

Doniece Gott

From: Eric Clock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 5:17 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Alaskan Ocean Ranger

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am a lifelong Alaskan, and Alaska Native from Cordova, currently residing in Seward. I am a licensed marine engineer having sailed in most of the maritime trades, from fishing boats to State ferries, container ships, oil tankers, cruise ships, and others. Right now I have a summer job as an Alaska Ocean Ranger monitoring and reporting on cruise ships compliance with state and federal environmental, health, and safety requirements.

This is a job that I value and see as necessary to help ensure that the huge cruise ships with upwards of 7,000 persons on board cruising our environmentally sensitive and economically valuable waters do not recklessly cause irreparable harm. We are onboard most of the ships throughout the summer and I feel that our presence and experience are big factors in ensuring that the ships crews do their utmost best to prevent marine casualties and to keep hazardous materials from being spilled or dumped overboard. We have the knowledge and expertise to detect when equipment is working correctly and that no bypasses are used or negligence are being practiced. Ocean Rangers make rounds throughout the machinery spaces and other areas of the ships and report on what we see on a daily basis. We also walk the decks through the day when the ships are cruising close to shore throughout the Alexander Archipelago, Prince William Sound, Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, and the various ports. I also watch docking and undocking operations from deck and regularly monitor water and air conditions around the vessel.

I sincerely believe that we help prevent mishaps such as those that have been committed by numerous cruise and other ships in the past.

Please reference the recent news article about how various cruise lines have violated their probation for previous environmental crimes. This

show that they cannot be trusted and need to be closely watched at all times that they operate in Alaska.

Our waters and shorelines are too precious to trust to multinational corporations whose main concern is profits.

I hope you can see fit to continue this program started by the Alaska Voters in 2006.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Clock

[REDACTED]

Seward Alaska 99664

Doniece Gott

From: Elizabeth Will <Elizabeth.Will@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I know this is a challenging budget year. I urge you to create a budget that fully supports education, health care, and the marine highway.

Specifically, I am concerned about funding for the University of Alaska. We need a strong university system to train the skilled workforce that this state needs so that we minimize the number of skilled workers imported from outside the state. We need a cutting edge institution that can be an international player in scientific, economic and cultural research about the Arctic, changing climate, Native Alaskan languages...to name a few areas. We need a university that can provide the continuing education needed by educators and health care professionals. We need regional campuses to support the K-12 pipeline to post secondary education and training. We need a university system that can attract and connect students, researchers, professors, grants from all regions of the world.

Please find ways to increase revenue other than a high hike in tuition. Decrease the permanent fund payout, decrease the tax credits to oil and gas interests, add a state income tax.

All of Alaska benefits from a strong, vibrant, cutting edge university system.

Thank you for your work. I know the decisions ahead are not easy to make.

Elizabeth Will

Sitka

Doniece Gott

From: Jeigh Gregor <jeigh.gregor@petersburgva.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Hi,

I am Jeigh Stanton-Gregor, Vice Mayor of Petersburg. My wife and I own a small business, True North Counseling & Consultation, LLC. We have been in business since 2009. The current budget does not impact our business; Medicaid will not cover services for clients who want to see Licensed Professional Counselors in private practice. The Medicaid reductions will negatively impact low income people who are currently receiving services at community mental health centers.

Reductions to school funding and fish tax payments will put more burden on our community and reductions in services will occur.

As professional counselors, we chose to live in Petersburg because it has a great school system to raise our children (ages 7 and 2). Please create a budget that continues to support schools, harbors and public radio.

Sincerely,

Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Vice Mayor

Doniece Gott

From: Maury A. Hackett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: A Concerned Citizen

Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

I am 31, born and raised in Sitka, left for higher education and returned just about two years ago to serve my community through non-profit work. I am in opposition to Dunleavy's proposed budget. The budget cuts would not impact me personally. However, they would impact almost everyone I know. And, being raised in this town, this state, it was engrained in me that we are all in it together. Dunleavy's proposed budget is the antithesis of this concept, leaving our working class, children and elderly underserved. I am particularly concerned about the residents at the Pioneers' Home and those who live in their own homes, but rely on medicaid paid CNA's to assist them with basic daily needs like toileting and bathing. Our aging population is only increasing and the proposed budget will force these elders who have invested themselves in Alaska to leave and find support out of state.

I am willing to amend my personal budget and support a state income tax and relinquish my PFD to support a state budget that cares for our community members.

Thank you so much for your work. It is not an easy job and I wholeheartedly appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Maury

Maury A. Hackett
[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Clare Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Committee members:

Please reject Gov. Dunleavy's draconian cuts to our educational system and his foolish plans for the pfd.

I am a retired public school teacher who has lived in Fairbanks for 30 years. All 4 of my children went through the public school system here in Fairbanks and 3 of the 4 received/are working through degrees at UAF. I am a supervoter and am registered as Undeclared.

1. Fully fund K-12 education.
2. Fully fund the University.
3. Cap the pfd at no higher than \$1200.
4. Institute a progressive income tax.

I LOVE MY STATE AND AM PERFECTLY WILLING TO PAY MY SHARE!

Clare Hill

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks. 99709

Doniece Gott

From: George Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 4:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB20, FY20 Operating Budget

I am Susan Wood, a resident of Petersburg, Alaska since 1980. I feel very strongly that our children are our future and I do not see how cutting the budget to our public schools is going to provide the quality education that our students in Petersburg have received for so many years. I have raised two sons in Petersburg, and have 3 grandchildren attending school here. Our family loves our community and our state and we want to live here indefinitely... but not with the changes to quality of life issues that will be impacted by this proposed budget.

I want to see our schools, ferries, community radio stations, elder care, and pre-programs adequately funded. We have already cut to the bone, and I think we need to consider a lower PFD payment, a cut to oil tax credits, and a statewide progressive income tax. What good is a full PFD if we have made cuts to the point of no more good quality of life in Alaska?! It's not worth it, and I don't think the voters were bargaining for this!

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Wood

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Glude [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: budget comments for Senate Finance

Hello,

And thank you for the opportunity to comment. The solution to the budget "crisis" is simple:

1. Junk the Governor's proposals.
2. Eliminate the oil industry tax credits.
3. Let the oil industry actually pay taxes, as they used to.
4. Then, and only then, ask Alaskans to pay a steeply graduated income tax.
5. Continue full funding for essential services.

Not a penny of cuts while we are subsidizing the wealthiest corporations in human history! This is the elephant in the room that you folks are not talking about; the industry has totally failed to deliver on the promised jobs and production increases that were the rationale for the credits; we are being played for fools!

thank you
Bill Glude
Home and Home Office:

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99802 USA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Japan Office:
Evergreen Backcountry Guides, Kokusai Lodge, 4377 Hokujo
Hakuba-mura, Kita Azumi-gun, Nagano-ken 399-9301, Japan

Doniece Gott

From: Voyage Thirty-four
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Rep. Louise Stutes; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Alaska State Budget - Dunleavy wants to destroy our state.

Dear Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The solution to the budget "crisis" is simple:

- A. Ignore the Governor's proposals which were generated by a carpetbagger who has no knowledge of or investment in our state.
- B. Eliminate the oil industry tax credits - BP just announced that in Alaska, the London-based major netted **\$916 million last year** from its North Slope operations, according to the company's 2018 annual report.
- C. Let the oil industry actually pay taxes; I pay property taxes and sales tax. Oil companies should pay taxes as well.
- D. Then, and only then, ask Alaskans to pay a steeply graduated income tax.
- E. Continue full funding for essential services; the Alaska Marine Highway System is an essential service to coastal communities.

Not a penny of cuts while we are subsidizing the wealthiest corporations in human history! This is the elephant in the room that you folks are not talking about; the industry has totally failed to deliver on the promised jobs and production increases that were the rationale for the credits; we are being played for fools!

Sincerely,

Mike Sirofchuck

Kodiak, Alaska

Registered Voter

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____Sent from my turquoise Princess rotary phone____

Doniece Gott

From: Denise Galli <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Secure Southeast Communities

As a concerned citizen and Southeast Alaska resident for nearly 40 years I implore you to fight for the health and economic viability for Southeast Alaska communities. We need our ferry service, our public schools, our programs for the elderly, for mental health and our public libraries. Please do everything in your power to protect the funding and programs for Southeast Alaska.

I don't mind a smaller PFD and would gladly pay a state income tax to help secure the future for all Alaskans, not just those on the road system. Save Southeast Alaska!

Thank you,
Denise Galli

Doniece Gott

From: Robyn Cassidy [mailto:Robyn.Cassidy@alaska.gov] >
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget 'crisis'

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The solution to the budget "crisis" is simple:

- A. Ignore the Governor's proposals.
- B. Eliminate the oil industry tax credits.
- C. Let the oil industry actually pay taxes; I pay property taxes and sales tax. Oil companies should pay taxes as well.
- D. Then, and only then, ask Alaskans to pay a steeply graduated income tax.
- E. Continue full funding for essential services; the Alaska Marine Highway System and Public Radio are essential services to coastal communities. Public education and the University system are essential services for all Alaskans.

Not a penny of cuts while we are subsidizing the wealthiest corporations in human history! This is the elephant in the room that you folks are not talking about; the industry has totally failed to deliver on the promised jobs and production increases that were the rationale for the credits.

Sincerely,

Robyn Cassidy
Kodiak, Alaska
Registered Voter

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Patrick McCormick [mailto:patrick.mccormick@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: The Budget

The governor's budget proposal would simply mean that I would have to move out of the state I love and call my home as I will no longer be able to obtain employment as a teacher in this state. I urge you to remember that the natural resources of this state are to be used for the maximum good of the people. Not taxing resource extractors such as mining, logging, fishing and paying oil companies to take our oil away is unconstitutional. I urge you to maintain or increase state spending levels from one of the lowest per capita budgets in the history of the state to one that is reasonable, protects our economy, and protects our future.

Thank You,
Patrick McCormick
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: devren bennett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Daniel Ortiz
Subject: State Operating Budget

To Whom it may concern:

I fully support stable and increased funding for Alaska's K-12 Education system, University System, and Pre-K Programs, Elder Programs including benefits and care facilities, public radio stations, medicaid, the marine highway system, and support for the rural airports of Alaska.

The proposed funding cuts will negatively affect coastal Alaska to the point of total economic destruction.

I support the continued cuts to the PFD program and a statewide, progressive income tax.

Forcing the Alaskan Economy in to the dark ages for handouts in the forms of PFD's and Oil Tax Subsidies can simply NOT HAPPEN! It's time Alaska steps up and start's taxing the corporations and people who profit off of our states resources!

Thank you,

Devren Bennett
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833
Representing myself and my business Homeport Electronics.

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Homeport Electronics Inc
907.772.3100/[907.518.0899](tel:907.518.0899)
Computer Sales & Service
Marine Electronics
<http://www.homeportelectronics.com>
Furuno, Garmin, ICOM, Wilson Electronics
Petersburg Alaska Chamber of Commerce 2019 Business of the Year

Doniece Gott

From: Patrick Schlichting <patrick.schlichting@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony--Written-- SB20

Under consideration are the various elements of state Institutions, services, and infrastructure which require annual appropriations.

Currently the senate budget (senate majority's) closely resembles that of the governor's. Nothing in the Governor's budget proposal is good for Alaskans. It is based on lies, outright or by omission. By endorsing his budget, they become your lies. Big and bold impossible to hide. The effects of such a budget are hardship, despair, and a much poorer quality of life. There are many ways to tax a person's income and well being. This budget is a huge tax increase on Alaskans. Apparently having a population in poorer health, less educated, and less informed is the Governor's and the Senate majority's remedy for our so called financial crisis. Also include the elimination of thousands of jobs in a state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Pitting geographic and various populated areas against each other is your means to an end.

One of the cost saving methods of state institutions is to outsource services, institutions, and infrastructure. The office of Governor has already been outsourced to a small group of wealthy individuals.

Through the Citizens United ruling, corporations have the rights of individuals. The office of the governor has been outsourced to Charles and David Koch, Mr. Conoco Philipps, Mr. BP, Mr. Exxon Mobile. They are calling the shots. The question remains —do they also own the legislature.

I wholly reject the governors budget proposal and anything that resembles it. At this point I reject the proposals made by the senate finance committee, reflective of the senate majority. My advice is to adopt a budget much like the house of representatives. It is for sustainability and preservation of our services, institutions, and infrastructure.

It has not escaped my notice that subsidies to Big oil will receive no cuts. This is after they also receive subsidies from the Federal government.

If you truly believe in the massive cuts to state expenditures then also cut your per diem and salary as Senators by 50 %
. If you talk the talk, then walk the walk.

Sincerely
Pat Schlichting

Doniece Gott

From: David Berg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: AK budget

I support public radio,
the ferry system under a different management structure Schools and a small PFD

Income tax should be considered but don't forget to tax Earners paid under 1099's.

Reduced oil tax credits. These companies are not going anywhere. They have too much to gain

Thanks for your service

David Berg
[REDACTED]
Petersburg

Sent from Dave's E device

Doniece Gott

From: Malena Marvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 20 Alaska State Operating Budget

Dear Senators,

I support stable or increased funding for Alaska's K-12 education system, university system, and pre-k programs; elder programs including benefits and care facilities; public radio stations; Medicaid; and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Funding for these programs helps make my community a vibrant, healthy, and livable place.

I oppose the Governor's proposal for Alaska to be the first state to use federal block grant funding for Medicaid - we need to retain flexible federal funding that will ensure providers receive payments and that all of our families and children get the healthcare they need. We must be clear that "block grant" is another term for kicking our most vulnerable Alaskans out of the healthcare system.

I strongly support SB 14 and cutting oil tax credits. If we stop subsidizing these extremely profitable outside corporations, the approximately \$1-2 billion in annual tax revenue will eliminate the bulk of our budget shortfalls. These are among the wealthiest and largest corporations on the planet. That the Governor has proposed offering them welfare while kicking children, elders, and the vulnerable out of life-saving programs is a moral outrage.

I strongly support a statewide, progressive income tax. Though facts - while hard to find amid the Governor's rhetoric, leaving one wondering if the Governor can differentiate between propaganda and reality - are clear: states with progressive income taxes have higher employment and stronger economies. I oppose flat taxes because it is quite obvious that those with millions in the bank can pay a much larger share and still maintain their a the luxurious standard of living to which they are accustomed.

At the very least, it is past time to tax out of state workers. Alaska experiences a disproportionately high amount of earned income leaving the state via the oil, mining, and fishing industries. You hold the power to tax that income this session if you choose to do so.

I oppose using the PFD to balance the budget over the long term, however if you must do so this year I support it. In the long run, I support instituting a progressive income tax and giving families the option of using a portion of their full PFD's as payment. Eliminating and reducing the PFD is in effect a flat tax on Alaskans and should be avoided if possible.

Thanks for your consideration,
Malena Marvin
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833

Malena Marvin
907.957.1007

Doniece Gott

From: Rebecca Bezdecny [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony-Proposed Budget

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this as my formal testimony on the Governor's proposed budget as I will be unable to call in tomorrow.

The Governor's budget is a catastrophe waiting to happen. It seeks to decimate our most vulnerable--children and the elderly by making devastating cuts to vital programs to seniors and funding to education.

As I write this, my husband is attending a public meeting to go over the logistics and impact of area school consolidation. My son is watching his friends play soccer games. Under this proposed budget multiple schools will be consolidated, class sizes will increase throughout the Kenai and the rest of the state, and things like extracurricular activities and sports won't exist.

This is unacceptable.

We can't expect to roll back/modify SB 91 AND cut school funding as proposed. Everything is connected. Overcrowded schools with no activities equal kids up to no good. That very well could lead to increased crime. I fear the Senate and House doesn't really view the whole picture when tackling these issues. The Governor has clearly illustrated he doesn't see the big picture as shown by his proposed budget.

To conclude, I understand the need to spend wisely and balance a budget. However praying that we will be sustained by a volatile income based heavily on the price of oil is no way to do it. We're setting ourselves up for further failures in the future if we don't look to tap into other income streams: oil credit modification, a state income tax, sales tax, a reduced PFD, seeking new, clean industries to our state, and/or a combination of all of these things.

Sadly, this email only hits on a few of my MANY concerns with this proposed budget. There isn't enough time for me to expound on all of my issues.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Bezdecny
[REDACTED]
Kenai, AK 99611

Doniece Gott

From: Judith Kearns-Steffen [mailto:kearnsjm@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget cuts

April 11, 2019

Members of the finance committee for the State of Alaska.

The recent suggestions for cuts in the Alaska Budget seem unnecessary since there is really no fiscal crisis. The problems can be settled with use of part of the Permanent Fund Dividend and I firmly believe that this should be done.

There may be another dividend soon if a carbon fee & dividend bill passes on the national level. If not this year, it will be imperative as our climate continues to change. This will be a revenue neutral carbon fee (at point of entry), the Dividend will be distributed to every American household. This will stimulate alternative-energy technology investment & Alaska has much to GAIN from this because we have an abundance of sun in the summer with technology for electrical storage now possible. We have the potential for hydropower in areas that will not impact fish spawning. And we have tidal power! This will give all businesses incentives, create jobs and reduce their carbon footprint.

If Alaska can build an 800 mile long Trans-Alaska Pipeline System that stretches from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, surely we can manage to something just as extraordinary with renewable energy.

I am cheering for the following:

- Full funding for our fantastic school system. My daughter went through school in Sitka, and thrived by having caring wonderful teachers.
- Expanding the ferry system so that ALL the communities served can have a schedule that is dependable and realistic for the needs of the people using them.
- Expand Medicaid so that more residents can have good healthcare insurance.
- Keep the University of Alaska system supported for now and the future.
- Institute an Alaska State Income Tax.

Sincerely,
Judith Kearns-Steffen

[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835

[REDACTED]
kearnsjm@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Kathy Bracken <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:06 PM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB20 / FY20 Operating Budget

To the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

I support a deep vetting of the oil tax credits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken



[Petersburg, AK 99833](#)

Shalom,
Kathy

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Sara Beaber-Fujioka <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on the proposed state operating budget. My name is Sara Beaber-Fujioka and I live in Sitka.

I oppose the proposed cuts to Head Start, K-12 education (foundation formula and school bond debt reimbursement), the University, Medicaid, the Pioneer Homes, and the Alaska Marine Highway System. We need strong early education, public schools, and the University to educate our next generation of engineers, teachers, doctors, fishermen, business owners, and legislators. We need to maintain Medicaid funding and eligibility so our friends and neighbors can access needed medical care and our rural hospitals do not go bankrupt. We need to maintain funding for the Pioneer Homes to fulfill our duty to care for our precious elders. We need to maintain the ferry system as a critical transportation link for coastal Alaskans to access medical care, commerce, and each other. My family commercial fishes for salmon and black cod out of Sitka, and we oppose taking raw fish tax away from communities to balance the state budget.

I support raising revenue with a progressive personal income tax on residents and nonresidents, reducing oil tax credits, and a moderate PFD. The Permanent Fund was put in place to provide sustainable funds for state government when oil revenues decreased; now is the time to use the earnings in a sustainable way.

The purpose of government is to address public needs by providing public services that we can not organize or pay for as individuals. Article VII of the Alaska Constitution says that the legislature shall "maintain a system of public schools open to all children", "provide for the promotion and protection of public health", and "provide for the public welfare." Please maintain funding for these critical public services.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedicated service to our state.
Respectfully submitted,
Sara Beaber-Fujioka

Doniece Gott

From: Lexi Fish <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Hello Senate Finance Committee. Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair Von Imhof, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for reading this and for all the work you are doing for our great state. THANK YOU for this opportunity to be heard. We appreciate you.

I am a resident of Sitka, Alaska. I was raised here and came back to raise my family here. My husband and I live here and commercial fish with our two children. I am also employed by the local hospital. Our oldest is entering the school system next year as a kindergartener. We have been committed to Sitka, and remain to be. But, if we watch these kind of proposed cuts take place and even worse, if this is a trend that continues, we will not hesitate to consider moving out of state (even though this is NOT what we want to do or be thinking about doing - we love Sitka!).

I have some serious concerns about the budget.

In Southeast we absolutely depend on ferries. They allow us to live amongst these amazing island communities, they bring in independent travelers who spend money in our town, and spread the word about our lovely community and beautiful region. Ferries are special! They are part of what makes us who we are. We believe in FERRIES! In High School, sports and music trips on the ferries were the highlight of my year. Also, had we needed to pay for all of our travel via Alaska Airlines, most of us would not have been able to afford participating in extracurriculars.

The UAS system employs our dear friends, family and neighbors. It educates our young adults, brings in continuing education and elevates our community. We are already on an island, trust me, we need fresh educational influences REMAINING here for the health of our town. Not to mention the quality of the workforce here (because I do understand, this is about dollars). An uneducated population does not yield great results for a community. Enough said.

Cuts to medicaid - this will come back to bite us and will not end up costing us any less. I work in healthcare. I see this. Cuts to Pioneer Home funding will also come back to bite us. It will not create a solution. We must take care of the sick and elderly. And if it is the economy we are talking and we want to pretend we don't care about taking care of others, and we are just looking at dollars and cents, well then... do you know how many people I know who are employed by the Pioneer Home and the local hospitals? These people will LEAVE our town and likely our state if we show them we don't care about them, their job or their future.

Cuts to Pre-K education? This is arguably THE most important time for brain development and creating a lifelong interest in learning. And trust me, young parents have to work multiple jobs, so if the cost of pre-K and childcare go up, guess where people will go? Somewhere cheaper. Usually that is further south and somewhere connected to the other 48 states. Trust me, I see young families leave all the time. It is really disappointing that we are even considering the kind of cuts that will drive people away from even TRYING to live in a town like Sitka. What kind of future do we want to see in Alaska? Kids are the future and we MUST INVEST in them. Do we care about them? YES WE DO. PLEASE, SHOW US YOU DO, TOO.

The nearly 25% cuts to K-12 education are probably what I care about the most. If the Dunleavy budget goes through and the kindergarten classes increase to 30-40 kids per class in Sitka, guess what - our kids (and many others whose parents I have talked to) will not be going to that school. No way. TWENTY teachers in Sitka stand to lose their jobs.

Well, if they do, they are probably also leaving our town, because it's not like there's another local school district that will employ them.

By the way, a new, young and energetic elementary school teacher that I know recently told me ... " My job is not the first to get cut, but I have been asking myself: why do I want to invest all my time and energy teaching in a state that doesn't care about teachers, kids, or education? The trend in our country is to invest MORE in education, but Alaska is doing the opposite and it creates turmoil, stress and uncertainty for teachers. I'm young enough in my career to avoid getting invested here if this is how it is going to be."

And TRUST ME, this teacher has deep roots to Sitka, tons of family here, and loves living here. But she wants to feel valued, and she DESERVES to feel valued. She also simply NEEDS job security. I was recently at a birthday party where many parents were teachers. A simple "How are you?" turned into a "Well, good except the surrounding stress of none of us knowing if we'll have jobs here next year, or not." YES, this is how so many people are feeling. I truly hope you take these heartfelt and true words I am sharing to heart. I care about Sitka, about Alaska and I want to make it work here for the long run.

But I am disgusted and embarrassed of the level of cuts that our Governor is proposing. We do NOT need to revert to an underdeveloped nation style state. That is what will happen if we throw away our education system, transportation methods and healthcare institutions. And really, what kind of an economy thrives in this type of area? Who would consider moving their families and taking business to a state that is kicking teachers and healthcare systems out the door? No smart business owner would want to move to such a place, because there are no amenities and the quality of life is grim. Please, let's not go backwards. We live in a beautiful and promising area and we all love our neighbors. We care about each other. Please show us you care by not trashing our education, ferries and healthcare.

Solutions? Take my entire PFD. Take half my PFD. Use at least part of it to fill the gap! I would happily accept a \$600 PFD. It is literally free money. I would be happy with \$100. Or none. But please use the money wisely and to invest in my kids future. We need good schools and quality healthcare. You can stop paving my roads if you want, but please, let the children learn, and let the sick become healed at the hands of our local caregivers.

I support a progressive income tax. I am trying to grow my business and continue earning more money throughout my life, and yes, I still support an income tax. Also, get back some of the oil tax break money and share it amongst all of us here. JKT was correct on that.

Again, I want to thank you very, very much for your time and all the time YOU are dedicating to fixing this budget. I truly appreciate it.

THANK YOU,

Lexi Fish Hackett

Sitka, Alaska

Sitka, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Jeanine Brooks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Dear Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair Von Imhof, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work and for listening to your constituents so carefully. I am a forty year Alaska resident, a parent, and a social worker by profession. I urge you to advocate for a budget that invests in healthy, well-educated citizens who will contribute to the future economy of our state. Please fully fund public education, as that investment is money well spent toward the future health of Alaska. I also urge you to fully fund all of our vital services including Medicaid funding, ferry system funding, Pioneer Home funding, University system funding, environmental protection programs funding, and public radio funding. I would throw my full support behind your efforts to create more revenue to pay for these essential services including a statewide income tax and a large reduction of my dividend funds.

Thank you for your time,

Jeanine Brooks, MSW, PPSC
Sitka, Alaska
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: H Brandon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 20 Alaska State Operating Budget

Dear Senators,

I support stable or increased funding for Alaska's K-12 education system, university system, and pre-k programs; elder programs including benefits and care facilities; public radio stations; Medicaid; and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Funding for these programs helps make my community a vibrant, healthy, and livable place.

I oppose the Governor's proposal for Alaska to be the first state to use federal block grant funding for Medicaid - we need to retain flexible federal funding that will ensure providers receive payments and that all of our families and children get the healthcare they need. We must be clear that "block grant" is another term for kicking our most vulnerable Alaskans out of the healthcare system.

I strongly support SB 14 and cutting oil tax credits. If we stop subsidizing these extremely profitable outside corporations, the approximately \$1-2 billion in annual tax revenue will eliminate the bulk of our budget shortfalls. These are among the wealthiest and largest corporations on the planet. That the Governor has proposed offering them welfare while kicking children, elders, and the vulnerable out of life-saving programs is a moral outrage.

I strongly support a statewide, progressive income tax. The facts - while hard to find amid the Governor's rhetoric, leaving one wondering if the Governor can differentiate between propaganda and reality - are clear: states with progressive income taxes have higher employment and stronger economies. I oppose flat taxes because it is quite obvious that those with millions in the bank can pay a much larger share and still maintain the luxurious standard of living to which they are accustomed.

At the very least, it is past time to tax out of state workers. Alaska experiences a disproportionately high amount of taxable revenue leaving the state via the oil, mining, and fishing industries. This is revenue that will not be spent in our communities, contribute to local sales tax, or help pay local property taxes. You hold the power to tax that income this session if you choose to do so.

I oppose using the PFD to balance the budget over the long term, however if you must do so this year I support it. In the long run, I support instituting a progressive income tax and giving families the option of using a portion of their full PFD's as payment. Eliminating and reducing the PFD is in effect a flat tax on Alaskans and should be avoided if possible.

Thanks for your consideration,

Heather Brandon
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Karen Haley [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:31 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating budget

To the esteemed members of the Senate finance committee, I am writing you as a long-term member of the Alaska public with the hopes that you will not except many of the cuts propose by Governor Dunleavey. It's hard to say which are the most detrimental to our state and to the citizens of our state. The massive cuts to K-12 education are shortsighted and going to be devastating to the state as a whole if this goes through. A child's education is one of the most important aspects of their future productivity. I believe that there will be a mass exodus of parents in search of quality education for their children which they will not find in Alaska with these large budget cuts. Furthermore, the cuts to the University system will ensure that our young adults must leave the state for higher education. The disservice being done to the residents of the many small towns and villages in Southeast Alaska is unconscionable with the lack of alternate means of travel and the proposed cuts to Medicaid again target those most in need of help.

I implore you to please come up with an alternative budget that won't destroy our state.

Thank you for your attention,

Karen Haley
[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Heather Conn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:01 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Petersburg - Heather Conn

I support forward funding for fiscal year 20 (as agreed upon during the last legislative session and signed by Governor Walker, including the one-time \$30 million), as well as stable forward funding for fiscal year 21. I am also supportive of regular and reliable ferry service, and the school bond debt reimbursement program. I am NOT in favor of shifting these costs to local municipalities.

Sincerely, Heather Conn

Doniece Gott

From: Debbe Lancaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

Good morning Legislators,

A couple of weeks ago, I attended the March Fly-In with other Superintendents and Business Managers. At that time, we spoke with many of you about the local impacts that would occur if the Governor's proposed budget cuts to education actually came to pass.

While I understand being a good steward of funding is paramount, it is imperative that we continue with our current level of funding to maintain our learning environments. This year:

- *We have the best practice in place for classroom size.
- *Teachers are empowered to facilitate student learning.
- *We have parents and community stakeholders engaged in our education process.
- *We have qualified teachers.

Having those 4 key elements in place, serving as a solid foundation, the Wrangell Public School District can move forward and make progress on carrying out the Alaska Education Challenge.

Several years ago, we were a top notch district. However, some unraveling took place over the past few years. There was a steady stream of uncertainty and unrest. We are still a good district, but, we cannot afford any more uncertainty top down. Currently, we have administrators who are dedicated to making Wrangell their home, investing in the community, and most importantly, willing to work with staff to align with best practices for student learning. Our staff is eager to regain the top notch education our students deserve.

IF, the budget changes for the next year, we go back to square one. Everything we have put in to place for student improvement will be cast aside. The morale of our veteran educators will plummet. This is not okay. Wrangell is not a rich district. We cannot afford cuts for education. Our kids are everything...that is why we are educators.

I strongly urge you to say NO to reductions in funding for education.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Debbe Lancaster
Superintendent - Wrangell Public School District
[REDACTED]

Statement of Confidentiality

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are confidential and are intended solely for addressee. The information may also be legally privileged. This transmission is sent in trust, for the sole

Doniece Gott

From: Caroline Storm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FY20 Operating Budget

Senators Von Imhof, Steadman, Bishop, Hoffman, Micciche, Shower, Wilson, Olson and Wielechowski,

Thank for taking the time to hold public testimony on the budget yesterday. Listening to public testimony is arduous and thus speaks to your commitment to hear the people of Alaska. Yesterday I heard citizen after citizen ask you to find ways to pay for the services we need as a state, and not implement the damaging cuts that the Governor is proposing.

Now that the operating budget has left the House, and moves into your body for consideration, I ask that you reflect on the budget, not as columns of figures to be balanced, but as a blueprint for the state we all want to live in. The budget is not a math problem, it is a question of governance and values, and the government exists for the people.

As I testified yesterday:

1. Please protect forward funding for Public Education. Honoring the commitment that you made last year to sign forward funding into law is no different than honoring the commitment to oil companies to continue to pay tax credits.
2. Please hold Public Education funding harmless. Our state has already lost 1,000 teachers over the last 5 (or so) years. this trend cannot continue and still produce well rounded, educated members of society that are ready to enter the workforce and continue to fill the jobs Alaska has to offer.
3. Please DO NOT cut Pre-K education funding. Pre-K education is the single most profitable investment that the state can make. (Please ask you staff for all the research that documents this)
4. Please do not cut Alaska Public Media funding.

Sincerely,

Caroline Storm, RA. LEED BD+C, CAPS
Owner/Principal, 11.17 Design Studio LLC
Anchorage
Senate District L

Doniece Gott

From: Laura Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Operating Budget written testimony

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

I do not support the Governor's drastic cuts to education, including K-12 and early childhood education. I do not support issuance of a mega-PFD. I do not support doing away with the public assistance "Hold Harmless" for PFD recipients, and I do not support the wholesale assault on the state's most vulnerable, the economically disenfranchised, children and the elderly, represented by drastic reductions to public assistance and Medicaid.

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

I do not support the destruction of the Alaska Marine Highway system, a vital part of transportation infrastructure that contributes to the economy.

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

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

I DO SUPPORT the following:

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

I support revisiting the oil tax credit, and petroleum product taxation in general.

I support retaining the Ocean Ranger Program in DEC as it serves to encourage compliance with existing state and federal regulations often flouted in the past.

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

I support funding for public broadcasting and for the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

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

Thank you very much.

Laura Fleming

~~8732 Merriem St.~~

[Juneau, AK 99801](#)

~~laura.fleming05@gmail.com~~

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Michele & Thomas Parker [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 20 Alaska State Operating Budget

Dear Senators,

I support stable or increased funding for Alaska's K-12 education system, university system, and pre-k programs; elder programs including benefits and care facilities; public radio stations; and Medicaid. Funding for these programs helps make my community a vibrant, healthy, and livable place. I support increased funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System this is the highway system for Southeast Alaska and it is vital for health, supplies and school travel.

I oppose the Governor's proposal for Alaska to be the first state to use federal block grant funding for Medicaid - we need to retain flexible federal funding that will ensure providers receive payments and that all of our families and children get the healthcare they need. We must be clear that "block grant" is another term for kicking our most vulnerable Alaskans out of the healthcare system.

I strongly support SB 14 and cutting oil tax credits. If we stop subsidizing these extremely profitable outside corporations, the approximately \$1-2 billion in annual tax revenue will eliminate the bulk of our budget shortfalls. These are among the wealthiest and largest corporations on the planet. That the Governor has proposed offering them welfare while kicking children, elders, and the vulnerable out of life-saving programs is a moral outrage.

I strongly support a statewide, progressive income tax. The facts - while hard to find amid the Governor's rhetoric, leaving one wondering if the Governor can differentiate between propaganda and reality - are clear: states with progressive income taxes have higher employment and stronger economies. I oppose flat taxes because it is quite obvious that those with millions in the bank can pay a much larger share and still maintain the luxurious standard of living to which they are accustomed.

At the very least, it is past time to tax out of state workers. Alaska experiences a disproportionately high amount of taxable revenue leaving the state via the oil, mining, and fishing industries. This is revenue that will not be spent in our communities, contribute to local sales tax, or help pay local property taxes. You hold the power to tax that income this session if you choose to do so.

I oppose using the PFD to balance the budget over the long term, however if you must do so this year I support it. In the long run, I support instituting a progressive income tax and giving families the option of using a portion of their full PFD's as payment. Eliminating and reducing the PFD is in effect a flat tax on Alaskans and should be avoided if possible.

Thanks for your consideration,
Michele & Thomas Parker
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833

Michele & Thomas Parker
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Stephen Giesbrecht <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget Testimony

Hello, my name is Stephen Giesbrecht and I am the Borough Manager for the Petersburg Borough. Thank you, Co-chair Stedman and all of the Finance Committee, for this opportunity to provide testimony about the impacts of the Governor's proposed operating budget.

The impacts of the Governor's proposed budget are varied and numerous. Cuts to the Ferry System, K-12 school funding, and the potential reallocation of the fisheries landing taxes all pose serious problems for our community. Our children are concerned about what kind of school will be left for them to attend after cuts to the University system. The potential cuts to public radio leave us wondering how we will engage and discuss issues with our citizens and provide critical emergency information.

Reductions in school bond debt reimbursement leave us wondering how much our local taxes will need to be raised to maintain a healthy quality of life in Petersburg, and reductions in early childhood programs hurt our children's ability to be prepared for school, and in some cases the parent's ability to be in the workforce.

As a parent, an employer, an appointed official, and a Petersburg citizen, I ask the Finance Committee to remember the budget is not just numbers. It is people, livelihoods, and small businesses. I have lived and traveled throughout the lower 48, and what we have in Alaska, and specifically here in Petersburg is special. The majority of people who speak to me truly understand what we have, and are willing to forego larger dividends, and back new revenues to continue to support this truly special place.

Thank you for your time and the work you are doing.

Stephen Giesbrecht

Doniece Gott

From: Kim Ward-Massey [REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please maintain funding for education

As someone who values the time and energy we, as a community, put into our children, I am imploring you to reject the proposed cuts to education. Allowing all children to have access to a free and appropriate education is one of the few things that is constitutionally mandated in this state and the governor's current budget proposal undermine that requirement. Education is an investment in the future and is necessary for a productive society. I stand with a group of amazing parents and caregivers, Growing Alaskan Leaders, in fighting for the constitutional rights of our children and every child in this state. Please do not let these cuts go through.

Kim Ward-Massey
Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Bobbe Cole [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education

To Whom it May Concern;

I was unable to testify in person today. My personal experience with Best Beginnings and the Imagination Library have been profound. They offered me the books while still in the hospital. My son, Sam, and I began sharing them almost immediately. He learned to love books, and I could watch his mind work as we shared them. He is now four, and is non verbal autistic. Books allow an intense level of communication, as I can ask him questions about the text and pictures and he is able to use the book to indicate to me his understanding. I believe books are the reason that his receptive language skills are at the four year old level, and that he has been able to use his PECS and sign language to effectively communicate. We are able to communicate and share our thoughts even though he has no words.

The imagination library helped me rediscover the public library, and it is one of Sam's favorite places. I am lucky enough to live walking distance from Loussac. Many families do not. If a person depends on the bus, works thirty six hours a week, and has limited income, even a trip to the library is difficult. Having the books come to them is highly beneficial. Having the book may be the catalyst between a child and parent interacting, instead of falling into the phone or t.v. The free educational events are valuable for the same reasons.

I am compelled to write this to you, even though I feel it is somewhat futile. I should not have to beg for children to be considered important. This is something you should already know. When you are old, these children will be the adults in the workforce, and the people around you in everyday life. They will be making decisions. Show them they are valuable, so they will value others. Show them compassion, so they will be compassionate. Create now the society that you wish to live in then, starting small.

I have no real faith that this will even be read, yet alone any consideration given to my words. Please send me a line to let me know I was heard, if I am.

Sincerely,
Bobbe Cole.

Doniece Gott

From: Margaret Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 2020 Operating Budget Invest in Early Learning

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Good afternoon, my name is Margaret Bauer and I am a current board member of Best Beginnings. I support and I actively volunteer in their mission to grow readers, build strong families, and engage our community. Best Beginnings reaches across our State not only to promote the delivery of books to our children through the Imagination Library, but to support families, who through the connection of a book engage with their communities and have access to the parenting and child development supports they need.

I request that you fund the early childhood programs in the amounts approved by the legislature last year for Best Beginnings, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and PreK. These programs are important in the growth and future of our State, as the more prepared children are for school and learning, they are set up for greater success throughout school and beyond. These programs are an investment and need to be a part of Alaska's economic infrastructure as a means of creating a literate and prepared workforce.

My children were born and raised in Alaska and they choose to stay here and contribute to our economy and our workforce in the construction management and mental health industries. They were introduced to books as infants, provided a high quality child care experience, educated in the Anchorage School District, and the received a Bachelor and Master's degree from University of Alaska Anchorage. I realize this is an ideal scenario, however it is an example of the quality and investment that all of our Alaskan children deserve, and each one of these programs will help expand that availability to more children and families in Alaska.

Thank you,
Margaret Bauer

Margaret Bauer
Shareholder Development Manager
Chenega Future, Inc.

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99503

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<http://www.chenegafuture.com/shareholder-development>

Doniece Gott

From: Beth Snyder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 6:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cuts to Early Education

Please do not cut funding for preschool education. The early years are most critical for brain development and future kindergarten preparation. Your investment in early learning is critical for closing the achievement gap and helping our youngest learners be best prepared to succeed in school. I implore you to keep funding, especially for school districts, in the Education budget for preschool children and their families. Their futures are in your hands.

Beth Snyder
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99501
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Toni <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 6:42 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Early Childhood education

Dear Legislators,

Our best scientific studies about the most formative and powerful years to impact peoples' lives tell us over and over that we need to be investing in ages 0-5, and that by age 8 a person's trajectory is largely already set. As a citizen and medical provider in AK, I am puzzled as to why we continue to cut funding for young children.

Do we want to be a community that pays for high mental and physical healthcare costs, high social costs and high prison costs OR do we want to be a community that invests in our children to avoid these. The choice is clear to me, I want to have a community that invests in employable and healthy citizens.

Please restore funding in the FY20 budget to:

- Head Start, PreK,
- Parents as Teachers
- Best Beginnings
- The Infant Learning Program

Thank you for your work and please keep the long view for our state and for the vulnerable we need to support.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Antonia Sparrow
Anchorage

Sent from my iPad

To the members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing to ask for your help and to express my deep concern over the proposed elimination of funding for the Alaska WWAMI program. Gov. Dunleavy has eliminated funding for this vital program in his proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget. I respectfully ask that during your deliberations on the budget, you restore funding for this program and that you vote to override any veto by Gov. Dunleavy if it is required.

To give you some background about myself, I am a proud graduate of the Alaska WWAMI program. I grew up in Anchorage and have always known that I wanted to practice medicine here. Thanks to the WWAMI program, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2nd best medical school for primary care in the United States for in-state tuition. The program's "forgiveness" of the tuition cost difference was to be repaid by either working in Anchorage for 5 years or rural Alaska for 3 years. This was obviously a no-brainer for me.

What I didn't realize at the time was how many opportunities I would be afforded to explore healthcare in rural Alaska. As early as my first year of medical school I was encouraged to spend a month with a rural local family practice doctor in Kodiak, Alaska. I had no ties to Kodiak or prior interest, but seven years later after completing residency I moved to Kodiak to practice full spectrum family medicine. I think what most people don't realize is, is that not only does the WWAMI program encourage doctors to return to their home state, but they push their students to go practice in the places where it is needed the most.

Additionally, the program serves as a wonderful conduit to the Alaska Family Medicine Residency (AKFMR) and the Alaska Track Pediatric Residency through the University of

Washington. These are the only residency programs in the state of Alaska and thankfully, these residencies' visions align with the WWAMI program's, to bring primary care providers to rural Alaska. As residency in Alaska qualifies as part of the "forgiveness" for tuition, I was able to work toward my forgiveness while receiving my training in my home state. During my training I had the opportunity to work in Dillingham, Nome, Sitka, and Kodiak. As an example of the retention of the AKFMR, of the 10 classmates who graduated with me, 6 are practicing in rural Alaska in locations including Fairbanks, Kodiak, Nome, Bethel and Valdez, and 3 are practicing in Anchorage. That is a 90% retention rate for the class of 2017. There is no question that cutting funding for the WWAMI program, which is an essential stepping stone to practicing medicine in Alaska will cause an even greater blow on an already devastating shortage of care in our great state.

Again, I implore you to vote for full funding at current levels for the Alaska WWAMI program and to vote to override the Governor's veto of Alaska WWAMI funding if required.

Respectfully,

Julie Stewart MD

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Libby Dalton <libbydalton@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Comments on Budget Hearing 4/11/2019

Greetings,

I had hoped to testify at your committee hearing today but missed the deadline to sign up. My written testimony concerns **funding for the University of Alaska.**

I've been a resident of Fairbanks all my life and have grown up with the University of Alaska.

Two points;

1. The University of Alaska is an important asset to our city and state.
2. This University is too expensive to maintain at current funding levels. Cuts have to be made.

I agree with Governor Dunleavy's approach toward our state budget. We can't keep spending at current levels by depleting our savings accounts. And we, the public, are tired of this budget battle every year in the legislature. There needs to be a plan and policy put in effect.

I recently read comments President James Johnsen made in 2015. He stated, "we must find alternative sources of revenue for the University of Alaska and not depend on state funding at these historic levels." I don't think he's achieved this goal and I don't know if he's made any progress at all.

Recently, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research and policy institute, released findings on how much and why states have cut higher education in recent years due to the deep recession and continued weak recovery. They published a chart with % change in state spending per student, inflation adjusted, for a 5 year period - FY2008 - FY2013. **Alaska ranked last, and 48th with a 3.2% decrease.** The last two states, Wyoming and North Dakota, actually increased spending. North Carolina placed 47th with a 14.6% decrease in spending. Quite a disparity between 47th and 48th place. Additionally, Arizona ranked #1 with a 50.4% decrease in spending and New Hampshire #2 with a 49.9% decrease in spending per student.

A monetary comparison re change in state spending per student over a 5 year period found;

#1 New Mexico spent \$4,775 less per student,

#2 Louisiana spent \$4,715 less per student.

Alaska again placed #48 spending \$561 less per student.

Again, two states increased spending per student, Wyoming and North Dakota, \$1,036 and \$1,308 respectively.

This study shows that Alaska has had the least cuts to higher education of any state in the nation over the 5 year period, FY2008 - FY2013. This is proven fact.

One conclusion of this report found that states can reduce the size of spending cuts by finding and enacting new revenues, but many have chosen not to do so. Sadly, the University of Alaska has a spending problem and a revenue problem and needs to address both. The costs to Alaskans of maintaining the current bloated University of Alaska budget outweigh the benefits. We need action now, we need cuts!

Respectfully,

Libby Dalton Slane

Fairbanks
Senate District B
House District 4

Doniece Gott

From: Phyllis Hackett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 6:08 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Governor Dunleavy Budget

Dear hard working Finance Committee Members

Governor Dunleavy's budget has sent a shock wave through every corner of our great state. In that it has been beneficial, I believe. However, it is frightening to think of all that will be lost if any compromise, even close to his proposals were to be adopted.

Being from Southeast, an incredibly viable and important sector of our state, I fully support: 1) education fully funded
2) continued strong funding of our only transportation system, the Alaska Marine Highway
3) municipal revenue sharing, as we do not have the population base or access for support from larger municipalities to share resources
4) continued state ownership of one of our most valuable and irreplaceable treasures, Sheldon Jackson Museum
5) on and on

I do realize the importance on downsizing our expenditures but we also need to look at maximizing our revenues with:
1) serious reevaluating our oil extraction credits and taxation 2) permanent fund adjustments
3) reinstating state income tax
4) reevaluating our senior citizen exemptions. Our young families struggling more than we seniors did or are, in general. They are not able to live in their home towns any longer and our senior base is growing. As young families move out who will support the services we seniors need?

I understand the difficulties you all face and I appreciate your commitment to doing what's right for the state in the long run.

I cannot support such drastic one shot cuts. We need to wean ourselves of our past habits and gradually come to a sustainable place.

It is possible, it just needs to be the mandatory.

Thank you all

Phyllis Hackett
Former Assembly Person
47 year resident of
Sitka Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Mail Master [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:55 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I read the article about the budget the House approved. The cuts are painful but needed. Many thanks for not cutting the university and schools the way the governor proposed.

I support a dividend of \$1000, which was the money I and my family received for the first dividend.

Sincerely,

Joan Soutar

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Doniece Gott

From: Kellie Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:56 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Budget

Dear Committee Members,

Here are a few ideas for cutting budget costs for our state:

Retired State employees paying for their medical insurance...senior citizens in the private sector, receiving Social Security, pay for their Medicare.

State employee travel- maybe average hotels instead of 5 star; simpler meal vouchers; more online meetings.

State employee retirement age, or at least eligibility age for receiving retirement, extended. Those in the general public wait until 62 to 65 before receiving their benefits.

Incentives for keeping retired senior citizens and their retirement monies in our state should not be done away with.

A few years back when the cold storage at our cannery was going to close down, the workers voted to do away with the unions and just represent themselves. This action saved our cold storage. I wish the state workers on our ferry system would consider this. It may save our ferries and their jobs.

Just a few ideas. Of course, if we could look at the State checkbook, we might be able to help cut some costs there. That's what we do at home under financial crunches...fine tooth our spending by seeing where we spend.

Thank you for your time,

Kellie Jones
[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK
[REDACTED]

Sent from Outlook

Doniece Gott

From: nancy knapp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating budget

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed reductions in the operating budget.

First, our school district may lose 25% of its teachers as a result of education cuts, resulting in large class sizes that will be detrimental to learning.

Also, cuts to ferry service will take away my regional highway.

Cuts to Medicaid will leave people in my community without basic medical care.

I am also very concerned that cuts may close our local university.

Instead of these cuts, I would like to see a smaller PFD or a state income tax.

Thank you,

Nancy Knapp

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Brandt-Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

Dear Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns in regards to the State Operating Budget. I am deeply concerned about the proposed cuts to public education. If enacted, Governor Dunleavy's budget would mean a loss of 25% of the teachers in the Sitka School District. This would put class sizes at unreasonable numbers and would simply change the face of education in our town by eliminating programs and supports for our students. Many people are drawn to our community because of the quality of our schools. This quality is only sustainable with full funding.

I am also opposed to the proposed cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway, which is truly the regional transportation system of SE Alaska.

I am opposed to the proposed cuts to medicaid, which would leave our most vulnerable population without adequate healthcare.

I believe government should pay for these essential services. Because we can no longer sustain these services through oil revenues, Alaskans should pay, and I am willing to do so.

In order to support these essential services, I support the following:

- modest dividend checks
- modest, progressive income tax
- modest budget cuts

It takes so much longer to build things than to break them down. Please protect our schools, our ferries, our health care and our way of life. Thank you for listening to the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Susan Brandt-Ferguson

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: support funding for Alaska Public Media

From: Tamara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:32 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: support funding for Alaska Public Media

Dear Representative,

I am the owner of a small business in Anchorage, Alaska. I rely on Alaska Public Media daily to help me keep up with local, state, national, and international issues that allow me to run my business, employing myself and contracting three others, including two US veterans. I rely on the information about natural resources and public policy, as an emergency information that affect me as a resident and homeowner.

I contribute to Alaska Public Media to do my part to support it, and urge you to not allow it to be removed by the Governor from the State budget. I count access to impartial media as part of quality of life in Alaska, and factor it in to my decision to continue to live and do business in the state.

Sincerely,
T. McGuire

Doniece Gott

From: Heidi Halverson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Comments about the Budget

To whom it may concern,

I would like to ask that Public Media does not get cut from the State Budget.

Public media provides an important service to our communities across the state. In addition to making Emergency, Health and Safety information available, public media makes several valuable contributions:

- It is a source of information about what is happening in our state in the realm of politics
- It provides stories from around Alaska to help build a community
- It highlights positive stories, such as teens making a difference in this state, and is a way of letting residents know about reasons that they should be proud to be Alaskan.
- It highlights local artists and musicians that help build a culture of creativity.
- It provides educational programs for youth as an alternative to the some of the violent shows and games that are ever more popular
- This list could continue for pages if I wasn't at work

Public Media helps build a local culture and a sense of community, without which people do not feel connected to where they live. I'm not saying that if Public Media is cut everyone will leave, but as a young professional, there are certain things I want in the community where I live, one of which is to feel like I'm part of it and know what's going on. Public Media provides that connection and keeps me informed about my home town and state.

This is a time when Social Media is getting to be a larger and larger platform for information sharing, and unfortunately this is a platform where radical extremist views, from every side, are shared the fastest and the furthest. It is becoming so much harder to be an informed citizen rather than just relying on an emotional response. Taking away public media would only reinforce the power that social media has to control political views and would be a huge disservice to the people Alaska. Alaskans deserve better.

Please, do not cut funding to this valuable service.

Thank you,

Heidi Halverson
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99503

Doniece Gott

From: Eric Grundberg <eric.gundberg@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support public radio and education funding.

Good day,

My name is Eric Grundberg. I am a twenty year resident of rural Alaska. Currently a small business owner. I'm writing to express my concern with the direction our state is headed. Education funding is the cornerstone of our communities. Public radio is only local media source in most of rural alaska. I urge you to think long and hard about what our state would look like in 15-20 years if the education system is gutted even further and there are no local media sources in rural alaska.

I support a state income, and reduced or elimated PFD's to fund state education, k-12, university system and public radio funding.

If we want young people to live here, to raise families then we have to have funded schools and a university system.

Thanks for you time,
Eric

Doniece Gott

From: Bob Angaiak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Governor Dunleavy has proposed defunding public broadcasting in his current budget

This would be a disaster for us that depend on public radio and tv for national, state and local news. There needs to be a counter to overly conservative talk shows in our area that regularly lambast public radio who they consider as only serving the left and far left. This show even specifically named Rhonda McBride, with her show Frontiers, as serving the far left. Our region doesn't have rich sponsors and needs every resource to bring information and news from all sides of the political spectrum, which I believe is a protected right.

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Forbes [mailto:maryforbes@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: AK public Media

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Alaska Public Media is very important to me, my community and the state of Alaska. A day doesn't go by that I don't listen to Kodiak's public broadcasting's radio station KMXT. I am also a volunteer and serve on the board of directors for Kodiak Public Broadcasting. Several times a week I tune into public television. In Kodiak, KMXT is the go to station for emergency broadcasting. During the last big earthquake which generated a tsunami warning and evacuation from low lying lands in Kodiak, KMXT is what everyone listened to for up to date and accurate information. I could go on at length at how important KMXT is to me but more importantly, AK Public Media is important to rural Alaska which is unevenly and unfairly bearing the brunt of all of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts. Because the amount of federal dollars these entities receive depends on state contributions, zeroing out state funding for AK Public Media will have devastating consequence for public radio and television across the state. It is yet another example of a short sighted, mean spirited and unnecessary policy agenda. Cap or eliminate the permanent fun dividend, institute a state income tax and school head tax and increase the taxes on resource extraction industries in the state. Please do not let Governor Dunleavy ruin the quality of life in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Mary Forbes
Kodiak

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Citizen voter from Indian, AK

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

From: Susan Goodwin [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:38 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: Citizen voter from Indian, AK

Hello,

I'm writing today to again voice my concerns about specific budgetary cuts proposed by Gov. Dunleavy and his affiliated legislators. Specifically, AK Public Media provides an important service to us citizens in the form of non partisan reporting coverage on local and state matters, like the current budget negotiations. The proposed 100% line item budget cut for AK public media is more of the same general philosophy I see espoused in Dunleavys budget: sicker, stupider and poorer. In addition, AK public media provides an important link in the emergency services system necessary to keeping us safe and informed during natural and man made disasters like the one you are creating with this budget. As a first responder and nurse who travels throughout urban and rural Alaska, I am acutely aware of how much harder my job will be should we lose this important outlet for legislative reporting, public health and emergency information.

Please, stop killing the future of this state by targeting health and human services programs like public media, healthcare, the ferries, VPSOs and other vital resources actual citizens rely on. Enough is enough; you can balance the budget, pay a smaller more reasonable dividend and still provide essential services like police, fire, education and transportation that this state relies on. Please stop with the partisan politics.

Sincerely
Susan Goodwin

Pardon my brevity, sent via mobile

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: No to the Dunleavy Budget cuts. They will eviscerate rural Alaska

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Julie Hursey and I live in Petersburg. I urge you to reconsider the drastic cuts in the proposed budget which will have devastating impacts on rural Alaskan communities like mine. In particular I ask you to put money back in for Public Radio. This is an essential emergency communication service for rural Alaska in cases of Tsunamis and earthquakes as well as other disasters.

Please reinstate funding for the marine highway. This is our transportation link especially in Southeast Alaska, and an economic driver all year round moving people and goods up the Inside Passage and on to points north. And Funding Public education is an investment in our future. We want to keep families in Alaska.

My concern is that when funds are withdrawn for Public Broadcasting, the marine highway and schools, it is a death blow to infrastructure. Once these services are eliminated, there may be no way back to reinstating them, once the negative impacts are apparent.

Take my Permanent Fund Dividend. Reinstall an Income tax. I am willing to pay part of the price of these services. But while you are at it, reevaluate the amount of tax industry pays for the privilege of doing business in Alaska. Alaska can be open for business, but it does not have to give its precious natural resources away to encourage investors. Taxes could also be collected from all those people who come up here to work, on the Slope, in the mines and the fishing industry, then take their money south.

The budget cuts as proposed gut rural communities, and strives to balance a budget too fast and too cruelly on the backs of our relatively small population. The destruction to local services may create an economic death spiral we cannot recover from.

Taxes is not a four letter word. Five letters that could ease the economic suffering that would result from this budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Hursey
Petersburg, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Don't cut funding for public broadcasting

From: John Moriarty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:56 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: Don't cut funding for public broadcasting

Hi LIO,

I'm an Anchorage resident and small business owner and I wanted to voice my concern about Governor Dunleavy's proposed cuts to public broadcasting.

I would like to strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to recognize the importance of this public service and continue funding public media and emergency information services. Cutting funding as proposed in the governor's budget would make our communities less safe and our people less informed. We cannot afford either.

Public broadcasting is a comparatively small line item that has a comparatively large impact. It is not where we should be making cuts.

Thank you,

John Moriarty
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Anne Wieland [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Retain 100% Public Radio and Satellite Funding

Dear Chairman Senator Stedman and Co-chair Senator von Imhof and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

There are many important sections of the budget that are vital to our lives in Alaska and must not be underfunded or totally eliminated as the Governor has done to Public Radio. Though not a major item in the budget, Public Radio has an outsized impact on our lives from Ketchikan to Barrow to Bethel to Anchorage and Homer.

Public Radio is our safety net. Many of us live near or on the Alaskan Coastline and are vulnerable to tsunamis. In 2018 we had a 7.0 and a 7.1 magnitude earthquakes that immediately created a potential tsunami threat to Homer, Kodiak and elsewhere. Fortunately the word got out on air and people in Homer took shelter at the High School. Several years ago Augustine erupted again and sent a cloud of volcanic ash our way. Public Radio gave us warning in time to cover windshields, turn off sensitive electronics and much more. More commonly, wildfires out East End road, the single means of access way out to the head of Kachemak Bay, threatened homes and large territories of forest and more. Public Radio kept those of us in potential danger informed. Other lesser dangers such as floods, horses loose on the road or race runners crossing main roads are broadcast on Public Radio. Flood information is especially important in Seward. Every day we hear the weather and the especially important Marine Forecast. We knew in advance that today would bring Gale Warnings to Kachemak Bay so we would not consider crossing the bay or getting caught on the far side.

Public Radio also keeps us connected with our governments, local, Peninsula wide, and state wide. We can listen to Homer City Council meetings and Kenai Peninsula Borough meetings. We hear news from across the state which because we are so big and far apart is especially meaningful. Public radio made it possible to hear Governor Dunleavy and his staff recently talking about his budget in Kenai and for us to listen to the House Finance Committee members in Soldotna by linking two stations, KBBI and KDLL. This saved many of us from driving back from Soldotna in the dark at a time when it seemed every moose in the southern peninsula was out and about. KBBI broadcast Rep. Vance's Town Hall enabled many to tune in and not face the huge crowd at the College. Now we hear weekly from Senator Stevens who updates us via Q and A on KBBI. For the last several years, we heard from Rep. Seaton in a similar way.

Public Radio enhances our experiences as southern Peninsula Residents. On our Community Calendar we hear the Library schedule of events, AA information for participants, news from our LIO as to what bills will be heard and whether we can participate or listen. We hear Talk of Alaska on Tuesdays, Bushlines and Ride Line help people communicate and occasionally get a ride to Anchorage or further. The Fisheries News on Saturdays from KMXT Kodiak Public Radio is also valuable, intended for the commercial fishing industry it is also interesting to sport fishers especially the forecasts. One recent addition at KBBI has been the 1 minute inclusion of Learning the Sugt'stun Language. The Sugt'stun Word of the Week is a collaboration between KBBI and Nanwalek

residents, Sally and Sperry Ash, to share the Sugt'stun language with the communities of the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Sugt'stun is the traditional language of the Sugpiaq communities along the Alaska Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak Island. This includes the villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek. The words they choose give us Cross Cultural information about their lives. A small addition to our listening experience but valuable in more than one way. Our listening experience is also enhanced by the number of talented local volunteers who share their love of music and food with us. One woman has done a Country Music show for decades now, likely back to the first year KBBI went on the air.

One of the very most important functions that KBBI and other Public Radio Stations provide their listeners is the broadcast of national news. We also receive news from BBC from 2 a.m for 3 or 4 hours for insomniacs. It is so important for Alaskans in our semi isolated geographic situation to remain up to date with national and international news. The statewide news is equally important.

To summarize, Public Radio is a vital component of life in Alaska, providing a safety net especially for natural disasters, connection to local, state and national governments as well as local information. Our experiences as Alaskans and residents of the southern Peninsula are enhanced in many ways, and most important of all, we are able to be participants in the greater world outside Alaska by means of news that interviews both or more sides of issues.

Public Radio is vital to all our lives. Please restore it's funding to total current levels.
Thank you,
Anne Wieland
Homer, AK

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 4:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 20 budget cuts

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

Subject: No to the Dunleavy Budget cuts. They will eviscerate rural Alaska

Date: 2019-04-11 17:49

From: [REDACTED]

To: Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Julie Hursey and I live in Petersburg. I urge you to reconsider the drastic cuts in the proposed budget which will have devastating impacts on rural Alaskan communities like mine. In particular I ask you to put money back in for Public Radio. This is an essential emergency communication service for rural Alaska in cases of Tsunamis and earthquakes as well as other disasters.

Please reinstate funding for the marine highway. This is our transportation link especially in Southeast Alaska, and an economic driver all year round moving people and goods up the Inside Passage and on to points north. And Funding Public education is an investment in our future. We want to keep families in Alaska.

My concern is that when funds are withdrawn for Public Broadcasting, the marine highway and schools, it is a death blow to infrastructure. Once these services are eliminated, there may be no way back to reinstating them, once the negative impacts are apparent.

Take my Permanent Fund Dividend. Reinstall an Income tax. I am willing to pay part of the price of these services. But while you are at it, reevaluate the amount of tax industry pays for the privilege of doing business in Alaska. Alaska can be open for business, but it does not have to give its precious natural resources away to encourage investors. Taxes could also be collected from all those people who come up here to work, on the Slope, in the mines and the fishing industry, then take their money south.

The budget cuts as proposed gut rural communities, and strives to balance a budget too fast and too cruelly on the backs of our relatively small population. The destruction to local services may create an economic death spiral we cannot recover from.

Taxes is not a four letter word. Five letters that could ease the economic suffering that would result from this budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Hursey
Petersburg, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Jane Eisemann <jane@alaska.net>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Pubic Radio
Attachments: Regarding Senate Bill 20.pdf

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,
Please find attached my letter of support for Alaska Public Radio.

Thanks for all you do!

All the best,

Jane Eisemann
Kodiak, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Alaska Public Media

From: Wittrock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 4:32 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Public Media

To Whom it May Concern,

We would like to begin by thanking you for your service to the people of Alaska. In these difficult times, we appreciate the time and effort you put into protecting the interests of all Alaskans. We write to you today to urge you to continue funding Alaska Public Media, a precious Alaska resource and one that we have long supported as sustaining members.

We understand you have difficult funding decisions to make, but we believe Alaska Public Media is a resource to be protected by our State. Not only does Alaska Public Media provided unbiased, in-depth journalism, including important pieces about Alaskan news daily, it also provides critical emergency, weather, health and other safety information to the public. In many rural areas, it is the only source of this information for folks. It was our source for information during the 2018 earthquake. We understand that loss of State funding will eliminate these critical, potentially life-saving services!!!

We also understand that without State funding, Alaska Public Media will become ineligible for federal grants that ensure high quality programming in Alaska. We believe it is in the interest of Alaskans to leverage our state funds to the greatest extent possible, particularly during these tight economic times.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts,

Pat and Robin Wittrock
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Public Media

From: karelbill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 5:11 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Media

Hello.

My name is Bill Hauser. I am writing in support of funding for AK Public Media.

KSKA and KAKM are my "go-to" sources for newsworthy, informative, and trustworthy news and weather as well as some entertainment.

My wife and I have been active members and contributors for a number of years but public media also relies on public funding.

We are in Anchorage so we have alternatives but I understand people in remote parts of the state are more dependent on public media for information. Limiting funding for Alaska Public Media is limiting information for many state residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill

Karel and Bill Hauser
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.billhauserbooks.com

Doniece Gott

From: Alan Marasigan
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 7:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: The governor's budget

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

From: George Beck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 5:19 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: The governor's budget

Hello
I am very disappointed in the actions the governor has taken in regard to the budget. He is hurting the poor and remote with this budget in many ways.
Today I am emailing to register my strong support for Alaska public broadcasting and the many ways it brings news, facts, and community to all Alaskans. Cutting these programs is a real disservice to our future and will promote Less transparency in our government.
Please communicate my thoughts to my representative.
George Beck
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Carver <angem@kodiak.net>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Media support letter

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support public media in Alaska. Kodiak public radio station KMXT and ARCS are critical to our rural off-the-road system community. I cannot even imagine the loss of a local entity that the community depends on to provide critical and lifesaving information during emergencies. The cuts proposed by the governor are beyond all reason.

Please hold firm against cuts to these valuable and life-affirming services,

Thank you for your time,

Deborah Carver
Kodiak

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Sharon Waisanen
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: SB 20
COMMITTEE: SFIN DATE: 04/12/2019

Public Broadcasting provides essential services in our community and state-wide. With our vast geographical area, we need the connectedness that public broadcasting provides. Added to that, programming provides an opportunity to be informed. Their programming offers vital information as well as enjoyable entertainment.

Without the satellite capability, emergency communication is also halted. This could result in serious consequences for every Alaskan.

Public Broadcasting is a vital part of our community and our lives in Alaska.

Please support funding for Public Broadcasting.

//Sharon Waisanen