot come up with a BALANCED plan. Year...after...year. For several years I've been arguing that the only fair plan is a plan that hurts ***everyone***, and not just one socioeconomic section of the state. How about a 5% across the board cut to state spending, a 10% PFD reduction, a 5% state sales tax, and an income tax (10% of your federal tax, would take 5 seconds to calculate and would require minimal staffing)... something like that.

The current proposed cuts to schools and higher education are ridiculous and recklessly irresponsible. I'm a teacher but have a lot of seniority and my job won't be affected by this either way. I'm not speaking up to defend my job, but my STUDENTS. We've been covering parody and satire in language arts this week, so here is a satirical modest proposal: Perhaps we could sell the second kidneys of all of our first-born and use the extra money for higher PFDs and lower taxes on the oil industry? Dunleavy is a disaster, but at least he has integrity - he is doing exactly what he promised, so the blame is on voters who were foolish enough to vote for him, and those who chose not to vote. I encourage everyone to vote and speak up and be active members of our democracy

Peter Schneider

Sometimes a Speech-Language Pathologist, sometimes a store proprietor, often a coach & mentor, currently a math & music teacher and college student (again).
All the time dad, husband, Kusko-Delta League Commissioner, and Tammy's lackey,
part of the great team proudly serving the priceless students at Kasigluk's Akiuk Memorial School.

Jake Almeida

From: Becky Wanser [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 5:21 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Public Education funding support

It is imperative to the future of Alaska to fully support PUBLIC EDUCATION K-12 funding. It is impractical and selfish to choose a fully funded PFD over the education of our children.

Alaska's future depends on our kids (NOT the PFD).

Sincerely,
Mary R Wanser
38 Year Alaska Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: O C Madden III [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD Paybacks

All,

I want to voice my opinion on the PFD paybacks and the legislation before you now on that subject. I strongly oppose using the PFD funds, which rightfully belong to the people, to fund government. These funds should be repaid to the people. Government must be restrained from voraciously consuming the wealth of the governed. There seems to be no end to the taxes we are expected to pay, whether through the federal, municipal, or state systems. Enough is enough. There are enough good causes in the world that all of us could go bankrupt trying to fund them all. In my personal life I have to tell myself "No", when my desire to buy something exceeds my ability to pay for it. I cant appropriate my neighbors money to go buy things I want, I have to stay within my budget, within my means to pay.

Develop the discipline and backbone to say "No" to good causes. We cant pay for them all, regardless how much handwringing is done.

Remember this above all else, "Good is the very worst enemy of the Best" We cant fund every good cause. The best uses of state money are the only thing we should be considering. I applaud Dunleaveys courage to stop the incessant spending and put some common sense back in Juneau.

Regards,

O C Madden III CFE
Realtor
Keller Williams Realty Alaska Group

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.ocmadden.com

www.facebook.com/ocmrealtor

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Jake Almeida

From: Cathy Muse [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24

Dear Committee members,

I am opposed to a SB 23 and 24 as the Governor's budget stands now. I encourage you to look at increasing our revenue sources, e.g. oil taxes and credits, progressive income tax. Then we might be able to pay a total PFD, and not just cutting our essential services.

Thank you for reconsideration.

Cathy Muse
Juneau, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Lia Domke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 23 and 24

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to "pay back" Alaskans' PFDs (SB23 and 24). I am a third-generation Alaskan, and plan on remaining in Alaska. However, that may not be possible given the proposed budget cuts. If passed these cuts will create an Alaska that is no longer desirable for many young Alaskans. University of Alaska funding, K-12 education funding, Alaska Marine Highway funding, and funding for countless other vital programs is much more necessary and important than receiving "back pay" on my PFD.

I am 26 years old and I graduated from college three years ago. I immediately moved back to Alaska, knowing that I wanted to do research, work, and live in the place that I love. I recently was accepted and began graduate school at UAF in the Juneau division of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. I'm thrilled and proud to be contributing to the body of scientific knowledge in Southeast Alaska. As graduate students, we are funded through grants, teaching assistantships at UAS, and other sources, but we are not making a lot of money. A thousand dollars is substantial. It makes a difference in my budget and lifestyle. However, **fully funding the aforementioned services as well as others not mentioned will keep Alaskans in-state thus making our state stronger and our collective future brighter in the long term.**

Short term PFD payback is just that; short term. Please show your ability for constructive forward thinking to create long-term solutions and do not "pay back" PFDs. Instead use that money to fully fund state services thus encouraging and allowing people, like myself, to continue to contribute to Alaska.

Thank you,
Lia Domke

Jake Almeida

From: Brent Edwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB 23 & 24

BRENT EDWARDS

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK, 99835
[REDACTED]

March 7, 2019

VIA E-MAIL
RE: OPPOSITION TO SB 23 & 24

Dear Senators on the Senate Affairs Committee;

As a recipient of the State's very first dividend check I am sick of the perverse focus of some in this state on the free money aspect of the PFD. Free money is just that - its free. It is not owed to me, you, or to anyone else in this state. Just like nobody is owed the free money payout from a lottery. Please reject this unjustified sense of entitlement that drives SB 23 and 24.

Governor Dunleavy did a great job stoking the perverse free money focus by promising more free money while conveniently not addressing what his promise of free money means for core state functions. Dunleavy's budget proposal peers into the very real devastation that SB 23 and 24 will bring to our state.

This is a pivotal moment in our state. Is this a place that gives out free money at the expense of good governance? Or, is Alaska a place where people receive core governmental services like quality education, healthcare, roads, ferries and so forth.

It is going to take courage for you to vote against SB 23 and 24. I urge you to be courageous because the exorbitantly high cost of the free money is clear.

Thank you for considering my comments when forming your position on these important bills.

Sincerely,

ss

Brent Edwards

Jake Almeida

From: Jessica Kong [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Public Education

To whom it may concern,

I have been following the updates regarding public education in Alaska and I am shocked at the disregard for public education. I am a mom of two children that attend public school within the state of Alaska, one of those children has special needs. Public Education is important. I stand with the children and the teachers that disagree with your decision to cut educational funds.

If we want the future generations to be capable of creating positive futures, we need to have a system that supports them. When you cut funding of important structures such as public education, you are creating a ripple effect that will cause damage in many aspects of this state. Cutting funds to increase PFD payouts will be an effective way to raise poverty and crime within the state.

I sincerely hope that you take time to do research on the impact of decreased education funding such as:

A Punishing Decade for School Funding states, "Our country's future depends heavily on the quality of its schools. Increasing financial support can help K-12 schools implement proven reforms such as hiring and retaining excellent teachers, reducing class sizes, and expanding the availability of high-quality early education. So it's problematic that some states have headed sharply in the opposite direction over the last decade. These cuts risk undermining schools' capacity to develop the intelligence and creativity of the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs." And "As common sense suggests — and academic research confirms — money matters for educational outcomes. For instance, poor children who attend better-funded schools are more likely to complete high school and have higher earnings and lower poverty rates in adulthood."

According to US News, Alaska is ranked #40 for education. We are the largest state with the smallest population density already. Instead of lowering our rank, we should be searching for ways to increase our rank.

I understand that in this day and age of immediate gratification that pleasing people with a large increase in PFD money seems a good way to make people happy. The long term damage of this decision will hurt our future. I intend to keep Alaska as my home and I want the future to be bright and booming. Please support a better future and choose our kids over the PFD.

Upward and onward,

Jessica Ann Kong

Registered Behavior Technician

Special Needs IEP Coach

Jake Almeida

From: Alexandra [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: no to pfd payback!

I am an Alaskan resident living in West Anchorage. I do not support the pfd payback. I would rather have that money go towards some of the program funding the governor is proposing to cut from the state budget.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Nenahlo

Jake Almeida

From: Jessica Wallin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Hello,

I am an 18 year resident of Ketchikan. My sons are 4th generation Ketchikanites. My husband is a 2nd generation ferry employee with 19 years of service. I'm writing you today to beg you to take our PFD's, if it means my husband can keep his job. I'm very afraid that if the ferry was cut we would have to leave our beloved Ketchikan. And I fear that that 19 years of service toward his PERS account would all be for nothing.

I wish I had more time to write out all the reasons why the ferry is so very vital to SE. Hopefully you know them. Again, I'd rather the have the ferry, reasonable rates at our Pioneer Homes, and adequate funding for our schools. Keep my PFD!

Thank you,
Jessica Wallin
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 12:53 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 and SB24

Dear Legislators,

We were not able to testify during the recent public hearings, but thank you for your interest in hearing from all Alaskans on this issue. We have been in the state for 41 years (Stan) and 26 years (Amy).

We are opposed to paying extra-large PFD's while making draconian cuts to state services. We believe that this would set the state on a destructive path. Within a few years, we would find ourselves in a state we would hardly recognize and that many would no longer want to live in.

A few points:

- * While we do need to address fiscal imbalances in our state, the idea that we can make these huge changes in one year is ridiculous.
- * PFD's may stimulate the small business economy but people can't buy teachers with them; that is a collective project that government must take on.
- * If the economy grows and we need more teachers, troopers, etc., we still don't have the funds to pay for them, due to lack of tax revenues that increase with economic growth, which most economies have.
- * I hear people saying they want the large PFD's to help pay for kids to go to college. Having listened to the UAS Chancellor speak this morning, they'd better plan on nearly doubled tuition, and/or radically reduced program offerings, if they want to attend UA. Many will go out of state and never return.

We feel certain that changes like the ones referenced above will result in a significant "brain drain" from our state. Teachers, professors and medical professionals will lose their jobs, so they'll be headed out. Will we be left with the residents who want the big PFD's above all else?

Our relatives in the lower 48 think this is all crazy, since by many measures we're one of the wealthiest states in the country. Why would we even contemplate shooting ourselves in the foot like this? Legislators, you have the power to make different choices.

Thank you for your service.

Amy & Stan Lujan
Juneau, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Peggy Talerico
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:58 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: FW: POMs

From: John Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Peggy Talerico <Peggy.Talerico@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: POMs

I just looked for Senate Affairs committee and the State legislative website seems to be out of date (last year is listed.) I think Sen. Coghill is on the Senate Affairs committee this year. My intent was/is to state my opposition to what I think is SB 23 and 24 which provides for retroactive PFD payments. We cannot afford that. Even though such retroactive payments would mean money for my grandchildren's college savings I think it is more important that they get a good primary and secondary education now. Same for other children. I am a realist. I do not like it but I would also give up half of "my" impending PFD to the budget for the common good this year. Please forward this to the Senate Affairs committee if you can. Thank you.

On Mar 7, 2019, at 11:26 AM, John Jensen [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you. I will not give up and hope the problem does not reappear.

On Mar 7, 2019, at 8:09 AM, Peggy Talerico <Peggy.Talerico@akleg.gov> wrote:

Dear John Jensen,

I have received at least one other POM from you besides this one.

Peggy Talerico

Staff to Sen. Coghill

Jake Almeida

From: Patricia ware [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Andi Story;
Representative.Sarah.hannan@akleg.gov
Subject: Testimony on SB 23 and SB 24
Attachments: SB 23 & SB 24.docx

I'm attaching my comments on the proposed bills, SB 23 and SB 24. Thank you.

Patty Ware

Jake Almeida

From: Christie H [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: No on SB 23

Dear Senators,

I am a Juneau community member living in District 34. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 23 – The appropriation for SB 24 (PFD Pay Back).

While my family could sorely use a payout of this kind, it is in my view a short-sighted use of funds that we desperately need for essential services. I do not think that ruthless slashing of school budgets, public safety, health programs - the list goes on - benefits anyone, least of all Alaska's most vulnerable citizens. This is not how we build a better future.

Sincerely,

-Christie Hendrich

Jake Almeida

From: Theresa Bakker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:52 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony AGAINST SB23 & SB24

Dear Senators of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

The Alaska Permanent Fund was created to save royalties from the sale of our oil in order to help offset the costs of critical state infrastructure. The administration at the time understood that oil production would decrease, but the wealth it generated could provide a lasting source of spending on state services. The the dividend came later.

The Permanent Fund's original purpose was to help pay for state services.

To say the ONLY purpose of the Permanent Fund is to pay dividends goes counter to its founding principles. The fund is a shining example of a good fiscal plan and is needed now more than ever. For those who say that they could not afford to live in Alaska without the Permanent Fund dividend, I ask that you re-evaluate your own finances.

I stand in support of an income and other state taxes in Alaska, helping to pay a portion of the infrastructure that we all benefit from.

Thank you,

Theresa Bakker

Fairbanks, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Carol Wyman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Dear Legislatures,

It would be a complete budget disaster if you pass the governor's request to increase the PFD payout over the next three years. That is a lot of money being taken out of the Permanent Fund. Yes, it is nice getting this additional income every year, but not at the expense of our children and grandchildren. Would it be fair to them for the depletion of Permanent Fund? I think not. Let the Fund continue to grow interest for the future instead of using it unnecessarily for a politicians pre-election promises.

The governor is purposing a 25% cut to education. That is so determinable to our children and young adults at UAA education. It would take firing every elementary teacher in Anchorage to complete his unfathomable request. We have lost so man of our educators over the last few years due to cuts, cuts, cuts. He ran on a platform to increase the allocation for education, not tear it down. Another pre-election promise he has not carried through, for our Educators, Schools and our Students - of all levels of education.

Please do not be a part of passing these proposals. Leave the PF alone and do NOT cut our education in the budget. Please.

Your constituent,
Carol J Wyman

Jake Almeida

From: Bs Bs [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23, SB 24

I am writing in opposition to SB 23 and SB 24, which would provide an oversized PFD, impacting the state budget, causing drastic cuts to items that are important to me, like education, the Alaska Marine Highway, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Our students deserve the education that they have been promised. Reducing the ferry schedule would drastically hurt our coastal communities who rely on them, and I can't imagine our little town without our active arts council. Making cuts to these areas affect everyone in our state and turn back the clock to the 1950's. Alaska is better than that.

Thank you for time,
Kathy Simpler
Kodiak

Jake Almeida

From: Deedie Sorensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:13 AM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: PFD Payout

Big PFD: No

Public services: Yes

As an elementary school teacher I worked hard to make sure my students understood how action/reaction and cause/effect play out over time. I used to ask the question "What might happen next?"

I have listened to testimony and read testimony about a big PFD payout. Folks who want a big PFD pay out tell you what it will do for them...right now. The high school students who testified have far better forward thinking. They are focused on what happens next.

I submit that thoughtful Alaskans under forty who can answer the question, "What happens next?" will use a big payout to move to a different state where there is a future for their families. People with meaningful job skills, professional/trades licensures and certifications will see that the future is not here. People who want future career opportunities, good schools and health care for their children and safe communities would be foolish to stay. All those people who work in our schools, police our communities, provide healthcare, keep the airports and harbors running, maintain and repair our roads...their skills are portable and for many of them, so is their retirement account. They will be the first exodus and more slowly the rest of us will follow. . .wishing we'd moved faster so we weren't caught in the real estate collapse.

The folks who want a big PFD payout don't seem able to figure out that the way to raise their PFD payout in the future is to raise state revenues starting now.

Deedie Sorensen

Juneau, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Crystal Bourland [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:01 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposition to SB23 and SB24

Dear Chair Shower and Vice Chair Coghill:

I'm writing in strong opposition of SB23 and SB24. In order to provide these dividends we are required to make drastic cuts to services that would hurt all of Alaskans and disproportionately impact our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. I could only support these bills if they are statutorily tied to a broad based tax, preferably an income tax considering the large non-resident workforce that receives full wages that are essentially subsidized by residents.

I urge you not to risk the long term solvency of the Earnings Reserve Account and ask that you do not move these bills out of committee.

Thank you for receiving my testimony,
Crystal Bourland

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Cindy Lelake [REDACTED]
Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:26 AM
Senate State Affairs
NO to SB23 and SB25

Dear State Affairs Committee members:

I am wholeheartedly opposed to SB23 and SB24.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:16 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony. As 40 year old Alaskan residents, we oppose SB 23 and SB 24. Given the fiscal disaster that the state is facing (or actually is in), these proposed bills are more fiscal irresponsibility. The proposed cuts to education, health care, public safety and transportation will devastate our local communities. We urge you to vote against these bills and pursue sources of revenue, such as a gradual income tax and to stop the tax cuts to the oil companies, especially the proposed \$227 million increase in tax cuts. Or perhaps, looking at the residency requirements for a PFD to be a 5 year waiting period. There could be costly legal ramifications of SB 23 and SB 24, with persons who have moved Outside wanting to have their PFDs of the prior years (2016,2017 and 2018) paid out according to these bills. Please vote against SB 23 and SB 24.

Thank you,
Bil Marshall
Karen Murdock

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Bridget Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:33 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Budget and PFD

March 7, 2019

Dear members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

We are writing to you as our elected public servants to protest Governor Dunleavy's egregious budget that is not only cruel in that it targets the most vulnerable among us (K-12 students, the elderly, university students) but it also makes little sense to us. The cuts that are suggested are for basic services that help to create a thriving society with a good economy. For instance, how can we have a good economy without ferry service that transports people and goods? It is nonsensical. How can we have a good economy if our students have few resources to learn? How can we have a good economy without a viable university?

We do not want a super-size PFD that will threaten the lives and livelihoods of other Alaskans.

We have not paid our way since the early 80's when the state income tax was abolished. We remember when we paid a modest income tax and we also paid a yearly school tax. If we want services, we need to pay for them. If we want a thriving society, we need to help pay for it. It is long past time to fulfill our obligations—to our beloved state, and to each other.

Bridget Smith and Jim Asper

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Bridget Smith

Cell [REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Bill Tremblay [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:23 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Vote NO on SB 23 and SB 24

My town of Petersburg (population of 3,000 people) is facing a loss of \$1.4 Million to our school system, a loss of almost \$2 Million dollars in decreased Medicaid payments to our Hospital, a loss of \$75,000 to our public radio station, and other reductions as a result of the Governor's proposed budget. This makes NO sense.

The Legislature has drained our Congressional Budget Reserves by BILLIONS of dollars the last few years in "hope" oil prices would come back. (Keep in mind that as oil prices rise the cost of living also rises for many of us.)

We need an income tax. I'm tired of subsidizing other States that tax incomes made in Alaska to support their services while Alaskan's get nothing in return for many well paying jobs in tourism, oil fields, fishing, seasonal employment, etc.

Bill Tremblay
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Ben Muse [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 7:52 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposed to SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Committee members,

I only favor passage of SB 23 and SB24 if they are paid for with new tax revenues. We could increase taxes on the oil companies by addressing the oil tax credit, or by an income tax.

I am opposed to them if they are paid for by cuts to education, to the ferry system, or by taking revenues away from villages, cities, towns, or boroughs.

Since there are no current plans to pay for them with new revenues, I am opposed to them.

I listened to public testimony before the committee for four hours during the last week or so. I appreciate your work to collect this testimony.

I was impressed by the concerns people on both sides of the issue had. I was surprised how much a person can say in a minute. People on both sides raised important points.

Many people need dividend money for groceries or rent, businessmen depend on the sales created by the dividends.

On the other side of the ledger, it will be terrible to see our schools and university gutted, and many people are concerned that, absent the ferry system, their towns will dry up and blow away.

But the choice between these two ways of spending is a false dilemma created by the refusal of the administration, and many in the legislature, to consider new state-level revenue sources.

Ironically, those opposed to new state revenue sources are perfectly happy if local government increase existing property or sales taxes, or create new ones, to make up for lost revenues taken by the state. It is unclear to me why this is acceptable, but state taxes are not.

When a household has a financial setback, they tighten their belts, but they also look for new ways to make money. The state needs to do the same.

But the state is ignoring the revenue side of the picture.

Sincerely

Ben Muse

Juneau

Jake Almeida

From: Sherri Hayden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:57 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24

Dear Sirs,

We are writing concerning specifically SB 23 & SB 24. We also want to make clear that we think Governor Dunleavy's entire budget proposal will destroy Alaska's economy and make it an unhealthy and unhappy place for us, our grown children and our grandchildren.

To SB 23 & 24:

Public education and the PFD are both important issues to all Alaskans. They are completely separate issues and should not be lumped together.

The budget for public education should be determined by need. Our children were raised in the bush and costs are higher there and always will be.

We believe it's time for Alaska to implement an income tax. Jay Hammond fought to keep the income tax and it was a terrible mistake to remove it. People want and need services and we need to pay for those services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sherri and Jack Hayden
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska 99515
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Dan Parks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:14 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Public Comment on SB23,24

Alaska Senate,

My name is Daniel Parks I grew up near Fairbanks, went to college at UAA, and now live in Juneau, Alaska. I would prefer that a portion of my PFD goes to pay for state services I use like the Alaska Marine Highway and a good education for my two children.
Thank you,

Daniel Parks
[REDACTED]

Juneau AK 99801
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: adam dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 4:09 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Hello,

I'm in favor of giving up my share of the PFD for government services. I'm also in favor of a fair income or sales tax if needed. This budget proposal by the Governor is ludicrous. If you strip the money away from the municipalities, they are just going to pass on the burden to the property owners in the form of higher mil rates on our investments. I'm a Republican, have always voted Republican but am disgusted the way you politicians are going down this PFD path with blinders on. The money is sitting right in front of you, but you'd rather decimate the state forcing us back into recession to hand out a state welfare check.

Regards,
Adam Dixon

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Jake Almeida

From: Holta_Nicole [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony

Greetings,

My name is Nicole Holta and I am a teacher in the Anchorage School District. I am married and have two children. My daughter Mabel is in 1st grade and my other daughter Charlie will be joining ASD in 2 years. My husband considers himself a lifelong Alaskan (having lived here since 2 years of age) and I have lived in Alaska since 1999. We both attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and put the degrees we earned at our local university to work everyday in our community. We own a home which we recently built in Anchorage in 2016. I am writing to tell you that as responsible parents and citizens my husband and I are very concerned about the proposed budget cuts. I begin with education because it has the most impact on my family at this current time. Being a teacher, I know the struggles we face in education here in Alaska and I can tell you any cuts to funding will be detrimental and lead Alaska's education down a dark path. My school has already lost two teaching positions next year, before the proposed budget cuts. My 2nd grade class projection for next year is 28 students to 1 teacher. I have never in my career of 11 years taught a class that large in 2nd grade. Today I have 23 students and the thought of 5 more next year leaves me extremely concerned about the quality of education I will be able to provide. Then I think about my daughters. There is no way I am willing to subject them to classrooms that size or larger. These cuts will drive out quality teachers, one of them being myself. Education is my livelihood, how I spend my day, where I put my energy. More importantly, I have a commitment to my children to give them the best possible upbringing I can provide and much of that includes the choices I make about their education and the environment in which they spend their days. If these cuts were to be made, I feel I have two choices: home-school or move. I continue looking into the future while considering their education and the cuts to the University of Alaska are very alarming. This is just the beginning of what me has me reconsidering our life in Alaska. I am distraught over this. We have family here, we own a home, we have friends, we love the outdoors, we are involved in our community...but I can not subject my daughters' education and my life's work to an environment that will not be successful, comfortable, healthy, and safe. While the PFD is nice, I do not value it more than education or the other state services that are proposed to be drastically cut. I am also willing to pay a sales tax if that is what it takes to make Alaska a feasible place to raise my children and earn a living. Thank you for the time you have taken to read my testimony. I appreciate all the work you do for Alaska.

Regards,
Nicole Holta

Jake Almeida

From: Jonas Lamb [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:35 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 Public Comment

I would like to voice my objection to SB 23.

The PFD payouts from prior years were reduced in order to prevent further gov spending and debt during consecutive sessions in which reasonable new tax proposals were introduced.

The proposed payout of \$1.9B will require gutting an array of essential services including services impacting the most vulnerable Alaskans.

I also recognize the significant roll the PFD plays in the lives of vulnerable Alaskans. I would happily pay an income tax or statewide sales tax and would ask that the senate consider a PFD payout that could be scaled according to income to get these essential life line funds to the people who need it most.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

John "Jonas" Lamb

[REDACTED]
Juneau AK

Sent from my magic wand via spellcasting wonders and mirrors.

Jake Almeida

From: Pete Degen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:16 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposed to SB 23 and SB24

To the legislative body of Alaska,

I am apposed to SB 23 and SB 24. Funds that are available for education and social programs in the state of Alaska will help vitalize the local economies monetarily in the same way as distribution of increased PFD monies. Secondly, an investment in education is an investment in the people of Alaska who are destined to be productive within our economy as well as make sound decisions for the state as a whole. Education is the key and redirecting state money into the PFD is a diversion from education and long term investment in Alaskans.

--

Pete Degen
[REDACTED]

Haines, AK
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Anne [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:08 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower; Senate State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Testimony SB24 Anne Tate Petersburg

To The State of Alaska Legislators;

I am writing to express my deep concern and disapproval of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget, plans for past and future PFDs and his lack of effort to increase state revenue. The Governor's course of action would prove devastating to Petersburg as well as many other Alaskan communities. I strongly encourage you to do what's best for Alaska residents. Oppose SB23 and SB24, adopt an approach that helps us maintain our way of life rather than destroy it. Your consideration and diligent work towards this goal are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Anne Tate

Jake Almeida

From: corcel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Dear Senators,

I do not want all the years of less dividends paid back. I want a workable budget for everyone. I do need t likecthis slash and burn budget. We need to take care of everyone. I do want reasonable cuts to State services. Do not make the ferry, pioneer homes, University, medicaid, or all the things slashed go away. It is unAlaskan.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Hennessey

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Jake Almeida

From: Mary Christensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:59 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: no extra PFD - Income Tax PLEASE

Hello,

I can't call in. NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO extra PFD money.

That is completely irresponsible.

It is also unreasonable NOT to have an income tax and irresponsible of the legislature not to start doing this any time in the last three years.

--

Mary Christensen
General Manager
Co-op Market Grocery & Deli

526 Gaffney Road Fairbanks, AK 99701

Cell: 907-347-4463 Office: 907-457-1023 Ext. 103 [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.coopmarket.org&d=DwICAg&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXD9ZA&r=-S6Rj-x9u6GuSeAKSLhjfGjack6ODj3n7rwUNbs6N4E&m=5D4MekDLoorhXFWu0vjtUG8wRqhYXDV66rjur5zJ3Ks&s=vHpbEVNPda)

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To change the direction of our world, we must "renew the worn paths to our neighbor's door". Unknown podcaster

Jake Almeida

From: Timothy Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:27 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Chris.Birch@akleg.gov; Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov
Subject: Testimony on proposed bills and state budget

Testimony to Legislators:

My family and I, who are super voters, oppose the cuts proposed by the Governor. Such cuts are unnecessary and are based on the faulty premise that Alaskans should not contribute to state services. We are not freeloaders; the "mooch mentality" is childish, selfish and damaging to the state.

Alaska does not have a fiscal crisis. We have a crisis in leadership, caused by past legislators' failure to diversify state revenue. We support the following: reduced oil company tax credits; a modest income and/or sales tax; reasonable reductions to the PFD; cuts to wasteful projects such as the Knik Arm Bridge; reasonable INCREASES to the budget. Yes, increases: the budget has been cut enough, and modest increases, especially to higher education (we do not work for the UA system) will stimulate the economy.

We also oppose the bills proposed by Gov. Dunleavy. Reducing the dividend in the past was necessary (only because of the legislature's failure, however, to diversify revenue), and the dividend should not be locked into a certain amount constitutionally. Alaska needs flexibility regarding its revenue.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Feel free to contact us: Timothy and Carina Johnson, land line is [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
Timothy and Carina Johnson
Anchorage, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Nick Mow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:08 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose B23 B24

I am nick mow and I oppose b23b24
Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Lauren Wild [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:06 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Hello I am writing to oppose SB23 and SB24.
My name is Lauren Wild, and I live in Sitka, Alaska.

Jake Almeida

From: Ty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 6:44 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Dear Senate

Do I like the PFD, yes I do. Am I willing to give it up to balance the state budget, yes I am. I'm willing to give it all up for as long as it takes for you people stop waiting money by subsidizing every outpost, village or minority in the state. Lets get real, I'm all for the governors budget and if we don't have it, cut it. Bear bones, tough love. You can't spend what we don't have.

Cut the budget and especially the the UNIVERSITY. They waist so much money it makes me sick and I went to UAF. Start with cutting the Chancellor.

Ty Miller

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Jake Almeida


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 23 and 24

I am opposed to SB 23 and 24 to pay back PFD money. I have no problem with fund earnings being used for education and other state budget needs. While I think a progressive income tax and maybe a (seasonal) sales tax to include out-of-state workers and tourists would be more fair, capping the dividend until something else can be worked out is the best course of action. Defunding the state so drastically is a terrible idea. I do not support Dunleavy or his budget.

James Hassel
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks Alaska 99709
[REDACTED]

To the Chairman and full committee of the
Senate State Affairs -

I am strongly opposed to the proposal
to give Alaskan residents \$3000⁰⁰ in a
special PFD and, at the same time,
cutting funding for Education. Our
Children are our future and ~~their~~ their
education is vitally important to all
good
broad
of us..

Patricia A. Welsh

Sitka -

TO: All AK. State Legislators – 31st session
(Senate Rules Committee)
(State Affairs, Finance)

NO....NO.....to Senate Bill 23

NO....NO.....to Senate Bill 24

(No Supplemental funds of the Permanent Fund)

Instead take all monies intended in these bill & **use for:**

- State Ferries
- State Schools
- State Fish Tax for Municipalities
- State Oil Tax for Municipalities
- Public Radio

My values include the health of all above.

Do you not understand?

We stand to lose our ONLY highway!

We stand to lose teachers (45 in Sitka, AND 100 in Juneau, AND 72 in Ketchikan)!

We stand to lose a flow in information largely free of FAKE NEWS!

We stand to lose vibrant communities attractive to families and new workers!

VOTE NO.....Marcia Strand, [redacted] Sitka, AK 99835

[redacted] Sitka *Marcia Strand*

Jake Almeida

From: Ashton, Alexandra [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23,24

My name is Alexandra S Ashton. I oppose SB 23, 24. I am an Alaska resident living in Juneau, Alaska. I believe cutting school and ferry funding will negatively effect our young generations educational future(s) in Alaska. The ferry system is a highway, and all highways require maintenance, therefore; the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system needs to be appropriately funded so it stays a safe way of transportation.

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:34 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: 3.6.19 testimony.docx

3/6/19

Testimony Regarding SB 23 and 24 – Permanent Fund Dividend

To: Chairman Shower, Vice-Chair Coghill and Members Reinbold, Micciche and Kawasaki

I am Doreen Schenkenberger, born and raised in Nome, I am Inupiat descent and a Bering Straits Native Corporation Shareholder, who now lives and works in Anchorage.

I am strongly opposed to SB 23 and 24. The size of the dividend proposed in those bills is not affordable and will destroy the dividend program in the long run. The cuts will put Alaska in a major economic recession. **Super-sized dividends are super-bad!**

Being from Nome, I appreciate the importance of the dividend to our rural villages and economies, **but it is far better to have a moderate but stable dividend that will last and be there for our children and grandchildren, combined with much-needed state governmental assistance such as troopers, community revenue sharing, and good schools.**

Make the annual dividend part (maybe 25 %) of new legislation modifying the POMV system to give it a structured and secure future!

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Jeff and Anna Jolley [REDACTED]
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:17 PM
Senate State Affairs
Funding for Education

Dear Senate Affairs,

Even though PFD has been very important to us, it is not more important than the current funding of education. A drastic cut in education will greatly effect our children here in Talkeetna and all education programs in this state. This is unacceptable. Please do not allow any funding cuts to education.

Anna and Jeff Jolley

Jake Almeida

From: Virginia Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; Rep. Ben Carpenter
Subject: written testimony for SB 23/24

My name is Virginia Morgan. I am a life-long Alaskan with two children, living in a small community on the Kenai Peninsula.

I am opposed to SB 23 & 24, as it appears to be at the expense of education, health and social services, the university, and the state ferry system. It also would greatly increase the burden on local government.

My top budget priority is public education. The PFD is important to many Alaskans, and it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for a PFD. The budget for public education should be determined by need.

How revenue is acquired to fund public education is a separate issue. New revenue is needed. I am in support of using multiple ways to increase the revenue, including:

- revised oil tax credits
- personal income tax
- statewide sales tax
- cap on permanent fund dividend
- a constitutional amendment to designate a portion of marijuana tax to public education

Thank you,
Virginia Morgan

Jake Almeida

From: Alex Koplín [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24

I strongly support that you don't increase the PFD money you want to send until you get the budget fixed. The PFD money that you want to give citizens of Alaska is really not going to help people when the infrastructure has been diluted. Please vote against the increase. It really is selfish to give out more money when we are looking to increase revenue. The voters I don't think understood the full scope of the dividend increase that Dunleavy promised in lieu of the cuts he has suggested.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Jake Almeida

From: Mary Suminski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 2:36 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23/24

Senator Shower..

Please do NOT allow our children's education or our communities ferry access be a pawn.

I do not support reimbursement of past PFDs or increased PFDs, not on the backs of kids & rural SE communities.

Respectfully..

Mary Suminski
Sitka Alaska
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Geron Bruce [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB23 and SB24

Dear Senate State Affairs Members:

I am opposed to SB23 and SB24.

During the testimony on SB23 and SB24, numerous people testified that the PFD belonged to them and not the government. They seemed to believe that the Legislature had no authority to reduce, increase, or take any other action it deemed advisable regarding the PFD program.

These statements confused me, because both the dividend and the Permanent Fund itself were created by the government. The dividend belongs to the people in the same way that the state's oil, fisheries, minerals, and other public assets belong to the people. These resources are held in common for all the people; our elected representatives are empowered to make decisions on the people's behalf about the best uses of these public resources.

The current formula for calculating dividends is no longer appropriate and needs to be changed. It was a nice thing to do when oil revenues were high and the state had a budget surplus or large savings accounts. Those days are gone.

The legislature is completely within its authority to adjust the dividend payment in accordance with total revenues and the priorities for state spending.

Geron Bruce

Jake Almeida

From: Shannon Seifert [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Public Testimony Regarding SB23 and SB24

My name is Shannon Seifert and I am a 20-year Juneau resident, and am currently residing in the capitol with my husband and two young sons. While I understand first-hand the importance of the PFD to Alaskans, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB23 and SB24. We cannot ask Alaskans to choose between collecting "full" PFDs and funding essential public services including Pre-K, K-12 and higher education, state ferries, and services for disabled, homeless, elderly members of our communities.

I posit the budget as proposed by the governor is an attack on government itself; a blatant attempt to weaken the social fabric, safety nets, and collective well-being of all Alaskans to the benefit of corporations through privatization of public services and resources. We cannot allow this harmful reduction in funding to further marginalize your most vulnerable and least-represented constituents when a diverse array of alternative revenue options are left off the table.

You are the ones who will parry this attack. My family values the essential work you and others have undertaken as representatives and implore you to consider a more robust revenue strategy that is truly "sustainable, predictable, and affordable": a progressive broad-based income tax, reduction or elimination of oil tax credits, and yes, use of the PFD earnings reserve, as necessary, to provide government with fidelity.

Thank You for hearing my voice in opposition of SB23 and SB24.

Jake Almeida

From: Jenni Lefing [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 1:10 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposition to SB 23/24

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 23/24. As an Alaskan resident, I understand the importance of the PFD to many Alaskans, including myself, who puts in a large percentage of my son's PFD into his Alaska College Savings Plan each year.

However, I do not believe that our PFD's should take away funding from essential services that Alaskans rely on. Funding for PFD's should not take the place of public education funding, especially funding that School Districts had anticipated and have already budgeted for this school year.

As a parent to a child who will be starting Kindergarten in the Juneau School District this fall, I am deeply concerned. I wonder about the quality of his education, if public education is funded the way it is laid out in the Governor's proposed budget. Ensuring Alaska's children receive a quality education to become productive and responsible citizens should be a higher priority than funding PFD's.

There are many ways to maintain public education and other essential services in Alaska without the proposed drastic cuts, including using part of the PFD earnings. Please ensure that Alaska's essential services are funded first, before addressing any increases to the PFD.

Sincerely

Jenni Lefing

--

Jenni Lefing

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

cell: [REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Heather Fernstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; sen.donald.oslon@akleg.gov
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee and to Senator Mike Shower and Senator Donny Olson,

I cannot attend the public testimony you have recently held on SB 23 and SB, so I wish to express my views here:

I strongly oppose both bills, as they are extremely unwise in a time of fiscal conservativeness, as the Governor has expressed.

It is unethical and completely irresponsible to justify this kind of money to be handed out, while at the same time, for funding for critical public services to be cut.

Cutting funds to public education, the university, and healthcare around our state will not stimulate the economy, in fact, it will drive families like mine away from the state. Families are the core of a thriving state economy. Families bring money into the state (they buy houses and pay property taxes), they build businesses that stimulate the economy, and they provide the workers for important jobs around the state. If you drive out families, you will drive us into an economic recession.

We cannot justify the paying out of PFD money in this way, when the money that would be dispersed would make up the deficit that balances the budget.

I oppose SB 23 and SB 24, and would instead support bills that reduce or cease PFD payments to all individual Alaskans entirely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Heather Fernstrom
Unalakleet, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Julie Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:41 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: !*No*! on PFD pay back proposal

Hello, I am taking time out of my vacation to voice my opposition to Dunleavy's proposed PFD payback. This action would gut our state. The cuts proposed to pay for it are ideological and not based on reality. They would be incredibly damaging. I understand that using the PFD to fund state government is regressive, but slashing state government is not the answer! I would be willing to give up my PFD to fund state services, but I would rather pay a modest income tax that would fund state government in a more progressive way, and we should also be looking at other sources of revenue such as more taxes on oil.

It will be irresponsible for you to go through with this plan that is based on nothing more than a campaign promise. Even though people may say they would rather have a relatively small amount of money now in return for severely damaging the state's ability to provide services such as education, transportation, safety, health, deep down you know that they will miss these services when they are gone. It is up to you to figure out what is best for the state in the long run. I urge you to set aside ideology and really think about what is the best solution here.

Thank you very much,

Julie Nielsen
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Dale Pihlman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Payback PFD

Committee:
Please do not support the Governor's proposal to pay back withheld portions of the past PFD payouts. Who in their right mind gives away money in a financial crisis. Also, consider an income tax. I remember the days before oil. We paid a state tax, as I recall based on 10% of our federal tax. I don't recall any angst among the citizenry. Alaskans deserve to live a life with basic services and in dignity.

Dale Pihlman
Ketchikan

Jake Almeida

From: Angie Clark Sulzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:09 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Vote against 23 and 24

Dear Senators,

Greetings from Iceland! Just a little vacation, but I wanted to make sure my voice was heard.

I am voting against SB 23 and 24 - the PFD as written. I think funding the PFD in this manner will put Alaska in a very tenuous position with other financial responsibilities, and open us up to a world of hurt long-term.

My preference would be to work more toward a combination of measures, more sustainable in the long-run and less burdensome for the majority of people in Alaska. These measures would include a smaller PFD, oil tax credit payback only to our statutory requirements during the years we come out behind, some cuts, revisiting the oil tax giveaway (21), some other options such as lotteries, a small income tax, and visiting a state bank.

Back to the drawing board I guess.

Thank you for all you do.

--

Angie Clark
Soldotna, AK

[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Russ Newell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: comments on SB 23 and 24 - enlarged PFD

I am for public education and Alaska' infrastructure and so am opposed to giving enhanced amounts though dividends from the Permanent Fund.

I was here in the 1970s when there was a state income tax and a Borough sales tax (Fairbanks North Star Borough). And I'd lived a state with both state income and sales taxes. By keeping more money in our Permanent Fund and using it for state needs like education, our need for taxes will be lessened.

I am for better schools and a better state college system.

It sure looks like Dunleavy is repeating the same failed ideological experiment that Sam Brownback sprang on Kansas in 2012. Dunleavy even used the same "budget to gut the State" person to introduce the state to chaos.

<https://www.ktoo.org/2019/02/26/as-dunleavy-defends-budget-nonpartisan-analyst-questions-whether-it-was-designed-to-create-chaos/>

Kansas crashed and burned. Finally, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that Kansas had inadequate public education funding and forced the State to pony up millions. Please see the links below.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/beltway/2017/06/07/the-great-kansas-tax-cut-experiment-crashes-and-burns/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/02/us/kansas-supreme-court-school-spending.html>

<https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article135967648.html>

Of note, refer to p 123 and 126 of the following on the Alaskan Constitution.

http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/citizens_guide.pdf

You'll see that funding for public education is required as a public good.

Jake Almeida

From: Chapman, Pat (KGH) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23/ SB24

Honorable Senators;

These bills will do nothing to alleviate the need of the seniors and disabled whom we at one time thought it would help. It will cause terrible reaction to our revenue to the state and in turn cause more damages to our people. I say leave the PFD from past be past and lets go forward to better manage our funds. Do not vote to refund past PFDs to their limit.

I do not want to see the SE lose the ferry system as we all depend upon it for so much of our life. Supplies from down below come in, we make medical trips on it we travel back and forth to other communities. Your members often use it to bring their vehicles to and from Juneau for sessions. The ferry is a vital link we need. Our seniors and disabled folks need to receive their funding of PFDs to be held harmless towards their Medicaid and SSI funds. These are the folks who have little and often go hungry at the end of the month due to lack of funds to feed and support themselves. I see the elders purchase items that will help their life over the year with their PFDs, they pay for items they cannot do with Medicaid and SSI. Often it's heat and utilities they are paying for. While back paying would be nice for them they will be hurt in other ways if you do so, maybe so drastically they suffer sever health issues.

So please think and investigate all issues before voting for these bills.

Pat Chapman

[REDACTED]

This message is intended solely for the use of the individual and entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable state and federal laws. If you are not the addressee, or are not authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, distribute, or disclose to anyone this message or the information contained herein. If you have received this message in error, immediately advise the sender by reply email and destroy this message.

Jake Almeida

From: Pat Race [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:39 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 / 24

I'm opposed to this approach to a full PFD payback and more so to the Dunleavy approach to budgeting.

I think the state needs to raise revenue in addition to reducing expenditures. And we can't just frame the debate as services vs. PFDs. We need to evaluate our resource revenues and make sure we're getting a fair shake and that we're advocating for the best deal for the state and people of Alaska.

If we're going to continue to pay out the existing PFD formula, we need to institute an income tax to claw back some of that revenue and to additionally collect revenue from out-of-state workers.

Presently, our state services can not scale. An increase to our population through an improved private sector would only mean a thinning and reduction of services for all residents. Our private successes and collective public successes need to become more intrinsically linked.

Thank you for your work and please don't destroy the University, K-12 or Alaska Marine Highway.

All my best,
Pat Race

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
District 33

Jake Almeida

From: David Tallmon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:15 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: reject SB 23 & SB 24

Dear Senators-

I urge you to vote against SB 23 and SB 24 because while these bills will provide a windfall of cash, they will effectively destroy our K-12 and university systems in this state. I believe, and many studies show, that education is the best way out of poverty and provides great opportunities for upward mobility. Larger class sizes and a disemboweled UA will move the state backward. Thus, I strongly urge you to reject SB 23 and SB 24. Instead, invest in our children by supporting K-12 and UA funding.

Thanks for your time,

David Tallmon

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Jan Caulfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24 - OPPOSE

To: Alaska State Legislature, Senate State Affairs Committee

Thank you for welcoming and soliciting comments on SB 23 and 24.

I am writing to express my opposition to back payments of PFDs for 2016-2018 and requiring a full PFD payment in 2019.

I encourage the Legislature to set aside the Governor's budget proposal and create a more comprehensive, long-term budget solution - supported by nonpartisan economic analysis. Cutting \$1.6B in state services and jobs will completely destabilize Alaska's economy and society. I support funding for pre-K, K-12 and university education; transportation services; power cost equalization; medicaid -- and other programs that serve our collective societal needs; build a stronger Alaska, attract businesses and families to Alaska; and support our economy.

I also support increasing revenue - by increasing taxes on the oil and gas industry to pre-Parnell levels and considering reestablishment of the progressive state income tax we once employed.

Regards,

Jan Caulfield
Juneau, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Letasha McKoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Jesse Kieh; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Opposing SB23 and 24

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to "pay back" Alaskans' PFDs (SB23 and 24). I am a Lingit-Alaskan, born and raised in this state, and am soon to be a first time mom with my husband, who was also born and raised in this state. My family has been here for generations, and I want to be able to stay in my hometown, continue contributing to the economy here, and raise a family to call Alaska home, too. However, that will not be possible with the devastating budget cuts proposed in Governor Dunleavy's recently published budget, because - if the proposed cuts are passed - Alaska will no longer be a desirable or even viable place to find a job, afford a home, raise children, or grow old. K-12 education funding, funding for Southeast Alaska's lifeline, the Alaska Marine Highway, and funding for the numerous other vital programs that are on the chopping block is much, much more necessary and important than receiving "back pay" on my PFD.

I am 32 years old. I graduated from college 11 years ago. Though I am proudly employed in a job that I love, I am not, by any stretch of imagination, rich. A thousand dollars is a lot to me. Three thousand dollars? That could pay my mortgage for almost three months. However, as much as I would love to see an extra thousand, two thousand, three thousand, five thousand dollars in my pocket, I love Alaska more. I love our children, our rural communities and my Native Alaskan peers, our elders, University of Alaska students, and every single one of my fellow Alaskans, more.

Fully funding the services that keep Alaskans in Alaska will make our state stronger and our future brighter. I would rather see small classroom sizes for my neighbors' children; manageable heating costs and ferry access for my family in Angoon; attentive, affordable care for those pioneers who helped build this state; and a robust university system prepare other young Alaskans for a multitude of different careers and trades, than some extra money in my own bank account.

Please do not "pay back" PFDs, and instead use that money to fully fund state services. Sure, I'd like a little more money in my wallet (who wouldn't?), but I'd like to continue calling Alaska my home a hell of a lot more.

Thank you for your time and dedicated attention to this matter.

Tasha

Jake Almeida

From: JonE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: No on Senate Bills 23 and 24

Everyone likes free money but not at the expense of destroying Yakutat. No Ferry, no shared fix tax and reducing funding for Yakutat schools by 250K. I say flat fund the budget and whatever is left over is the dividend – whether 1 cent or 1K. The Governor's budget without revenue for the PFD is a direct attack on rural Alaskans.

Jon Erickson EdD
City and Borough Manager
[REDACTED]
Yakutat, AK 99689

Jake Almeida

From: Anita Golton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23 & SB 24

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am writing today to beg you not to approve SB 23 or SB 24. While the Permanent Fund Dividend is important to Alaska and Alaskans, any regular pay out is enough. Clearly, funding for public education is more important than any kind of increase to the Dividend. I am saddened that our governor and our legislature would not see the devastating affect the proposed budget cuts and the extra PFD payouts would have on so many Alaska families. My son is 12, in 7th grade. His school would lose teachers, after school programs and more if cuts to education are made in order to pay for more PFD money in resident's pockets.

I worry for the future of this state when I see how much some of our leaders are diminishing the educational needs of of Alaskan children and young adults. I have wondered what kind of high school and possible college education my son will receive in the coming years, and have even begun to consider leaving the state for one that prioritizes education. I believe that if extra funds are payed out with the PFD and if 25% of education funding is cut in the coming budget, many many Alaskan families will not want to stay here for the immediate and foreseeable future. I doubt that Alaskans leaving Alaska is what the legislature or the governor had in mind.

Sincerely,

Anita Golton
Talkeetna, Alaska
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: LIO Delta Junction
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: FW: SB 23 & 24

Dear Committee Members,

Below is an email I received from a local constituent in regards to SB23 and SB24.

Mrs. Katrina Skidmore
Delta Junction Legislative Information Office
PO Box 1189 Delta Junction, Alaska, 99737
LIO.Deltajunction@akleg.gov
Phone: 907.895.5017 Fax: 907.895.5017

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature
Click [HERE](#) to send a Public Opinion Message during session

From: Gene Eggleston [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 6:31 PM
To: LIO Delta Junction <Lio.DeltaJunction@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 24 & 24

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 23 & 24 in light of the State of Alaska's current fiscal situation.

Gene

Jake Almeida

From: Jack Kreinheder [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Super-sized PFD bills

I am very strongly opposed to the super-sized PFD bills. They would contribute to decimating public education, the university system, the ferry system, and other essential state services. Please vote down these bills.

Thank you,
Jack Kreinheder and Amy Carroll

[REDACTED]
Juneau AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Bob Sylvester [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24 testimony

Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee;

Greetings,

I am very much opposed to Senate Bills 23 & 24 (PFD Supplemental Payments)

In Alaska, the Governor suggests spending priorities in the Budget. Then the Legislature agrees, or not, and passes their Budget. If the Executive branch does not provide a coherent rationale for its Budget, it is up to the Legislature to make decisions.

If it was intended to provide adequate services for all Alaskans it is apparent the Governors Budget has mis-allocated a great deal of money. These two bills are an example.

The needs (and requirements) of the Legislature to fund public services such as Public Safety, Education and other services that contribute to the public good for the entire state require adequate funding. SB 23 & 24 use funds that could be otherwise used to adequately fund those services. K-12 Education, for example, benefits all Alaskans as it produces educated, better informed and engaged citizens. We can surely postpone SB 23 & 24 until we have adequate resources to pay them without destroying necessary services. The Governors cuts disenfranchise a generation of Alaskans.

Funding necessary services adequately is a difficult goal that the House and Senate must reach in the best interests of all Alaskans.

Please vote No on SB 23 & 24. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Sylvester

Juneau

A thick, black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of Bob Sylvester.

Jake Almeida

From: Lauren Verrelli [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:35 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: No to SB 23 & 24

Good Morning,

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to "pay back" Alaskans' PFDs (SB23 and 24). I am a young Alaskan, born and raised in this state. I want to be able to stay in my hometown, continue contributing to the economy here, and eventually buy a home and raise a family to call Alaska home, too. However, that will not be possible with the devastating budget cuts proposed in Governor Dunleavy's recently published budget, because - if the proposed cuts are passed - Alaska will no longer be a desirable or even viable place to find a job, buy a home, raise children, or grow old. K-12 education funding, funding for Southeast Alaska's lifeline, the Alaska Marine Highway, and funding for the numerous other vital programs that are on the chopping block is much, much more necessary and important than receiving "back pay" on my PFD.

As much as I would love to see an extra thousand, two thousand, three thousand, five thousand dollars in my pocket, I love Alaska more. I love our children, our rural communities and my Native Alaskan neighbors, our elders, University of Alaska students, and every single one of my fellow Alaskans, more.

Fully funding the services that keep Alaskans in Alaska will make our state stronger and our future brighter. I would rather see small classroom sizes for my neighbors' children; manageable heating costs and ferry access for my friends in Pelican; attentive, affordable care for those pioneers who helped build this state; and a robust university system prepare other young Alaskans for a multitude of different careers and trades, than some extra money in my own bank account. Please do not "pay back" PFDs, and instead use that money to fully fund state services.

Thank you,

Lauren Verrelli
Juneau, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Jason Gasper [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:14 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24- nay

Dear Senators,

As a resident of Alaska for 20+ years, I do not support SB 23 and 24. The idea of a large payout is short sighted and squanders future opportunity. Please don't pass these bills. Funding state government is more important to the overall long term health of the economy than simply giving everyone a check. We have economic studies to support this.

This is a situation where perhaps public opinion isn't helpful given the strong incentives for short term gain. You have the responsibility of thinking about these issues for future generations of Alaskans (like my son), not just from the perspective of short term gain that you will hear from many. Of course people want money, but it's your responsibility to show leadership and not hide behind populism.

Please balance our budget without further cuts to good paying State jobs, and provide economic stability, even if this means a new tax. Please don't further expand the PFD as proposed (as a registered independent, I call these bills the republican welfare program).

Respectfully, Jason Gasper

Jake Almeida

From: Laura Steele [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Testimony on SB 23/24 - PFD

Good morning,

I am writing in opposition of appropriating funds to "pay back" Alaskans' PFDs (SB23 and 24). I am a young, third-generation Alaskan, born and raised in this state. I want to be able to stay in my hometown, continue contributing to the economy here, and eventually buy a home and raise a family to call Alaska home, too. However, that will not be possible with the devastating budget cuts proposed in Governor Dunleavy's recently published budget, because - if the proposed cuts are passed - Alaska will no longer be a desirable or even viable place to find a job, buy a home, raise children, or grow old. K-12 education funding, funding for Southeast Alaska's lifeline, the Alaska Marine Highway, and funding for the numerous other vital programs that are on the chopping block is much, much more necessary and important than receiving "back pay" on my PFD.

I am 26 years old. I graduated from college four years ago. Though I am proudly employed in a job that I love, I am not, by any stretch of imagination, rich. A thousand dollars is a lot to me. Three thousand dollars? That could pay my rent for almost three months. However, as much as I would love to see an extra thousand, two thousand, three thousand, five thousand dollars in my pocket, I love Alaska more. I love our children, our rural communities and my Native Alaskan neighbors, our elders, University of Alaska students, and every single one of my fellow Alaskans, more.

Fully funding the services that keep Alaskans in Alaska will make our state stronger and our future brighter. I would rather see small classroom sizes for my neighbors' children; manageable heating costs and ferry access for my friends in Angoon; attentive, affordable care for those pioneers who helped build this state; and a robust university system prepare other young Alaskans for a multitude of different careers and trades, than some extra money in my own bank account.

Please do not "pay back" PFDs, and instead use that money to fully fund state services. Sure, I'd like a little more money in my wallet (who wouldn't?), but I'd like to continue calling Alaska my home a hell of a lot more.

Thank you,

Laura Steele
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Iris Matthews [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; senator.mike.showers@akleg.gov
Cc: senator.jessie.kiehl@akleg.gov; representative.Sara.Hannon@akleg.gov
Subject: No on SB 23 - PFD giveback

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I urge you not to pass SB 23 - the Governor's bill to pay back past permanent fund dividends. As the Governor has made abundantly clear, the state is in a fiscal crisis. Our savings are dwindling, and drastic cuts to state services that will affect every Alaskan are being considered. This bill will make our state's fiscal situation much more dire, at great expense to every Alaskan.

Paying out super-size PFDs is irresponsible. The budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy is also irresponsible. I urge you not to pass this bill out of committee, and to come up with a long-term fiscal solution that doesn't gut the state and leave future generations with so much less opportunity.

I'd much rather pay an income tax than see a super-size PFD.

Sincerely,

Iris Matthews
Juneau, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Anita Golton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23 & SB 24

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am writing today to beg you not to approve SB 23 or SB 24. While the Permanent Fund Dividend is important to Alaska and Alaskans, any regular pay out is enough. Clearly, funding for public education is more important than any kind of increase to the dividend. I am saddened that our governor and our legislature would not see the devastating affect the proposed budget cuts and the extra PFD payouts would have on so many Alaska families. My son is 12, in 7th grade. His school would certainly lose teachers and after school programs if cuts to education are made in order to pay for more PFD money in residents pockets. I worry for the future of this state when I see how much some of our leaders are diminishing the educational needs of of Alaskan children. I have wondered what kind of high school and possible college education my son will receive in the coming years and have begun to consider leaving the state for one that prioritizes education. I believe that if extra funds are payed out with the PFD and if 25% of education funding is cut in the coming budget, many many Alaskan families will not want to stay here for the immediate and foreseeable future. I doubt that Alaskans leaving Alaska is what the legislature or the governor had in mind.

Sincerely,

Anita Golton
Talkeetna, Alaska
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Bjorn Wolter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD testimony

I am writing to urge the legislature to reject the governor's proposed legislation to gut government to "pay-back" the PFD for the past three years. It's an awful idea that will drive the state into recession, see thousands of people leave the state, depress home prices, and set services back decades. No one will want to move to Alaska if there are poor schools, if there is no infrastructure, and no economy. It's a false promise to say that paying a supersized PFD will benefit the economy because there is zero guarantee that money will be used in the state. What is guaranteed is if the governor's proposed cuts to state services do go through, the economy WILL be significantly and detrimentally impacted.

Supersized PFDs are NOT worth it. The education of my children via fully funded schools is.

DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS BILL.

Bjorn Wolter
Juneau

Jake Almeida

From: Gretchen Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Budget

Greetings Senate State Affairs:

Thanks for all your hard work, I know you've got a tough road ahead! I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am deeply disturbed by the governors budget. I think it is irresponsible to the highest degree to the future of our state and our residents. While I view the PFD program as visionary and important, I do not think that we need huge PFDs and prioritizing that over providing desperately needed state services is a bad idea. I believe so strongly in this that I have given away most of my PFDs for the last three years and will continue to do so despite not having a very large monthly income myself. In my view, we need to quickly institute a State income tax and implement many of the revenue-providing measures proposed by the Walker-Mallott team. These include increased oil and gas taxes and taxes on the other major Alaskan industries. The draconian cuts proposed by Governor Dunleavy to education, the Ferry system, and other state services hurt the people who most need it. This governor was elected by effectively bribing people to vote for him by making a promise he couldn't keep---to back-fund the permanent fund dividend. Please call him on his bluff and pass a budget with reasonable state services!!

Sincerely,

Gretchen Bishop
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage.lto@akleg.gov 907-269-0111 / phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Wende Mack

REPRESENTING: _____

BILL# / SUBJECT: SB 23 + 24
COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: _____

I am opposed to SB 23 + 24
I am a first generation Alaskan + a
40 year business woman in Anchorage.
This Bill will devastate our economy
and is incredibly short sighted.

We need to build a vibrant University
System that was our incredible
national endorsement to help the
problem of global warming fish management
and restore development.

Jake Almeida

From: Michael Tobin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: PFD payback plan

The PFD payback plan proposed by the governor denies the reality of our fiscal situation. If we want a vibrant state, we will have to pay for it, meaning we need to increase state revenue. We can't afford the payback proposed by the governor and have state money for education, transportation, public health, and public safety.

Please do what you can to stop the Permanent Fund payback.

Sincerely, Michael W Tobin
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99803
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Jake Almeida

From: Melody Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony on SB23 and SB24 - I do not support these bills

Good morning,

I was planning to testify on Thursday, March 6, 2019; however, that testimony period has been cancelled.

I do not support SB23 and SB24.

Pitting increased and retroactive permanent fund dividend payments against essential services is an interesting tactic on the part of the governor.

It is not possible to just cut the state's budget to balance it and still meet the needs of Alaskans.

New revenue streams must be considered as part of the budget solution; I support an income tax.

Personally, **we do not pay any taxes** when I look at the amount my husband and I receive in permanent fund dividend payments compared to our property tax payments. It is not reasonable to live in a state and not provide some support to state operations!

Thank you for your service to the residents of Alaska.

Melody Douglas, retired
resident of Ridgeway and

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Jessica Pyatt [REDACTED]
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:40 AM
Senate State Affairs
SB 23 & SB24

Dear Senators -

I am writing to oppose the full permanent fund divided.

Please use the money to do the role of the US state government.

I say this because I support not just schools and education, but having clean water & sewers, health care (keep the max federal match you can for Medicaid dollars), access for rural communities (a ferry service, even if limited), and elder care. You are looking at elder abuse and neglect if you cannot fund the Pioneers Homes as people cannot afford any other option. Please do not take the Fish Tax away from fishing communities. We will lose our fishing fleet entirely and there will be no money coming in if we do not have harbors, clean water, sewers and access.

Keep the money and spend it on state services.

Thank you.

Jessica Pyatt
Sitka, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Tim Stallard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose Supplemental PFD payments

Dear Senators,

Who doesn't like free money?

I oppose the supplemental PFD payments because the billions that would cost is NOT free. Those billions would further drain our savings and come at the cost of our essential state services and institutions.

I know the PFD is an important part of the income of many rural and low income Alaskans. So I believe some mix of a smaller PFD with other revenue sources such as an income tax are the fairest and most economically sound way to carry our state into the future. The oil industry is a critical cornerstone of our economy, but I'm hopeful we can revisit oil taxes in a meaningful way that increases our revenue without killing the golden goose.

I want to briefly mention the importance of the University of Alaska - a state supported institutions that is an essential investment in the future of our state. I am a successful small business owner (who doesn't need a PFD, I give a lot of mine away through Pick Click Give). I would NOT be in Alaska today if it were not for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The combination of the tremendous economic opportunities I have found in this state and the excellent educational opportunities I found at UAF are the reason I live in Alaska today. Without a dynamic UA, I would have pursued my education somewhere else and would instead today being creating wealth and hiring employees somewhere else.

The UA system has already faced huge cuts and layoffs the last few years. Perhaps we still need to find the right, affordable size for the UA system for the future, but we can't gut UA in one year as the Governor's draft budget proposes to do - that would lead to a massive brain drain from our state. Our economy is in a fragile state at the moment already. We need to invest in, not destroy our state's essential institutions.

Thank you,

Tim Stallard
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Tristan Knutson-Lombardo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:59 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: "supersized" PFD

It's time to restructure the PFD to guarantee a reasonable payout to individual Alaskans in perpetuity while using the remaining balance to help pay for state services. I strongly believe this is a rational compromise.

Other sources of revenue need to be explored in our state, including an income tax. We are the only state where its citizens don't have 'skin in the game'. Nothing in life is free, including government services. It's time that Alaskans begin to pay for at least a portion of the services they benefit from.

Tristan Knutson-Lombardo
Juneau

Jake Almeida

From: alaskanow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:35 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Re: SB23 and SB24 testimony

Please don't pass SB23 and SB24. That would be premature. There is much discussion ahead on PFD, budget, and revenue, as Sen. Von Imhoff has indicated. Don't forget we are not obligated to pay 1 + billion dollar oil tax credits, anymore than we were obligated to pay for that 4th Avenue LIO building upgrade. (Which we did not pay.)

Barbara McDaniel
[REDACTED]

Wasilla, AK 99623

Jake Almeida

From: Judith Hauck [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:21 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Alaska pfd

I DO NOT Support larger payouts and paybacks of the PFD to Alaskans.

Thus proposed action does nothing to balance the budget crisis.

This current budget will be devastating and to send money to Alaskans while cutting programs essential to our State residents is not acceptable.

Thank you
James Hauck

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Judy Hauck [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:16 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Permanent fund payout

The permanent fund should be used to cover any shortfalls that we have in Alaska government. Governor Hammond and the legislators set it up as a rainy day fund and that should be its purpose.

I DO NOT Support larger payouts and paybacks of the PFD to Alaskans.

This current budget will be devastating and to send money to Alaskans while cutting programs essential to our State residents is not acceptable.

Thank you
Judith Hauck

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Amy Rowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:14 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Reject SB 23 and 24

Dear Senate Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing you as a concerned Alaskan of 30 years. Please do not support Senate Bill 23 and 24. We do not need the past PFD fund distribution. We do need fully funded schools, universities, ferry service, and many other essential services Alaskans rely on and what makes our state a great place to live.

Please reject the supplemental PFD.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Rowe Danielson
Sitka, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Patricia Baum [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 5:49 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: FW: SB23 and SB24 testimony

Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee

I have lived in Alaska since 2002 and am currently employed at the University Alaska since 2005. I love this state.

As a UAA Project Manager, I have witnessed firsthand the need for important programs that assist the State of Alaska in growth and diversification.

The PFD fund was created when Alaska was a very different place. The price of oil has since gone down and we have many programs that serve a larger population. "Free" money is non-sustainable in an economy and state that is transitioning from being dependent on oil to growing within other industries.

As an Alaskan, I would gladly give up my PFD to help this state I so love. I am willing to do that for the sake of jobs, programs, growth and diversification. We have gone so far. The PFD does not have to be forfeited entirely. It can be a temporary measure or it can be a reduced check. Perhaps a "future" PFD can include revenues/royalties from other industries that we have grown –not just oil. There are other possibilities.

Therefore , I AM against SB23 and SB24.

Patricia Baum
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

Jake Almeida

From: Logan Wild [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 5:43 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposed to Senate Bills 23 & 24

I am opposed to Senate Bills 23 & 24. The funding in question would have a greater impact on all Alaskans if allocated to critical State services.
Thank you.

Logan Wild, Sitka
Age: 34
Length of residency in Alaska: 34 years

Jake Almeida

From: Cindy Bettine [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 12:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Use 1/2 of the PFD to help balance the budget rather than put AK back into recession.

Cindy Bettine
Big Lake

Jake Almeida

From: Nelli Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:17 PM
To: Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Mike Shower; Senate State Affairs
Subject: Do not pass SB 23/24

Dear Sen. von Imhof, Sen. Shower, and Senate Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express opposition to SB 23 and 24 and urge you to figure out a better solution to the problem we are facing that what these bills and Governor Dunleavy's budget proposes.

I am a long-time Alaskan, daughter to a teacher, and a mother of two young Alaskans that are just beginning school in the Anchorage School district. I agree with nearly every other Alaskan-- that the PFD is an incredible perk to living in this state. However, growing the PFD, or back-paying the PFD from past year, is not AT ALL worth the downsides of shortchanging other critical state programs (education, the ferry system, care of our elderly). We choose to live Alaska because its a great place to raise a family, the schools are good and continue to improve, and there are endless opportunities for outdoor adventure...not because of a PFD. The cuts to education and other important, highly valued public services should not be made for the short-term gains a larger PFD might bring. Please do not pass SB 23 and 24 and figure out a better solution to meet the important revenue needs for education, our ferry system and other critical services.

Thank you for your service to our state. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Nelli Williams
Anchorage (Oceanview neighborhood)

Jake Almeida

From: Sara Bergendahl [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 9:30 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposed to Senate bill 23&24

Dear Senator Shower and Committee,

I am a 20+ year citizen of Sitka, Physical Therapist presently working at Sitka Community Hospital. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bills 23 & 24. I believe the supplemental PFD's proposed by the governor will be harmful to our state. These moneys should be spent on education, the ferry system, Medicaid, and other essential services. Additional PFD payouts are not worth the ultimate price tag. Gutting and eliminating essential services for the sake of providing each Alaskan with a few extra thousand dollars is short-sighted, destructive, and will ultimately cripple our state. The responsible fiscal approach is to instate a state income tax. Every year I observe the benefits reaped by workers from outside this state coming to fish or work in tourism and they contribute nothing back to the state in the way of a tax for this income. We Alaskans as well need to all pay our fair share to support infrastructure of schools, university, healthcare, and the ferry system. Please vote no on SB23 & SB24.
Thank you, Sara Bergendahl, Sitka, AK

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jake Almeida

From: Susan Brandt-Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Senate State Affairs

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you because I am deeply concerned by the priorities that have been set forth in Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget and in SB 23/24. It is true that the sources of revenue that Alaskans have been relying on for decades have decreased. This means we need to look at new ways of funding the essential services in our state, and most importantly public education. Because of this I am opposed to SB 23 and SB 24. I do not want the supplemental PFD to happen. I believe we should create new revenue from a combination of a state income tax, a limited PFD and revised oil tax credits. Our recent revenue problem as a state should not be born on the backs of our children.

The cuts to education that have been proposed would completely change the nature of the education in our town and our state. Our schools draw people to our community, and keep them here even when it's a hard place to afford. Our children are our future. Our schools are the heart of our communities. We must support them with our hard-earned dollars to keep Alaska strong. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Susan Brandt-Ferguson
[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK 99835
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Sylvia Heinz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD Back-Pay Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

Although I prefer an income tax, I would rather lose out on my PFD than lose essential services such as Medicaid, education, public radio, and the Alaska Marine Highway. I do not support back-pay for the PFD and believe the prior administration's decisions should be honored.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. In the future, please know that 6:30pm on a school day is difficult for the family demographic.

Thank you,

Sylvia Heinz

[REDACTED]
Haines, AK, 99827
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Jeffery Mayfield [REDACTED]
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:32 PM
Senate State Affairs
PFD testimony

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to fully oppose the full PFD and PFD payback as proposed by Governor Dunleavy. It has been made clear by bi-partisan members of the senate and our representatives that this pfd payback will affect our budget and has helped stoke a "priority crisis" in our state. Our children are more important than my PFD.

Thank you.

Jeff Mayfield

Jake Almeida

From: Cami Dalton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:21 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Matthew Claman; Sen. Mia Costello
Subject: SB 23 and 24

I am outraged at the notion of handing out dividend checks, the biggest in the history of the Permanent Fund at the expense of Alaska's future!! It is fool hardy, frightening and irresponsible.

Larry Persily said it best in a recent opinion piece, "An Alaskan can buy a lot of things with \$3000, but individually, they can not buy a middle school, a university classroom, a rural airport or care for the elderly. However, Alaskans, collectively, can use the Permanent Fund earnings and taxes to do all those things. That's how a community functions. ...Individuals band together for the good of many." Adding \$3000 to my bank account would certainly be a good thing for me, personally. But it's not going to contribute to the good of others in our state. I would likely spend it on a trip to Hawaii or Mexico next Fall.

It is very unfortunate that our state is suffering from years of over-reliance on oil money and under reliance on ourselves. I am disappointed in the lack of integrity in our legislature...too many legislators have been defending the sanctity of a permanent fund check while saying if only we cut spending and keep the oil flowing, we will be fine. I am all for sharing oil wealth, but not for instilling in Alaskans the belief that we are ENTITLED. In fact, we are spoiled!

I love the analogy of the Alaska buffet. I have lived in Anchorage, Alaska for 36 years and have been dining for free! In fact, I have been paid to partake. Yes, I am willing to begin taking some responsibility for all that I receive from our state: schools, parks, roads, service. We all must share the cost of living here. I don't see how we can continue on the path we are on without taxes and a realistic Permanent Fund dividend. That is what I want my legislature working on this year... Not scraping the government down to the point where we are bleeding and amputating limbs.

I love Alaska. I want it to thrive on all levels. I fear that we that if the priority for our state is to make sure each citizen receives a hefty check every year, rather than that every child receives a quality education beginning in pre-K, or that we have safe rural villages, and adequate transportation system in Southeast Alaska, etc...well- I can assure you that this will be a state where problems multiply beyond our imagination. Our state will be attracting only those who want a hand out, not those who really can and will contribute to the economy and well being of Alaska. People who lose their jobs are not going to stick around because they will be getting a check from the state. Quality of life matters! Short term gain is not going to help me, my children or my grandchildren in years to come.

Thank you.

Cami Dalton
Anchorage

Jake Almeida

From: Patti Hauser [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Hello:

As a long-time Alaskan, I wish to state that I believe these proposed cuts in spending in our state is not responsible and will hurt our state for decades to come. We all know schools, ferries and other ways we support our state are not perfect but they are needed. These are part of what comprise a society and need help not being cut beyond repair. Here in Southeast Alaska I can imagine the devastation the cutting of the ferry system could cause among so many other issues I see with these drastic nightmarish cuts. I see offering the huge proposed PFD's as irresponsible while cutting these services so needed. I am so concerned with the plan in SB 23 and SB 24, finding them not an effective way to address our financial needs while understanding these are serious financial needs. I suggest we use some or all of the PFD money to help with the financial needs we have and look at taxes before this horrific plan is implemented. Please stop this reckless path in the name of our children and our future.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hauser
Ketchikan, Alaska

Jake Almeida

From: Sam Jordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:00 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24 Comment

While the PFD is important to many Alaskans it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for a PFD.

Thank you.

-Sam Jordan
Juneau

Jake Almeida

From: Nikki Love [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:49 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Please oppose SB 23 and SB 24

While the PFD is important to many Alaskans it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for a PFD. Funding education and funding the PFD are separate issues. I am in favor of no PFD back payment , increasing taxes on the oil companies, and instating a statewide income tax to address the budget problems.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nikki Love
Grandmother, Native Alaskan, Taxpayer, Voter

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:48 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Cuts to education are unacceptable

While the PFD is important to many Alaskans, funding public education is more important and cuts of 25% to pay for the PFD are unacceptable. Pay for government with a tax, so that we all have some skin in the game.

Jake Almeida

From: Daniel Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:47 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and 24

I've been an Alaska resident long enough to remember a state income tax. I remember in the early 70's working part time at a cold storage in Kodiak, and they took 10 bucks out of your first paycheck for school tax. I have also collected every PFD to date. I always considered it found money. I want to know how everyone was able to survive before the dividend. Now way to many people seem to depend on it. I'd like to see the dividend capped at 2,000 dollars and for the state to implement a payroll tax. A tax that would get into the pockets of all the out of state workers who come up here seasonally, and of course the oil workers who are not residents. A straight up income tax would penalize everyone. Just tax money that is earned in the state. I firmly oppose SB23 and 24. I'd like to see the marine highways funded.

Jake Almeida

From: Molly Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Just so you know I am NOT in favor of restoring our PFDs if it means that education and public services get cut. Plus with all of the cuts my borough is going to have to raise the MIL rate to 17 to cover shortfalls. That means I am going to see an increase in property taxes of \$187.00 a month. SO basically, I get taxed MORE to provide PFDS. That's unfair to property owners. You leaders need to lead and decide on an income stream that is equitable like a broad based tax or a smaller dividend, or NO dividend.

M. Johnson
Wasilla

Jake Almeida

From: Don Fritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:30 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Lora Reinbold
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bills 23 and 24

Good evening.

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bills 23 and 24. We are not owed money for past legal actions taken by our governor and legislators. I anticipate that we will see a significant reduction in our PFD's this year, and I believe that to be appropriate. We cannot afford to give out full PFD's, much less make payments for past legal actions of our government, when we are deficit spending.

Governor Dunleavy failed to find enough cuts to balance the budget and is instead relying on spending hundreds of millions of dollars of reserves and taking hundreds of millions of dollars of funds from local government. Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget filled less than half of the deficit by cuts, and many of the cuts or reallocation of local government money likely will not survive legislative scrutiny.

Thus I am in opposition to Senate Bills 23 and 24.

Thank you!

Don Fritz

Jake Almeida

From: Cathy Tide [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:25 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB23 and SB24

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs committee,
My name is Catherine Tide and I am an Alaskan resident. I do not support SB23 and SB24. During these times of low state revenue, I do not support "paying back" Alaskans money for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 PFDs. I would rather that money be used to pay for education, the ferry system, and other essential state services. I realize it's not the focus of these bills, but since additional revenue is needed, please consider a statewide sales tax or an income tax. I would happily pay either in order to support services that I consider important to our society.

Thank you,
Catherine Tide

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:25 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: OPPOSED to SB 23 and SB 24

Please record me as opposed to SB 23 and SB 24, the enabling legislation and appropriation for Governor Dunleavy's proposal for full funding of current, and partial funding of past, Permanent Fund Dividends.

I came to Alaska in 1963 on the MV Matanuska in its first year of operation. At that time we had no North Slope oil fields, no Trans-Alaska pipeline and no Permanent Fund Dividend. We did have a state income tax. We also had a Pioneer's Home, a new, fully-functioning ferry system, a growing educational system, and a determination to build the infrastructure needed in a new, huge, and under-developed state. We also had leaders who were not afraid of the future, were determined to govern wisely, and recognized the importance of government service and government services. We had a growing population fueled by the optimism of unlimited possibilities.

Governor Dunleavy's budget assumes today's Alaskans have a very narrow vision of our collective interests and a poverty of spirit. That is not the state I came to 56 years ago and it is not the state that most people testifying before this committee want today. Please follow in the footsteps of those early pioneers and continue to have a positive vision of what Alaska can be.

Judy Crondahl
Juneau

Jake Almeida

From: Kevin Elliott [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:17 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposition to SB23 and SB24

Dear Chair Shower and Vice-Chair Coghill,

I was born and raised in Juneau AK. I left the state to obtain my university degree and returned 10 years ago with the intention of raising my family in Juneau. I'm writing in strong opposition of SB23 and SB24 as currently written. I support a fully funded PFD (PFD dividends based on the statutory formula) and I am sensitive to the fact that a reduced PFD dividend hurts the most vulnerable Alaskans, however in order to provide these dividends we are required to make drastic cuts to services that will also disproportionately impact our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. With this in mind, I can only support these bill if they are statutorily tied to a broad based tax, preferably an income tax considering the large non-resident workforce that enjoys their full wages that are essentially subsidized by residents.

As representatives of the people of Alaska, I ask you to not move these bills forward out of committee and risk the long term solvency of the Earnings Reserve Account along with the requisite drastic cuts to the service that Alaskans depend upon.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely

Kevin Elliott

Juneau, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Vivian Rojas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:06 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 SB 24

I am not in favor of "repaying" the PFD in any form or fashion. I think it is a complete insult to think we can continue to give money away while considering the present budget being proposed by Governor Dunleavy. It is time for Alaskans to start paying for services in a state that is vast and expensive to do business in. Again, NO to a political campaign pledge!

Respectfully,
Vivian Rojas

Sent from my iPad

Jake Almeida

From: Patricia Lonergan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 & SB24

My name is Patricia Lonergan.
I live in Juneau.

I strongly OPPOSE SB23 & SB24.

Thank you,
Patricia Lonergan

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: Colin Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:31 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Colin W L Taylor public comment SB 23 & SB 24

This email is intended to serve as my public testimony regarding SB 23 and SB 24. I **DO NOT** support the passage of these bills. Governor Dunleavy has proposed cuts to public services in education, transportation, and health care that are not acceptable to me. As a lifelong and 4th generation Alaskan I would prefer if these funds were used to support the institutions that generations of Alaskans have dedicated their lives to build.

I would also like to take this as an opportunity to support a repeal or revision of the SB 21 oil tax credits. Spending over a billion dollars this year on tax credits for oil exploration is completely irresponsible, especially when this is accompanied by proposals for significant cuts to education and health services.

Sincerely,

Colin Taylor, Fairbanks

Jake Almeida

From: Summer Koester [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:29 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: my opposition to SB 23 & SB 24

Good evening,

My name is Summer Koester and I teach Spanish at Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School in Juneau. While I support the PFD, we should not take it from education. Our schools need more money not less.

I have watched my class sizes grow every year. My sixth grade classes now average 34 students. My colleague has 46 sixth graders in one class, another has 40, and another has 38. Even with the \$20 million the forward funded last year for education, my school still stands to lose two full-time positions next yeardue to flat funding. This will translate into classes of 35-40 at the sixth grade level. Any additional cuts to schools will increase our class sizes and workload to beyond that, beyond manageable.

The Governor has proposed a 25% cut to education. I assume he proposed these cuts so we will be satisfied with a compromise. A compromise is unacceptable. Our schools cannot afford any more cuts. Our children and societies will pay the price.

Thank you,

Summer Koester

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Jake Almeida

From: Daniel Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 24 Hearing 3/5/19

My name is Dan Sullivan and I am a resident of Petersburg, AK. I have lived in Alaska since 1980 and I believe I have received every PFD distribution. I am against the proposal to fully fund and back pay PFD. I believe that the proposed Dunleavy budget will impose draconian measures that will seriously damage the economy in my community as well as nearly every community in this state. I am particularly concerned about deep budget cuts to education, the University system, and the ferry system. I am in favor of a modest flat tax and a \$500 - \$1000 PFD.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Sullivan
[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK
99833

5 March 2019

Senator Mike Showers, Chair
Senate State Affairs
Alaska Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Showers and Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to SB 23/24. As a graduate of the masters of social work program at UAA (part of a university system that stands to be decimated as a result of this legislation), I am particularly concerned about the impact that the proposed slashes to the budget will have on the most vulnerable Alaskans across the state. Windfall PFD checks will not substitute for the benefits derived from the state programs most threatened by the proposed budget including public schools, early childhood education, foster care, Medicaid, the state ferry system, senior benefits, and state housing and homeless assistance programs.

Time has come to reinstate a state income tax as a revenue source to support our valued state programs.

Respectfully,
Laura Lucas


Juneau, Alaska 99801


Jake Almeida

From: Karen Dillman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:58 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD testimony March 5, 2019

I am against returning the PFD to the Alaska residents but instead use it to keep our standard of living to a minimum level, such as maintaining our schools and transportation in SE AK. the fact that education is being cut is draconian and all of you who think its a good idea to cut off the future education for our kids ought to find another job, please. Same goes for transportation we in SE AK need the AMHS and how would you people in the city like to close off some main roads for a change? Find a solution for the ferries that works for us but don't cut us off and expect private business to help out. Keep public radio as it's our lifeline in SE AK for so many things. I donate to my local station and pay extra with my PFD with pick click give.

we DO NOT need to restore the PFD to the levels you suggest nor pay us back for what Gov Walker used to keep our state budget going. You people who think this way need to go somewhere else.

thank you,
Karen Dillman

[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833

Jake Almeida

From: Jenny Bell jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:40 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 23 and 24

Dear Senate Affairs Committee,

I am absolutely in opposition to both SB 23 and SB 24. I do not support larger PFDs at the expense of our schools, our University, our Pioneers Homes, ferry service, rural law enforcement, Medicaid, seniors benefits, jobs, and all the other cuts the Governor has proposed. This budget proposal is immoral and nobody should be supporting it just so that higher dividends can be paid.

I am more than happy to have a reduced PFD and also to pay some taxes like most residents of civilized states do.

I do not believe we are "owed" PFDs of a certain size, anyone who thinks that does not understand how the Fund works. Anyone who promotes that line of thought is deceiving Alaskans. I am a fiscal conservative and I understand quite well how the Fund works and payouts of the size the Governor is proposing could destroy the future of the Fund.

Please do your jobs and oppose this insanity.

Jenny Bell-Jones
Fairbanks

Jake Almeida

From: Britton Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Senate Affairs Testimony

Senate State Affairs committee
cc. Fairbanks Senator Scott Kawasaki

As a longtime Alaskan and Fairbanks resident, I would like to voice my support in using the Permanent Fund for its intended purpose as stated in the Alaska State Constitution Article IX Section 15 - to fund state government. Our most basic obligations as a modern society--to build and maintain infrastructure, educate our future, and protect our freedoms--are under fire at the greed of many. The Oil and Gas Tax credits--best known as SB21--over-extend Alaska's generosity and have done nothing to incentivize development and production. Promises of that development and investment into Alaska's north slope quickly vanished after its passing, with many companies laying off thousands in the wake of its passing.

The Permanent Fund Dividend is not a right us Alaskan's have. We do not deserve that money, instead we deserve maintained roads, educated children, a top notch institution of higher education in the University of Alaska system, to care for Alaska's Pioneers that established our state's history, and a full force of State Troopers to protect our citizens and enforce our laws and wildlife regulations.

We do not need taxes to make these things happen. We also don't need to touch the principal of the Permanent Fund to do this. We can continue to build the principal of the fund with a modest reduction in tax credits to Oil production.

I ask that you strongly continue to consider the Permanent Fund's intended purpose as outlined in the Alaska Constitution and use its earnings for its intended purpose.

Thank you for your time,
Britton Anderson

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Jennifer Tulloh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Education funding

Good evening, my name is Jennifer Tulloh and I am a parent and teacher here in the Sitka School District. First off, thank you for reading this email, I can only imagine how many how many you have to go through so with that said I will keep this short and to the point. I would like to simply advocate that has this budget process progresses you firmly oppose the significant cuts to education our Governor is suggesting.

I would like to request that PFD funds stay in education. I AM OPPOSED TO SB 23/24 AND DO NOT WANT THIS SUPPLEMENTAL PFD TO HAPPEN - because I actually have experience in the classroom. I have been an educator both in Alaska and the lower 48 for over 10 years. Our jobs are so demanding and we are already working on limited funds and resources. Our students deserve better, our families deserve better and our communities deserve better. I would like to believe that the barely 50% of individuals that voted for Mr. Dunleavy did not know how drastic he would take our budget and what significant cuts he's proposing. More importantly, what negative short term and long term effects this will have across the state - especially rural communities. We are talking about ripple effects throughout all divisions.

Please help advocate for our children - please help advocate for our families, please help advocate for our future.

Thank you again,
Jennifer Tulloh
5th grade Teacher @ Keet Gooshi Heen

Jake Almeida

From: Arlene Ronda [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23/SB24

Dear Senators:
The proposals of these bills only dig our deficits deeper.

The budget that only cuts after many cuts have already been made will negatively impact essential services.

We need a REVENUE STREAM.

There have been years of thoughtful and thorough work done by former legislators to develop such a fair and evenhanded approach to funding our State government. It has been repeatedly blocked in the Senate.

A restructuring of oil and gas tax credits

A graduated income tax (including out-of-state temporary workers)

Protecting the permanent fund while restructuring of permanent fund dividends

Sales, property, use taxes etc.

No one source by itself is sufficient.

It's past time we acted responsibly. Underfunding government to MAKE IT FAIL,
IS NOT AN OPTION.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to be part of a positive solution.

Arlene Ronda
Homer

Jake Almeida

From: CJ Levine [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: Written testimony re: SB 23 and SB 24

To the committee:

I write you today as both a concerned citizen and a concerned educator. Like many Alaskans, I appreciate the annual check from the PFD. I also know more than a few families for whom that check can be the difference between caring for their loved ones and not. That being said, I do NOT agree with these two bills. Yes, the PFD is important. That does not mean that it supersedes the need for a good public education system. If the governor wants to fully fund the PFD, then let him find another means of doing so, rather than robbing our children of their future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
CJ Levine

Jake Almeida

From: Raini Dey Tanori [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:00 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a constituent and a concerned citizen.

Today, Governor Dunleavy released a PFD Alert on social media, asking citizens to call in to the Senate State Affairs session to oppose Senate Bills 23 and 24.

I support SB 23 and SB 24. I realize that resolving Alaska's budget deficit is a complex issue, and there is no one perfect solution. However, I firmly believe that defunding essential programs like DHSS, UAA, K-12, and the Alaska Marine Highway system, is not in the best interest of the majority of Alaska's citizens.

Thousands of Alaskans rely on these programs for preventative healthcare for adults and children, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, dental care, medications, long term care, transportation and commerce, and facilitating quality education for both UAA students and the next generation of Alaskans. Cutting State funding for these valued resources and programs has the potential to negatively impact the health and economic stability of our State for years to come.

Passing SB 23 and SB 24 is a short term solution to help close the Alaska's State budget deficit, while preserving indispensable State funded programs that benefit all Alaskans. I urge you to scrutinize the long-term impact of cutting State funded programs, and consider the benefits of adopting these Senate Bills.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Raini D. Tanori

Jake Almeida

From: Lin Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:59 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: No PFD Payback. No Governor's budget.

Dear Senators on State Affairs:

For about 30 years, Alaska has been gliding backward through our savings. In 1999, money to operate 40% of state services was pulled out of the Constitutional Budget Reserve.

Now we need to pay our way. Sadly Gov D and his supporters are hyper focused only on getting a larger PFD. But as Larry Persily said in his 3/4/19 *Empire My Turn*, "an Alaskan can buy a lot of things with a \$3000 dividend, but this individual cannot buy a middle school, a university classroom, a rural airport or care for the elderly."

The governor's proposed budget will wreck all facets of Alaskan life. The harm to rural areas will be catastrophic. This budget must be defeated. I support a graduated income tax and new revenue streams and the end of oil tax credits. The legislature curtsy to the oil/gas companies needs to end.

Alaska has a bright future. It would be even brighter if our Governor wasn't hiring a lot of expensive directors from down south and paying for their moving costs. A wandering group of pricy budget cutters who have perfected their slashing skills in other states. And....They don't demonstrate much knowledge about Alaska. Their "Outside" budget direction is counter to the values of most Alaskans.

The governor's budget will thoroughly damage hard working Alaskan families. Let's unite to fight for our beloved state and its civic services. Time to come together for larger good.

Thank you for taking testimony tonight. Please consider these points.

Sincerely,

Lin Davis
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801
26 year Alaska resident

Jake Almeida

From: Jordan Nigro [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: No on SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Senate Affairs Committee,

I am writing to implore you not to pass either SB 23 or 24 out of your committee. Providing a pay back of dividend funds to Alaskans at the cost of our future as a state, is a deplorable idea that lacks vision or care for the greater good.

As a life long Alaskan, I am absolutely willing to forgo my PFD entirely and pay a progressive income tax to address our state's revenue gap and ensure that we continue to thrive and grow.

Considering this pay back is missing the forest for the trees and wasting valuable time. You have important work to do. Please set this whole idea aside and get busy on addressing revenue. We are counting on you. Now is the time.

Sincerely,

Jordan Nigro
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

--

Speak your truth. Even if your voice shakes.

Jake Almeida

From: Sara Tabbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:46 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: In opposition to SB 23 and 24

I would like to add my voice to the opposition to the appropriation for prior years PFD payment. This is irresponsible and unsustainable, and in no way is this the direction the state should be heading.

I grew up in, was educated by, and am committed to being a part of this state and its economy. Slashing services while handing out checks is short sighted at best and crazy at worst. We can do better than this.

Sincerely,
Sara Tabbert
long time Fairbanks resident

--

[REDACTED]
We put up a mailbox! I now get mail at:

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Jake Almeida

From: Francis Romick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen.Mike.Shower@akleg.org
Subject: Re: SB 24 and SB 23/Testimony

I have been a resident of Alaska for 50 years, graduated from UAF and have worked in education and tourism within Alaska. I am a very low income senior, now , and depend on the vital services ,that our Governor wants to cut, to survive. Contrary to some comments made about seniors, in the legislature, I do not have a boat,cabin, extra money or a own a beautiful home. I rent, have a 20 year old car, many Medicare copays and live on a small pension and social security.

I am against cutting vital services, in order for everyone to receive a very large PFD. It is an idea, without foresight and would cause many, in poverty, to pay extra federal taxes, that they can not afford. Vital services cuts(health, ferry system, law , courts, fish and game,etc) will destroy Alaska's economy and cause catastrophic damage to the majority of Alaskans . Please, do not pass these bills. Thank you, for your service.

Sincerely,
Frances Romick

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska
99501

Sent from my iPad

Jake Almeida

From: Jim Dube [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Revenue for Alaska

Hello,

As a resident, I wanted to weigh in on the budget situation. I want to go on the record stating that I have no problem with the state holding back a portion of my PFD to help balance the budget. I would rather have good roads, schools, law enforcement, public health, etc. than a full dividend. I also have no opposition to a small income tax, especially since this would also bring in money from non-residents.

Jim Dube
Anchorage

Jake Almeida

From: Harold Spence [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23 and SB24

Dear Senators,

Just a few words regarding bills proposing to make past Permanent Fund Dividend checks "whole."

The Legislature's failure over several years to address the need for new revenues led to the necessity of dipping into dividend payments to balance budgets. That was a responsible thing to do in my opinion, but one that should not have been necessary.

Alaska must reject proposals to make these back payments until such time as the current fiscal crisis has been addressed adequately. That means instituting a modest income tax, continuing to provide reduced dividends, finding budget efficiencies, and most importantly, establishing a fair and equitable tax regime for resource extraction companies operating in Alaska. The sweetheart deal the oil and gas industry enjoys is theft.

We cannot cut ourselves to a balanced budget, but we bloody well can cut ourselves to the equivalent of a third-world resource colony! We are better than that. Cuts proposed by Gov. Dunleavy would eliminate many of the vital programs that make life in Alaska enjoyable and worthwhile for many of its citizens. Those cuts will make life difficult for many, and likely result in a serious brain-drain away from our state -- the first of whom are likely to be teachers!

Once, Alaskans paid their way gladly. Now, it is time to grow up once again.

Senators, be the adults in the room. Reject Dunleavy's unconscionable attack on the working class and take the steps necessary to establish revenue streams like those common in other states.

In a few years, when the fiscal crisis has been adequately addressed, then we can consider reimbursing Alaskans for lost dividends. Doing that now literally makes no sense.

Sincerely,
Harold Spence

[REDACTED]
Homer, Alaska
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Erika [REDACTED]
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 2:58 PM
Senate State Affairs
Comments on PFD

Dear Senators,

I **DO NOT** believe 37% of the available funds in a budget should be spent on PFDs. In fact, and I know I'm in the minority here, I actually believe the whole PFD should be discontinued. I feel I can say this as one who has received it nearly every year of my life. It's become less of a blessing and more of an entitlement. It causes more division than anything else. But, for now, we **SHOULD NOT** be paying full dividends at the expense of thousands of jobs and a dramatic reduction in services that would harm nearly every single Alaskan. I believe the legislature is on the right track with the agreement passed last year that allows for a draw from PFD funds while still keeping a relatively healthy amount flowing into Alaskan's accounts every October. Those fighting for a \$3,000 PFD forget the many, many years when it was closer to \$900 (or less) and we did just fine.

Sincerely,

Erika Wolter

Wasilla, AK 99623

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Marie McConnell
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: SB 23 & SB 24
COMMITTEE: SSTA DATE: 2-28-19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

As I stated during my 1 minute testimony this evening, I am opposed to SB 23 & SB 24.

In addition to my 1 minute testimony I'd like to add the following comments:

I voted for Dunleavy because overall I agreed more with his views than the views of Begich. I did not agree with his campaign promise of full PFD payments and refunds of amounts taken from PFD disbursement under Walker's administration. I reviewed Mr. David Teal's Revenue Budget History Graph (pg 3 of Feb. 26, 2019 presentation) and note that the prior 3 years' budgets were significantly lower than the prior 10 years. I continue to hear a vocal minority cry, "Cut costs before taking my PFD or implementing new taxes." I don't believe they have done the research to see that cuts were made to match the same oil price back in the early 2000's. A reduced PFD combined with a budget similar to the level of the last 3 years is a win-win for all Alaskans. Large PFD's create a dependent population on government handouts, and the expectation that government will take care of them. I support a reduction of the PFD over any new taxes because it doesn't make sense to pay a federally taxable dividend to residents and have federal income tax on that income removed from our state and then turn around and tax half the people in our state who work hard to earn their income to get the dollars back. Reduced or eliminated PFDs affects all Alaskans equally and the lower income Alaskans who use the services proposed to be cut more than higher income Alaskans will be helping pay for and have a vested interest in the services they use, hopefully leading to responsible use of those services and eliminating wasteful use. It's the fairest way to fund social services, education and other hand up help instead of a handout.

Jake Almeida

From: James Baum [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD payback

Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee

Subject: PFD payback

I sent another email earlier today and this is a follow up with other details. I have lived here for 53 years, love Alaska, and have seen the up's and down's of our economy since.

If the State did not pay the "PFD Pay Back" of \$3,678 per person, at a cost of over 1.95 billion dollars it would give the State enough to pay the apx 1.6 billion dollar deficit, and leave apx .35 billion left in the PFD Fund.

When free money is given for doing nothing it does not help our State and people just take it for granted.

Alaska would be better off to use the money to help our economy and for the good of the State.

James L Baum
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

Jake Almeida

From: LIO Delta Junction
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: FW: SB23 & 24

Dear Committee members,

I received the following written testimony for SB23 and SB24. Katrina

Mrs. Katrina Skidmore
Delta Junction Legislative Information Office
PO Box 1189 Delta Junction, Alaska, 99737
LIO.DeltaJunction@akleg.gov
Phone: 907.895.4236 | Fax: 907.895.5017

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature
Click [HERE](#) to send a Public Opinion Message during session

From: Melinda Eggleston [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 11:57 AM
To: LIO Delta Junction <Lio.DeltaJunction@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB23 & 24

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 23 & 24 in light of the State of Alaska's current fiscal situation.

Melinda Eggleston

[REDACTED]
Delta Junction, Alaska
99737
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB23/SB24

Dear Senators:

I do not support SB 23 or SB24.

Funding the PFD should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education in order to pay for the PFD.

Please do not cut education funding in our state for our most important resource development-our children and the future of Alaska!

Thank you!

Carin Smolin
Douglas, Alaska 99824