

House Finance Committee  
Public Testimony  
HB 2001  
Emails received to  
HouseFinance@akleg.gov  
July 15, 2019  
Part 2

From: Marius Panzarella <chipscout@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:38 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Cc: Panzarella <chipscout@mac.com>  
Subject: Vetoes

My name is Sylvia Panzarella and I represent myself and my husband Marius. We are constituents of Senator Mia Costello and Representative Sara Rasmussen.

We do support a smaller dividend if need be, but in truth we should not discuss cutting anything until we cut oil tax credits! This is pitting our fellow brothers and sisters of Alaska against each other like Gladiators in the Coliseum in Ancient Rome cruelly performing for our Governor.  
Last year, Conoco was paid \$26.00 per barrel for OUR oil, more than double anywhere in the United States. If it were cut to \$22.00 per barrel, which is still too high, but that \$4.00 per barrel cut to the oil companies would give Alaska a 6 million dollar surplus for the State. SIX MILLION DOLLARS!!! This is according to Senator Tom Begich.

Governor Dunleavy is vetoing payments to the very weakest among us. In addition there is a ZERO DOLLAR VETO on the Ocean Rangers program which was voted into law by We The People of Alaska to keep the cruise ships from dumping in our waters. The cruise ships pay for the program and the State does not pay one penny for it. Why would the Governor veto this program and why did many of you on the Finance Committee veto it?

Another story has to do with eliminating the State Arts Council. The Kodiak Arts Council was awarded a \$76,000 dollar grant that they will not receive due to this elimination.  
Public Broadcasting may no longer offer Gavel to Gavel on television, the show watch to keep an eye on our Legislators among other important programs.

Please stand up for us and have the Courage to do the right thing!  
This budget is in your hands and will leave some very deep stains if handled the wrong way. Thank you for your time.  
Sylvia & Marius Panzarella  
907-334-9296

**From:** Deborah Vandruff <koalaak@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:40 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** save our state

Dear Members of house finance,

I am writing to you to add to the chorus of Alaskans concerned about the disaster of a budget brought about by the vetoes of the governor.  
This is not the state I have come to love over the years I have been here. Certainly not how it was in the 70's when we cared about each other and helped the seniors and children rather than sending them into poverty.

Please do what you can to bring compassion back!

Thank you,  
Deborah L Vandruff  
1820 Logan St  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**From:** Ann Rappoport <agrappoport@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:41 PM

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

**Cc:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Please support HB 2001, the Committee substitute to restore funding and provide a sustainable dividend

Dear Legislators -

Thank you for this opportunity to talk about our budget, our future. Here is a written version of the comments I just made to the House Finance Committee, with a few additional points.

I urge you to adopt HB 2001, the Committee Substitute adopted earlier today. This will restore funding which the Governor has vetoed. That funding is ESSENTIAL to maintain and sustain our wonderful state! We need to ensure we have an adequate education system from pre-K through our University - education is our future! We need to support programs that provide public safety and will work to decrease recidivism, provide addiction treatment and prevention programs. We need health care for our most vulnerable citizens. Public broadcasting funding must be restored to ensure emergency notifications are broadcast throughout our vast state We cannot be the only state without a State Arts Council.

The House and Senate thoughtfully debated the State budget for months and made reasoned cuts - our budget is already reduced to levels from many years ago. The Governor's vetoes will take us off a cliff and destabilize our economy preventing people from attaining college degrees they need to help us build a diversified economy. The Senate unanimously passed a reasonable budget in coordination with the House. All Legislators need to support HB 2001 as adopted by the Committee earlier today and reaffirm the difficult work of the Legislature.

At this point we need to accept the PFD amount proposed by this bill, that will allow us to maintain a balanced budget. The Governor's proposal for a \$3000 dividend on top of the horrendous budget cuts he is pushing, is ridiculous and short-sighted!

I am also appalled with the Governor's political and punitive cut to the Alaska Judicial program in the amount of abortion services in retaliation for the court system upholding the law and our individual rights. He is trying to destroy our state, our people, and the American system which is based on a balance among our Executive - Legislative - Judicial branches.

I am a 40-year Alaska resident. My husband and I were proud to raise two children in Alaska with a wonderful Anchorage School District, thriving community, and amazing natural resource opportunities. While my kids love Alaska, they have both been gainfully employed Outside - if the Governor's budget becomes our future, there will be no future Alaska for my children, or the children of many of my friends, to return to, for jobs.

Over the last several weeks, there have been many, many op-ed pieces and letters to the editor in the Anchorage Daily News arguing the economics, the humanity, the logic, the education, and the community rational that essentially supports the plan laid out by HB 2001. I urge all members of our legislature to pass this bill now!!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport  
17053 Aries Court  
Anchorage, AK 99516

P.S. Next year, please work to institute a graduated state income tax to help pay for state services. I would be happy to pay my fair share to help maintain our education system and other essential state services!

**From:** louis mass <louis1951@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:41 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; louis mass <louis1951@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Testimony in support of lower PFD and restoration of funding

Legislative Finance Committee,

I support the initial budget in response to the governor's proposed budget.

I support the PFD reconfiguration from 2018.

Please prioritize the following:

Recovery of the reverse sweep to fund PCE (restore endowment), UofA scholarships.

Funding for early education, K-12 and everything you can claw back for UofA (especially when it comes to losing matching funds for research). Educating Alaskans is investing in a future resource and minimizing the expense of paying for incarceration or lost resources from addiction.

If our state cannot afford to assist our elderly who are in need at least grandfather those who are in today's program and ratchet down the support for those who are entering the program.

Our state is an expensive state to operate in and the cost of government is greater than the majority of those in the lower 48. We shouldn't be cutting the budget to meet the national averages. Compare to other low population states (Wyoming and the Dakotas) and normalize cost for extremes of transportation etc.

The residents of this state have an obligation to fund the cost of government. I'm supportive of individual taxes and reconfiguring the oil industry's share. Raise the fuel tax to better fund transportation infrastructure; roads, marine and air.

Thank you for your efforts,

Louis Mass

8325 Sundi Dr

Anchorage 99502

**From:** Michael Dhesse <m.f.dhesse@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:41 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** House Finance Committee Public Testimony

Hello House Finance Committee,

I represent myself.



I came to Alaska because of a job opportunity with the University of Alaska Anchorage. My (now) wife (who came up to Alaska with me from Illinois as a friend) fell in love here, married here and plan to stay here forever. My story is not unique because MANY people come to Alaska to work in the UA system and directly contribute to Alaska and our communities. My wife and I fell in love in this state and bought a "fixer upper" home in Eagle River in 2016 where we have made many memories and continue to meet great people. We would be heartbroken to leave because of the loss of my job at UAA.

We moved here in 2014 and have felt the pressure of continued budget cuts since then. We choose to stay despite these cuts because of the promise of a better tomorrow for our family and Alaska. The Governor's cuts deliver the opposite of that promise to my family and the entire state.

We need public funding for public education (K-12/UA). It is impossible to cut our way out of the issues that currently exist.

I'm confused of why there has not been any talk about taxing non-Alaskan. Each year thousands of people flock to Alaska as tourists and workers. Instead of slashing budgets why are we not creating revenues? Below outlines a "non-Alaskan tax"

1. If a non-Alaskan is working in Alaska, they should pay an Alaska state income tax.
  1. The money they are making does not go back into our state. It leaves with them.
  2. If we are hiring non-Alaskans to do a job in Alaska, how does this help our state when they leave?
2. If a non-Alaskan tourist buys goods in Alaska, they should pay a state sale tax.
3. We already have rules (through the PFD process) that clearly establish who IS and who IS NOT an Alaska resident. Establishing regulations on who and who doesn't get taxed is simple.
4. These generated funds should solely and directly go to fund public education.

Thank you for your consideration and hard work,

--

Michael F. Dhesse  
Certified Athletic Trainer  
Eagle River, AK

**From:** Sarah Murphy <samurphy22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB2001

Honorable Representatives,

Please vote yes on HB2001 and a \$1,600 PFD for 2019. Also, please override the Governor's vetoes and restore full funding to the programs cut. I am writing from my position as a private citizen. Not having a secure budget is already having impacts rippling across the state.

- My husband, who works for a quickly growing tech company based in New York City hired 2 very talented UAA graduates and was in the process of starting an Alaska-based satellite for his company, hoping to hire more employees in the future. The CEO and a vice president were going to visit Anchorage this summer but with the proposed cuts to the University, postponed that trip indefinitely because they do not want to invest in a state that will not produce quality graduates for their company. You can't blame them!

- I teach in the WWAMI Program at UAA, the state's medical school. The UAA WWAMI Medical School did not fill all 20 slots this year, the first time in the history of the program. We had many talented future doctors decide to go out of state given the uncertainty of funding (which is still not certain with the reverse sweep not having happened). Also, who is to say Gov. Dunleavy won't try to line-item veto our program or others while he is in office? This potentially means out of state tuition of \$70K+ per year, per students, (not including

living expenses) for our current students, if the University of Washington lets them continue. Of course they are deciding to go elsewhere.

- Currently the mood at the University is one of complete demoralization. In our small office, we are losing 3 of our staff who either found other jobs or are moving out of state. The rest are panicked because they may lose their vesting in retirement if they lose their job, and they worry about having to leave the state. We have key faculty positions open but have not been able to recruit for these positions (who would want to be Program Director of a program that may not be around?). I personally make ~50% less teaching at the medical school than I would in private practice. I teach because I believe in the mission of training future physicians for the health of all Alaskans. My colleagues feel the same. And colleagues at other programs at UAA also feel the same. Yet, for the past several months, and especially this past week, we, and many others across the state have been shown we are \*not\* worth fighting for, that the work we do is \*not\* worth standing up for by crossing political party lines to come together and stand by the budget that was decided on by the House and Senate weeks ago. Being blindsided like this is frustrating and again, completely demoralizing.

- In addition to teaching at WWAMI I also teach the Family Medicine residents at the Providence affiliated residency. The patients are scared, many of them slated to lose services. The physicians are angry about losing federal matching dollars for Medicaid that will affect their patients. We are hurting the most vulnerable in our population.

- Contracts with the University have been frozen since cuts were announced this winter. A friend who is an architect said they will have to start laying off workers at their firm.

Both individuals and businesses have spoken loud and clear that we want the vetoes overridden and funding restored. Please listen to us. Please vote to override the vetoes.

Respectfully,  
Sarah Murphy, MD (Family Medicine)  
2200 Tasha Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**From:** Erin Barker <erinbarker.business@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001 testimony

Dear House Finance Committee:

I write to you as someone born and raised in Alaska and grew up in a family that benefitted both from the PFD and from public assistance and social services programs. Having been blessed with both entitlements, I can tell you that state programs were what kept my family above water the most because they provided predictable, ongoing support. The PFD was an important and anticipated windfall but we always knew the amount wasn't predictable. Now, as an Alaska voter, urge you to proceed with HB 2001, a moderate PFD, and restoration of vetoed funding.

I wish to emphasize the need for restored funding to the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), Special Needs Housing Grant (SNHG), Human Services Community Matching grant, and Community Initiative Matching Grants. The Governor's vetoes eliminated the later two programs and provide less than one quarter of the legislative-approved FY 20 funding for the other two.

I live in Anchorage near a RURAL-CAP facility. I have been grateful that these services are available to my neighbors. I worry about the security, health, and mortality of these Alaskans and their counterparts throughout the state in absence

of adequate funding.

Money spent on services to support people experiencing homelessness is in many ways an ounce of prevention. Over the past two years, more than 5,000 Alaskans used homelessness prevention services through BHAP and SNUG and only 3.2% returned to homelessness. Existing programs can provide secure housing for an average of \$51 per day, a fraction of the cost of staying in prison or at API. Beyond financial impact, there are intangible social benefits--to everyone--of having fewer people living on the streets.

Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Erin Barker  
8501 Kluane Ave, Unit C  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
617.953.1265

**From:** Kevin Hall <kevnden@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:53 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Pfd

Good day.

This is my testimony for the 07/15/2019 committee meeting on the PFD.

In 2017, the Finance chairs at the time, particularly Senators Anna MacKinnon and Lyman Hoffman, as well as Senate President Pete Kelly, Majority Leader Peter Micciche and Rules Chair Kevin Meyer, and the LFD, decided to reclassify the PFD. This is what made the statutory POMV look more attractive or even necessary, and set us up for the situation we are in today.

By this slight of hand, in true Alaska Legislative fashion, they ignored LegFin's own test for whether a category qualifies for DGF:

"Designated general funds include;

- 1) program receipts that are restricted to the program that generates the receipts and
- 2) revenue that is statutorily designated for a specific purpose. Other funds have stricter restrictions on usage, and federal funds originate from the federal government and can be used only for a particular purpose."

This sneaky way of doing business, along with SB26, put the PFD squarely, and unconstitutionally, in the hands of politicians - many of whom have an agenda that does not align itself with the majority of Alaskans.

This is the same illusion that allows Senators, such as Chris Birch, to attempt to snow the Alaskan people with his "how can we afford the PFD? We NEED your money!" Rhetoric.

The PFD was never designed for this. It belongs to the people, NOT YOU! This sneaky way of reclassifying the relatively tiny amount of money that Alaskans get for their oil wealth demonstrates the single solution mind-set of many legislators.

I object to yet another in a long line of unnecessary and useless meetings. First you fan the flames of the debate with your public rhetoric on social media and news op-eds - pitting the PFD against your failed budget and telling people the sky is falling - all in an attempt to get the public to agree to the theft of our PFD. Then you hold more useless meetings hoping the public will agree with you. I truly find it odd that you keep having meetings but you won't put a bill on the ballot requesting we vote on the changes to the PFD.

What are you afraid of?

Your plan is expensive and Alaskans can see right through you...

I have a friend whose family lives in another state. They have an oil well on their property. The royalties from that well have supported his family for three generations. In Alaska we do not have that individual opportunity. We don't because our constitution requires that all mineral wealth, under our state, be shared by the people. The PEOPLE not the legislature, not the governor, not those who need dental work or the elderly. Not college administrators, not state workers, and not the AFL-CIO, but ALL Alaskans.

Fact is, the royalties we receive, via the PFD, are a fraction of a fraction of the available royalties - and now you want that as well?

You have decided that you know better how to spend our money. But history has proven the fallacy of that idea. The legislature does not know how to properly and profitably spend money.

If you cannot, or will not, fit spending inside of revenue, with a predictable, sustainable, and affordable budget, then perhaps you should resign.

If you are a single solution legislator and cannot find any other way to budget, than to steal our PFD, then perhaps you should resign.

Anything less does the people of Alaska, the people you claim to represent, a disservice.

There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

Finally, there is NO SUCH THING as HB2001 as it has not been read across the floor. Please follow the law and the rules of order of the House.

Thank you.

Kevin and Denise Hall

Sterling, Ak

**From:** Charleen Knight <cknight@iuoe302.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:53 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001/PFD

Dear Legislators,

In regards to the public testimony surrounding the Permanent Fund Dividend/HB2001:

It is imperative that we don't sell out this great state of Alaska for a permanent fund check! A three thousand dollar (\$3000) check at this time is totally irresponsible at a time like this. The massive cuts, due to Governor Dunleavy's vetoes, are extremely problematic because they butcher essential services across Alaska. We cannot stifle the economic recovery of the state for the selfish few that want an inflated permanent fund check. While providing a responsible PFD, around \$1500-\$1600, we can still continue responsibilities we have to child development, seniors, safety, and the University of Alaska. The Governor's plan is really only successful at doing one thing, it will result in massive amount of cost shifting that will burden tax payers across the state. Please don't allow it and please succeed in the following:

#1: Restore ALL the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy

#2: A reasonable PFD of around \$1600 is acceptable and will save critical state services

#3: Fund the capital budget NOW, so we don't lose a billion dollars of federal funds, and so we can build/maintain our infrastructure.

Thank you for your time on this very sensitive and important matter.

**Charleen Knight**

**8954 Birch Park Cir**

Eagle River, AK 99577

## Charleen Knight

Dues & Membership

IUOE Local 302



907-561-5288 ext 100

907-762-6100 direct

[cknight@iuoe302.org](mailto:cknight@iuoe302.org)

**From:** Jeff Urbanus <kisutch@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:53 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear House Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill 2001. I would like to testify in person but the hearing time conflicts with work. I appreciate the opportunity to comment in writing. I emphatically support whatever reductions of the Permanent Fund Dividend are necessary to pay for the level of state services that were funded before the governor's vetoes. This comes at no small cost my family of five. I simply believe that spending the money on state services like the university, healthcare, and public safety, is of greater value and importance to my family than would be a short-term cash injection. Spending Permanent Fund money in this manner is also consistent with the idea that our resources are a public trust for our future, as outlined in Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution. Furthermore, I think it is worth pointing out that the last time the PFD was in the \$3000 dollar range, my three, then preschool-aged, children had to pay federal taxes on their PFD. Sending nearly 30% of a high PFD to Washington is a complete loss and waste to the state of Alaska.

In closing, I would also like to express that since the Governor's vetoes, I am astonished (as I expect many of you are) by the tidal wave of people who think these recent cuts are disastrous. I'm not talking about just inside a limited bubble. This has been near-universal in the people I have talked to at soccer tournaments, 4th of July Parades, while while fishing, etc. This is across a spectrum of people that I normally have differences with in matters of politics. I am left increasingly convinced that those who support the Governor's actions are an older, isolated group of people who do not have the greater interests of Alaska in mind and who simply don't represent the future of our state, in the same way that our children do. The cuts to the University of Alaska are particularly ill-conceived. This is akin to State of Alaska eating its seed-corn. I moved Alaska nearly 25 years ago as a young twenty-something because of all of the opportunities and the prospects of a bright future. Alaska has been good to my family. As my kids approach high-school age, it

breaks my wife and I's hearts to contemplate having to tell our children to seek their futures elsewhere. That is simply what the Governor's recent cuts represent.

Respectfully,  
Jeff Urbanus  
Chugiak, Alaska

**From:** Scott Pustay <scott.pustay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Yes on HB 2001

House Finance,

Please join the majority of your colleagues today to vote yes on HB2001 and a \$1,600 PFD for 2019. I am writing from my position as your constituent and private citizen.

I work for a FinTech software company in Manhattan.  
<https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/socure>

We've raised over \$60 Million dollars in venture capital. I have create TWO jobs in Alaska with this NYC money. I want to create more and voting yes on HB2001 is critical to that happening.

Respectfully,

Scott Pustay, BSEE MSCS  
Director of DevOps  
2200 Tasha Dr  
907-310-2545 cell

**From:** Lisa Andriesen <landriesen@aptalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001 testimony

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you concerning the budget cuts to the University of Alaska as you decide the payout for the PFD. I do not believe there should be a high PFD when so many cuts have happened to essential services and education programs.

My daughter, Madeline, is currently a junior at UAF. She is studying music and music education. She loves the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has encouraged many of the students graduating from Haines High School to consider the Alaskan universities (which several have). She is very concerned about what these drastic cuts will mean for the future of the University of Alaska.

I am concerned for the following reasons:

- degree programs students are currently enrolled in will be cut. It is my understanding that these cuts would happen right away. How can my daughter and other students enroll in another college with only weeks of warning?
- it is important to have an in state university; it would be extremely expensive for students to have to study out-of-state if their degree program is cut.

•scholarships like the UA Scholars and Alaska Performance Scholarship can only be applied to Alaskan schools. My daughter, in addition to many other students, worked hard through high school to receive those scholarships to help pay for school. If many degree programs are eliminated, they would have to leave the state for their education. Losing these scholarships and now having to pay full out-of-state tuition will be a double hit.

•the budget cuts will compromise the quality of our universities which would lead to less student enrollment and funding.

I love our state and appreciate all the work you do as a public servant to Alaska. All of the extreme cuts recently made by the governor to essential programs like education and the ferry system worry me tremendously. It is too much and will effect the quality of life in our state. The Permanent Fund means nothing to me if it comes at the cost to our infrastructure. I do not want the full fund. It does not seem fiscally responsible to pay \$3,000 to everyone at the expense of so many important programs and services. (An extra \$1,500 of the Permanent Fund this year will not go far to pay for out-of-state tuition.) If it comes to it, I would be fine with no Permanent Fund check and starting either a sales or a state income tax. Our state will be worth it. Please take these comments in consideration as you debate HB 2001.

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa Andriesen  
Haines, Alaska

From: John Murphy <jwmurphy@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:55 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: PFD and Vetoes

I am against the \$3000 PFD. I would support a PFD amount of \$1600 or less.  
Also, I am in favor of overriding all of Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes John Murphy  
12151 Woodway Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99516

**From:** Evon Zerbetz <evozer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SUPPORT of HB2001

I am in SUPPORT of HB2001  
Thank you to all the legislators who have a broad view for Alaska and Alaskans, and have created this bill

Evon Zerbetz  
340 Gold Road  
PO Box 8943  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: udevitz@mtaonline.net <udevitz@mtaonline.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:56 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am in favor of House Bill 2001 calling for a \$1,600 PFD.

I am also in favor of a smaller PFD amount if it helps to restore the funds that the Gov vetoed.

I am in favor of an override of the Gov's vetoes.

I am in favor of services that our state provides to seniors; children; students of all ages and their teachers/professors and schools and university system; listeners/viewers of public media; people who value the artistic and cultural aspects of our state; people who consider clean Alaskan ocean waters important; keeping us safe thanks to the AK State Troopers, wildland firefighters, and VPSO; victims of domestic violence and the homeless, etc. as this is not an exhaustive list.

I am in favor of the PFD being viewed as any other of our resources; paying it out must be sustainable. It can not be paid instead of the State providing services to its people. It is time to research and meet with Alaskan economic experts (NOT Donna Arduin and her junk economics) and develop a new funding formula. We can no longer afford to have the PFD stand in the way of our state and our people. It should no longer be a political football.

One way to increase state revenue is to repeal SB21 and the oil tax credits.  
The oil companies should be taxed at a higher rate.

Thank you,  
Susan Udevitz  
Eagle River

**From:** Sara H. Willson <shwillson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:58 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PFD and Governor's Veto

Hello Finance Committee,

Alaska has achieved so much since we became a state.

Our Permanent Fund has provided a dividend from the investments made with oil revenues. My desire is that these dividends continue in a sustainable manner. The \$3000 dividend proposal threatens their future. I advocate for the \$1600 dividend which has also been proposed.

I strongly recommend that you take whatever action is needed to support the programs that the governor vetoed.

My special concerns are:

University of Alaska

Statewide library system

Arts programs

Ranger program

BUT ALL ARE IMPORTANT.



You did your jobs as you debated to arrive at the state budget and I support whatever is necessary to continue with the activities you initially funded.

Thank you.

Sara H Willson  
1890 Glacier Avenue  
Juneau AK 99801

From: Sara Juday <sjudayak@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:59 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support HB2001

I support a reduced PFD in order to fund an adequate budget. I would also support repeal of SB21 to help fill the budget gap. I also support a personal income tax.

The depth of the cuts this year will send the state back into the recession, and could deepen that recession, not to mention threaten many of our most vulnerable residents. They threaten the future quality of life, the future of education from preschool to college.

Sara Juday  
17601 Steamboat Drive

**From:** Roslyn White <hattermatagan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** On the subject of the Dividend

To whom it may concern,

I am a constituent who is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage and I would like to put my vote and full support behind House Bill 2001.

As a lifelong Alaskan, I would love to graduate from my university and in the future live here and perhaps grow a family. However, this will NOT happen if I don't think any children I may have will be forced into a system that degrades their need for top-tier education and sufficient medical coverage.

As a university student, I feel the need to inform those whom are reading this email that if the governors original plan does come to pass, most of the students will take their time and money elsewhere. This wouldn't just effect the university system, it would effect the very economy of Alaska - university students provide a majority of the part time work force and are the main consumers in the stores, a loss of the students would cripple our economy for good, and trust that has once been lost is impossible to regain.

Fool me once, shame on us, and the trust in our governmental system will never return.

Regards,

Roslyn E. White

**From:** Arlot Hall <arlothall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Pass HB 2001

Please pass HB 2001. It is a fair split of the Permanent Fund earnings between the PFD and paying for essential government services.

I thank those of you who have been working to resolve this terrible mess that Governor Dunleavy and his Koch cronies has created. Greed, selfishness, and a hatred of government are destructive of community, government, and civilization.

Bill Hall  
907-748-3216  
[arlothall@gmail.com](mailto:arlothall@gmail.com)

**From:** Gary Steinfort <g.steinfort@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Written input on HB2001

**Gary Steinfort from Eagle River AK.**

I urge you to pass HB2001 to restore many voted items such as the UAA budget, Senior programs, MEDICAD, education and provide a PFD based on remaining available funds. The government funding for Health, Safety & education should be the highest priority, they are vital to the current & future health of our State. In HB2001 there are 15-17 items that were passed in previous years that have statutory required funding that the Legislature & the Governor must fund, therefore his veto violated a AK statute and the Legislature must try to fund again. Please pass a timely capital budget so Alaska does not miss out on matching federal funding, which will go to other state if you do not act quickly. Please SAVE OUR STATE

In the future please look at other income sources such as corporate & personal income tax like the rest of the US and the world has.

Gary Steinfort 907-301-0128 c

**From:** Robert Whittenberg <bobw@pobox.alaska.net>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:01 PM

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

**Cc:** betf@alaska.net

**Subject:** Override vetoes

July 15, 2019

Betty Whittenberg

PO box 143

Soldotna Alaska 99669

I wrote this in February after Governor Dunleavy's first budget cuts and before the budget that was passed by the legislature, since then our Governor has created division in our legislative body and enacted a draconian budget veto that will put our State back into territory days, Who will stand for Alaska's interests? I am proud of all the bipartisan efforts in Juneau to override this veto. For the first time after watching your efforts to work together as Alaskans and listening to your inspiring speeches about protecting Alaskan interests, I have hope, even in these darkest of times in State history. I heard echoes of great leaders past like Hickley, Egan, Hammond, who truly stood up for Alaskan interests not special interest groups or their own political interests. You are making history in Alaska as you stand firm against these vetoes, Alaskans are with you. I do not need a 3,000 dividend at the expense of my fellow Alaskans or State. When I wrote and testified in Soldotna for the house in February of this year the majority testifying and there were over a hundred said the same. That being said I still think we need to re evaluate our balance of oil taxes and bring our revenue stream back, Even Governor Palin protected our States fair share of oil production taxes, the one thing I agreed with her about. The cuts to oil taxes achieved nothing but job loss, production loss, and now this mess we are currently in. This was my February testimony and I still stand behind it.

While Senator Giessel likens the Dunleavy budget cuts to an awakening by children, who can't keep hiding the deficit mess under their beds, and Senator Micciche and Rep Ben Carpenter asks what we prefer to cut Education, Medicaid, Roads, Ferry service. Should we give our PFD or an income tax? I have to wonder who has been hiding the real mess? Is it Alaskans or is it the legislators who thought the oil production tax cut was a good idea for Alaska's future? Senators who sacrificed our oil revenue under SB21 in 2013 in hopes of more production? That is the start of the mess. My father was here before Statehood, like many Alaskans we homesteaded here and have deep ties to our State. We have watched Alaska grow from a territory where Resources were taken cheaply from our land and sold for a profit to outsiders who didn't care about benefiting Alaska. When we became a Great land State leaders with vision, like Governors Egan, Hammond and Hickley said, no more, we will use our resources to benefit Alaska. We will collect our share of the profits to use for our State. As our Alaska constitution requires. Article 8, Sec 2 "the legislature shall provide for the utilization, development and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters for **the maximum benefit of its people**. Not special interest groups, not a political party agenda. This includes our oil resources. Now after the legislature depleted 17 billion in earning reserve savings to hide the fact that oil production tax cuts and more oil tax credits are not working, we are given two choices, cut our PFD or institute a State income tax. Or Governor Dunleavy's third choice, veto the budget our legislators agreed on with their work over the last seven months to give out a \$3,000. PFD campaign promise, a bribe to vote for this governor if you will. Dunleavy's veto guts our State budget destroying education, Senior Benefits, scholarships promised to Students, Medicaid, Public Safety, Ferry System, and State jobs. All of this will only deepen our recession and put real Alaskan jobs, with real Alaskan residents who live and spend money in their community at risk. This veto threatens UAF's ability to get grants for Arctic Studies and Climate change. UAF is world renowned in this area and now with the Arctic becoming an interest in the world, we will have to give up that distinction. His budget veto is not fiscally conservative giving out that much of a PFD guts our budget and takes us back to territory days where we become nothing but a resource state for special interests like Americans for Prosperity and Pebble Mine. This Governor's agenda is obvious when he made Alaskans sign up with a

special interest group in order to speak to our own Governor. Our State is being held hostage by political gain and special interests. What about the unspoken choice, changing back the oil tax structure revenue that worked, and was taken from our State budget. This cut was accomplished by instilling fear in the population that without the cut we would lose oil jobs. Lets look at the real shoving under the bed into the dark facts, Governor Hammond wrote that in the beginning Alaskans were entitled to approximately one third of gross revenues from the sale of our oil. This comes from revenue from production taxes, royalty payments, income taxes and real property tax. Mostly it comes from production taxes. One third was agreed to as our State share, one-third to the oil companies who pump it and approximately one third to the federal government. **In 2012 before the oil production tax cut, we received 6.1 billion in revenue from production taxes, in 2017 we received 0.1 billion, 8 percent vs. 60% of production revenues. This is real money.** Even when oil prices were the same per barrel under the new formula we lost billions in State revenues. This is why Governor Dunleavy, who I might add supported this production tax cut, is gutting the State of Alaska's future and taking it back to territory days. Did this cut save oil jobs? No Alaska has lost 5,013 oil and gas jobs or 34 percent of the total since the cut. **37percent of these jobs are going to non-Alaskans.** Who is hiding what under the bed? It's not Alaskans. Where are our leaders? Who will stand for Alaska? I support a State income tax and support cuts to Permanent Fund. I also want our legislators to work on collecting our one-third share of oil profits. Until then don't pretend you don't know how this deficit occurred. It occurred under your watch. Be a leader for Alaska not for special interests.

**From:** Carol Richards <carol.l.richards@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:04 PM

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

**Subject:** Please restore funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts

I value arts, culture and education. This is why:

1. Arts strengthen the economy. Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses. Tourists stay longer and spend more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.
2. Arts improve and create more balanced communities.
3. Money spent on the cultural life of the state create growth and jobs. Public funding of the arts and culture contributes to social and economic goals.
4. Creative industries fuel the rest of the economy. Urban regeneration is driven by small-scale arts assets and activities.
5. Arts have a social impact. Participation in arts and culture produces engaged, empathetic citizens. Culture and arts promote volunteer and other civic behavior.
6. Arts in education develop confidence and communication skills—and improve academic performance. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, lower dropout rates and are well-rounded.
7. Arts and culture promotes health and well-being.
8. Arts heal the mental, physical and moral injuries of war for military service members, Veterans and their families.
9. The arts are a positive experience.
10. The arts promote resilience.

I urge you to restore funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Richards

617 N Street Unit A

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 522-1967

[carol.l.richards@gmail.com](mailto:carol.l.richards@gmail.com)

From: Jan Bronson <bronson@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:04 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Restore the budget line items that were cut

Dear finance committee,

Please vote to restore the budget line items vetoed by the governor.

I got a call from a friend in Quinhagak. She doesn't know how people are going to get by this winter without the PCE help. She said Quinhagak is already suffering from changes to subsistence patterns that affect their ability to get food, and now without power cost equalization, they will also have trouble paying their electric bills.

I was here during the 80's when the state invested in infrastructure to make energy more affordable and reliable, then and into the future, for people in urban areas and along the railbelt. The power cost equalization program was designed to provide the same support for people in rural areas. It isn't some "give-away" to them, it was part of an agreement.

Also, my two daughters are in their early 20's. They are looking around for where they are going to settle after college. I would really like them here. They are needed and wanted here! But they don't see Alaska that way. With cuts to so many programs that support youth and elders, they see decline and cruelty, actually. This breaks my heart, as I myself feel Alaskan to the bone.

Thank you for reading this, and for restoring the money that was cut by the governor.

Jan Bronson  
2428 Tulik Dr  
Anchorage AK 99517

**From:** Emily McLaughlin <emilyrosealaska@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public testimony on HB 2001

My name is Emily and as the House Finance Committee takes public testimony on HB 2001, I want to share my thoughts and encourage restoring the funding that was cut by the governor, especially that of the University, Medicaid, homeless shelters, public broadcasting and the State Council on the Arts.

**From:** Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen <lovegreensnorth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; epresentative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** HB2001 testimony

I attended part of public today's testimony in Anchorage, but decided not to speak so others could have their turn.

Thank you to the committee members who attended in person or electronically. Thanks also to Senator Giessel, Rep. Edgmon, and Rep. Claman for attending in the audience. I appreciate your taking the time to hear from the public. You've heard from many articulate speakers today and will later this week, so I will keep my message short.

We must not let our state become a dictatorship or autocracy run by people who care only about profits and Outside interests. I thank all the legislators who are standing up to the governor's appalling vetoes and trying to create an equitable budget that includes public education, health, and safety throughout the state. Once this session is finished, we need to look seriously at cutting oil subsidies and implementing a state tax. I support a fair income tax, but am willing to settle for other statewide taxes in a compromise that leads to a sustainable future for Alaska.

Thanks for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen  
Anchorage

**From:** Michele Brown <mbrown@ak.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** United Way of Anchorage Urges Restored Funding

Members of House Finance,  
You have the ability to save decades of extraordinary efforts that have positively shaped our state. You can do great good and halt great harm if you vote to override all proposed vetoes.  
By restoring funding of the proposed vetoes, lawmakers can claim the more thoughtful and analyzed budget – one that takes a longer, deeper view of Alaska's future, and acknowledges we have choices to make and priorities to set. You have shown understanding that draconian cuts don't simply stop at the agencies gutted. The consequences ripple out into all aspects of community health – school attendance, graduation rates, strain on strapped resources, alcohol and drug abuse with all their attendant woes, along with increased police, fire and paramedic calls.

For example, the prevention of homelessness is what more than 50 organizations help to do with state funding. You understood this when you crafted a budget that included \$10.6 more than the Governor vetoed. These nonprofits deliver services with greater economy and efficiency than the state can. This is true privatization that works. The alternative? Accept the governor's vetoes and deep cuts – which will no doubt increase the number of campers in the city's greenbelts and conflicts among our citizens. There are numerous recent examples of the how the State of Alaska, in addition to its constitutional role, has been a vital partner with non-profits, the private sector, and federal and local governments in making Alaska a better place to live. Alaskans stand by our friends and neighbors in providing a lifting hand during times of need. The proposed budget vetoes do not help craft solutions that further our community goals. May you have the courage of your convictions to stand by your thoughtfully passed budget. Alaska's future depends on leaders like you to vote to restore funding on the proposed vetoes.

Sincerely,

**Michele Brown / President / United Way of Anchorage**  
701 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 230, Anchorage, AK 99501 / 907.263-3820

From: Pat Race <pat@lrcd.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:05 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony

The choice between state services and a statutory PFD is a false dichotomy.

It's time to re-institute an income tax and get a better deal from our shared resources.

Pat Race  
Juneau

**From:** megs lango <megslango@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please override the vetos

Hello, I am a 29 year old hairdresser and college student. Please protect our students and support UAA. These budgets are outrageous!

**From:** Will Geiger <wgeiger907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB2001

Dear Respected Lawmakers,

I am a lifelong, 3rd-generation Alaskan residing in Juneau. I would like to testify to my support for the passage of HB2001. The governor's proposed budget was crafted by and for interest groups outside of our state and against the best interest of our people and our future. Alternatively, the legislature as a whole, acting as and on behalf of the State and people of Alaska, produced and passed a sensible and rational alternative, which still nonetheless included substantial spending reductions. Upon the governor's irresponsible \$444 million vetoes, the overwhelming response across Alaska has been opposition to the vetoes and support for the continuation of the critical services they target, such as the UA system, the Senior Benefits Program, Medicaid, the courts, and housing and preventative services for the homeless, substance addicted, and victims of sexual and domestic violence. The governor even proposes vetoes, such as those to the Ocean Rangers, which, being based on a cruise-ship head tax, will have a net-zero impact on closing the gaps between savings, revenue, and expenditures. Many of my neighbors, colleagues, teachers, and friends -- real human beings who live in real Alaskan communities -- either work or are enrolled in courses through the UA system. I spoke with a friend just this weekend who is halfway through a degree program that stands to be eliminated and will not be have the necessary courses for completion available anywhere in the country for another 6 years. Multiple years of a good-faith effort, substantial time and money invested; the governor's vetoes will render it all a waste. Neither the governor nor his office have been able to demonstrate through any level of scientific scrutiny the long-term impact of the dangerous budget they produced and then replicated through line-item vetoes. All I have heard are talking points about how by slashing state services we will be saved by the private sector. In the absence of any empirically-demonstrable, scientifically-rigorous evidence, I have only been able to conclude that the governor's budget is either 1) based on a form of magical thinking or 2) deliberately intended to transfer public wealth into select private hands. I oppose a state budget crafted on either of those bases. Across the entire state and across the political aisle, Alaskans are united in an extra-partisan solidarity: against the governor's budgetary agenda and in favor of maintaining our critical public services. Please vote to pass HB2001 into law.

Respectfully,  
William Geiger  
Juneau, AK

**From:** Beverly A. Woods <melo.bev@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Governor's vetoes/HB 2001

I appreciate the effort to find a solution/compromise to the Governor's vetoes while funding essential and vital programs that the most vulnerable people in our state rely on. Having just gone through a recession I am deeply concerned about how these cuts will impact the economy of our state.



We have among the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual violence, drug/alcohol abuse, suicide. We have a homeless population that will only grow with these cuts. We need more domestic violence and homeless programs not less. We need Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery, we need more not less. We have drug abuse at epidemic proportions.

The PCE program must not be vetoed. This will very likely decimate populations in rural Alaska. Rural Alaskans have to decide between electricity fuel and groceries all the time and this will only worsen the existing issue.

Our senior programs and other vulnerable peoples' programs should not be cut at all. We should not be favoring outside billionaire company's interests over our citizens.

Someone today mentioned if not an income tax, tax the PFD. This may be a good idea. At least worth some discussion. Take a look at that, take a look at a small income tax. Although I am more in favor of reducing or getting rid of the oil tax credits, before taxing Alaskans who already pay some of the highest costs of living in the nation.

The University and early childhood/pre-k education are very important, as a teacher said earlier in testimony. I believe as well that it is better to educate rather than rehabilitate adults. Alaska already ranks among the lowest in education in the nation, we should be finding ways to remedy that, not make that statistic worse.

One in three Alaskans rely on Medicaid, and those \$50 million Medicaid dollars go to our hospitals, some of the largest employers in our state.

Find compromises that fund the programs to keep them alive, find other programs to reduce. Urge the University to find ways to slim down their budget with a reasonable timeline.

Allowing all of these vetoes will be detrimental to our state and its people in the long term. A three thousand dollar dividend is short-sighted. I support overruling all of the Governor's cuts. I support your budget. As a director of a corporation board, I understand people that demand dividends. I urge you all to find a solution that funds the programs that the Governor cut.

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

Beverly Woods  
A voter in Anchorage, AK

**From:** Daniel Sullivan <danjsulli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

I am opposed to all of the Governor's vetos. I am very concerned that they will damage the economy in ways that will take years to undue. An austerity budget will not lead Alaska into the future. My son, who will be a senior in high school will not be attending college in Alaska due to the devastation of the University system. I am not in favor of a full permanent fund over the cuts to services. I would support modest revenue generation such as a flat tax.

Thank you for your efforts to restore common sense to the budget.

Dan Sullivan

PO Box 305

Petersburg, Alaska

**From:** Kirby, Katherine E <kkirby@smcvt.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:09 PM

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

**Subject:** Support for HB 2001

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support HB 2001.

Sincerely,

***Katherine E. Kirby, Ph.D.***

*Associate Professor, Philosophy Department*

*Director, Global Studies Program*

*St. Michael's College*

*One Winooski Park*

*Colchester, VT 05404*

**From:** Celia Rozen <rozencelia@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:05 PM

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

**Subject:** disappointing hearing

So many of your testifiers I've heard so far are saying "gimme, gimme, gimme" for the "full" PFD. It is absolutely shameful. "Stealing" our PFD? I sure don't agree.

I think it is a fabricated crisis. The old PFD formula isn't reasonable anymore. It is a false choice: PFD vs. a reasonable budget. We can have both.

It is important to have a functioning state government to meet our Constitutional obligations to the people of Alaska. Please work with your Senate and House colleagues to get together (in one place) and work TOGETHER, even if it means swallowing pride and going to Wasilla.

You did it before - you came up with a compromise budget. Please be solution-oriented.

It is so disappointing to be taking testimony now. We had a compromise budget. We're starting all over again.

Education (pre-K, K-12, and University) is of primary importance.

You, the legislators more directly represent the districts. The Governor and his one-man veto is perhaps legal, but not moral. You don't work for him.

Keep this state viable. I support your substitute bill.

Celia Rozen, 3711 Amber Bay Loop, Anchorage, District 24

**From:** Micah Renfeldt <micahrenfeldt@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:12 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

My name is Micah Renfeldt. I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska and I would like to testify, on the record, in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD".

From: Tanya Curtis <cherylin1972@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:12 PM

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

Subject: HB2001 testimony

My name is Tanya Curtis and I'm a 25 year citizen of Anchorage. I'm writing to tell you that I believe the vetoes should be overridden for all the reasons everyone else has said during the testimony today

HOWEVER (and please don't overlook this because all the legislators I have written have ignored this part of my letters)

I believe we need a full PFD payout. If you're looking for the sob story, which really shouldn't matter, I've always used the PFD to contribute to my kids' college funds. The last few years they've been cut so my kids are missing out on that

education money. My daughter is a senior. She won't have enough money for college and has slightly better than average grades. But college is her dream. Every dollar helps. When you steal from the PFD you steal from her college fund.

I think we need to start a sales tax or income tax. Taxing every man woman and CHILD a flat tax (the PFD) is unfair. A doctor and 5 year old should not be contributing the same amount to society. It doesn't hurt the doctor at all. But the 5 year may have to go without necessary things or even money for their college education.

Thank you

Tanya Curtis

From: Pat Virden <pat7.pv@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:13 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: PFD

On the PFD: We support the full, statutory formula PFD for every Alaskan, including those who are homeless, those who need dental care, those who need a hand up, those who want to go to college, those who want to put their children in preschool & do not qualify for Headstart. Parents who need winter gear for their kids.

Pick, click & give exists for those who don't need it & want to donate it.

We believe the Governor included beloved programs like Headstart in the cuts in an effort to bring you all to the table for negotiation. Tammie Wilson was the only legislator in Juneau who indicated an interest in coming to the table with the Governor. There's room to compromise.

The University can contract & expand as funding allows — as every other entity on earth has to do. A 17% cut in their funding is not the end of education in Alaska.

We are proud of our representatives, Lora Reinbold & Sharon Jackson and all of the Wasilla 22 who followed the law.

Eugene & Pat Virden  
Eagle River, Alaska

**From:** Homer Hunter <hhunterscm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:18 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PFD Amount

Alaska House Finance Committee,

My name is Homer Hunter, Jr and I am a life-long residents of Scammon Bay. I am writing to offer my testimony on HB 2001 that would give distributions of permanent fund dividends of between \$900 and \$1,000. I am strongly very opposed to Governor Dunleavy's permanent fund distribution of \$3,000 for every qualified Alaskan resident for 2019 because the amount is way too high which would jeopardize the future earnings of Permanent Fund Earning's Reserve Account to the point of depleting it. That is totally unacceptable when most State budget services are being cut despite the pleas of many service providers at both the public and private sectors. Please take my message and the let the rest of the legislators at the House and Senate know that I for one from the rural district strongly object the \$3000 PFD amount in the strongest possible terms. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Homer Hunter, Jr.  
Scammon Bay

**From:** jnfraley@outlook.com <jnfraley@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Overturn the governor

I am hungry it's like a got a \$175 cut in pay. I am down to \$14 for the rest of the month.

**From:** Barbara Derr <derr.barbara@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support hb2001 and the \$1600 dividend

I support HB2001 and the \$1600 dividend. State services cut by the dunleavy vetoes are worth more to Alaskans than a \$3K dividend. A \$3K dividend also puts the corpus of the pfd at risk.

This is what the pfd money was saved for - state services necessary for a modern economy.

Folks I spoke with at the Wasilla middle school meetings believe that you can find the money to pay for the \$3K dividend and restore funding to services cut by the vetoes. But Where? Oil tax credits? Capital budget? Political consultants and contractors? Perhaps leg audit can find something but time is up and you are forced to act.

The Alaska Supreme Court said it is legal to cap the dividend. Business stocks are the same - they don't have to pay out the full calculated amount either.

Maybe leg audit can find that fat cat rabbit someday, but since there is no time, the money must come from capped dividends and everyone must forget about any refunds from money spent in past years.

Although you are not discussing it, I believe we need a state income tax and thought the suggestion made by Mr Orin seybert was well thought out.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Barbara Derr  
6509 chevigny street  
Anchorage

**From:** Westley Cheryl R <cheryl.westley@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:20 PM

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

**Subject:** Support for HB 2001

I left this written statement at the LIO today during the hearings. I want to be sure it is heard, so I'm emailing it as well.

I especially want to thank our legislators who who went to Juneau for the special session. I know before the regular sessions ended a good budget full of cuts and reductions was passed by both the House and the Senate for FY2020. I would like to see that budget go into effect, which is why I support HB 2001 to allow payment of a \$1600 permanent fund dividend to every qualified Alaskan. I see this as one part of a fiscal plan that would support the operating budget without the Governor's awful vetoes that will hurt all Alaskans, some much more than others. This bill is a fair way to share with all the people and free up other funds for government programs and services. While compromise has become a bad word in our current divided society, HB 2001 provides a good compromise, one that hopefully will be enacted soon. I am hugely disappointed in my own representatives, both of the House (District 22) and the Senate (District K), but I urge those who will vote on this to support its passage. Go forth and do good!

Cheryl Westley  
8500 Greenhill Way  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**From:** Mollie Good <molliekgood@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:21 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001 Testimony

To the Committee,

My name is Mollie Good and I am representing myself as a citizen. I support the reduction of the dividend in order to support critical services to our most vulnerable individuals. The Governor's vetoes cut too much, too quickly and will be devastating to Alaska. I was born and raised in Valdez and chose to return to my hometown as an adult after completing my education. I love this state, and I am deeply concerned about our future. Please restore the funding.

Thank you.

Mollie Good  
Valdez, Alaska

**From:** Eric Walsh <ewalshusapl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:21 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Eric Walsh and I am 32 years old. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am also an identical triplet. We all live and work in Anchorage now. My whole family was fortunate enough to go to the University of Alaska and receive an education there. I was fortunate enough to work there. Today I am asking you to restore funding to the University.

I have heard the arguments that this will save the state money in the long run, but typically these arguments have been anecdotal and usually no other figure is offered. On the other hand, there have been multiple analyses of the immediate economic impact of these vetoes. If you read the ISER report, you'd see that 55-65% of the University budget goes to personnel and as such direct job losses would be necessary. We are talking about Alaskans who work here, raise families, and retire here. The job losses from the University alone would wipe out the positive employment growth from the last 8 months.

The accrediting body of the University made the unusual move of issuing a public statement warning of the impact cuts of this size could have on accreditation. 53% of Alaskans who receive higher education choose to go to the University of Alaska. So a 41% cut in one year and a 17% overall cut to the budget of the University not only threatens one campus, but the ability of Alaskans to receive meaningful degrees and higher education in our state.

I do not think that a one-time payout of a larger pfd is worth more than the educational opportunity offered to Alaskans by our University system. In fact, I know it is not.

**From:** Nicole Emanuel <nremanuel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please restore funding to critical services

To the House Finance committee:

As a lifelong Alaskan, I am compelled to ask all my representatives to restore funding to the many critical organizations whose budgets were slashed by Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes to the legislature's proposed state budget.

I fear that our governor's extensive and extreme vetoes will have drastic impacts on the wellbeing of many people across Alaska; his cuts to healthcare, seniors, and education are particularly alarming to me. But the issue that is the most personal – that will, frankly, affect me the most – is undoubtedly his intention to reduce the state's funding to the U.A. system by 41%.

I was accepted into a master's program at UAF earlier this year. I should be starting the journey toward my post-graduate degree in six short weeks. That prospect, which had once been one of pride and excitement for me, is now colored with uncertainty, anxiety, and doubt. Will the University still be able to offer me the teaching assistantship that I was just formally hired for? Will the classes I just registered for still be offered this fall? Will UAF still have a place for me?

I hope with all my heart that the answer to these questions is yes. Please, legislators, oppose Gov. Dunleavy's cuts to Alaska's Universities and restore funding to UA and other vitally important Alaskan institutions.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Emanuel

--

Nicole Emanuel  
Macalester College B.A. '16  
[nremanuel@gmail.com](mailto:nremanuel@gmail.com)

**From:** Duff Pfanner <dpfanner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PFD Funding

I favor funding the current fiscal year PFD at \$1,600 or a lessor amount. In addition, I favor funding for restoration of the Governor's cuts to the operating budget, and funding for the capital budget.

Duff Pfanner  
2943 Captain Cook Estates Cir.  
Anchorage, AK 99517



**From:** Ronald Spatz <ronaldspatz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Legislative Testimony

[housefinance@akleg.gov](mailto:housefinance@akleg.gov)

**My testimony: HB2001**

I have lived in Alaska since 1980 and I am representing myself. I support the budget that was approved by the legislature. It was a responsible budget and I support a PFD payment to allows the State to also restore the funding to the University of Alaska and to the other State programs.

The bipartisan majority of all Alaskans do not support the extreme, irresponsible veto cuts that will send Alaska into a major recession and result in the loss of thousands of jobs and even more long term and rob Alaska of these essential programs and irreparably damage higher education and Alaska's economy for generations to come.

I support HB2001 but the bottom line for me is this: the majority of Alaskans want and expect our legislators to get together and compromise if necessary on the PFD and also to make sure funds are returned to the University and these essential programs with enough votes to override any possible veto by the governor. Finally, please going forward explore re-instituting a state income tax to bring in necessary revenue.

Thank you,  
Ronald Spatz  
4831 Wesleyan Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**From:** Kathryn Carssow <kcarssow@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:32 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

I am very concerned that the Dunleavy vetoes is heading back into economic recession. I am concerned about the impacts of the cuts on the quality of life in Alaska and the welfare of vulnerable people. Please pass the committee substitute for HB 2001 for full funding of the compromised budget. Please restore the cost effective WHAMI program. I favor a reasonable PFD, ending the subsidy to oil and gas companies, and instituting an income tax.

Thank you.

Kathryn Carssow

**From:** Alexandra Vrabec <alexmikel256@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB2001

To the House Finance Committee,

My name is Alexandra Vrabec, and I am writing on behalf of myself in support of HB2001. I am advocating for a diminished PFD so that funds can be allocated to a restored state operating budget for the following reasons:

1. Even as a young soon-to-be mother, I do not need a taxable government handout.
2. I believe that our university system should not be cut in such a drastic way, that it will cripple not only the students it had promised an education to, but the communities built around them. As a UAS Alumni, I know first hand the benefits of having an affordable local option for higher education. Without access to the opportunities that were provided to me by the UA system, at a price that left me without any student loan debt, I would not be doing the work that I currently have the capacity to do here in the state of Alaska. I would not be serving on the countless committees, boards, and task forces that contribute to my local community and state-at-large. I would not have been able to purchase a house and make Alaska a long-term home. The money allocated towards the University of Alaska needs to be considered less of an expenditure and more as an investment.
3. I do not understand the complete cut out of our State Arts Council, as it provides grants and access to federal funding for local arts non-profits in my community, from which I personally benefit.
4. I do not want to see our most vulnerable, our senior citizens, lose access to their state benefits as they depend on that more than I would depend on a \$3,000 PFD.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alex

Alexandra Vrabec  
954 Monroe St.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
[alexmikel256@gmail.com](mailto:alexmikel256@gmail.com)  
907.254.8909

**From:** Amanda Triplett <iamatriplett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:36 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB 2001

Afternoon,

I am writing to support HB 2001.

As a resident of Juneau, graduate of the UA system, current UAS employee, user of state services, mother of a child in the public school system, and a proud resident of Alaska, **I urge you to support and pass HB 2001.**

I moved from Ohio to Juneau in order to attend UAS 15 years ago. After graduation, I became a UAS employee and decided to raise my family here. I love my job and I love the students I work with. I love my community. You want people like me to move to Juneau to attend UAS and decide to stay in Alaska. The cuts to the university will **DESTROY IT**. I don't think that is what anyone wants. Let me be clear-- ***I want to stay in Alaska.***

I understand people want a full PFD and rely on that money. Do not forget about them. They need and rely on that money as well.

Please, work together to pass HB 2001. Alaska needs you to come together.

Please pass HB 2001 and restore vetoed state funding.

Thank you,  
Amanda Triplett  
Juneau

**Amanda Triplett**

**From:** Kelly J. Sisson Lessens <kelly.sisson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:36 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for legislative budget as passed w/ reduced PFD

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I've been alerted to your meeting this afternoon and hope you this email arrives in time for your consideration. It is an amended form of the email I originally submitted to Rep. Revak and Sen. Birch, my representatives.

I'm writing to you as a 6-year Alaska resident, as the spouse of a physician responsible for the healthcare of Alaska Natives, as a cultural historian, & as the parent of two young children who attend (&/ or will) our neighborhood schools.

I'm going to start where I'm trained to be comfortable: in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the 1800s, the rapidly developing United States experienced an unparalleled onslaught of confidence men ("con men"), swindlers, snake-oil salesmen, and charlatans. Going from town to town, they'd say just the right thing to gain the trust of innocent townspeople. From impressionable youngsters to savvy merchants, the con men knew how to pitch and sell their stories, leaving ruined young ladies, impoverished widows, and cheated merchants in their wake. Sagas about these men became the best-sellers of their age, and the genius of the con launched the likes of P.T. Barnum into fame. But then there were other con men who—once the ruse was up—were run out of town, tarred and feathered, or hung in effigy.

This backdrop offers the lens through which I view Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget, to which I am adamantly opposed. The budget he released nearly two weeks ago would force a bottle of snake oil on every Alaskan. In months and years down the road, the poison that he would have us imbibe will cause profound educational decay, economic stagnation, and the out-migration of Alaska's best and brightest—or at least it's savviest.

Why do I care about his cuts? Why, indeed? After all, my family is young enough that we won't be negatively impacted by cuts to seniors' benefits. Because I decided to work at home rather than pursue employment at UA, we are not financially connected to the system, and our oldest is just starting third grade, so we won't directly feel a 41% cut to higher education. We live in Anchorage and pay enough to support a robust *New York Times* habit, so we won't be at a total loss for knowledge about the outside world. Our urban life means that we don't depend on village public safety officers. We don't worry about staying in a homeless shelter overnight when it's below freezing. Although we are planning to pay for one more year of private preschool, after that, gee, we're done with early childhood education. We're not going feel a lot of hurt from an increase in property taxes as a result of the state's failure to repay school bonds. It sounds ok to be us in a Dunleavy future, right?

Well, we know that neither Apartheid, nor the doctrine of "separate but equal," worked out well in the long run. Everything is connected.

It is BECAUSE we live in an interconnected world that I'm writing. The \$12,000 sugar high that the Governor expects our family to covet above all else, c/o a \$3,000 PFD for each of us, can't buy our kids smaller class sizes, can't offer the majority of my son's future classmates the robust social,

emotional, and economic benefits that arise from quality early childhood education programs, and can't assure my husband's patients' safety in their home villages. All our family will do with our PFD is directly insert it into our kids' college savings accounts. It's not going into Alaska's economy. (And if we're being frank, that money is going to be spent at some other institution, since the UA system may not be standing in 10-15 years.)

In short, I urge each of you to use your committee to fight for a future that includes everyone in this state. Craft a financial plan with the greatest consideration for people UNLIKE my family. Fight for people who don't live in fancy houses on the hillside, who don't have PhDs or MDs after their names, who don't have the time and educational ability to write you about how his draconian cuts will impoverish their quality of life.

A short term full payout of the PFD, given at the long term cost of all of Alaska's socio-economic well-being and without consideration for raising any revenues whatsoever, is nothing more than a giant bottle of snake oil.

I applaud the premise of HB 2001 which proposes to fund state needs and allocate PFDs after the bills are paid.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Lessens, PhD  
3940 Truro Dr.,  
Anchorage AK 99507  
734-274-1660

**From:** Shelly Kocan <shellykocan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Michelle Kocan and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kocan

From: Liz Senear <lsepear@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:37 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: RE: HB2001

Dear Representatives:

I am writing this to urge you to pass HB 2001 which reinstates the items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy along with providing for a \$1,600 PFD. This provides a reasonable dividend to all Alaskans, doesn't gut valuable state services nor cause too much to be removed from the PFD Earnings Reserve to reinstate the vetoed items and provide a dividend in the vicinity of \$3,000 to all Alaskans.

I have read much rhetoric recently that says we are all owed our \$3,000 dividend as the Permanent Fund belongs to the people and it is our money. The Permanent Fund does belong to the people and it is our money but that means us as the State of Alaska, not us as individuals. The PFD was not instituted to hand out money to all Alaskans resident in any year. It was instituted to save excess revenues for the future when oil tax earnings no longer were enough to pay for state government. The PFD came later when the fund had accrued a fair amount and it was determined some of the earnings could be distributed amongst the citizens of Alaska, though not without a fair amount of dissension.

We are now (and have been the past few years) in an era when we no longer have enough earnings to pay for 100% of the state budget. This is both due to the increase in populations since statehood and the decrease in oil tax earnings.

I believe issuing a PFD this year at the level Governor Dunleavy is advocating for, is a complete dismissal of the reasons the PFD fund was created. Governor Walker was on the right path when he proposed limiting the PFD, instituting a small income tax and revisiting oil tax revenues as a means to balance our budget.

On another note, please sweep the money back into the accounts it was swept out of on June 30. It would be another unconscionable event were that not to happen.

Elizabeth Senear  
Cordova, Alaska  
(Alaska resident since 1983)

**From:** Susan C. Klein <susancklein@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001 testimony

Dear Finance Committee members,

Thank you for holding the hearing today on the substitute budget. I am sad, angry and in despair for our state with the vetoes. I have spent the last few days trying to figure out what I can do and how we will recover as a state. I am sad for the University that will go away, for the Council for the Arts, for all the seniors who have been cut off from money to help pay for food and medications, for the loss of money to help with social service institutions (Nome shelter, Clare House, Beans Cafe and Brother Francis shelter to name a few).

I've been listening online and am heartened by some of the testimony and in disbelief in the misunderstanding of what will happen to our state if we give everyone \$3000 without restoring some of the funding that was taken away by the vetoes. We can not run state on donations from people who give up their PFD. We can use the money we currently pay to the oil and gas companies. We can run a state with a state income tax. No one in our state pays directly for our services, but our state gives us money each year. This needs to be rectified if our state is to continue to grow.

Please listen also to the business community and to the Alaska Native Corporations who are aghast about the vetoes.

Thank you for listening.

Susan Klein

Susan Klein  
[susancklein@icloud.com](mailto:susancklein@icloud.com)  
907.441.7056

**From:** leigh lubin <currentleigh@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:39 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budgeting

Hello,

As an Alaskan, I urge you to overturn the vetoes. I live in the town of Valdez. Prince William Sound College (part of the UAA system) will surely be closed with such a large budget cut. Further, I want all education funded in its entirety.

Education is the investment in the future of Alaska. By cutting education, you cut training, opportunity, and community livelihoods. We must be able to train within the state. We must be able to train and learn from outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau.

I would rather have a smaller PFD and have a thriving economy for the future. The cuts destroy the integrity of Alaska.

Alaskans need to look into paying state taxes or using the PFD to support infrastructure and government programs such as education funding, senior support, mental health services (we don't want to have active shooters all over the state), emergency support, women and children services (abuse shelters), etc. It is unreasonable to assume that we will never be responsible for paying for our services.

Legislatures need to give Alaskans some tough love and teach them how to fledge the nest. We have been supported for 30 years and now it is time to make it on our own.

If we need more funding, decrease tax cuts for oil instead of hurting the people.

Sincerely,

Leigh Lubin  
HC1 box 96  
Valdez, AK 99686

From: David Frankl <frankls@me.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:40 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: sensible budgets

Dear Representatives,

As Oliver Wendell Holmes stated, "taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." Instead of enacting a reasonable taxation structure, the are faced with the prospect of cuts that demonstrate that this state is not committed to investing in its future by devastating the university system and is not committed to being civilized by cutting crucial social services to those who need them most. In the name of prudent policy and common decency I encourage you to vigorously oppose the governor's proposed budget and to develop alternative revenue streams (yes, taxes) to make our state services sustainable.

If you want to "cut the fat," then show me the money. Show me the fat that you are going to cut and how much money it will save. I am confident that you cannot billions of dollars in fat but if you can please show me how. If you cannot save billions of "fat" dollars then for heavens sakes lead. Establish revenue streams (taxes) and tell the voters what services these will support. Act like investors who are in it for the long term and not for just short term political gain.

Finally, the voters told the legislature that we wanted the cruise line industry to be regulated to avoid damaging dumping. This is funded privately thru ticket surcharges (hmmm.... taxes) but yet this program is on the chopping block.....is this not contrary to the will of the people? Isn't abiding by the voters the principled thing to do in a democracy?

Sincerely,

David Frankl, MD, MPH



**From:** KATHY ATKINSON <kathy.l.atkinson@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:42 PM

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

**Subject:** written testimony in support of HB 2001

I am in favor of HB 2001 for payment of a \$1,600 dividend and for the administrative and other associated costs be appropriated from the earnings reserve account.

I urge you to reject all of Governor Dunleavy's vetoes and to restore the vetoed funds. The Governor's vetoes for Medicaid; education including K-12 education and early learning programs, the University of Alaska system, the senior benefits program, adult public assistance, and more, will only harm thousands of the most vulnerable Alaskans including children, the elderly, the sick, the economically disadvantaged, people with disabilities, and rural residents. I believe Governor Dunleavy's cuts will ruin Alaska's economy. Our highest priority in government should be public safety, human welfare, education, not the payout of a \$3,000 PFD under the original formula which I believe is unsustainable.

Dunleavy's cuts will destroy the Alaska we know and love. The University of Alaska will lose entire programs if the 41% cut is not overridden. We desperately need teachers, nurses, engineers and other professions to attend the University of Alaska and graduate to stay, work and live in Alaska to keep our economy growing. Our university could lose its accreditation with such a severe cut. This would also be devastating to students who are currently enrolled but haven't graduated. Statistics show that 80% of the students who go Outside for their undergraduate degrees do not return to Alaska to work. All the University of Alaska instructors who are pink-slipped are likely to go Outside to find a new job. We can't afford this "brain drain."

Sincerely,

Kathy Atkinson

Law Office of Kathy Atkinson, LLC

2943 Captain Cook Estates Circle

Anchorage, AK 99517

[Kathy.L.Atkinson@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.L.Atkinson@gmail.com)

**From:** Cara Durr <cdurr@foodbankofalaska.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:44 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony - HB 2001

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

My name is Cara Durr and I'm speaking on behalf of Food Bank of Alaska in opposition to the huge line-item vetoes to basic needs programs put forth by the Governor. These cuts are going to have real and serious consequences for low-income Alaskans. Programs like Senior Benefits, Adult Public Assistance, Medicaid, and homeless services are critical in providing assistance to our most vulnerable residents. For many families struggling, food is one area of their budget that has some wiggle room, and it is often the first area that families cut. So dramatic cuts to basic needs programs like we see here will have ripple effects that are going to increase hunger. If enacted, these cuts will undoubtedly have a dramatic impact on our network, as well as other basic needs nonprofits, who will see an increase in demand for services that we will struggle to meet. Simply put, these cuts are devastating for our clients, our partners, and us.

The Governor's vetoes will not only affect the most vulnerable Alaskans but will dramatically affect our communities as well. Personally, I want to live in a state where every kid has access to quality early child education, where every senior struggling after a lifetime of hard work to make it on a fixed budget can get a little help, and where things that enrich our lives like public media broadcasting and locally grown food and clean oceans are valued. Please override these harmful vetoes and restore funding to these critical programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

**Cara Durr**

Director of Public Engagement

Food Bank of Alaska

2121 Spar Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

D 907. 222. 3113

C 907. 232. 8820

W [FoodBankofAlaska.org](http://FoodBankofAlaska.org)

From: Charlene Apok <crapok@alaska.edu>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:44 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>;

Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Joshua

Revak <Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico

<Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson

<Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter

<Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sharon Jackson

<Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-

Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. George

Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lora Reinbold

<Sen.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Shower <sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov>

Subject: RESTORE VETOED FUNDS!!

Hello,

I am a voting Alaska Native woman. I work as a health researcher full time and am also full time doctoral student at UAF's Indigenous PhD program. I earned my masters at UAF in Rural Development. This email is a testimony for the public hearing that is being held by the House Finance Committee today which I am unable to attend. I am constituent of Sen. Mia Costello who I wrote in regards to overriding the vetos. I am a constituent of representative Sara Rasmussen who I wrote and received a response that did not address my concerns.

My family is from rural Alaska. The Power Cost Equalization that ended will greatly increase the burden to our communities in rural Alaska of expenses. Many of these communities already pay more for other basic needs such as food, housing, gas etc. The impacts of this disproportionately effect rural residents.

I have 4 year old who attends head start. It took years of being on a waiting list to have my son in this. This program ensures that preschool aged children are ready for elementary success. The young in our communities across the state will suffer from cut funds in readiness and transitioning to elementary. This is the state's future generations not being supported in their education from the early foundational years.

UAF's programs such as Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development are unlike any in the nation. They offer curriculum that is relevant to our unique state and allows students in this state to have an education that translates to the work we have to improve our communities. Further, the distance options allows members to stay in their community to serve as leaders and fulfill roles where every person matters in their contributions. This again is very important for our rural areas. Leaving state for education is a loss for both urban and rural. It takes knowledge and skills outside as well as economy and families. For Alaska Native people, it threatens losing cultural bearers. This is a loss for all Alaskans to benefit from cultural diversity and richness.

Elders are losing essential benefits for their livelihood with costs cut from care, housing, benefits. Those who have already worked their entire lives and give their part are being shorted the care and access to services they have already contributed to. Cuts to the young and old, those most vulnerable should be disgraceful to anyone who supports that. Which, also brings up the cuts to services for the homeless. There are systemic failures that people fall through the gaps on which we as a society are responsible for. Closing Brother Francis Shelter increases the strain other places such as on public safety and hospital ER's. Cuts for homeless only sharpens the already complex and growing ways we have failed as a society to support homeless, including those who have served as veterans.

These are only a few obvious and pressing issues that immediately have negative impacts on the people of this state. Subsidies for the oil industry does not benefit Alaskans by giving them a PFD while health, education, employment etc all suffer. We have seen the distribution of the oil industry benefit few individuals and the money leaves our state. It is an unequal distribution of wealth where the resources both from natural and human labor is extracted and exported leaving huge disparities.

Funds need to be restored back to the people in which each of you are intended to serve. You are not doing your job if you are not taking actionable items in the interest of your constituents.

**RESTORE VETOED FUNDS**

Charlene Apok, Inupiaq, UAF Phd doctoral student & alumni

**From:** rf1402537 <rf1402537@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restoral of UA funding

The UA Board of Regents voted to delay declaration of financial exigency until Jul 31.

It is critically important that the legislature at least partially reverses the governor's budget cuts by including funding in the capital budget or in supplemental budgets.

All UA campuses and programs are on the table. If the governors budget cuts stand it is possible that either the Fairbanks or Anchorage campus..and maybe others..would be closed. The public broadcasting stations and all fine arts programs associated with the university...including the Fairbanks symphony orchestra..might cease to exist. Some people might lose their homes because without jobs they could no longer make mortgage payments. Others might find their mortgages going under water as home values decline.

In any case the impact on Fairbanks would be severe..with large numbers of jobs lost. Local businesses would suffer...especially those that depend on a largely student clientele. Some small businesses might have to shut their doors resulting in additional job losses. The likely outmigration from Fairbanks could cause a decline in home values as large numbers of homes get put on the market...with few buyers.

Fairbanks would become no more than a bedroom community for the military and seasonal workers...with no amenities. There would be little to attract new people or new businesses to move to Fairbanks.

The governor and those who voted against the veto override must realize the gravity of the situation and the devastating impact to Alaska made by the budget cuts. The state cannot afford to pay out \$3000 permanent fund dividends.

Other states have oil and mineral wealth. And guess what...residents of those states pay a sales tax...income tax...or both...and those states do not give money away. Alaska residents have become spoiled and do not want to accept reality.

Bob Fischer  
PO Box 82210  
Fairbanks AK 99708

From: Shirley Forquer <forqhoak@xyz.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 4:47 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Budget

Please hold fast on NOT giving the full \$3000 PDF if there isn't someway to put an income tax back on the statues. We should not be cutting education, health and social services, infrastructure, etc. Making such drastic budget cuts in on year is just wrong. Wiping out whole funds because the reverse sweep wasn't done is also wrong. I have lived in Alaska since 1966 and wish that the income tax had never been erased.

The oil companies have been able to take over our State and should be brought back to paying their share.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Forquer  
Homer

**From:** Melinda Myers <myersak4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:51 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please override budget cuts - Support HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

First I would like those legislators who convened in Juneau for coming together to try and override the budget cuts. I know this is a challenging time in Alaska and although I am in favor of looking critically at the budget, I feel these cuts are too many at one time for Alaska to continue to be the great state it is. I also continue to urge you to work with your colleagues to come up with other revenue streams such as a sales tax, looking at the taxes for oil, tax structure for those who work in Alaska but live in other states, the tourism industry, etc.

What the legislature really needs to do is look at what success looks like living in our state for all Alaskans and what is needed to achieve that. These vetoes don't do that. For example, the cuts to Head Start are putting families already on unsteady footing into a deep hole. Once they lose child care, they will lose their jobs. Which will lead to losing housing, which means they are on the street.

I was born and raised in this state. I would like to continue to live here; see my children graduate from high school; and retire here just as my parents have done, my mother in law has done, and what my brother's family wants to do too. But we are all having second thoughts now on that plan. Please come together, override the budget cuts and support HB2001, and look at other revenue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Myers

**From:** Dr. Toni Biskup <mariebiskup@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:52 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restore funds

To whom it may concern,

I am an Alaska resident and love this state and have been serving the people in it through my work ever since I arrived in 2014. I work at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium as a doctor and am adjunct faculty with the WWAMI program. The current budget cuts are short-sighted and will leave the state and thousands of residents (elderly, Medicare and Medicaid recipients, homeless, college students, and countless others) devastated in the short- and long-term. Many people are already feeling the negative impact. The budget cuts put forth by Governor Dunleavy do not

solve the budget problem, rather they are meant to line the pockets of the wealthy and large corporations, but do not serve the state of Alaska nor its residents.

I am asking for the following:

#1: Restore ALL the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy

#2: A reasonable PFD of around \$1600 is acceptable and will save critical state services

#3: Fund the capital budget NOW, so we don't lose a billion dollars of federal funds, and so we can build/maintain our infrastructure

Toni Biskup, MD, MPH, FAAP

+1-319-331-4877

[mariebiskup@gmail.com](mailto:mariebiskup@gmail.com)

**From:** Christopher Jensen <chris-jensen@live.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:52 PM

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

**Subject:** PFD

Do NOT use the PFD for govt. Every penny should be paid out as it was meant to by Hammond and company.

Chris Jensen

3010 Willow Street

Anchorage AK

907 632 2040

**From:** Cathy Long Renfeldt <lathycong@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:54 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Cathy Renfeldt and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed. Please hear the voice of your constituents and do not allow these harmful cuts to persist!

Thank you for your consideration.

*Cathy Renfeldt*

**From:** Kristin Lee <silver9477@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:56 PM

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

**To Whom it May Concern:**

I am writing to support HB 2001. I moved to Juneau, Alaska from Southern CA just over 4 years ago with my husband and young children. We thought Alaska was the land of opportunity and would give us and our kids a better life, in comparison to where we came from. It was the sole reason for moving up here. However, after reading what cuts our governor wants to make, I would most definitely not want to remain in this state that would do something like this to its citizens and cut so many wonderful programs, especially its own University by 41%! How can these cuts really be beneficial to our state? Do we live in a state that would rather encourage taking a holiday vacation or have a glorious online shopping spree with PFD money rather than educate its people, support its arts, and take care of its poor and elderly citizens? We want to layoff countless hardworking, educated Alaskans, forcing them to move out of our state? It makes no sense! There is clearly something wrong when Alaska is making national news everywhere for such outrageous budget cuts stating that our government is now about to send us into an even bigger recession due to this. There are better ways to balance a budget. It's embarrassing to claim we live in a place that would even consider doing something so detrimental. My husband and I own a highly rated private practice dental office and large commercial property in Juneau. He has a doctorate degree (DDS) and I have my bachelor's degree in nursing and am a licensed RN. We love Alaska for many reasons, but I would never encourage my children to stay in a state that would do something like this to its citizens. In correlation to these cuts, this is not a land of opportunity, but a land of disappointment. It's completely devastating and unsettling. I will happily give up the \$15,000 our family will potentially receive in PFD money this year, and every year for that matter, if it would mean this state can keep these great programs in effect and not cut our University so drastically. I urge you to listen to the people of Alaska and what they are asking of you to do. Please pass HB 2001 and restore the vetoed state funding!

Respectfully,

Kristin Lee, RN, business owner, mother of 3 young children with baby #4 due in Oct., married to Jared Lee, DDS

**From:** Doug McBride <dnmcbride54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

I am a 42-year resident of Alaska and am appalled at the reckless and irresponsible actions by our Governor in the name of a 'traditional' PFD. I urge you to find a compromise that protects the health and well being of Alaska.

The amount of the PFD should:

- Provide for adequate State government as the top priority; and
- Be based on sustainable withdrawals of PF earnings.

The current operating budget (after the Governor's line item vetoes) is not adequate. The 'traditional' PFD is not sustainable without additional revenues.

I was unable to attend today's hearing in person and hope that you will consider and address my concerns. Thank you.

---

Doug McBride  
Eagle River, Alaska

**From:** rhohnholz <rhohnholz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 4:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001 Testimony

Hello,

My name is Rob Ammerman. I am a recent transplant to Cordova, Alaska. My wife and I moved our family to Cordova to continue in our educational careers; myself as an English and Art teacher, and my wife as an activities director. It was our hope that moving to Alaska would provide our family with a wealth of opportunities. So far, it has, in droves. This is true, even in spite of the fact that we do not yet receive the PFD.

Currently, our community has access to a remarkable ferry system, wonderful artistic opportunities, decent healthcare, and a well-funded public school; all of which are now in jeopardy.

**Please do everything in your power to restore vetoed funds to necessary public programs.**

We do not need a collective \$2 billion bonus check spread out to us as individuals.

We do need:

Healthcare, public safety, transportation, education, and the arts, all of which are vital pieces of a healthy community.

**Please use the proposed PFD funds to fund our state budget.**



I love Alaska and wish to live and raise a family here. I want nothing more than to pass my love of writing and art onto the next generation of Alaska residents. All of these things seem like immense and unnecessary challenges, should the proposed budget continue its course.

\*It was my intention to speak during the live testimony but had to attend to my children and was forced to disconnect.

Thank you for your time,  
Rob Ammerman  
303-819-8921

**From:** Colleen M Bolling <colleenmbolling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please override the vetoes and restore funding

Dear legislators,

I am appalled at the governor's vetoes and ask that you restore the funding he cut. His proposed budget would be disastrous for our state. I am a lifelong Alaskan raising three small children here. I got an excellent public education at my neighborhood schools, earned two masters degrees at UAA, and love our beautiful state. I want to protect our schools (pre-k through university level); protect services for the poor, elderly, and mentally ill; and protect our environment. Please implement a common sense way to collect revenue (i.e. progressive income tax) to secure our future instead of cutting our way out of a deficit. I do not support a \$3,000 PFD at the expense of all the services that would be cut.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Bolling  
10830 Kamishak Bay Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
907.301.4522

**From:** Rachel Cooper <mandra01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please pass HB 2011

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 2011. I support having a smaller Dividend of 1,600. The additional savings found from Dividend needs to go back into state budget to help resolve the deficit created by the Governors vetoes.

The magnitude of the cuts with the vetoes will send Alaska's economy back into recession and result in the loss of thousands of jobs, including jobs in health care. The governor cut the Medicaid budget, and has no plan for how to implement this cut. Alaskans deserve to know how Medicaid reductions will impact children, the disabled, the elderly, and rural hospitals. To make unallocated cuts without a plan demonstrates a lack of transparency and accountability.

The draconian cuts to the University of Alaska and Medicaid will negatively affect health care for all Alaskans. The health care system relies on UA grads to fill critical positions. Without these graduates, recruitment and retention costs will skyrocket for health care providers, leading to higher medical costs and increased insurance premiums. While cutting Medicaid now may seem to save money now, it only passes the cost further in to the future, as people will not get the preventive treatment they need and when they do get treatment later it will cost more.

A dividend of 1,600 can help offset these cuts.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rachel Cooper  
6741 Samuel Court  
Anchorage, AK

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Let the Vetoes Stand!!!

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my full support for cutting the budget and funding the PFD per statutory requirement. I understand these cuts are going to be tough for some Alaskans. I have loved ones who will be affected the cuts as well, but please understand that there are many, many people who rely on their PFD to make ends meet who are not served by any state funded programs. You must now do what is right, do what Alaskans have been expecting since voting Governor Dunleavy into office, and find the full PFD. If you want to restore the cuts (some of which are very helpful, and some that should never be the responsibility of taxpayers) then work TOGETHER to find a responsible way of balancing the budget and creating new and sustainable sources of revenue that will benefit ALL Alaskans for years to come, not simply until you need to ask us to pay more.

My sincerest thanks

Jamie Almon  
20 year AK resident

**From:** Jon Daining <dainingj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** restore funding

To whom it may concern,

I oppose Dunleavy's budget cuts and propose a reduced PFD of around \$1600 to help fund critical public services, particularly Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Jon Daining, MD

**From:** Michael Sullivan <sullfone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Veto question and budget meeting comments.

Do not block the Governors VETO! We elected this governor to do exactly what he is doing. Stop all this obstruction and return the PFD to those your took it from. UAA has land granted to them to fund their needs in tight time. They should divest from some of these holdings to fund their extravagances. Learn to live within your means. You are hurting those at the bottom the most.

**From:** Jill Burnham <jillburnham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:03 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

It's time we Alaskans started paying for services. I am writing to advocate for a \$1,600 PFD. My family would happily sacrifice ALL our PFD money in favor of education and health care funding, as well as pay income tax.

Jill Burnham  
1081 N Larkspur Cir, Homer, AK 99603

From: Kara Sjostedt <karasjostedt@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:04 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Kara Rodrigues and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Elaine Phillips <elainepractitioner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support PFD cuts to save lives

I would gladly give half my PFD check to save the lives of rape victims, make life bearable for the mentally disabled, and maintain or increase programs that give hope and education to prevent suicide, violence and homelessness, which in the long run is much more costly. My family and my patients that I care for in the remote villages where I travel depend upon Medicare, Medicaid, food banks, and mental health programs.

The arts programs bring hope and give glimpses of a better future to youth who have less than a quarter of the opportunities bountiful in Alaska municipal regions. Please continue to fund arts programs especially the ones that bring inspiring, uplifting and exemplary productions to the rural villages.

Art saves lives.

Artist  
Nurse practitioner/ trainer

Elaine Phillips  
99762

From: Yasmin <smerv@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:06 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Restore University funding

We have two children in primary school for whom we have been saving for college since birth. Even with the funds that we have saved we cannot afford out of state tuition in the lower 48. Currently, University of Washington out of state estimated cost is over \$55,000 per annum. By the time my children are ready for college this will be more than half of a million dollars combined. If there is not a viable university in Alaska we will either have to move out of state to gain residency elsewhere, my children will be saddled with enormous debt or they will have to forego college all together. My wife and I moved to Alaska more than twenty years ago already with college degrees, however, we have both attended UAA for personal betterment. We have attended countless athletic events, participated in UAA sponsored races, utilized camps, gone to art exhibitions, attended various productions at the Wendy Williamson, utilize the consortium library and frequent the planetarium with our children. The University system is a vital part of the foundation of the state and the community. Without a vibrant university system the state and its citizens will suffer in so many ways. ENOUGH with the political stunts, ENOUGH with the partisanship, ENOUGH with the lack of foresight. Fund the University system appropriately. Of course look for efficiencies and have a focused mission but without a strong University system we will be in a race for the bottom. The irony is thick that the Permanent Fund was established to ensure the long term future of the state and that the greed over the PFD is going to destroy the future of the state. Fund the state properly. Thank you for your time.

jamias01@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:08 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support for UA Budget

Good afternoon, Legislators:

I write to you today to request your support in restoring as much of the University of Alaska's budget as possible. I concur with the governor that we can be smaller, tighter, more lean university less reliant on state funding; however, we cannot make those kinds of changes in one fiscal year. This is a multi-year process that requires much planning so as not to destroy the university in one swoop. I urge you to work with each other and the governor to restore funding to the university. Give us time to do this the RIGHT way, while protecting our students and our state.

As a resident and constituent, I support the legislatively-approved budget, not any of the Governor's ill-informed, short-sighted vetos.

Thank you,

Jamie Johnston-Eddy

**From:** Eve Van Dommelen <EVanDommelen@foodbankofalaska.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:09 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony on HB 2001

Hello Members of the House Finance Committee,

My Name is Eve Van Dommelen and I represent the Alaska Food Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to express concern, on behalf of the entire coalition, of the current state budget crisis. The Alaska Food Coalition includes over 120 partner organizations state-wide from a variety of sectors, including but not limited to food distribution, healthcare, reentry, and grocers. The Alaska Food Coalition's vision is not only focused on hunger relief, but also on how we can achieve sustainable solutions through addressing root causes. Less than one week into the vetoes becoming realized programs are already suffering, among these are many Alaska Food Coalition members. Because Alaska is relatively small, despite its geography, infrastructure is deeply connected. When one program is cut, many programs and therefore many Alaskans suffer. The massive cuts to programs such as Medicaid, Adult Public Assistance, and services to combat homelessness, along with the more extreme elimination of programs such as Senior Benefits and Head Start and early education will have enormous impact on families' ability to make ends meet. One of the ripple effects will be a likely rise in food insecurity and hunger. Already the anti-hunger network in Alaska is operating at, or in some cases over, its capacity. The anti-hunger network cannot fill the gap that the loss of other essential services will leave in families' budgets. We urge you to work together to restore funding to the programs that are critical to our state and to override the governor's harmful vetoes.

Thank you so much for your time,

**Eve Van Dommelen**

Policy & Advocacy Manager

Food Bank of Alaska

2121 Spar Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

D 907. 222. 3103

C 907. 744. 9665

W [FoodBankofAlaska.org](http://FoodBankofAlaska.org)

**From:** Rachel Samuelson <samuelson.rachel@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:09 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

I signed up to testify in person, but has to leave after waiting for 1.5 h to pick up my daughter from daycare. This is what I was going to say:

I would first like to thank the legislators that have advocated for overriding the vetoes and reinstating funding. I am a lifelong Alaskan and have benefited from a great education including the public school system, classes at uaa and then medical education through wwami. I now work as a family doctor at one of our federally qualified health center. I am also a new mother with a 21mo old and 9 week old. From all these perspectives I am asking that you fund uaa and Medicaid/medicaid dental, the arts and the most vulnerable in Alaska. I am in favor of a reasonable pfd that will provide that cushion for those who need it and not compromise the lives of all Alaskans. I want to continue serving Alaska and raising my children in a state that does not turn its back on its children and the vulnerable. Please invest in us, invest in the children of Alaska by providing the services that matter. Please return to the compromised budget. Thank you for taking this testimony.

Rachel Samuelson

**From:** Paula Payne <strongestwoman@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:13 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Paula Payne and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed. I also think we need to reduce the 3.8 billion dollar tax breaks to oil companies. This is not sustainable either.

I support HB 2001 and would gladly accept a smaller PFD in exchange for essential services like, senior benefits, educational benefits, health care support, arts and cultural support, the ferry system, etc. \$1500 dollars more in my pocket is not close to equaling all the wonderful social, educational, and cultural programs our beautiful state had in place prior to Governor Dunleavy's misguided vetoes.

Please vote yes on HB 2001.

Thank you,

Paula

From: Natasha Casciano <natasha@cordovagear.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:13 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Natasha Casciano and I own a business in Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Casciano  
Cordova Gear  
P.O. Box 584  
Cordova, Alaska 99574  
907-424-5590 Store  
907-429-5590 Natasha

**From:** Cindi Lagoudakis <trembladakis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony on the budget HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee Members,  
I am writing on the day of the demise of our beloved Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA), a sad harbinger of the Governor's "race to the bottom" in vetoing the budget developed by the Legislature. As with many other programs and items that the Governor eliminated, ASCA provided programs that supported rural communities, offered healing arts services for military families and members, sponsored programs designed to boost academic success and reduce dropout, promoted works by Alaska Native artists, and sponsored and/or encouraged activities that boosted the economies of the hospitality, retail and transportation sectors, among other things.

The Governor has never had concerns for honest savings, as evidenced by some of his appointments of cronies and the unqualified. The decision to waste government funds by calling a meeting in Wasilla clearly wasn't in the interest of slashing government spending.

You have the opportunity today to reinstate funding for essential state services that a majority of Alaskans support. The statewide rallies, phone calls, opinion articles, letters, emails and in-person visits have demonstrated how off-course this Governor has been in his decision-making. The PFD is an entitlement that is "earned" merely by breathing while on Alaskan soil for a prescribed period of time. I enjoy mine, but enjoy my Alaskan quality of life more. A smaller dividend is a small price to pay in exchange for a healthier, educated, creative, compassionate and more economically robust state. I urge you to approve HB 2001.



Cynthia Lagoudakis  
Petersburg, Alaska  
99833

From: Corey I. Ambrose <coreyamb@uw.edu>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:14 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Budget cuts

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Corey Ambrose and I am a 4th year medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine. I was born and raised in Talkeetna, Alaska, and I am VEHEMENTLY opposed to the budget cuts. If it were not for the WWAMI program and the ACPE subsidization, I would not have returned to Alaska. By allowing me to return home and pay in-state tuition, the playing field was leveled for me. Without this opportunity, who knows if I would ever have been able to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor.

Please reconsider. This is a shortsighted decision and I cannot fathom how in any possible way cutting this program and budget would be better for Alaska's future.

Best,  
Corey Ambrose

From: H. Ritter <heidihopelks@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:18 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Heidi Ritter and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

The gap in ferry service to our home of CORDOVA (USCG assignment) is NOT OKAY. What I don't understand is that there is a Coast Guard Community actively entering and exiting anytime of the year for transfers. Not that we take precedence, but this is devastating for long term repercussions of CG presence in Alaskan towns. My brain and heart hurt over this one. How do I encourage our incoming families and service members when they are facing an already massively difficult assignment in a remote village, but now they have no way of physically transporting their vehicles and

household goods? This makes zero sense to me. Please help! Cordova doesn't deserve to be forgotten. I repeat, THIS IS NOT OKAY. This is severely destructive.

Heidi Ritter  
Proud US Coast Guard Spouse  
Proud Cordova Resident  
906-362-7667

Heidi Ritter  
906-362-7667

**From:** Eve Wiggins <evemarina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please veto cuts to University of Alaska and WWAMI program for the sake of Alaska's future

To members of the House Finance Committee & all others whom this may concern:

My name is Eve Wiggins. I just finished my first year of medical school at the University of Washington through the WWAMI program. I intend to return to Alaska to practice medicine and to serve my adopted community after completing my training. I fell in love with this state as an undergraduate and planned my life around being able to stay here, but without WWAMI, I would have left years ago to pursue medical school elsewhere.

Without WWAMI, aspiring physicians in Alaska have no in-state medical school option, and with massive funding cuts to UA, all students are less likely to have an affordable option for their secondary education. These cuts will have devastating implications beyond current UA students and WWAMI students, forcing young professionals to make a choice between returning to the state they love and raising a family in a state that values education. A temporary increase in the PFD cannot make up for the damage that will be caused by the current budget. Please veto these cuts and protect future generations of Alaskans.

Thank you for your time.

Eve Wiggins  
Second year medical student, University of Washington School of Medicine  
WWAMI Program, Alaska Foundations Site, Anchorage, Alaska

**From:** Nathaniel Ord <nateord@uw.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:17 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** WWAMI Funding

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nathan Ord. I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year WWAMI medical student with the University of Washington. I grew up in Juneau Alaska, went to high school at JDHS, college at Whitman in WA, and returned to live and work in Alaska afterwards. My father is a commercial crabber and my mother is an education advocate. WWAMI allowed me to attend one of the finest medical schools in the country while retaining my ties to Alaska and keeping the cost of my education in check. Currently, I am planning to become a family physician and return to Juneau to take care of the community that raised me. This aspiration, has been supported by WWAMI.

As a medical student, I was able to rotate in remote areas of Alaska and the WWAMI states. I was exposed to diverse care models and diverse people who taught me the value of longitudinal care. And I was also able to attend medical school with inpatient tuition, allowing me to keep my debt manageable and focus on furthering my education and entering a field that is perhaps the most important in medicine yet pays among the least. Along the way, I have considered orthopaedic surgery and plastic surgery – specialties that make 2-3 times more than a family doctor. Specialties that are necessary and truly improve people's lives but are not as important to the health of our communities as family medicine. With WWAMI, I didn't feel the same debt burden that my friends at other institutions feel, pressuring them to focus on high paying lifestyle friendly specialties.

Alaska has a difficult time attracting physicians. We are a diverse and unique state. Those of us who love it here can never imagine living anywhere else. So why would we pay millions to attract and retain physicians instead of growing them from our own soil – physicians from Alaska who plan to stay in Alaska? Sure, the state may not pay this cost, but it's born in our premiums. We have among the most expensive healthcare IN THE WORLD, not just the US. Cutting WWAMI will do nothing except drive this cost up.

The plan to cut funding for WWAMI and our university system is like burning our clothes to stay warm. Yes, we can cut funding to achieve a bigger PFD – yet every economic analysis demonstrates the folly of this strategy. We lose stable, well-paying jobs for short term gain and jeopardize the future of our state by impeding the education of future generations. Our fiscal future is not in oil, or gas, or minerals, or timber, it is in minds. Invest in our future, invest in our minds, and you will be investing in Alaska. Don't burn our clothes and freeze us in economic stagnation and antiquated fiscal policies dependent upon resource exploitation.

Thank you for your time,  
Nathan Ord

**From:** Lennette Ronnegard <Lennette.Ronnegard@eyak-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Lennette Ronnegard and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of reinstatement of SOME of the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

I agree with Governor Dunleavy that state spending needs to be cut However 7 months of no ferry service is UNACCEPTABLE. Yes cut back the service but Cordova needs at least weekly bi weekly service. Also education needs to be funded. Yes cut back. But not 45%. Also we need to reinstate the STATE INCOME TAX. This should have been done as soon as oil revenues started declining. It just makes sense. So many come to Alaska take their money and leave. Alaska should have a tax portion from that income to sustain the infrastructure that supports the industries they utilize.

**From:** Robin Beebee <robin.beebee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee,  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment of HB2001. I believe the primary responsibility of the state is to fund services that benefit all of us. Education, health, public safety, Transportation, the justice system, and much more. This is true of every state. The permanent fund dividend was never intended to be a substitute for these services. The dividend should be a secondary consideration, especially during times of low revenue. As such, I believe the legislature should set the dividend to a reasonable amount after state services are funded, even if that amount is \$50. Finally, in my time as an Alaskan (since 1975) I have received dividends ranging from less than \$400 to just over \$2000. The \$3000 dividend proposed by the Governor is unprecedented and utterly fiscally irresponsible. It makes no sense to take jobs from Alaskans who are diligently working in education, healthcare, and other skilled fields and replace it with an unearned handout.

Sincerely,  
Robin Beebee  
Anchorage

From: Willy Dunne <wdunne907@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:23 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB2001

I am more than willing to take a smaller PFD in order to fully fund the budget as proposed in HB2001.

Willy Dunne  
40505 Waterman Rd.  
Homer, AK 99603

From: Penelope E Oswalt <penya5@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:24 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Penelope Oswalt and I am a 40 plus year resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed. Our community will be so impacted by these draconian cuts that will leave us without services. Many are already contemplating their departure. These cuts will make us a seasonal only laborer state for the oil companies. Please override these vetos and cap the PFD at \$1,200- \$1,500. They were intended as a bonus not an annual income. You can keep my PFD if it means I can have our services back.

**From:** Jaclyn Sallee <JSallee@knba.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony HB2001

## Members of House Finance Committee

My name is Jaclyn Sallee, President & CEO for Koahnic Broadcast Corporation. Our mission is to provide Native voices in public broadcasting in Alaska and the nation. I am Inupiaq Eskimo descent, am a life-long Alaskan, graduated from West High School and went to school at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

I am testifying in support of HB 2001, a bill that will restore the funding that was cut from Governor Dunleavy.

Governor Dunleavy's cuts or vetoes will have a devastating impact on services in Alaska, like public radio. Public broadcasting is targeted to receive -0- state funding with the Governor's proposed budget cuts.

We must stand together for all Alaskans and address the 182 line items and would urge you to support the budget originally sent to the governor.

The governor's vetoes will have a very real impact on people in our community through loss of jobs and benefits/services. At KNBA there will be a reduction in program offerings and our responsiveness during emergencies.

We could also see a reduction in our ability to serve the local area and many rural regions in the state with local Native programming. No public broadcasting means we will lose community media outlets and miss out on local messages and critical information and debates on local issues. We will become uninformed and more isolated.

I urge you to override the governor's line item vetoes to preserve vital services in our state, like public radio, which is the only local news source and source for emergency alerts and key information during natural disasters, like wildfires, floods, and earthquakes, in many rural Alaska communities.

KNBA and other stations will lose matching federal grant support.

I'd like to thank you for your time and opportunity to provide this testimony in support of HB2001.

**From:** Grace Champion <gkchampion@alaska.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:28 PM

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

**Subject:** Personal statement regarding educational funding

Honorable members of the house finance committee,

I'm writing to share with you the significant impact the cuts to UAA and the WWAMI program will have on myself and my family. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, voter, and resident of the Matsu Borough.

I have worked with rural Alaska Native oncology patients for the last 5 years as a dietitian at the Alaska Native Medical Center. A few years ago, I began to feel a strong calling to move to a different level of clinical practice and go back to school to become a physician. Over the last few years I have taken all the required classes at UAA. The presence of UAA allowed me to continue to work full time and stay in my community.

The prospect of staying in Alaska for medical education made a dream a reality- as an expectant mother, staying in Alaska for medical school would allow my husband to continue to work full time, allow us to stay in the home we own, and maintain the support of our many nearby family members while I navigate new motherhood and medical school simultaneously. This will certainly be a challenge, but will be made so much more practical by a local medical school. Beyond my personal reasons for desiring to stay in Alaska for medical school, I truly choose UAA and the WWAMI program because I believe the program is the best possible place to learn how to care for rural Alaskans.

I found out about the budget cuts and the loss of funding for the WWAMI program weeks after submitting my application. I continue to hold out hope that funding will be restored and that I will have the honor of starting medical school in Alaska in the fall of 2020.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Grace Champion

**From:** Linda Domjan <ldomjan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:29 PM

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

**Subject:** Restore funding!

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a citizen of Anchorage, urging you to restore funding to homeless supports, senior benefits, Medicaid, addiction recovery, the arts council, and education. These services are what help Alaska become a thriving community. Without them, we leave our most vulnerable behind and tip more people into homelessness. Please restore funding to vital services!

Thank you for your time,  
Linda Domjan

**From:** Simon Gorbaty <simongorbaty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB 2001

I am a resident of Sitka. I am trying to start a family here. We need a strong social safety net and strong schools. For now, this means a smaller PFD.

Thank you,

Simon Rose

**From:** elaine pfeiffer <pfeifferelaines@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Focus on Youth

Focus on Youth: restore behavior health

I agree cuts need to be made, but some have gone too far. Cutting behavioral health nearly 19% will mean more children being removed from their family homes and sent out of state for the care they need. Youth addictions will increase and public safety will be degraded.

Regarding the Medicaid cut, I understand the 1115 waiver doesn't increase rates enough to cover that large a cut to behavioral health.

Very Respectfully,

Elaine Pfeiffer

Volunteers of Alaska

Board member

**From:** Jessica Horwatt <realtor@jessicahorwatt.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony



Hello!

I have spent a good amount of time this last month trying to find facts. I believe that state spending has been cut substantially since 2013. While we have a budget challenge, relying exclusively on cuts disproportionately impacts the poor and most vulnerable in our State. That is not acceptable.

And we cannot afford the trickle-down impact in the form of job losses.

We cannot cut our way out of oil prices that are unlikely to every come back to a level that we enjoyed until 2013.

We do need to amend the formula for the PFD amount to end the conversation about being compliant with law and we need to end this budget fiasco every year.

Please pass HB2001 and craft a plan to continue balancing our budget, even if it includes smaller dividends.

By the way, great job creating a compromise budget. I don't love everything in it, but I do understand that compromise is in order. My two young adult children could very much use a \$3000 (or \$6700!!) PFD to further their education and start in life, but we all understand that is not in the best interest of the overall quality of our state. I would give mine up if need be, my only concern there would be that I know that would also disproportionately impact the poorest Alaskans and I don't want that, either.

Please defend your budget and do what's right for Alaska's future.

Thank You,

Jessica Horwatt



REALTOR | Associate Broker | Certified Residential Specialist

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Herrington & Company LLC | [www.jessicahorwatt.com](http://www.jessicahorwatt.com) | 907-441-8196

From: Jennifer G <jengraham42@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:32 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB2001 is a no.

Dear Sir and Ma'am,

The amount of divisive behavior is disturbing. The amount of sheer hate and one sided rhetoric is disturbing. Creating hate and divide is frankly not Alaskan.

I'm against HB2001 and overspending and using the PFD outside of the formula that was set in place and no amount of bullying, name calling or nastiness will change my opinion. What would? Conversation. That, would be the Alaskan way but that is not how anyone is behaving. We should be looking at conversation and dialogue to compromise regarding the vetoes. Do I agree with each veto? No! I don't. But I do believe that having and paying 1 out of 4 people working as state workers is ridiculous. We have things that can be cut and we have others items that should not. I'm disappointed in Alaskans and frankly all lawmakers that are creating and spreading this hate.

As for the PFD

The fact remains that we should have a right to vote on any changes regarding the PFD. The only reason I think you're refusing to allow us to vote is because you know it'll be an astounding NO.

Every single time a poll has been placed it's been 75% for a full PFD 25% no PFD. These polls are often from left leaning main stream news sources. That should tell you something.

I could tell you what I use my PFD for as a single widowed middle class woman but I'll save time to just say... none of that matters. The PFD is protected by the constitution, it had a formula that worked for 40 years, if you wanted to change it, you should want to know what the people want. Let us vote!

This is about compromise. Pay a full dividend. If you want changes, put it to a vote for next time.

Lastly, thank you to the 22 in Wasilla that I was able to face to face with for the first time ever because they were accessible

I sat on the phone and listened to one after the other of people that get paychecks from the state but I hope you will begin to listen to the people that pay those salaries, the tax payer. Also, the taxpayer that votes you in. I personally had to hang up after an hour of sitting on the phone. I feel all the paid special interests groups showed up and average every day citizens are drown out. I'm losing faith in the Alaska I grew up in. I understand why the middle class is moving away because we've become a socialist and welfare state.

Thank you.

Jenn Graham

**From:** Claire Norton - Cruz <clairecnc@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony re: HB2001

Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Anchorage, in HD26. I would like to submit the following testimony in favor of HB2001.

I am extremely disappointed - to put it *mildly* - at the inability of the House minority to put the best interests of the state and the people they serve above their own party loyalties, and work together with the majority to override the Governor's irresponsible line-item vetoes. Cutting this much money out of the budget in one year will send our economy into a recession, result in thousands of job losses, lower the value of our property, and harm thousands of low-income families and homeless people. Losing so much of our University system - including risking the accreditation of its programs, will greatly harm the quality of life up here, and make this state less attractive to skilled knowledge workers and direct investment. As a part owner of a small for-profit health care business, I can virtually guarantee that these cuts would result in lower revenues for us, possible layoffs, and probably further restrictions on the percentage of Medicaid patients we are able to take, given what impacts these job losses would have on our "payer mix," i.e. percentage of insured patients who help offset the low reimbursement of Tricare and Medicaid, thus allowing us to be able to pay competitive wages to our providers and living wages to our administrative employees.

While I do value the PFD, and recognize the important role that it plays as a sort of basic universal income that really helps low-income families, paying out a large PFD is not worth this trade-off in reductions to important services and programs. One of many reasons that I do not personally care about even getting a PFD this year [at the price of this \$444 million worth of cuts] is that it would be entirely equalized, if not eclipsed, by losses elsewhere to our income that are a direct result of these cuts. The property taxes on the two properties that we own would rise, wiping out about \$900 annually right there, and the equity in our homes, one of which we were thinking of selling, would plummet as thousands of people prepared to leave the state after being laid off, resulting in a loss of many thousands of dollars for us. Those who live in communities that benefit from power-cost equalization would see their energy bills rise precipitously, thus devaluing their PFD, and so on it goes. These cuts are so numerous and so deep, it's hard to think of anyone who wouldn't be affected, and wouldn't lose money somewhere because of them. It's worth pointing out here that, after years of cuts, government spending as a function of state population is actually close to 1970's levels, which is ridiculous given that we now have lots of 21st century needs and problems. In fact, forcing the citizens who live in this state to choose between basic, necessary services and a decent-sized PFD is in itself a false dichotomy, that has arisen out of the deliberate effort to reduce oil tax income that was SB21. We are not getting the fair share for our state's resources that the state's constitution dictates, as interpreted by Governor Hammond, and we should take no pride whatsoever in being the most profitable region for ConocoPhillips in the entire world... It means that our elected officials - a majority of them at that time, at least - are doing something WRONG.

These cuts are drastic, and ill-advised. I would like to say that they are ill-conceived, but I don't believe that is the case. Donna Arduin knows what she is doing, and that's why she was hired by this administration... But this is not who we are. Let us not fall prey to the mistakes that states like Kansas have made, sinking their economies for years in order to spread more wealth to the already-wealthy and large corporations. I do not

expect this Governor to change course or compromise on his plans - that's why we need YOU, the Legislature, to exert your power *as a veto-proof majority*, to approve this spending bill so that it can be enacted with no line-item vetoes. The reason Dunleavy's approval ratings have dropped so precipitously is that many Alaskans have finally found out exactly how he planned to pay for those huge PFD's he promised, and they find these trade-offs to be unacceptable and UN-ALASKAN. The time to stand up to him is now. Please do the right thing and do not prolong or worsen the recession that we are JUST NOW climbing out of. Please do not sacrifice the many millions in matching federal funding that we stand to lose by not approving these budgets, because that is literally insane. Please do not let him partially balance the budget on the backs of our vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Please look at legal ways to pay less or cease paying the oil tax credits so that Alaskans don't have to choose between needed services and beneficial programs, and getting their share of the value of our natural resources in what is supposed to be our ownership state.

Thank you,

Claire Norton-Cruz  
4001 Janet Lee Cir, 99516  
907-529-4284

**From:** Maiken Erickson <maiken.erickson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:36 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

To the Honorable Representatives of this Great State,

I am a lifelong Alaskan and fiscal conservative. I've been a voting member of the Republican party from the time I cast my first vote in 1988.

I am appalled at that rational Governor Dunleavy has employed in the axing of the budget approved by the legislature. The vetoes are irresponsible and show a complete and utter disregard for the people impacted by them individually and the impact they will have on the State of Alaska.

I'm highly disturbed by the lack of analysis, research and impact that these vetoes will have on the State. A tried and true fiscal conservative would consider the impacts of such drastic cuts prior to just axing the heck out of a reasonable budget. Take, for instance, the individual left toothless because of the cut to the medicaid dental program. What a tragic story and a complete lack of compassion to simply cut services and not even allow those already in the process of receiving treatment not even allowed to finish. How is that even humane? How can anyone with a shred of compassion be supportive of that kind of negligent and inconsiderate veto?

In a larger sense, the same is true for the University. The cuts the University is facing are so massive and have to be implemented so quickly, that it will be a patch job intended to keep the University afloat, but it will not create a stronger University that will draw students, researchers and add strength to the economy. Instead, it will hobble the University, reduce student confidence and overall enrollment, and contribute to a decline in quality of high education in the State of Alaska.

I am in favor completely overriding the items the governor vetoed. I'd prefer restoration of those funds over a full \$3,000 PFD. A full PFD won't offset the costs associated with the impact of the cuts to our economy. It will do very little for those who lose their jobs because of the cuts. It won't help retain students at the University.

Please, I ask you to override the vetoes and restore funding. If that means that the PFD is reduced then I support that.

Maiken Erickson  
7800 Moose Run Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Judy Green <anchseibels@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:37 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB2001

Honorable House Finance Members,

I am emailing to express my support for reducing the PFD in order to ease the burden for balancing the budget. I have lived here for 43 years and have always known that the PFD was a rainy day fund. The day has come to use a portion of the earnings (not the principal) for our collective needs. Every other state has taxes of one sort or another (many have several) we cannot continue to expect our oil revenues to pay for our needs and provide us a yearly bonus. The governors vetoes are reckless and spiteful and they will hurt good people who contribute greatly to this state.

Thank you  
Judith Green  
Anchorage

**From:** geo. donart <owlcreekid@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:44 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HR2001 - K testimony

Thank you for taking my testimony.

I'm writing today in favor of restoring money to the Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund. I've fished in rural Alaska for over 25 years, and though I don't use much electricity while I'm out there, my neighbors face a serious challenge paying for the high cost of utilities. Even with the PCE, due to the heavy reliance on diesel generators, residential electricity rates in most of rural Alaska are 2 to 3 times what Railbelt & SE Alaskans pay. Without the PCE, families will have to choose between keeping the lights on or eating or medicine, etc.

The veto also affects the ability of villages to order winter fuel supplies. Without those supplies, whole communities may go dark this winter. The State of Alaska long ago recognized that it has a moral obligation to continue PCE funding to help relieve the burden of diesel generation in rural Alaska. Since the State has financed electricity infrastructure in gas and hydro dominated parts of the state, Alaska also has an obligation to equal treatment of its rural residents. Most residents of rural Alaska are Native people, forcing them to pay \$1.00/kWh or more treats them as second class citizens. Alaska is greater than that. Please protect the viability of rural Alaska and restore all the PCE funding.

Sincerely,  
George Donart, Anchorage

**From:** Kate Simeon <kate.c.simeon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Override the Vetos

My name is Kate Simeon and I am a lifelong Alaskan currently living in Anchorage, zip code 99504.

I am writing to express my severe disappointment with the Governor's budget vetos as well as the emphasis being put on a \$3000 PFD. Let me be clear, I am not someone who is in need of an extra \$3000. And I realize there are plenty of individuals and family for whom this would be an invaluable addition to their yearly income. These individuals and families are likely the same people who would benefit from many of the services being cut in order to fund this handout.

Please, take the additional \$1500 that I would receive, and that others like me would receive, and put it towards social services that would directly help the people of Alaska who need it most: seniors, low income children in need of Pre-K, college students looking to make a better life for themselves in the long run.

The governor talks about making hard choices in order to preserve Alaska for the future. This is not the way to do it. Taking away programs and funding that help to keep vulnerable populations out of poverty and helps to advance the future prospects of our young people is not preserving Alaska's future. It is pandering to special interests and to people who already have enough money and resources and education to live a successful life (without government cash hand outs).

Again, please take my additional PFD money. Invest it in people who need it and in programs who need it. Override every single veto and make a budget that will actually help Alaskans and that will equitably distribute our state's enormous wealth.

Kate Simeon

From: Dean Konopasek <kono44@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:45 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: \$1600 PFD is plenty

Please Do not support Dunleavys proposed \$3000 PFD. We can't afford to sacrifice needed services to satisfy the greed of some of our lawmakers and citizens. We are better than that. There is too much at stake to allow this!!!

**From:** Susan Schapira <schapiraquilter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Override the vetoes

Dear representatives,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote to restore the appropriations that were vetoed by Dunleavy. He has vetoed the heart of Alaska, and people will not want to live or do business in this heartless environment he has created. Thank you for listening to the people who care about our state.

Sincerely,

Susan Schapira

Zip: 99517

Alaskan voter since 1976

From: Rodney <rotney@mtaonline.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:50 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: PFD

I ,as the majority of voters want our pfd's, and no changes without a vote of the people, not a rigged 5 no PFD legislators, to 3 Pro PFD legislators. 3000.00 PFD !!!!  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Robyn Mertz <rmertz@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

Hello,

I am writing in support of the University of Alaska encouraging for the funds to be restored. A high Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) is a short term fix and a long term problem. Cutting the budget by 130 million will devastate the only University in Alaska. While everyone will have higher PFDs this year, is the sacrifice of the state's education system worth some extra spending cash?

Cutting costs is obviously important in determining a budget. But you can't cut all costs and expect the revenue to increase as well. Not having the UA system would over time destroy the economy of Alaska. This school produces health professionals that are desperately needed. For example, the Clinical-Community Psychology PhD and Clinical Master's Program at UAA provides cheap and pro bono therapy to community members, including assessments that are usually very expensive. Offering a high PFD and then cutting the amount of jobs from UA that will have to be cut is not a fair trade. It is also unfair to the future students that will be denied education in Alaska and the current students who may be denied degrees after all of their hard work. Those who leave Alaska for education will not all return and eventually, more bright minds will migrate to the lower 48 for better education and work there after graduation. A high PFD will have devastating long term consequences. We need to think about the future and not only what would be nice to have in the moment. Funding to the only University in our state is a vital investment in the future of the economy and well being of Alaskans.

Thank you,  
Robyn Mertz

**From:** Janice Caulfield <janc@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB 2001 to Reinstate State Funding!

To: Members of the House Finance Committee:

We are each 40+ year Alaska residents, writing in support of HB 2001 and to express our appreciation for the public process that you are hosting this week. The Governor's reckless and cruel budget vetoes will unnecessarily hurt all Alaskans and, callously, will most hurt vulnerable Alaskans and the young Alaskans on which our state's future depends.

**Over this past week, in our testimony, comments, phone messages, letters to the editor, and poll responses, Alaskans of all political "stripes" have been imploring the Governor and the Legislature to not crash our economy** with these draconian budget cuts. Former Governors Frank Murkowski, Bill Sheffield, Steve Cowper, Sean Parnell, and Bill Walker; the Anchorage and Fairbanks Chambers of Commerce; bankers; realtors; builders; small businesses; unions; economists; large and small municipalities; Native Alaskan Tribes and Corporations; and THOUSANDS of Alaskans are ALL ASKING YOU to defend the bipartisan, compromise operating budget that you crafted during the lengthy and difficult legislative session.



**Who is Dunleavy listening to, if not to the diverse and informed organizations and individual Alaskans from across the political spectrum, who are warning him that his vetoes will send Alaska's economy into a tailspin, driving us into a deep recession?**

**OMB and the Governor have done no analysis of the effects of these extreme budget cuts** on total number of jobs lost (state-funded jobs, local community jobs, plus indirect effects to other businesses), our property values, increased outmigration and brain drain, etc. If a private industry was pulling its investment out of Alaska in this way, we would be panicked. The Governor is taking these actions without consideration of Alaska's future. I do not think for one minute that giving everyone a \$3,000 PFD is going to "make up" for the devastating economic impacts of these job losses.

The Governor, OMB and agency Commissioners would not even answer the Legislature's questions last week about the potential impacts of his vetoes on the economy, and the specific impacts to state services and the Alaskans who depend upon those services.

**We are very concerned about proposed cuts that will decimate public education, cripple the University system, cut programs essential to rural, vulnerable and underprivileged Alaskans, and take away public health care from people who need it.** We specifically oppose the cuts to pre-K programs, the University, Medicaid, support for needy families, senior benefits and Pioneer Homes, VPSOs, and public broadcasting

The fact that the Governor is cutting essential services in Alaska - while continuing to pay \$1.2 billion from state coffers annually to the oil and gas industry - is unconscionable.

Please stand up for Alaska and protect Alaska's future. These drastic and unnecessary budget cuts will hobble our economy, destroy jobs, and hurt Alaskans. Reinstatement the funding you had included in the Legislature's compromise budget.

Sincerely,

Janice Caulfield & Tom Paul  
525 W. 9th St.  
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Mike Bowen <mike@lantisfireworks.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:58 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name Michael Bowen and I am a resident of Anchorage, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed. Thanks,

Michael Bowen  
Lantis Fireworks & Lasers  
Sent from my iPhone

From: Nancy Stone <nancy.babb.stone@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:00 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: RESTORE THE BUDGET

Don't cause our real estate taxes to increase to offset unnecessarily deep cuts to budget. RESTORE THE BUDGET.

From: Scott Jouppi <hotjouppi@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:01 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: PFD

I remember when the PFD first was introduced. Most of the "old timers", before statehood men and women, were worried that it would bring in a new less caring Alaskan with declining old values that we held near and dear. Sadly I see that has happened for monetary gain. Personally I'd like to see our PFD set at \$1, 049.00.

Secondly most Alaskans actually imagine that the PFD is perpetual, nothing is perpetual and that point needs to be driven home as the oil dwindles so does the PFD.

Scott Jouppi  
4521 Glacier Spur Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: Jessica Carrillo <hophop824@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:02 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Jessica Carrillo and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** William Brock <williambrock.emtp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support

Please support a full pfd and the current budget cuts brought forward by Governor Dunleavy.  
Thank you  
Bill Brock  
Anchor Point Alaska

**From:** Sofia Infante <sinfante@uw.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Re Gov Dunleavy Budget Cuts

To whom it may concern,

I am an Anchorage, AK resident and current fourth year medical student in the Alaska WWAMI Medical school. I am writing to urge you to appeal Gov. Dunleavy's devastating budget cuts.

My path to becoming a doctor started here in Anchorage, AK as a junior student at East Anchorage High school. I had the unique privilege as a 16-year-old to do biomedical research through the UAA/WWAMI Della Keats program. Through the guidance of UAA and WWAMI mentors, I was able to do research at UAA studying the links between regular alcohol consumption on diabetes and liver disease. As a high schooler, I published research in a peer edited journal, presented my findings at the National Institutes of Health, and further learned about health disparities that disproportionately affect our communities here in Alaska. As an Alaska Native, I was empowered to learn more about diseases that affect my community and was inspired to attend medical school so that I could practice medicine here in Alaska and address the unique health needs of this community.

As a medical student in the WWAMI program, I have had the opportunity to do my training here in Alaska and have trained at ANMC, working with communities I hope to serve in the future. I have also had the opportunity to train at the University of Washington, a top medical institution, and practice medicine in rural communities within the five state region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho). The WWAMI program depends on the incredible talent that the University of Alaska draws, and the budget Gov Dunleavy has proposed would be devastating to the university system and our state at large.

I urge you to restore all funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy, and either eliminate the PFD or set a reasonable PFD of \$1600 so that we can maintain the systems and infrastructure that are critical to our state.

Sincerely,

Sofia Infante  
Alaska WWAMI, MS4  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
[sinfante@uw.edu](mailto:sinfante@uw.edu) | 509-540-2400

**From:** Mary Cooper <m\_cooper49@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Governors budget

Hello  
This email represents  
Geary, Mary, Aaron, Jenn and Genece Cooper all Alaska voters.  
We support the Governors budget and do not support any reestablished funding proposals.  
Thank you  
907-232-1440

**From:** Adam Hykes <adamhykes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear Legislation,

I am in opposition to HB 2001. I am a university student, and I am choosing to take online classes. I will not let distance stop my education, I can take online classes in other states if my program closes. And the universities aren't closing, as some insist, they're merely consolidating. And even if I never get a college education, I can pursue my dreams, and raise a family, and life will go on.

I'm also in favor of following the law. You're the lawmakers, why are you not paying the pfd as defined by the constitution and statutes? I also know how to google alaska statutes, why are you ignoring AS 24.05.100?

You could have called yourselves into special session and chosen the location, but the governor did instead. Follow the law and meet in the same location if only for the sake of changing the laws if you don't like them. Its in your power to do so, but neither side can do anything when you aren't in the same place.

Its also your job to produce a counter-budget to the governors vetoes. Stop painting him like he's the devil. He's not the king of alaska. You can do your job and negotiate with him, that is IF you all can cooperate and agree amongst yourselves. Get it together or we're gonna fill your seat with someone else.

From: Hannah Sanders <hjfellers@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:12 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Dr Hannah Sanders and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed. The implications of these budget cuts on the health for my community will be devastating and unacceptable. If these cuts go through I will likely move to raise my family in a state that supports education and has a more sustainable future.

From: Susan Masolini <suemasolini@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:15 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Susan Masolini and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** joanne@zitobrause.com <joanne@zitobrause.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:16 PM

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

**Subject:** Support for this morning's new version of the appropriation bill

Good Afternoon,

I was informed that there is a new version of your appropriation bill that was introduced this morning in House Finance. I have been told that the bill accomplishes the following:

- (1) appropriates funding to reverse all vetoed items (including forward funding of K-12 education and 100% funding of the state share for school debt reimbursement & the municipal port and harbor projects).
- (2) provides general fund matching funds for federal capital dollars (and other capital projects dropped from the capital budget);
- (3) provides funding for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) of about \$929 per eligible person; and
- (4) fixes the problem with the sweep of subaccounts within the general fund into the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR), thereby protecting PCE funding, AMHS funding and other such programs.

I wholeheartedly support this effort, and am excited that you are taking **leadership action** to right the wrongs inflicted by Governor Dunleavy's immoral, unethical budget vetoes driven by the Koch brothers, who simply want to flush government down the toilet and make room for corporation take-over of our state resources. However, I cannot imagine any business wanting to engage in an Alaska devastated by the short-sighted budget actions of Dunleavy.

Thoughtful residents of Alaska do not want to give their state to outside interests. We want to continue to nurture the many programs and services we have developed over the years that will support ALL our citizens, especially the most vulnerable - our children, the elderly and those who have fallen on hard times and need to be lifted up. Alaska is not always a kind environment, and it is inflicting greater cruelty by turning away from those who need a meal, a place to sleep or a leg up with counseling support or the educational opportunities our university system provides so close to home (if it needs repair, fix it, don't tear it down!).

My grandson just toured U.A. Southeast and U.A. Fairbanks. He was hoping to start his college education in the state, but the failure to override Dunleavy's veto brought despair to our household - his father and mother started talking about moving to Oregon for a better education opportunity for their son. I am hoping you can solve this problem and keep U. of A. stable and strong.

A sensible budget option, while not popular with some, would be either a state income tax or a sales tax. I recently purged my crawl space of boxes of old finance papers, and in our folders from the '70s were state tax forms. We paid it then - we can pay it now. Someone today mentioned taking a percent of each Alaskan's permanent fund - for the privilege of getting free money, we pay a little back - I would support that.

Thank you all for your hard work to lead us back to fiscal sanity! You are bringing us hope.

**JoAnne Zito-Brause**

5400 E. 104th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-346-4300

**From:** Sallie Rediske <sallierediske@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:18 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to restore all funding cut by Governor Dunleavy in his dangerous and reckless vetoes.

I am in favor of a strong state economy that is diverse and not solely dependent on oil and gas and one in which we live within our means, but I believe strongly this MUST include fair and reasonable taxation of the oil and gas industry and a progressive tax on residents. Residents must understand in order to keep the PFD, there must be a balanced method of earning by the state.

Dunleavy's cuts may have some place in a well-balanced economic overhaul, spread out over a long period of time, so the state can successfully adapt, but his draconian approach will be nothing short of disastrous for our state as a whole and especially for the most challenged in our society.

Please SAVE OUR STATE. RESTORE ALL FUNDING.

Sincerely,

Sallie W. Rediske  
Undeclared Registered Voter  
64893 Da Mar Loop  
Homer, AK 99603

**From:** Andrea Lang <andrealang827@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in support of your efforts to roll back the Governor's vetoes and the reduced PFD in order to finance the programs at risk.

As a teacher in the Anchorage School District I am aware of the variety of cuts directed at education...in addition to the other crucial services to the most vulnerable people in our state. I understand the difficult decision to use a portion of the PFD for these services, however...it is the right thing to do for our community at this time.

BUT...I do not believe we would be in this situation if we had an oil tax structure that was appropriately providing the maximum benefit from this resource to the people of Alaska. I close in asking you to review and revamp the tax structure in future sessions so that funding our services will be less destructive in the future.

Thank you for your time and the work you do on behalf of our people.

Andrea Lang  
244-9290  
1351 Early View Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504

From: Dixie D. Banner <ddbanner1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:19 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Give us a full PFD

I don't have the time to be on the phone to tell you that I want a full PFD! Quit playing your games and do your job! If you fail to listen to the People your positional power will be dismissed come 2020!  
V/r  
Dixie

From: Paul Rioux <paulg.rioux@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:22 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: support Hb 2001

I'm writing today to support HB2001:  
Please fund our state.

Paul Rioux, Sitka

From: Andy Cizek <and.czk@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:22 PM  
To: and.czk@gmail.com  
Subject: Government is broken and not for the people as article 1 section 2 of the AK constitution states.

Well we just had the opportunity to sit at our local legislative information office (LIO) in kenai for the better part of 3 hours only to listen to testimony on HB 2001 and the Wasilla dodging law breaking legislators trying to muster up enough special interest groups to further their agenda. If you choose to weigh in on this I'd recommend calling the 800 number or email as I don't see you getting too far at the kenai LIO. It's not worth keeping open as the gal there is quite



liberal and pushing the agenda of the law breaking legislators including Gary Knopp. She may be related to him as far as I know as she sure was pro Knopp. Anyway just a heads up so you don't get frustrated and decide to do nothing at all. Keep trying and keep up the pressure till the 2020 election when we can vote out these liberals and vote in some real conservatives. Keep on keeping on. To our estimation we wouldn't have gotten to voice our opinion had we stayed till 7pm closing time. Kelley had that happen on the first go around as well after holding for a couple hours the session ended and they hung up on all those waiting. How's that for representation. Vote them out!!! And let's have fun doing it!!!

Keep looking up!!!!

Andy

From: Mackenzie Slater <mackenzieslater@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:23 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Restore funding for state services

Hello,

I'm a constituent in Sand Lake, Anchorage. I am in favor of smaller PFDs in order to preserve essential state services that we must all help pay for including University of Alaska programs, state arts council, and services for the homeless. Please restore funding for education and the arts and use our state money to provide these services rather than give bigger PFDs.

Thank you for listening and making hard choices for Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Mackenzie Slater  
8237 Sand Lake Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: Madeleine Grant <madeleine\_grant@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:23 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Disaster in slow motion

Hello & thanks to all for hard work  
Please- whatever you can do to reduce or reverse the cuts, which will irreversibly harm our states economy & future  
Madeleine Grant, Anchorage

From: Michele Champion <akmichelechampion@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:28 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please respect all who have a right to public education

I am a retiree from the Anchorage School District who specialized in working with our children who experience disabilities. I am very concerned about the reduction in funding of educational programs proposed by our state government, not only in the early education pre-school settings, but also at the secondary education level which trains our professionals who most often choose to stay here rather than leave after a few years. If the reduced funding remains, the result is not only a lesser quality education for our children, but also more cost to the state, who is continually recruiting and re-training folks from out of state to do these much needed jobs. In contrast, if we choose to fund the programs which take care of all of us. Our own, we will see more productive and happy lives.

I support the efforts of the legislature to pass HB 2001 which will re-instate these much-needed funds. How can we morally accept that we are not taking care of each other, but those who have more needs and deserve the treatment that demonstrates our beliefs of dignity for all.

Michele Champion OTR/L  
917 W. 20th Ave.  
Anchorage AK 99503  
907-341-9249

**From:** Judith Lund <jclhomer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend

I am opposed to a dividend payout of \$3,000 and feel that the dividend should not exceed \$1,600. Actually I would prefer a dividend payout of no more than \$1,000 if there has to be a dividend at all.

Judith Lund  
Homer Alaska

From: Carolyn Palembang <ccpalembas@alaska.edu>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:29 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HOUSING MATTERS

I am writing to you because it is vital for homeless services, including funds that support Catholic Social Services, Brother Francis Shelter, and Rural CAP be added BACK IN to the budget. These services help protect the MOST vulnerable in our community and help get them to connected resources so they can lead healthier, better lives. These budget cuts affect veterans, people with serious mental health concerns, children, and the elderly. It is VITAL that we do not cut them. A community will only be as good as we treat our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,

Carolyn Palembang

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Reduce the PFD to save our state

Thank you for understanding the urgency of these times. I support any version of a PFD that would avoid the disastrous cuts put forward by the Governor, most notably to the arts, university and public radio systems. Medicaid dental coverage, support for rural Alaska, I could go on, but instead I just ask you to think of the bigger picture and dismiss these cuts for the cruel impracticality that they are.

Thank you for doing this important work. The future thanks you.

Chelsea Tremblay  
Petersburg resident

From: Michael Ward <mward@mtaonline.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:31 PM

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

Subject: PFD

I urge you to follow the PFD payout formula and pay the full dividend which will be approximately \$3,000 this year. State government gets an equal share of the oil royalty and you have spent it; you spend too much and wastefully. Do not come take part of mine now, my wife and I need nearly all of it to pay our local property tax, not toys or vacations.

Sincerely,

Michael Ward  
10611 Dolly Madison circle  
Eagle River, AK 99577

**From:** Emily Nenon <emily.nenon@cancer.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:33 PM

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

**Subject:** Written Testimony on HB2001 - Restore Medicaid Funding

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Emily Nenon. I live in West Anchorage, House District 21, Senate District K. I am the Alaska Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

I am writing to support restoring the vetoed Medicaid funding. The legislature had already made a huge cut to Medicaid. These additional cuts are the difference between Alaskans living, as a productive members of our society, or not.

Let me frame this issue with some background:

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Alaska. But, with what we know today, HALF of all cancer deaths could be avoided. The keys to this are tobacco prevention, improving physical activity and nutrition, and access to health care.

Access to health care is critical in keeping up with cancer prevention and screenings. Having access also plays a crucial part in how early someone is diagnosed. By early diagnosis, I mean both easier and less costly to treat.

Going to the doctor is much cheaper than going to the emergency room. Preventing cancer is much less expensive than treating it.

We know how to save lives from cancer. And we know how to save money on health care costs.

The veto's additional cut to Medicaid puts people's lives in jeopardy. Cancer patients, now and in the future, are counting on you to restore the Medicaid funding.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Nenon

**Emily Nenon, MPA**

Alaska Government Relations Director  
907.273.2097 | f: 907.273.2073

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.  
3851 Piper St Suite U240  
Anchorage, AK 99508

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From: sarahbaldwin5687@gmail.com <sarahbaldwin5687@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:33 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please override the Vetoes

Hello,

Please over ride Governor Dunleavy's vetoes. These huge budget cuts are extremely short sighted and are not beneficial for the future of Alaska. Alaskans don't need a \$3000 PFD they need core government services to maintain infrastructure, healthcare, and education among many other services that are being cut. Please override the vetoes!

Thank you,

Sarah Baldwin PA-C

**From:** Jay Stange <jaystange@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** My Family Supports HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to add my family's voice to the debate today. We support restoring the cuts to the Operating budget made by Gov. Dunleavy, which are too steep and too sudden, and will lead to damaging job losses and the shrinkage of our economy just as Alaska is coming out of a recession.

Settling the question of how much should be in the Permanent Fund dividend has completely overwhelmed the Alaska Legislature for many years. We believe it is important to use Permanent Fund earnings to support state government as an endowment for the future. It is irresponsible to support paying out a \$3,000 check when important programs to support students, seniors, homeless services, the university and matching grants are proposed for elimination.

Please support a modest \$900 to \$1500 dividend, eliminate oil tax credits, institute a progressive income tax and fully fund the Operating budget you worked so hard on in conference this year.

Thank you for your work,

Jay Stange  
3405 Woodland Park Drive  
Anchorage AK 99517  
(917) 601-3165

**From:** Ed Farley <Camaro\_1969\_RS@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska's Future is at Risk! Restore Critical Funding

I am appalled by the Governor's vetoes to education and critical State services. Please find a way to solve this budget crisis created by the Governor.

Thank you

Edward Farley

**From:** Stephanie Bauer <slbauer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support: HB 2001

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

Thank you for your leadership in writing HB 2001 and for your time in taking public testimony in Anchorage today, July 15, 2019. I intend this email to be my written testimony to the committee.

I support the compromise offered in HB 2001.

1. We must, I believe, restore funding to programs that support services for Senior Benefits, the poor, disabled, housing, and much more. I do not believe it is ethical to balance the budget on the backs of the most unfortunate. Most importantly, please talk to professionals in the helping industries about the effectiveness and efficiency of so many of the programs being cut. Rural cap, Catholic Social Services, so many of our agencies do so much with so little and have

had wonderful success in helping to house families and individuals. It's so much more expensive to not support these agencies.

2. Please refund the university. Job cuts, huge cuts in the number of professionals that are educated in Alaska and stay in Alaska. Please. As you know, we need to diversify the economy of Alaska. UA is essential for that diversification. As a faculty member at UAA, I assure you that this cut is not simply a "hair cut". Programs will be cut, and such an extreme cut means cuts are made quickly and irrationally. Efficiencies can be made, but we will need your support in making sure the university (Likely UAA) is not destroyed. We regularly see that 1/3 of our graduates are first time college graduates in Alaska. My students work full time and often have families: they cannot pay higher tuition.

3. Please refund the Arts Commission. Arts are not merely for the elite and those who can pay. A public art program is important because art is essential for life in so many ways, including

4. Cuts to Headstart are not smart. My goodness, the data on the importance of preschool for the health and growth of future kids and adults is very clear. It is a cost-savings.

5. **Alaska Public Radio and TV** are parts of the heart-beat of Alaska. Their innovative programs bind us together as Alaskans and create shared understanding. Also, they don't cost very much to the state, and cutting them endangers future matching funds and especially affects our rural areas.

You've heard many good arguments in public testimony for the common good and the fact that we affect one another and the thriving economy depends on us working together. Individual donations cannot fund our joint services - they should never be expected to. We depend on leadership to tell the state about the importance of working together and supporting the economy.

If it means going to Wasilla to work together, please do. I don't understand the politics of these actions, but some good faith concessions may be needed. If so, conceding on the place of the meeting seems small.

Thank you again.  
Stephanie Bauer

From: afcook1024@gmail.com <afcook1024@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:41 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: FULL PFDS!

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to let you know that my family is in full support of getting a full PFD. I truly believe the state needs to figure out what to do with its finances without having to take from the PFDs. Instead of spending out of the states means we need to figure out the budget. It may be hard but after some time of re-evaluating our spending I believe we will get through it and see where our money should/shouldn't be going.

Kind Regards,  
Alexis Cook and family

**From:** Tina Sellers <sellers.tina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** This Property Owner Doesn't Care About the PFD and Wants You to Restore the Funding

Corporate dividends increase and decrease in accordance with the corporation's fiscal success, and this State should be no different in that regard - except here in Alaska no one even had to purchase Alaska stock to receive a dividend. In that sense the people demanding "their" unearned PFD handout, or bonus, haven't even invested in this state.

Property owners, on the other hand, have invested significantly in Alaska and in many cases heavily. We already shoulder, far and away, the heaviest tax burden, and we will bear an exponentially greater tax burden should the funds not be restored to a significant degree - this on top of the recession economists tell us will result from this abdication of governance, in part because the money property owners use to fuel trickle-down economics will be handed over in the form of the PFD to those who haven't invested in this state at all.

Government is an economic engine, like it or not. Fund it.

Tina Sellers Wareham  
Anchorage, AK and Wasilla, AK

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:42 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** DOT Marine Hwy winter 'mothball'

WTF? How can YOU let this 'governor' shut down the AK State ferry system for the winter? What's he a dictator wanna-be like tRUMP?

I live in Cordova where the only Hwy we have to the rest of the state is facilitated by a Ferry ride to either Whittier or Valdez. Winter trips to anchorage are VITAL for individuals, Businesses, the State and Fed Government for health issues(mental and physical), stocking grocery store shelves with 'affordable' goods, State vehicles for maintenance of roads, and Federal support of infrastructure and emergency services(National Guard to assist in things like the 'Snowpocalypse' of 2011), and tourism.

I could handle a ferry schedule drastically reduced to one round trip a week...one every two weeks at the least. But, cutting this community off completely for winter? That's too much like a draconian punishment than



managing the State for the safety and security of its people!...while giving Conoco Philips and the other oil companies \$1.2 Billion in [tax credits] to continue sucking out the State's (Residents') resources!  
Rescind that tax credit and add that revenue to cover major budget expenses!

It's just completely unacceptable to slash and burn so many vital services and programs while padding the pockets of wealthy multinational corporations.

What is this, a FASCIST state?

Sincerely,

Cliff Ward  
204, 1st St.  
Cordova, AK 99574

P.S Dunleavy and his henchmen have to go!

From: Douglass Gerke <douglassgerke@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:43 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Special session/PFD/Budget

Distribute the PFD based upon the original formula, now and in the future.  
Under that formula, the state and the public split the payout equally.

Unfortunately the legislature never spent their portion in a manner that maintained overall spending within the total revenues available. There's no indication that if the legislature receives the publics split that they will do any better. I think it's safe to assume that the legislature will just continue to spend beyond revenues taken in.

Follow Gov. Dunleavy's budget proposals, get spending under control and live within available revenues.

**From:** DENNY <alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:44 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR;**  
**COMMITTEE: HOUSE FINANCE**

**CHAIR:** House Finance Chairs , Vice Chair & all Committee Members

**BILL:** HB 2001

**SPONSER:** House Rules Committee

**DATE & TIME:** 07/15, 16 & 17/2019 @2:00 to 7:00 PM

My name is DENNY KAY WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I strongly **oppose** HB 2001.

I voted for Mike Dunleavy because he said he **WAS** going to **CUT** State spending & that is what he is trying to do. Please SUPPORT the Governor that was duly elected. Remember, Walker did not get re-elected because he said he would cut government spending & didn't.

The people (the real working class) you're trying steal the money from to pay for your warm, fuzzy, feel good unnecessary appropriations & programs are already living under the poverty level. Cut the government, we cannot afford you. Thieves should be in prison not in the state house. You Legislators make more in your yearly per diem than I make a year. STOP THE SPENDING!!!

DENNY KAY WEATHERS

c/o PO Box 1791

Cordova, Alaska

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR;**

**COMMITTEE:** HOUSE FINANCE

**CHAIR:** House Finance Chairs , Vice Chair & all Committee Members

**BILL:** HB 2001

**SPONSER:** House Rules Committee

**DATE & TIME:** 07/15, 16 & 17/2019 @2:00 to 7:00 PM

My name is ERIC WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I strongly **oppose** HB 2001.

I voted for Mike Dunleavy because he said he **WAS** going to **CUT** State spending & that is what he is trying to do. Please SUPPORT the Governor that was duly elected. Remember, Walker did not get re-elected because he said he would cut government spending & didn't.

The people (the real working class) you're trying steal the money from to pay for your warm, fuzzy, feel good unnecessary appropriations & programs are already living under the poverty level. Cut the government, we cannot afford you. Thieves should be in prison not in the state

house. You Legislators make more in your yearly per diem than I make a year. STOP THE SPENDING!!!

ERIC J WEATHERS  
c/o PO Box 1791  
Cordova, Alaska

**From:** Bonnie Honkola <luckygrl@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is BONNIE HONKOLA and I am a resident of Palmer Alaska and a third generation Alaskan. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Sarah Preskitt <sarahpreskitt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:51 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please support HB2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2001.

I am heartsick that the PFD is dividing Alaskans. I understand that some Alaskans rely on these funds, but we must fund our university and state services. I also understand that decisions must be made quickly this year, but I hope in coming years discussions on an income tax are introduced.

Alaska has been relying on oil for far too long and we must diversify our economy. I fail to see how cutting the UA system off at the knees will help us accomplish this.

Please do what you must to restore the budget to its pre-veto status.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Sarah Preskitt, 99517

**From:** Shannon Savage <seorley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:51 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony: HB 2001

I live on Amanda Gayle Circle, in Rep. Revak's District 25.

I realize that many Alaskans are trying to share their thoughts, so I'll keep this brief: Please be courageous and support a reduced PFD, as well as a supplemental set of funds to restore the unconscionable cuts made to the FY2020 operating budget by our governor's vetoes.

Please work across party lines to try to gain unity as our body of elected officials and please don't give up. Alaskans need a stable economy, and that is not possible with the governor's FY2020 operating budget vetoes and the resulting cuts in funding that they have caused.

I was born and raised in Anchorage, and I plan to remain here for the rest of my career as well as retirement. This is my home and I care about it deeply. I don't need a \$3,000 PFD nearly as much as I need a state that I can be proud to live in. Senior citizens are being hurt by these cuts. Veterans are being hurt by these cuts. Women and children are being hurt by these cuts.

Our economy, our state, and our entire way of life are being hurt by these cuts, and I do NOT in any way place the value of a PFD payout over the value of my community, and the funding for essential services within it that help our most vulnerable citizens.

Alaskans need you. Please don't let them down.

Thank you,

Shannon Savage

3135 Amanda Gayle Circle, Anchorage AK 99507

From: Katherine Selanoff <k.selanoff@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:52 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is \_\_\_Katherine Selanoff \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Mary Sackinger <gleason.ak@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:52 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: budget additions

Hello-

As a long term Alaskan resident and voter, I implore you to cooperate with other legislators and provide some funding for the following areas, which were over ridden by many of the governor's vetos. It is your task to represent Alaskans equitably and line item veto is not a reflection of what your constituents require to live in our great state. This political squabbling along partisan lines is reminiscent of corporate take overs, not a functioning government. In addition to encouraging you to reach a better funding solution regarding the University of Alaska systems, please resolve more equitable funding for the young, old and mentally ill. Alaska is losing a large amount of matching fund in these areas by eliminating the state portion.

Alaska should no longer be a colony for the United States. We have enough economic sources now, like gold, oil, tourism, defense spending, that we can buffer our boom bust history! Once again, prepare for our future-we are counting on you. Perhaps solutions would include over riding all vetoed items, cutting portions of funding for vetos,

decreasing or eliminating PFD, or selecting certain veto items. Prior to instating a state income task, I would prefer to see less incentives given to oil companies who do not need them to explore for more oil and gas.

Although Alaska is unique and my home, if this trend of government failure continues, I will consider leaving to retire, on my own nickel. There will be no senior program, health care, no art/music programs, children will no longer be staying to be educated and contribute to Alaskan society. So do what you have promised Alaskans—sort through these times with professionalism and courage towards the vision of Alaska that will make us all proud again.

I do not that it is not easy, but have hope...

Sincerely,

Mary Sackinger

**From:** Kerry Brown <kerrybrown@mail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restore Funding & Mr. Schumacher?

First, waiting over 1-1/2 hours to give my testimony before I had to leave, I heard powerful testimony from a Mr. Schumacher (sp?); I believe he testified some time between 3:00 and 3:30. I would like to hear that somebody has followed up to make sure he and his family get the support they need. He seemed to be a vet.

Second, I've been here before oil came, when oil boomed, and now that oil is taking all that it can—and more than it deserves. There's not a person in my family—3 children and 15 grandchildren of Palmer Colonists—who is better off than we were before oil came. In the early 70s, living off my dad's income as a Muni employee, we had a 2-story home, a cabin at Big Lake, recreational vehicles, 2 cars, and my mom got to stay at home until we were all in school. Where is that for me, with 3 university degrees more than my dad?

Nowhere.

Finally, here is the testimony my schedule precluded me from waiting longer to give:

We Alaskans need to come together and get rid of the false dichotomy that insists either the desperate among us can get their full PFDs or the equally desperate will get the safety nets civilized societies provide human beings: medical care, shelters, protection, education, etc.

My family's been here since 1935 and the cuts will affect every one of us:  
—from the senior aid for the matriarchs of our family in their 80s  
—to my relatives who rely on UAA for fulfilling continuing requirements for professional licensure  
—to our school-age children who face larger class sizes than their parents or grandparents did in Alaska.

It takes time to follow the line of impact each cut will eventually make on every one of us. One worry I have is hiring almost all professionals from out of state: people we will invite into vulnerable places in our lives—working with our elders, our children, our sick—with whom nobody in the State has had professional experience. When a person trains in Alaska through a local or nearby university, that person interns with us and we can witness how that person works with our people before hiring that person. If our children get hurt on the playground or sick at school and need care—who knows that new hire responsible for comforting them? Who knows if that new hire from California or Louisiana or Florida will comfort our children or simply not have that capacity? We don't know that, because we don't know—can't know—who it is we are hiring anymore. We will only have a voice on a telephone and the hope this person will be

good enough for us, for our children, our elders, and our sick and injured. But that's not good enough. Beyond being good enough, I'm very concerned about the safety of bringing such unknown entities into our lives.

I could also mention a long Republican pedigree in our family, from my aunts manning the Republican booth at the Palmer State Fair for years to the straight Republican ticket they've constantly voted. I can't promise they will begin voting Democrat or Independent or Green or whatever else comes down the pipeline, but I foresee a strong hesitation on voting for anyone or any party who supports these cuts—not just devastating for a department or a program or an entity, but devastating to the family members to whom they've devoted their lives. Our family is stiff-necked; they will not forget.

Again, please look after Mr. Schumacher, and let me know that you have? My number is 342-2460.

Sincerely,

Kerry Brown

From: Kristin Ramstad <kristin.ramstad@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 6:58 PM

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

Cc: Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Testimony for HB 2001

Good evening-

My name is Kristin Ramstad. I will keep this very short.

I am a 4th Generation Alaskan and I urge you to restore all the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy, and fully support a reduced Permanent Fund Dividend.

In my opinion, the vetoes do not represent Alaskan values nor the Alaskan spirit.

Thank you.

**From:** Jen Athey <jeathey@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:01 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony to House Finance Committee on HB2001

Dear Legislators,

Please continue your work to fund the programs vetoed by Gov. Dunleavy and the inappropriate items swept into the CBR. I believe progressive taxes and a reasonable PFD are the way to fund necessary state services. We can no longer

rely on oil revenue and must adopt a responsible financial structure more similar to lower 48 states. I fear for my Alaskan children's future given the currently debated fiscal options.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Athey  
1635 Meribel Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99079  
907.699.6141

**From:** Royce Williams <royce@tycho.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** in support of HB 2001

As an Alaskan resident since 1978 and a human being, I support HB 2001 to restore funding to programs that save lives, help lives start out right, and make lives better.

--

Royce

**From:** hopefinkelstein@gmail.com <hopefinkelstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2001

- As a citizen of the Alaskan public I respect each and everyone of you who has pledged to be a public servant not a party loyalist.
- I am heartened by the proposed compromise legislation HB 2001 that critically recognizes that the discussion about the PFD can not be discussed as an isolated issue. I support restoring to the budget all of the funding otherwise vetoed.
- I Think it's important to acknowledge that democracy demands citizens who have critical and creative thinking skills. If we look at moments in world history when citizens have lost power to a despot ,artists and thinkers have always been purged. Let us not repeat this history.
- Let's sustain both the independent spirit and creative community Alaskans know we need to survive.
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**From:** Fran Pekar <franapekar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget cuts and PFD

Please resolve the very real impacts of the budget cuts. Thank you for the budget compromise already agreed on. I have lived here since before PFD payments and understand the original intent of the fund was to keep essential services in place when oil incomes decreased. Education, health services, and human safety nets are essential. Please also fund the capital budget.

Fran Pekar

**From:** Jack Stevenson <jj.stevenson1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is \_\_\_\_Jack Stevenson jr.\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Shawnalee Whitney <shawnalee.whitney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Pass HB2001

I am writing in support of HB 2001. I am stunned and staggering from the blow that has been dealt to Alaska over the last couple of weeks. The essential services and supports provided by legal aid, funding for low income elderly, Head Start, Medicaid, the University and more are ill-advised. Without these sorts of structures people will be suffering and have diminished opportunities to meaningfully participate in our society. I urge your support of HB 2001.

I support a statewide sales tax (with groceries and pharmaceuticals exempt). I support a state income tax that could make use of national poverty line standards so as not to harm low income people. And I support a revision of the oil tax credit calculation. Each of these would provide for a more egalitarian and reliable source of revenue for communities across the state.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Shawnalee Whitney  
3127 Wesleyand Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**From:** Rudy Wittshirk <fromtheland@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restore Alaska University Funding

Governor Dunleavy and his Hatchet Lady aim to destroy Alaskan education and Alaskan government. The state legislature needs to restore funding for the benefit of all Alaskans. I'll take a Permanent Fund cut...and pay a tax before selling out to outside interests.  
Rudy Wittshirk, Willow, Alaska

From: Linda Hulen <ljchulen@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:10 PM  
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: finance committee hearing

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am sitting in the audience during the finance committee hearing today in Anchorage, listening to testimony from citizens.

Much of the spoken testimony echos my sentiments with reasons stated much more eloquently than I can.

Even so, here is my written testimony.

Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes of 182 line items in your operating budget do not respect the bipartisan work you legislators did. You held hearings, you heard and listened to the public. You cut the state budget in a judicious manner and passed this budget to the governor. You did your job.

The governor is not doing his job. His vetoes are not those of a leader. His vetoes are callous. Many of these vetoes appear to actually cost the state...in lost matching funds for self-supporting program. The effects of these vetoes on the most vulnerable in our society, the poor, homeless, senior citizens, children, has been articulated many times. How can our state care so little for its people?

Please, legislators, don't let this happen to our state, to our people.

I support overriding the vetoes. I'd love to see all of the vetoes overridden.

But at the least, come together and compromise.

In that vein, I support House Bill 2001.

Sincerely, Linda

From: Alex Prichard <akprichard@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:10 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please fund government, limit PFD

I am writing in strong support of HB2001. After a lot of debate and analysis, the legislature produced a reasonable budget that balanced responsible cuts with investment in important government functions and maintenance of a strong economy. The governor's vetos were very irresponsible and poorly thought out and will cause a huge amount of undue suffering and long-term economic harm. Because the vetoes came right before the new fiscal year, the cuts will go into effect with little warning creating chaos and extra harm. Economic models are clear, if we can no longer afford zero broad-based taxes, robust public services, and a \$3000 payout then we should either raise taxes or lower the pfd. Cutting jobs and education inflicts the most harm to jobs and the economy. So please pass HB2001 and override the governor's veto. The Alaskan people have spoken out clearly on this.

Sincerely,

Alex Prichard  
Fairbanks AK

From: Shyla Dema <demafamily@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:13 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Save our state

Dear Elected Legislators-  
I write to you to plead with you to save our great state!

PLEASE

#1: Restore ALL the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy  
#2: all we need is a REASONABLE PFD of around \$1600 - this is acceptable as we are blessed to receive anything for free and this amount will save critical state services!  
#3: Fund the capital budget NOW, so we don't lose a billion dollars of federal funds, and so we can build/maintain our infrastructure

Tomor & Shyla Dema

From: Colleen Haan <colleen.haan@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:15 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: I am an Alaskan Resident, United States Air Force member, and UAA student, listen to my voice.

I have lived in this state all my life. I am the future of this state. I work for this state in the Air National Guard as a medic. I may only be 18 but I worked hard to graduate high school as a junior and go to basic training at 17 years old. I graduated high school from Mat-Su Career and Technical High school with both the top tier of the Alaska Performance Scholarship and as a UA scholar. And let me tell you what, I am fighting for my education. I didn't graduate early to get out of an education. I graduated to get ahead. To follow my dreams and get a degree from UAA and commission as a nurse in the Air Force. And if I am willing to fight for my country then I am damned well ready to fight for my State's education.

My sister received a bachelors degree in microbiology and is currently going for her masters at UAF. My brother is currently enrolled in the nursing program at UAA. My father graduated from UAA with a structural engineering degree and is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. My family is deep rooted in the UA school system, and how did they pay for college. Scholarships. For my sister and brother in particular, the APS. And now it is gone. There are many young adults I have met that payed their way through college with the APS and as student workers, and now, with the vetoes, both of these vital elements to help them pay for college have been ripped from their hands. With only semesters left of college.

What do we really want?

Because it seems to me that many people want uneducated alaskans and \$1000 in their pocket every year, because they already received their education and plan to live out their retirement years with an extra check.

Not only that but I have seen people abuse the PFD, by only living in state for about 3 months of the year, those people tend to be in their retirement years and very conservative. I believe if you don't live in state for at least 7 months out of the year you don't truly deserve the PFD.

People that have enough money to own residences in multiple states have been arguing that there are people that live off of the PFD. If they are truly that much under the poverty line then they are living off of welfare.

I'm trying to stay positive but it's getting harder and harder the more I see my education system crumbling.

From: chris corrao <chriscorrao@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:17 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Charles Corrao and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

Charles Corrao

From: Sandy Van Dyck <inluckinak@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:17 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Sandra Van Dyck and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Sandy Van Dyck <sjvandyck@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:19 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Cc: sjvandyck@gmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Jeffery Van Dyck and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Gretchen Carpenter <gleecarp@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:22 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Gretchen Carpenter and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Mary Ann Kondro <kondrokake@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House Bill 2001

Greetings from Kodiak,

Please get things going here for Alaskans - I support House Bill 2001.

Thank you for your time,

Mary Ann Kondro  
2289 Forest Drive  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
907-518-1704

**From:** Joe and Barbara Schneider <aksailjb@aptalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:24 PM

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

**Subject:** Recent Vetos

I am contacting you in regard to the most recent vetos by the current Governor. Specifically, I am gravely concerned with what is happening at the University level. I have a daughter who is a sophomore in college. Prior to her freshman year she was offered a substantial scholarship to the University of Denver (DU), where she completed one year. Upon the realization that her overall education was going to be a major investment, she decided to forgo the remaining scholarship and take advantage of the scholarships she had earned through hard work and dedication to the University of Alaska. She is a recipient of both the Alaska Scholars and Alaska Performance Scholarship. It is very disheartening to learn that the State is now ending at least one of these scholarships, leaving the students of Alaska in a precarious situation. Promises made are no longer reality and the education of our state is under attack. How/why is this happening? Please protect our future... children, economy and infrastructure. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Barbara Schneider

**From:** ellen americus <ellenleea@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:30 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Ellen Americus and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Rebecca Bezdecny <rebecca.bezdecny@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:30 PM

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

**Cc:** Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** HB 2001-Public Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

I would take a \$0.00 Permanent Fund Dividend if it meant we didn't strip so many valuable services from vulnerable Alaskans as the Governor's vetoes have.

Legal aid for people who can't afford it, public broadcasting and VPSOs in rural areas, beds for homeless people, pre-K programs for kids, a state University with a secure future for students, and so many other now defunct or withering programs aren't handouts as many claim--they are tools. Tools to help people. Tools to assist people to become better functioning citizens of Alaska.

Thank you for listening.

Rebecca Bezdecny  
204 Susieana Ln.  
Kenai, AK

**From:** Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs <kirshark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:32 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Forget the PFD and fund our state

Unfortunately my work schedule prevents me from testifying at any of the immediate opportunities to do so, but as a citizen of Alaska, I know that the services we are losing to the governor's vetoes are worth far more than a PFD. Please don't pay out this pittance of a vote bribe, and instead work to reverse the cuts that threaten our way of life.

Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs  
Juneau, Alaska

**From:** Marleen Moffitt <moffittmarleen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Marleen Moffitt and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

Thank you,  
Marleen Moffitt

**From:** Shannon Keegan <shannon.m.keegan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:35 PM



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

**Subject:** HB 2001

I represent myself and my family. I am in support of HB2001 and a pfd of \$1600 or less. I feel it is imperative to our future as a state to restore funding cut by Governor Dunleavy and return to the budget passed by the legislature.  
Shannon Keegan, Girdwood

**From:** Amy Ryder <amy.m.ryder@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:37 PM

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

**Subject:** PFD

Good evening,

I fully support using the PFD to restore funding to all of the services that the Governor stripped from the budget. I am willing to take a lower PFD to achieve this.

Thank you,  
Amy Ryder

**From:** Bryan Ryder <bryder33@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:38 PM

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

**Subject:** PFD

Good evening,

I fully support using the PFD to restore funding to all of the services that the Governor stripped from the budget. I am willing to take a lower PFD to achieve this.

Thank you,  
Bryan Ryder

From: Aimee and James Sandoval <rbs925@msn.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:42 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: I Support HB 2001

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my strong support for what you've done today, limiting the size of the PFD to \$900 and restoring what the Governor cut from the budget. The Legislature passed a carefully crafted budget, please stand and defend it now, leave Wasilla, return to Juneau and protect Alaska and her people.

Institute an income tax, means test the PFD, but do not allow the Governor to rip apart the State.

Thank you,

James Sandoval  
10420 Thimble Berry Drive  
Anchorage, AK  
99515

From: Kimberly Bakkes <kbakkes@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:42 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB 2001

I am writing to strongly support HB 2001. I strongly support having a reduced PFD in order to restore funding for vital services such as teachers, UAS system, Alaska Council for the Arts, SE ferry system, and the Ocean Ranger Program.

I think every one of these programs is vital to our growing economy and if we have to reduce the PFD or reduce gas/oil subsidies to continue these programs then we should.

Thank you,

Kimberly Bakkes  
Sitka, AK

**From:** Thor Illguth <thor.b.the.god@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support a Full PFD!

Today is my 30th birthday, and I have spent my life in this great State (with the exception of my time in the Navy). I am raising five beautiful children here, and until this fight against the Legislation for our PFDs I had never even considered living anywhere else.

As I have looked into it, and spoken with many other Alaskans. I have realized that there is a lot of government waste, as well as corruption. 90% of the people at my workplace, 80% of my friends, and all 12 of my voting family support a full PFD.

Almost every one of those support Dunleavy's Vetoes!

I would ask that every one of you support the Full PFD! NO EXCEPTIONS!

As for the Budget, uphold the Vetoes with the realization that more cuts have to Happen to balance the books. No new taxes, keep reigning in government spending until things are balanced.

Our PFD is not Government money, please remember that we will all vote accordingly.

Thank you for your time, and have a great week.

- Thor Illguth  
North Pole, Alaska

**From:** Chelsea Corrao <ccorrao@cordovasd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 7:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Chelsea Corrao and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: mike schultz <gramps99574@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 7:54 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is mike schultz \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Jackie St.Clair <jk.rose.stclair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:03 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on 2001

My name is Jackie, I have lived in Alaska my whole life and chose to go to the University of Alaska and I graduated debt free, because I got the Alaska Performance Scholarship. It is devastating, that students like me now do not have that opportunity, but that is one of many crushing choices recently made by the state government.

Senior benefits, pre-k education, Medicare... it can feel very overwhelming as a young person who wants to build a future in a state where political decisions skirt ethical boundaries. I have hope that this step backwards will lead to more steps forward, and I have hope in the young people of this state that we will take action to help build communities and a state government that values kindness, independence, and altruism.

The first step forward needs to be immediate action taken by our representatives, the individuals whose responsibility it is to care for the needs of our communities. We need ferry systems, we need healthcare, our children need education, our seniors need financial support.

I believe education, healthcare, arts councils, ferry systems, and senior benefits, are worth more than a small annual payout, and I've over-drafted my account twice this month. That extra cash in October is helpful, but in no way equal to the value of the programs we have lost.

Thank you for your time, I hope that you understand the gravity of this situation, and know that your inaction has literally taken food out of people's mouths.

-Jackie St Clair

**From:** B. Solomon <functionalhealth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:05 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Barbara Solomon and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

If we could vote on the matter, most Alaskans would favor the smaller PFD in order to maintain these vital services.  
Thank you.

From: Margaret Hall <tinyinak@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 8:12 PM

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

Subject: Vetoes

*(NOTE – there was no message in the body of the email)*

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Kristi Wilson <ak\_seahag@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:18 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is \_\_\_\_\_Kristi Wilson\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I am a 3rd generation Prince William Sound resident. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy to noprovide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

The Alaska Marine Highway system is absolutely vital to our way of life and the way we do business. It is guaranteed under our State Constitution. You, (the governor), cannot simply tell us "to move". Our entire livelihood rests on dependable ferry service. I, personally, have been riding the ferry since 1964.

In addition, I am absolutely dismayed at the lack of backbone in our legislating body. I have been a non-partisan voter my whole life, and if you don't start supporting your constituents, I will be using my voting powers to vote you out. The Alaska Marine Highway is guaranteed under our State Constitution to provide transportation and commerce to outlying Rural areas. Do your job. If our state is that broke, reinstate the state tax, as Governor Hammond instructed, and start taxing the oil companies for their fair share.

Sincerely,

Kristi A Wilson

From: David Kelley <dkelley21@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 8:19 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: There is no more free lunch

The governor's vetos will have a disastrous impact on the state's economy, local property values and ultimately lead to higher local taxes. The only thing more irresponsible would be to follow that up with an outsized dividend.

I have come to the conclusion that the Dividend program has had a disastrous unintended impact on Alaskans and should be capped at some token amount or constrained by the POMV approach used last year.

The promise of a large dividend has allowed politicians, backed by outside money, to use the issue along with some cloudy logic to convince a segment of the population that a dividend is a birthright, endowed with constitutional protections. This pandering has contributed to a free-lunch mentality that is a major obstacle to promoting the shared sacrifice the state needs to right-size and then fund its government.

if the state pays a supersized dividend this year we will be doomed to a future where every election will be a contest between candidates promising to outdo the other with dividend largess. Politicians will use the dividend program to promote their own careers at the public expense.

Finally i would like to point out the inconvenient reality that a significant percentage of every dividend dollar goes directly to the federal government in the form of income taxes. If you assume an average marginal tax rate of 15-18% a \$3,000 dividend would be a \$450 to \$540 gift to the US Treasury. No matching moneys coming back, no local impact, no jobs, no tax relief, schools or infrastructure? How does that make sense to anyone?

Restore the spending vetoed by the governor, follow the POMV principle to limit spending and resist the urge to placate a vocal minority with an irresponsible and unsustainable payout from the earnings reserve.

Respectfully  
David Kelley  
Anchorage  
(35-year alaskan resident)

From: Dixon&Marion Jones <dixonmarionj@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 8:19 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: In opposition to Dunleavy

To the House Finance Committee:

I support the University of Alaska system, public radio and arts funding, the Pioneer Homes, the Alaska Marine Highway, services to rural communities, and aid to the disadvantaged, disabled and elderly through Medicare and Medicaid.

In my view, the governor's defunding of these vital, civilizing institutions and services prove that his agenda has nothing to do with fiscal concerns. Rather, he intends to impose a narrow, rigid, and callous ideology on what is still, I believe, a largely independent-minded and open-hearted population. In that regard, I want to remind you that in 2018, the most generous state (in terms of donations per capita) on the GoFundMe website was Alaska.\*

I urge you to consider that the governor lied about his intentions and deflected serious questions during his campaign, and that nearly two-thirds of elected legislators oppose his vetoes. The damage to our state is already significant, merely from the negative publicity the governor's statements and actions have garnered.

Wouldn't the so-called Alaska fiscal crisis be averted if the state just stopped giving away money — as tax breaks to oil companies, and dividend checks to its citizens?

Sincerely,

Dixon Jones  
Fairbanks

**From:** Heidi O <ho.olson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** A dividend isn't in our best interest

If services like education (all levels), Medicare supplements, senior and homeless support, Alaska State Ferries and the Arts aren't supported by government funds I'd give up my dividend to support these services. Help us stop using the dividend as a political pawn and either eliminate it and use it to pay for services or set up guidelines so that a portion can be used. Or if a full dividend is given, please tax the heck out of it so that there is increased revenue.

The dependence on the dividend is like our dependence on oil. At some point it isn't available and we all need to get over it and move on.

Heidi Olson  
Lifelong Alaskan  
Douglas Alaska

From: Kelsey McNeil <kelsey.mcneil89@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 8:23 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB2001

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support a yes vote on HB2001 to limit our PFD to \$1600. As year-round, deeply-rooted resident of Alaska, I would rather any remaining monies from the PFD be used to fund the line items Governor Dunleavy's vetoes recently cut from our state budget.

Kelsey mcneil  
PO Box 1561  
Ward cove, AK 99928

**From:** George Matz <geomatz41@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:33 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

Alaska State Legislature  
House Finance Committee

Re: HB 2001

I applaud the House for introducing a bill that provides a reasonable PFD to eligible Alaskans but does not require deficit spending – unlike the Dunleavy fantasy.

I believe, in the tradition of Jay Hammond, that a modest PFD provides an incentive for Alaskans to “watchdog” PF management so that it doesn’t get absconded. But the Dunleavy concept is not consistent with the origin or purpose of the PFD. What makes Dunleavy and followers even more out of touch with history and reality is that their proposal for this year requires deficit spending. How absurd can one get?

I would like to point out that the first year of the PFD (1982) was for \$1,000, which was essentially a multi-year payment. The next year the PFD was \$386. What HB 2001 proposes is over 4X that, well in excess of inflation. That is plenty generous, particularly since most of us haven’t really done anything to deserve this.

If the Legislature can not come to agreement about the amount of this year’s PFD, I strongly recommend that there be no PFD at all.

Sincerely,

George Matz



From: Ann and Dave Mayo-Kiely <[mayokiely@msn.com](mailto:mayokiely@msn.com)>

Date: 7/15/19 6:09 PM (GMT-09:00)

To: [housefinanca@akleg.gov](mailto:housefinanca@akleg.gov)

Subject: Lover PFD, override, income tax

I am writing in support of funding all of the public services line-item vetoed from the budget by Governor Dunleavy. And in support of a lower, fiscally prudent PFD.

I have 3 kids ages 8-15. His cuts have very personal impacts. I care more about public services like a high-quality affordable university, support for the most vulnerable families and seniors, mental health and substance abuse and job training for lowest income adults, medical assistance, legal assistance, heating assistance. These are the things that keep our communities safe and healthy and vibrant. Without them more people will fall into poverty, homelessness, desperation, and crime.

Personal impacts:

1. I want my kids to grow up in a community where it is safe for them to walk, bike, and ride the bus. This budget will send Anchorage over a cliff. I value arts and public radio for communications in Rural areas.
2. My neighbors are teachers and work for shelters, UA and are retired. They are worried about being able to keep their homes. If they sell to move to lower cost housing or out of state, what will happen to our property values?
3. Most importantly, I value caring for others and my community above my self. I value a healthy community over a thousand or three thousand dollar PFD. In the end these cuts will cost my family MUCH more than we will make in a larger PFD.

To this end I also support a state income tax, though I know this is not a popular stance.

As my 8 year-old son told me when he heard talk of the vetos on the radio, "we need to think about if we were one of the people living on the streets- we need to care for each other so that everyone has a safe home."

Return funding to governor's cuts, approve a low, conservative PFD to provide more certainty of future stability in the fund.

Thank you to Senator Birch for responding to phone calls and emails. I have not received a single response or any communication from my Rep, Josh Revak after almost daily calls to his office and multiple emails, which is immensely disappointing and disturbing in this time of crisis.

Ann Mayo-Kiely  
8601 Jupiter Drive  
Anchorage

**From:** al hoth <[albeulah@yahoo.com](mailto:albeulah@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:46 PM

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

**Subject:** permanent fund

The permanent fund belongs to the people of Alaska. If you think you are right then let the people of Alaska vote.

I've lived here since 1948, my wife was born here. I'm 81 years old and she is 80. We have never seen such a farce

as you people have put on in Juneau. Sincerely Allan and Beulah Hoth Fairbanks, AK

**From:** Yvonne Leutwyler <yvonneleutwyler@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:46 PM

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

**Subject:** University of Alaska (UA) funding

To whom it may concern:

I am a 20+ years Alaska resident currently living in Homer.

As a past and present student of UA I am deeply troubled about the governor's proposed budget cuts to the university. Funds to UA have been cut for years. The university has had to suspend programs for which there is and will be a growing demand in the job market - renewable energy technologies/resources, for example.

Proposed cuts in the amount envisioned by the governor will cripple the university, leave hundreds if not thousands of students in limbo, destabilize an Alaska-trained professional workforce and cut the legs off of nationally recognized research projects.

Additionally, accessibility to a higher education for Alaska's rural students is at risk, with many remote campuses being threatened with closure. I have enjoyed instruction based out of a remote campus myself - Bristol Bay Campus (BBC) in Dillingham, and I understand how important it is for rural students to be able to access the university system without having to travel to a big population center, like Anchorage or Fairbanks.

I realize that the state's current financial situation requires improving efficiency, which can mean some cuts. However, what has been proposed to be cut from UA is an act of self-destruction on behalf of the state government!

Please consider finding a solution that keeps funding the university, supporting high quality higher education and research.

Thank you,  
Yvonne Leutwyler

**From:** Merry Engebretson <merry\_elizabeth@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:47 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony re: HB 2001

I live at 5441 Whispering Spruce Drive in Rep. Shaw's district.

I realize that many Alaskans are trying to share their thoughts, and so I'll keep this brief: Please be courageous and support a reduced PFD, as well as a supplemental set of funds to restore the unconscionable cuts made to the FY2020 operating budget by the governor's vetoes.

Please work across party lines to try to gain unity as our body of elected officials and please don't give up. Alaskans need a stable economy, and that is not possible with the governor's FY2020 operating budget vetoes and the resulting cuts in funding that they have caused.

My husband and I are both born and raised in Alaska, I'm from Anchorage and he is from Valdez; we plan to remain here for the rest of our lives, building our family and careers, and continuing to engage in our community. All this is to say that this is my home and I care about it deeply. I don't need a \$3,000 PFD nearly as much as I need a state that I can be proud to live in, from now until retirement. Senior citizens are being hurt by these cuts. Veterans are being hurt by these cuts. Women and children are being hurt by these cuts. ALASKANS are being hurt by these cuts.

Our economy, our state, and our entire way of life are being hurt by these cuts, and I do NOT in any way place the value of a PFD payout over the value of my community, and the funding for essential services within it that help our most vulnerable citizens.

Alaskans need you. Please don't let them down.

Thank you,

Merry Engebretson  
5441 Whispering Spruce Drive  
[Merry\\_elizabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:Merry_elizabeth@yahoo.com)  
907-317-9148

**From:** Iris Matthews <alaskaniris@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:48 PM

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

**Subject:** Support HB 2001 - Restore the budget, reduce the PFD

Dear House Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2001. I urge you to pass this legislation. The past few weeks have been traumatic for all Alaskans as we grapple with the uncertainty and disarray that the Governor and the Wasilla 22 have caused.

As Alaskans, we all deserve better. I could care less about the amount of the PFD. I would happily give it up to have a vibrant state with a world-renowned University, safe public places, and excellent schools. As an employer, I need educated, bright young people to hire. As a business-owner, I need a stable economy and so do my clients. As a homeowner, I want safe neighborhoods. As a parent, I want my kids to have an excellent education. As a human, I want the most vulnerable Alaskans to have access to the services they need for a healthy, safe environment, including access to early childhood services where all the science says that early investments pay huge dividends.

What has happened in Alaska is heartbreaking and devastating. I urge you to restore the funding the governor has vetoed from the budget, add funds for the capital budget and pay a significantly reduced dividend, if any at all.

Sincerely,

Iris Matthews  
Juneau, Alaska

**From:** Patricia Lods <patlods@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:49 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

I don't know what it is to have a balanced budget.

I got a six dollar raise in my Social Security but the TV bill went up \$10, my phone \$5, my electric keeps inching up; everything goes up. I guess I live unbalanced. My income is \$300 less than my bills every month. But I keep going. I don't go to movies, or out to dinner.

In my mind the cuts to the state of Alaska's budget are too extreme. we need to have a government to run; not destroy it by being unsupportive of the people we govern. Things that are the life and heartbeat of our state and our livelihoods need to be maintained. We cannot deplete the quality of life established in this amazing state and expect to remain productive.

Living on Kodiak Island is expensive. We rely on ferry service to the mainland. And airfreight for our produce. We need safe airports. Quality schools, a university and quality medical and mental health care are a must. Reasonable food costs would sure be nice.

If we don't maintain schools and fisheries then our outlook is glum indeed. We need to keep people in Alaska, both senior citizens and young people: not drive them to other parts of the world because of new tax burdens, higher tuition, higher living expenses. Debt retirement already promised should be honored. Homeless people must be helped. Children should never go hungry.

Please do what is necessary to maintain funding without severe cuts. An extra thousand dollars in my PFD would be nice, but not as nice as the senior services we rely on, the public radio we listen to, the ferry we ride to the mainland, the thrill of taking classes at Kodiak College, the pleasure and education of a production by the Arts Council. At 80 years old I don't want to go back to a full time job.

Patricia Lods  
Kodiak Alaska

speaking for myself as well as the Senior Citizens of Kodiak, the Kodiak Arts Council, and Public Broadcasting

**From:** jacquelyn sparrow <sparrowjd@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:49 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** July 15 Finance Hearings

Numerous persons testifying today in favor of Dunleavy's full PFD payment invoked former Governor Hammond's name. However, I do not think Hammond and Dunleavy would be in the same camp, for Governor Hammond staunchly opposed the elimination of the state income tax.

Quote- "I said suspend it (income tax) reduce it, but don't eliminate it. I thought the repeal of income tax was downright stupid!" [Alaska Oral History Interview](#)

[Jacquelyn Sparrow](#)

From: George Wood <gswood49@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 8:57 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: House bill 2001

Thank you for this bill to restore the governor's vetoes and offer a PFD of \$929 that our state budget can afford. I totally support this over the ruination of our great state.

Susan Wood  
232 Mitkof Highway  
Petersburg, Alaska

**From:** cici schoenberger <cscho02642@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:57 PM

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

**Subject:** Alaska budget

I am a resident of Talkeetna and have listened in horror to the discussions and proposals on the state budget. I am deeply saddened and angry that if nothing is changed, Alaska will be in grave danger of becoming the worst of all 50 states in every measure of fostering human growth and decency. I recognize that this might sound like hyperbole, but I do not believe it is. I am upset that many people believe that they have a "right" to a large PFD and do not care what this will cost many, many people in lost health, education, homes, security as they age, etc.etc. I am upset that the oil industry has been pandered to and no changes were made to the credits we now so generously give them. I am upset that the long-term impact and effects are being ignored for short-term "solutions" that are not solutions at all. Yes, Alaska does need to think about how we are going to increase revenue and increase efficiency of operation, but the Governor's plan does not increase revenue, it appears to just slash away at what I consider to be essential services. Most of the vetoes are very short-sighted because they will cost money in the long-run. Being a retired social worker, anything that jeopardizes the health of people is extremely upsetting to me therefore I am extraordinarily concerned with the cuts to Medicaid. Living in Talkeetna, I am dependent on public radio not just for my listening pleasure, but far more importantly, for getting essential information in a timely manner about community emergencies, such as our recent fires. Caring about the future for my grandchildren is central to my life and any impact to the quality of their education is infuriating to me. Living a place where the arts are so devalued as to eliminate the State Arts Council is frustrating, especially because there is so much research that shows how important the various arts are to both brain development and brain maintenance as we age. These are not luxuries that we should be giving up especially when there are other options.

I urge each of you to work hard to do whatever is possible to restore funding to at least the level agreed upon by the Legislature. I was not happy with these cuts, but could accept them. Do not allow our State to devolve to a place where the "I care about only me" attitude wins over the belief that we are all in this together so let's figure out how to care for each other so everyone wins.

Thank you for your consideration and the hard work you are doing to figure out some solutions to this mess.

Cici Schoenberger (aka Lucille)

**From:** Janet McManus <momma.mcmanus@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:01 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Janet McManus and I am a 30 year resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

While I see where cuts to the state budget are possible and likely helpful in some areas, the current cuts are too much too soon. We must take a proactive and sensible step in the right direction of a balanced budget and NOT sacrifice what makes our state great only to feed the greed of individuals. Our state is great when we work together. Let's keep supporting one another!

In all sincerity,

Your fellow Alaskan.

<donnagrace99@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:02 PM

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

**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; LIO Homer <Lio.Homer@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Comments in support of HB 2001

Dear House Finance Members,

Thank you for taking public testimony on HB 2001. **I am fully in favor of restoring funds vetoed by the governor, restoring what is lost without a reverse sweep, and reducing the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend.**

If allowed to stand, the line item vetoes would be devastating to the state; most devastating to the very people who benefit most from a full PFD. The line item vetoes and the sweep would impact the most vulnerable in our state the most, and would negatively affect every man, woman, and child living in Alaska.

In my hometown of Homer, some of the cuts would affect the ability of some organizations to function, such as South Peninsula Behavioral Health Center (which just celebrated 40 years of operations). The Kachemak Bay Campus of the Kenai Peninsula College, a part of the UAA campus system that has become integral to the southern Kenai Peninsula, is at risk of closure. Haven House, which provides essential services for adults and children affected by domestic violence, would lose programs. The safety nets for so many people living on the edge would be cut. Funds for much-needed road rehabilitation projects may not be appropriated. The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Kasitsna Bay Lab, which provide critical research and monitoring in Kachemak Bay and lower Cook Inlet could lose their state partners (UAA and UAF, respectively) and cease to exist.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce recently stated that much of Homer's tourism comes from within the state. The line item vetoes would economically impact regions of the state that visit Homer, thus impacting private businesses in Homer that depend on tourism and the City of Homer's sales tax revenues.

The ripple effects of the line item vetoes and sweep will devastate Alaska's economy. Every person living in the southern Kenai Peninsula would feel the effects of the line item vetoes and sweep, whether they realize it or not.

The economic impacts of the line item vetoes and sweep far outweigh the benefits of a full PFD. **Please vote to adopt HB 2001.**

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska.

Donna Aderhold  
353 Grubstake Ave.  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-6540  
[donnagrace99@gmail.com](mailto:donnagrace99@gmail.com)

From: Aniessa <aniessa\_92@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 9:02 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is ANIESSA HODGES and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Laurie Miller <lauriesuemiller@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 9:06 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Budget cuts

To all my senators,

Thank you for fighting! Please! PLEASE! Fight these ridiculous cuts and save our great state from financial ruin. I will pay taxes ! I will do what I need to.. but, please! I want my grandchildren to enjoy the fruits of this great frontier..

Arts, learning, services to elders and homeless... please don't let this be take away... please!

Sincerely,

Laurie Miller

**From:** Rob Cone-Clark <robconeclark@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

AMHS generally charge less than Market fare. Please evaluate price schedules and stop being idiots with the VITAL AMHS.

WTF is even going on with the two new ferries just built?????

Get your shit together and ensure this ferry service.



Thank you,

Rob Cone-Clark

[907-632-1188](tel:907-632-1188)

**From:** Chinook Auto Rentals <chinookautorentals@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:10 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Becky Chapek and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

I could give a Rat's Ass about the Permanent Fund. I paid income & school taxes when I came and I'll continue to stay here and pay them when all the whining freeloaders that think Alaska owes them something are gone. I can only hope and pray that DUMLEAVY is the first to go and that he takes the "Wasilla Legislators" with him.

**From:** Laura Hanson <lhanson@cordovasd.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:16 PM

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

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Laura Hanson and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska for the past 23 years. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

I would rather not have a pfd but have funded schools, ferries, police and firefighters. We need a future in this state for our children and grandchildren. It is shortsighted to think that a \$3000 pfd will preserve a future.

There needs to be an income tax across the state to get funds from people who earn salaries in Alaska but don't contribute to the good of the state. Many fishermen and oil workers don't live here year round yet use vital services without contributing.

Fix this. Provide a future and keep essential programs. Fund our ferries, universities and figure out income development for the state that doesn't hurt all of us rural residents so unfairly.

From: samantha jensen <sammj80@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 9:22 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Samantha Jensen and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Tania Hall <taniahdh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** the upcoming budget

Greetings,

I am an OBGYN physician in Anchorage. I was born in Anchorage, grew up in Eagle River, graduated from UAF and the WWAMI program. I am so proud to have been a "home grown" success story and am equally proud to now now teach for the WWAMI program in addition to tending to a busy, private practice. I work with countless WWAMI graduates (alumni) in Anchorage hospitals and know for certain that our medical climate in Alaska would be grim without the WWAMI program, which has been training top-notch physicians for over 40 years. I am frankly shocked that WWAMI is on the chopping block because the value to all Alaskan residents is so tremendous and the cost to the state is very reasonable. I would gladly surrender my entire PFD to retain WWAMI and vital community programs like it. While I have enjoyed receiving the PFD since I was born in the 1980s, I believe it is a gift and not an entitlement. The other cuts to education in the state are also astounding. We should be investing in our future and growing the next generation of leaders for our state (two of which, I'm raising at my house!). There is no way each individual Alaskan injecting \$3000 into the economy (no guarantee of this even being local) would benefit each of us to the same magnitude as these social services. Please, please, please support education in Alaska -- including our state schools and WWAMI program. Simply put:

- #1: Restore ALL the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy
- #2: A reasonable PFD of around \$1000 and will save critical state services
- #3: Fund the capital budget NOW, so we don't lose a billion dollars of federal funds, and so we can build/maintain our infrastructure

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns. I'm sorry I couldn't testify in person today.

Sincerely,

Tania Hall, MD, FACOG

Alaska WWAMI E-07  
UW/WWAMI associate faculty  
Physician/Owner AK Women's Health, PC

10200 Hillhaven Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907-887-6857 (cell)

**From:** Tracie Haan <aktracie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PROTECT ALASKANS, NOT PFD

Dear Legislative Members,

What consolidation is a \$3000 PFD for the university employees who just lost their livelihoods, aspiring doctors, nurses, engineers, and technical professionals whom stayed in state for higher education because of state funded entities such as APS/ WWAMI, to all the vulnerable Alaskan's who had countless services stripped away by a Governor not from Alaska who claims to value education with a masters in education from UAF \*the irony abounds\*?

So much was lost to individual greed and political allure those who fight life and limb claiming the PFD is "their money and right (although many of them weren't born or raised here in Alaska). Maybe this is an unpopular opinion but the PFD to me, born and raised Alaskan, seems like the ultimate free handout that could easily solve many of the state's budget issues, HB2001 won't even get rid of the PFD, just reduce it to \$1,600. Why can't people limit individual greed for betterment of services to those who need it most; the youth, the rural communities, the homeless, the abused, the students, and the lifelong Alaskans fueling the state. Protecting the safety, education, and future of Alaskan's citizens is the job of the state. Not protecting a free handout for living here 7 months out of the year.

Some personal paradigms of how cuts to the university system alone, affects all aspects of life in Alaska. My dad has a Masters in Structural Engineering from UAA and has built and maintained much of Alaska's key infrastructure through his work with the Army Corps, my Aunt is an ER nurse at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center who graduated from UAA and has saved countless Alaskan lives, my brother and sister are both pursuing nursing degrees at UAA and were funded by the APS, my fiancé is a grad student at UAF researching forest fire risk and prevention strategies who could potentially lose his job, and I work for the Institute of Arctic Biology researching Antimicrobial Resistance in microbes affecting the health of Alaskans. This point being, when you're from Alaska you likely have a member of you're family connected to the University or have been impacted by those who attended the University of Alaska. These short-sighted cuts to increase the PFD will destroy lives, negatively affect the health of Alaskans, infrastructure, and limit opportunities for Alaska's vulnerable especially the youth.

For those fighting to protect Alaska's future thank you for your efforts, for those looking for a bigger annual paycheck please reconsider your decisions.

Tracie Haan

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

From: Andrew Billings <lostlakeandrew@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 9:45 PM

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

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Andy Billings \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Seward, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Amy Cross <aecross4@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:54 PM

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

**Subject:** Restore Funding!

Hello House Finance Committee,

**It is with great urgency that I am emailing you to ask that you consider HB2001 and restore funding for all of the 182 line-item vetoes.**

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. After high school I initially left the state for college, but after one year away Alaska was calling me home. I moved back to Alaska where I finished my undergraduate degree at UAF. After graduation I began working for the University. I am now the Executive Director of a youth-serving non-profit in Fairbanks. **I would like to stay in Alaska permanently, but I am currently afraid for my future.**

I was recently married, and my husband followed a similar path as I did. He grew up in Alaska, went to UAF, and now works for the University that has helped shape him into the successful professional that he is. The Governor's vetoes put

my husband's job at risk. The cuts to the University of Alaska will absolutely destroy work that has been done, work that I and my husband have done, to make UA an appealing and competitive choice for graduating high schoolers from Alaska and beyond. UA is essential to our state's economy. UA is essential in building and recruiting a professional workforce in our state. UA is essential in educating students of all ages. UA is essential to our state. **I would not have come back to Alaska if it wasn't for UAF.** If there was not a strong university in Alaska there would have been no reason for me to move home. UA has shaped the lives of me and my husband and given us the opportunities we needed to begin successful careers in the state we love.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The vetoes threaten many non-profits, and I worry that the program I work for will not go unscathed. I know that another youth-serving organization in Fairbanks (Fairbanks Youth Advocates) will suffer greatly, if even able to keep their doors open, if their funding is not restored. Fairbanks needs FYA. Without FYA there is no safe shelter for displaced youth. As the director of a peer organization I can attest to the impact that FYA has on our community. Without FYA, where will I refer youth to stay in an emergency if their home life is unsafe? Head Start programs are also threatened. **The cuts to education and youth support programs certainly send a dark message to Alaska's youth about how we value them.**

I am also appalled by the defunding of the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the cuts to public broadcasting. As well as the cuts to Medicaid. As well as the cuts to the Alaska Legal Services and the Public Defender Agency. Where does it end?

**The budget proposed by the Governor is not "balanced" it is unjust. Please restore funding to the line-item vetoes.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Cross  
1082A N. Chandalar  
Fairbanks, AK, 99775

**From:** Heather Burge <hdburge06@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 9:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2001

I am writing in support of House Bill 2001.

As a UA alumni and a graduate student who intends on continuing to make Alaska home, I am disheartened at the infighting and political rhetoric I see surrounding the governor Dunleavy's budget. As many of my peers have already mentioned, the proposed budget was not created for Alaskan's, by Alaskan's, and that is clearly apparent by the ruthless cuts the governor is, and will, enact, without your help.

As a student with a significant amount of loan debt, I sympathize with those who desperately rely on the PFD every year, but cutting services to our most vulnerable, and crippling our economy, losing thousands of jobs, as well as public trust, is not the answer.

I implore you to consider what is best for all Alaskan's, and pass HB 2001. It is unfortunate that it has come to this, but with your help, there is still hope.

Gunalchéesh and I look forward to hearing from you.

--

-Heather Dawn Burge, MA  
PhD Student, Linguistic Anthropology  
Juneau, Alaska

Ch'a yá lingit'aaní kát iguxlatéet. Hél wáa sá ikgwanéi- Yeil

From: Melissa Dawn <melissadawn11@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 10:07 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Melissa Schuetze and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

**From:** Rebekah Riley <rjralaska@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** The AK Budget Crisis

I am unable to attend the public comment session scheduled in the Mat-Su tomorrow due to the short notice. Therefore, I'm emailing my comments.

You work for the people of the state once elected - not only those who voted for you or your party and we all know many in this state just vote RED and know nothing about your platforms. You work for EVERYONE now so, how about taking that into consideration?

You also work with a governor who, in my opinion, bought his election on the promise of PFD money. That promise will most likely fall through just as all of his other promises have as we can see with his budget. I watched the debates... I'm an independent voter and go both ways because I actually educate myself unlike some others.

This budget fiasco is a TOTAL FAILURE I blame on congress. You were unable to get it together at the beginning of your session to even START the process of working for your constituency and the salaries WE pay you to get the work done. And then, 22 of you fell prey to the totally unprofessional and sleezey way the governor decided to break up the congress to ensure his veto would stand. All but one of my reps (excused) stayed in Wasilla instead of going to Juneau to negotiate and have a vote. They were AWOL from work and a vote (one way or the other). I will not be AWOL at the polls and their names will not be chosen for my vote next time around. I don't pay people to play games and not work.

Your willingness to GUT UA and cut senior and medical care benefits are beyond my ability to comprehend.

Our university is not only a shining and very IMPORTANT jewel here in AK but also the WORLD. This large sector of brilliant minds for teaching and researching will be leaving us. Students will go elsewhere for studies and the ones already in their college journey will be left without the education they signed up for. THOUSANDS of people contributing to the future of our state and beyond have now been thrust into disarray personally and financially (financially impacting them as well as all who benefit from their presence like landlords, stores, service businesses, etc.). Are you trying to "dumb down" the population? Sure seems like it...

Seniors (on their own or in care) are on fixed incomes with ZERO opportunity to gain more money. They are too old to be hired and/or infirm. Most have have paid their dues by working during their productive years. They have earned and paid into their medical care and social security which is an uncontested reality. The state senior benefit was really welcome and needed! But, that was abruptly cut off on July 1st with no notice. A few seniors I know were unable to pay their rent in full due to the abrupt cut of the benefit - major stress for them and their landlords trying to pay utilities, mortgages, insurance, maintenance, employees, etc. Some notice would have been welcome so they could prepare. Moving is very expensive and now some folks are living in units they can no longer afford with no notice and, thus, way of trying to move. Evictions are inevitable because landlords need to pay bills - it's a moral delima for all involved!

Cuts to senior medicare/aid are completely unacceptable. My mom is in an assisted living home. She is unable to live on her own due to dementia (82 years old). If she is no longer able to stay in her safe, medically staffed home, I will become jobless to take care of her (I'm not even qualified to do that level of care) in my one bedroom apartment as there is nowhere else for her to go. So, TWO lives will be negatively impacted as well as my own rent (read the above landlord issues), car insurance, etc. Seniors need to be provided for or they will die without need, be

abused without need, and suffer without need. The impact of cutting medicare/aid to seniors (let alone the State's senior benefit) has a complete blossom impact of negativity on a VERY serious level due to proper health care being so expensive.

Medical expenses are out of reach for all but the somewhat wealthy among us. Sure we can go on the insurance markets via the ACA which is great until all of you completely gut the the program without an alternative option. How does having an unhealthy population = a strong Alaska by cutting medical aid??? Cut medical aid and I hope food stamps, housing vouchers, and other entitlement programs are available for many more folks than who are currently on those programs. Maybe, along with dumbing down the population, you are also interested in killing it off? Or moving them on elsewhere? What is the governor doing to lower healthcare costs if he has slashed that budget?? More money for your pockets I guess.

Speaking about money for your pockets, not ONE DIME was cut from the legislative budget! Not one! You still have your outlandish per diems, still can't seem to get it together for doing business in ONE session (or, apparently even showing up for work for 22 people), paying for buildings, fraud (people buying goods to ship on our dime to the bush, bringing their families to Juneau, etc). Do you even know how this looks to the rest of us while you are playing games with the governor re: the budget? You should be embarrassed! Ya'll make a nice welfare salary, some have independent wealth and all get hefty per diems. Oh, and somehow manage to have many sessions per year = more per diems. OUR MONEY pays for your welfare salary! You do realize you are welfare beneficiaries, right? Keep that in mind while our seniors suffer.

I'm a veteran, college educated, debt free and work my butt off everyday for a salary of around \$35,000 a year because I live below my means. I just got a raise for the first time in 5 years. I like my job and feel that I'm doing a great service. You are in public service, paid by the public, and pocket a LOT of our money while not getting your work done on time and playing political games. I'm kinda sick of that. You would be fired by me and any of the bosses I've had over the years for poor performance.

So, what happened to slashing YOUR budget? Or revising the oil tax credits? Or putting some bravery and brain power behind finding ways to diversify our revenue via tourism (oh, yeah - the BOG couldn't care less about that), renewable energy (wind, solar, tidal but, oh yeah, climate change is a farce and oil is an indefinite resource), small business (dang, corporate WELFARE pays for your votes via lobby while posting enormous gains - almost forgot!), agriculture, travel and transport of goods (AMHS), etc.? What exactly are you doing for this state besides driving people out, killing seniors and the sick and dumbing the rest of us down?

Respectfully to those who showed up for work in Juneau last week (even the gal who voted nay - she showed up and voted which I respect),



Rebekah: Wasilla for 7 years (present), Seward for 10 years and Fairbanks for 5 1/2 years

**From:** Don Scutt <donscutt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Don Scutt\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed

Why has no one mentioned the 1.9 billion dollar tax breaks the state gives the oil companies, why not cut that. Alaska has the most lucrative oil fields in the country. Why hurt all citizens when the answers are looking at you, seems like an easy fix

**From:** L@ ~ Lauren Allen <sealaska86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:14 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House Bill 2001

Please support House Bill 2001. The children and elderly in our state require and deserve support.

Lauren Allen  
907.738.3285

**From:** Kathy Johnson <island\_girl\_78@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:33 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding

Greetings,

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Kathy Johnson and I am a life long Kodiakan. My family is originally from the island and I hope to remain here for my years to come. I am a former Head Start Parent, my oldest child will be a Senior in High School and my youngest will be in 5th grade. Both of my children had 2 years each of services through Kodiak Head Start.

I'm writing to advocate for Head Start Funding in Alaska. Kodiak Head Start is run through RurAL CAP. If funding is eliminated for Head Start approximately 500 low income children lose services statewide and within RurAL CAP 228 low income children lose access to vital learning programming across the state and complete elimination of the Parents as Teachers home based program. In Kodiak, Head Start provides services for 38 children. And the Parents as Teachers program serves about 24 children. Cutting early childhood and literacy programs in a state that ranks near the bottom for reading proficiency and top in crime, makes zero public safety sense. The U.S. Department of Justice stated that, "the link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure."

Former Alaska Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth stated:

"As Attorney General, one of the things I learned was that early education funding provided the biggest return on investment in our criminal justice system. Those children who are prepared for kindergarten through Head Start or other similar programs receive intervention early in life, and are far more likely to become successful adults and avoid contacts with our criminal justice system later in life."

As a former Head Start Parent, I've seen what a positive difference in the outcomes of the life of children and adults who participate in this program. Both of my children were at or above level in all academic areas when they entered kindergarten. I truly believe this is because of their exposure in Head Start. There was things that I was not able to help them with at home but were exposed to at Head Start. Developmental delays are identified earlier than if a child did not have this type of service so that they can get access to the services that they need. This helps them to be at the near or at same level as other peers when they enter kindergarten. Head Start helps families set goals to become more self sufficient and access community resources they need.

I can go on and on about Head Start and the outcomes for children and families. But I would just like to encourage you to override the Governor's vetos and pass the recommended budget or make a compromise that doesn't hurt so many programs within our state. Early education has the best return on investment of any educational funding. Our future lies in an educated population. We need to continue to educate at all levels. This just spells disaster in so many areas that the Governor wants to veto.

Other areas near & dear to my heart are the arts. Arts in the school and the community is important. We have a lot of talented people in our state and this is a way for some to share their talents through programs such as Artists In the Schools programs, community plays, or even local Arts Councils bringing different talents to our communities.

Also, I've grown up to take care of our elders. The loss of senior benefits is very concerning. The seniors already don't have a lot of money and then to have their benefits taken away! There is no way for many of them to make up this little income. How do you expect them to get prescriptions with no benefits and maybe no Medicaid? How will they get groceries? And the dividend shouldn't be funds to make up for the loss.

Regarding the dividend, \$3,000 would be nice but I'd rather have state funded programs rather than a big dividend. Through the years, the dividend amount has always fluctuated. I don't rely upon getting a big amount, any little bit helps to buy groceries, pay ahead on bills, buy extra heating fuel, vehicle repair/maintenance, etc...

I hope you pass a budget that doesn't eliminate so many services within our state (non-profits are really going to take a toll). So many of these services have taken a lot of time & money to build them up to where they are today.

Kathy Johnson

**From:** Kendell Newman <kendell2leigh@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:38 PM

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

**Subject:** support for HB2001

Dear elected legislators,

An hour after the last week's veto override failed, I got a call from my 4-year-old son's pediatrician. She'd received results from his echocardiogram. He has a hole in his heart -- we know this now -- and will have to travel to see a specialist, as there are none here in Juneau. The doctor told me, "If it were my kid, I'd take him to Seattle. If you were on medicaid they'd cover it."

We're not on medicaid. I'm a UAF employee, on UAF health insurance, which also covers (part of) the trip to Seattle. Even with insurance, we spent over \$1000 on the echocardiogram alone. With co-pays for the upcoming trip and appointments, we're likely to put in \$1000 more. And this is all toward diagnosis -- actually repairing the hole will mean more trips, surgery, etc etc. When it's your kid's health and you have the luxury of a biweekly paycheck, you don't worry about costs like this. Instead, we're canceling trips, borrowing from the down payment we've been saving up for, and asking for help.

Of course a big PFD would help us this year. But we cannot afford it if it means maintaining state funding at the levels the governor's vetos have set. The state that the governor is trying to build is one where people cannot rely on each other, cannot rely on their communities to help them when emergencies like ours arise. I could lose my job in a matter

of weeks. We could need access to food pantries, whose funding is precarious as the budget targets programs for the homeless. We could need Medicaid. And with the governor's vetoed funding to that service, would we have access to the best possible care for our son? We will absolutely need caring, well-educated doctors -- but where will they come from, with funding for Medical School scholarships cut? And will doctors and other professionals dare to raise families here, with school funding devastated and higher education gutted?

A PFD would help us out this year, but we do not want it. We want our community -- people who take care of each other, who are enabled to care for each other because the support systems are there. A one-time check for a few thousand dollars does not sustain a family in crisis. It helps, but it will ruin us if we can't access sustainable services and supports.

We are your constituents. We are your family in crisis. We are your kid in need of medical care, of an education, of social services in case of emergency. The crisis is political and the emergency is now. Please, pass HB2001. Take our PFDs and give us back an Alaska where our family has a future.

Please include this written testimony as part of the public record

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,  
Kendell Newman

From: Eileen Ward <eward@mtaonline.net>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 10:38 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: PFD

I support a full dividend, and the governor's cuts.

Sincerely,

Eileen Ward  
10611 Dolly Madison Circle  
Eagle river, AK 99577

From: petefirmin83@gmail.com <petefirmin83@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 10:38 PM

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

Subject: Budget and pfd

When funding dries up learn how to spend less!!! Do not propose a bigger budget or the same budget.

Learn how to live within your means. The states economy is struggling which means us the residents are also struggling. So suck it up and admit you need to cut some spending.

The PFD is not your money to spend. It belongs to us the residents keep your fingers out of the pot.

I would rather see a tax. That keeps you the government more accountable for where the money is spent.

Oh and learn how to listen to the people and do your job. Twice Alaskans voted to move the capitol to a more accessible location. The government chose to ignore the will of the people and hide in Juneau. When you get called to Wasilla show up and do your job!

If I pulled that stunt I would suffer disciplinary action or be fired.

Sincerely,

A lifetime resident

Peter Firmin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** m1fenster@alaskan.com <m1fenster@alaskan.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:43 PM

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

**Cc:** Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Today's testimony

Members of the committee:

Thank you for holding hearings today. I was glad to offer my opinion, but after waiting almost three hours to talk and forgetting to take something to wet my throat with for that time, my voice was gone. Perhaps you recall that. I was able to get out that I admired your strength for listening to the commentary for that time and I asked that you remain strong for ALL Alaskans in the face of the openly and purposely divisive action taken by the governor for the special session.

I'd like to add a bit more that I had hoped to say. The override of the vetoes is essential to keep Alaska economically viable in this world. Even though that alone seems divisive, I am in favor of a full PFD as defined by current law. I prefer that you quickly change SB21 to allow Alaska to again have the opportunity to gain from the oil we own. Bluntly, this corporate welfare is not serving us well and we need the funding to change our course of action from an oil-based one to a more diverse basis.

Thanks again for listening to Alaskans.

Peace,

Michael Fenster

**From:** C Kendrick <matmaid\_abroad@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee members:

I am writing to voice my support for legislation that charts a way forward to fund vital government services, eliminate or reduce oil tax credits, and still provides a reasonable PFD.

The current cuts, as enacted by the governor, are draconian, and will eliminate or cripple valuable programs. Alaska needs an arts council; it needs expanded, well-run homeless shelters; it needs a marine highway system and rural assistance programs. And it needs a strong university system.

Perhaps Alaska once was a place where the inhabitants only cared about making money via resource extraction, and then heading back to wherever they considered home. Perhaps it once was a place settled only by rough, tough pioneers, who pulled themselves up by their bootstraps without any government (like all those colonists and homesteaders who received free land).

I was born and raised in Alaska, and was entitled to receive the PFD as it was first envisioned. That version, which was declared unconstitutional, only allowed for dividends to be paid to those who were in Alaska at statehood. If we're concerned about the PFD being administered as it was intended, then most people wouldn't even be getting it. Also, we've never seen a \$300 dividend, so clamoring for one seems to amount to little more than greed tinged by the misguided conception that government services provide nothing of value.

My mother drove the newly completed Alaska Highway in 1946. She truly lived a pioneer lifestyle, working hard with no health insurance and no aid to help feed the family when income from farming didn't meet expenses. She and my father would take a load of potatoes to Anchorage and trade them for needed items. I doubt that is the lifestyle that most people in the Valley now want to live.

I urge all in the legislature to stop posturing, stop trying to score meaningless political points, and finally pass operating and capital budgets that do not bankrupt our state.

Thank you.

Christine Kendrick  
Palmer, Alaska

From: Jayna combs <jaynalcombs@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 11:04 PM

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

Subject: Please overturn vetoes

Dear Legislators,

I appreciate your continued work on the Alaska budget. I hope that you will work together to overturn these devastating cuts to the Alaska economy, to the university, to the arts, to elders, kids and more. The governor's vetoes of your well thought out budget deeply hurt our people and are not necessary. Please consider a reasonable PFD.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Jayna Combs

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Elizabeth Lilly <eklilly@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 11:20 PM

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

**Subject:** Support of override of vetoes/compromise and reduced PFD

Dear House Finance Committee,

I write to you today as an extremely concerned Alaskan citizen hoping that at least 45 members of the legislative body can come together in support of the budget that they put together and submitted to the governor in June. The governor's vetoes are ruinous to the state, they are unconscionable and make absolutely no sense.

Many of the programs that the most vulnerable Alaskans rely on are on the governor's chopping block (homeless shelters, Medicaid, addiction programs, etc.) and many of the programs that serve everyone in the state and make this state an enjoyable place to live are also on the chopping block (Public Broadcasting, Arts Council, etc.). By cutting these programs it also results in the loss of much more in matching funds. It makes no sense.

The Alaska Constitution mandates that the state provides the citizens access to higher education, the investment has been made for years into the quality programs and infrastructure for our university campuses, it makes no sense to cut the funding to the university and let the buildings stand empty while our citizens go uneducated or leave the state to attend a quality university. Additionally, the research that is being conducted at the university brings in a 600% return on investment (i.e. state funds are used to write proposals that bring in excess of \$100 million dollars to the state of Alaska).

I support a reduced permanent fund dividend check and/or a cut to oil tax credits, and/or an income tax; however, I do think the investment required to set up a collection infrastructure for an income tax would be more complicated and expensive than reducing the dividend.

I prefer to live in a state where the citizens are educated and the public is informed and care is available for at-risk individuals who need it most.

I hope you and your fellow legislators are able to overturn these disastrous vetoes or reach a compromise that does not put the state into a downward spiral. I wish you much luck!

Thank you for your time and your effort to keep Alaska a great place to live and raise a family!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lilly

Fairbanks, AK

From: Gary A Brandt <gabjdb@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 11:37 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Permanent fund

What part of permanent do you not understand! If any of you need assistance with that, please don't hesitate to call 907-952-4660. Ask for Gary Brandt. Thanks and have a better day.

Gary

**From:** Cheryl Bowie <cherylbwab@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 8:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** July 15, 2019 Public Testimony Anchorage LIO

Our economy desperately needs diversification and we really need accountability, uniformity and price gouging laws. I'm tired of the leadership changing the laws to suit themselves.

Additionally, please create Indian Health Service, Tribal & Alaska Federation of Native accountability & uniformity laws; these organizations wield great influence, power and control over great portions of Alaskan residents health, education & economic development but have little accountability and no uniformity of law.

I think it would help if we had accountability and uniformity of law across tribal, ANCSA/ANILCA organizations and have it defined in state statute.

The biggest question I get from non-native people is how come the laws between the state and tribes only help a few native people who are mostly politically connected. That's not ok because they hold a lot of power over how our culture is defined, funded and understood.

SouthCentral Foundation and Dr. Eby and the Doctors Gottlieb  
<https://t.co/nseoPaGlXZ>

I can't get healthcare from my native health organization because it's in the northwest arctic and I am not a member of the primary care providers organization and feel very exploited by both SCF and ANTHC. Most Alaska native people live in poverty or have family members experiencing poverty and dislocation from their geographic areas.



This is demonstrated in our employment, economic development, health and crime rates in addition to our education & wealth attainment.

I believe identifying, clarifying and aligning laws impacting all Alaskan's will create a healthier and more stable Alaska which will improve the investment climate.

Listen to my testimony starting at 2:13:36 (Cheryl Bowie with @dreamgbutterfly botanicals). 🦋🌿 2018 Farm Bill Webinar on Domestic Hemp Production Program Follow-up <https://t.co/drCh8RBhFH> <https://t.co/hx6Com6zs2>

Industrial Hemp: The following information about the USDA Hemp Production Program and Frequently Asked Questions about USDA NIFA research has been updated since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill. <https://t.co/IRDw09EIO2>

USDA Clarifies Industrial Hemp Production for Indian Tribes  
<https://t.co/RbpIFZU4VX>

Legal Opinion on Authorities for Hemp Production <https://t.co/zM5RL78dcJ> <https://t.co/8YVadaonIb>

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bowie



To: US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

From: @dreamgbutterfly botanicals

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER SBIA)

Re: Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Generic Drug Regulatory Science Initiatives Public Workshop

Date: March 25, 2019

My name is Cheryl Bowie with @dreamgbutterfly botanicals. I'm part Inupiaq Eskimo and hopefully with the Stigler Act Amendment I'll be able to say I'm a descendant of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I've been working on a project studying the impacts of cannabis on our communities since a fellowship my former employer and healthcare provider nominated me for. I believe the FDA can do a lot to increase stakeholder input and engagement by starting to participate in current regulatory initiatives across the country along with other government agencies.

Identifying and increasing collaboration and access for all people to participate in new drug initiatives and justice reforms that are being fostered locally such as the hemp and recreational and medical cannabis programs are a healthy breeding ground for new ideas, talent and an improved understanding of science, health and medicine across the board.

These local and state initiatives are stimulating interest in these areas and other forms of advanced or precision agriculture and medicine. They are increasing safety in different ways for patients and community members in addition to helping people impacted by the drug war while providing a legal platform for people to learn about and openly engage in drug development and educational activities that are largely out of reach for the general public. Including all community members is critical to the success or failure of these programs and dispensaries seem to operate as a gap coverage plan for people who need assistance to obtain access due to health, insurance, financial and other legal barriers.

I cannot express what a prime opportunity it is to provide health education and an increased understanding of chemistry, biology and medicine while stimulating the economy and increasing interest in STEM.



My background includes formal training in college and at a local hospital on patient engagement and education while assisting health investigators with their regulatory and research processes while providing technical assistance in order to complete my degree in human services.

I strongly encourage the FDA actively engage in the process to reschedule cannabis and mushrooms along with other plant compounds that are being identified as great alternatives to opioids, alcohol and other drugs that have high drug-drug interactions and are being identified as having better drug safety profiles than that of current drug options. This will give local communities, states and tribes new options on how to better identify and deal with issues in these areas pertinent to them. Identifying financial, legal and regulatory barriers that increase cost, create stove pipes or limit access is something the new initiatives such as the hemp and cannabis programs across the country are already doing and are really a natural fit for industry and patient engagement and education.

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service recently held the 2018 Farm Bill Hemp Listening Session that 49 different people spoke in and it can be listened to at the following link: <https://zoom.us/recording/share/q1hdqA4gQo8JxMO4iF7Hrpe660Wbs46-8RYC4r7hp0CwlumekTziMw>

I personally enjoy studying the variance of law and the ways different laws are created, structured, applied and interpreted; which makes this almost like nirvana for me and I look forward to the changing methodologies in research, medicine and other landscapes such as adult use that increase access and understanding while improving safety, quality, and cost all the way around improving the quality of life and access for all people.

Cheryl Bowie  
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To: Robert Carter, Division of Agriculture at 5310 South  
Bodenburg Spur, Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: @dreamgbutterfly botanicals  
Cheryl Bowie

Re: BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Natural Resources, proposes to develop an industrial hemp pilot program to implement amendments to and new provisions in AS 03.05 and AS 11.71.900, enacted under Chapter 5 SLA 2018 (SB 6).

My name is Cheryl Bowie with @dreamgbutterfly botanicals. I'm part Inupiaq Eskimo from the Northwest Arctic of Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on hemp.

Many states are creating busy friendly environments to include hemp in the forward looking estimates for planning and development. There are many stakeholders working in Hemp and although not as touted as the other medical or adult use programs the Hemp industry has been growing steadily across almost all states in the union.

I recommend checking in with other Hemp programs happening across the country to identify strengths and challenges. Many farmers in similar meetings over the past year expressed interest and concerns regarding price gouging on seeds, different growing seasons and whatnot. I was impressed with some of their sticking points and prices.

I think that there should be a period of time where people learn about the growth and relative plant profile to establish a norm before setting a potentially detrimental or poorer quality product due to setting standards like .3 THC.

I recommend allowing for an alternative option other than seizing someone's property or farm if they produce a crop that is higher than the set standard especially during the first initial years. I believe there is a lot of interest in this field across the board from the private sector to the military.

I attend online meetings and webinars with different agencies multiple times a week at this point and there is a lot of interest in this field and other urban agriculture efforts. I included some recent initiatives that have been happening.

Industrial Hemp. The following information about the USDA Hemp Production Program and Frequently Asked Questions about USDA NIFA research has been updated since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill. <https://t.co/IRDw09EIO2> <https://t.co/SQirVGRjgg>

USDA Clarifies Industrial Hemp Production for Indian Tribes <https://t.co/RbplFZU4VX>

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service recently held the 2018 Farm Bill Hemp Listening Session that 49 different people spoke at and I am fortunate to have been included as one of them! They included and Alaskan. My testimony starts at 2:13:36, and can be listened to at the following link:  
<https://zoom.us/recording/share/q1hdqA4gQo8JxMO4iF7Hrpe660Wbs46-8RYC4r7hp0CwIumekTziMw>

I look forward watching the regulatory field change to identify areas that need clarity, efficiency and uniformity. I encourage you to create a cohesive business friendly avenue for people to gain entry into the field or area of agriculture, science, research and commerce. I think plants like hemp should be unclassified and state regulated.

There are going to be so many changes and so much growth for the foreseeable future, it's really exciting to me. There is finally a new way to measure and regulate science, commerce and the drug or healthcare industry. I think we are really stepping into a new era. Commerce is changing right now and I believe we will have more local stakeholder involvement as foreign manufacturing is being reviewed comparatively to new state efforts. The time of only be watchful is coming to pass; I believe it's time to get this industry off and running. Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration. Let's grow Alaska!



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of the  
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20250-1400

  
STEPHEN ALEXANDER VADEN  
GENERAL COUNSEL

May 28, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF NEW HEMP AUTHORITIES

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-334 (2018 Farm Bill). The 2018 Farm Bill legalized hemp production for all purposes within the parameters laid out in the statute.

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) has issued the attached legal opinion to address questions regarding several of the hemp-related provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill, including: a phase-out of the industrial hemp pilot authority in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) (**Section 7605**); an amendment to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to allow States and Indian tribes to regulate hemp production or follow a Department of Agriculture (USDA) plan regulating hemp production (**Section 10113**); a provision ensuring the free flow of hemp in interstate commerce (**Section 10114**); and the removal of hemp from the Controlled Substances Act (**Section 12619**).

The key conclusions of the OGC legal opinion are the following:

1. As of the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill on December 20, 2018, hemp has been removed from schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and is no longer a controlled substance.
2. After USDA publishes regulations implementing the new hemp production provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under a State or Tribal plan or under a license issued under the USDA plan.
3. States and Indian tribes also may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under the 2014 Farm Bill.
4. A person with a State or Federal felony conviction relating to a controlled substance is subject to a 10-year ineligibility restriction on producing hemp under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. An exception applies to a person who was lawfully growing hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill **before December 20, 2018**, and whose conviction also occurred before that date.

MEMORANDUM

May 28, 2019

Page 2

With the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp may be grown only (1) with a valid USDA-issued license, (2) under a USDA-approved State or Tribal plan, or (3) under the 2014 Farm Bill industrial hemp pilot authority. That pilot authority will expire one year after USDA establishes a plan for issuing USDA licenses under the provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill.

It is important for the public to recognize that the 2018 Farm Bill preserves the authority of States and Indian tribes to enact and enforce laws regulating the **production** of hemp that are more stringent than Federal law. Thus, while a State or an Indian tribe cannot block the shipment of hemp through that State or Tribal territory, it may continue to enforce State or Tribal laws prohibiting the growing of hemp in that State or Tribal territory.

It is also important to emphasize that the 2018 Farm Bill does not affect or modify the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or Commissioner of Food and Drugs to regulate hemp under applicable U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) laws.

USDA expects to issue regulations implementing the new hemp production authorities in 2019.

Attachment





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of the  
General  
Counsel

Washington,  
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20250-1400

  
STEPHEN ALEXANDER VADEN  
GENERAL COUNSEL

May 28, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SONNY PERDUE  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

SUBJECT: LEGAL OPINION ON CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE  
AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018 RELATING TO  
HEMP

This memorandum provides my legal opinion on certain provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 ("2018 Farm Bill"), Pub. L. No. 115-334, relating to hemp.

As explained below, this memorandum concludes the following:

1. As of the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill on December 20, 2018, hemp has been removed from schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act ("CSA") and is no longer a controlled substance. Hemp is defined under the 2018 Farm Bill to include any cannabis plant, or derivative thereof, that contains not more than 0.3 percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC") on a dry-weight basis.
2. After the Department of Agriculture ("USDA" or "Department") publishes regulations implementing the hemp production provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill contained in subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 ("AMA"), States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under a State or Tribal plan or under a license issued under the Departmental plan.
3. States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under the Agricultural Act of 2014 ("2014 Farm Bill").
4. A person with a State or Federal felony conviction relating to a controlled substance is subject to a 10-year ineligibility restriction on producing hemp under subtitle G of the AMA. An exception applies to a person who was lawfully growing hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill before December 20, 2018, and whose conviction also occurred before that date.



MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 2

This memorandum also emphasizes two important aspects of the 2018 Farm Bill provisions relating to hemp. First, the 2018 Farm Bill preserves the authority of States and Indian tribes to enact and enforce laws regulating the **production** (but not the interstate transportation or shipment) of hemp that are more stringent than Federal law. For example, a State law prohibiting the growth or cultivation of hemp may continue to be enforced by that State. Second, the 2018 Farm Bill does not affect or modify the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or Commissioner of Food and Drugs under applicable U.S. Food and Drug Administration laws.

## I. BACKGROUND

The 2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. No. 115-334, enacted on December 20, 2018, includes several provisions relating to hemp.<sup>1</sup> This legal opinion focuses on sections 7605, 10113, 10114, and 12619, summarized below.

- **Section 7605** amends section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. § 5940), which authorizes institutions of higher education or State departments of agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp under certain conditions — namely, if the hemp is grown or cultivated for research purposes in a State that allows hemp production. Among other things, section 7605 amends 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 to require the Secretary of Agriculture (“Secretary”) to conduct a study of these hemp research programs and submit a report to Congress. Section 7605 also repeals 2014 Farm Bill § 7606, effective one year after the date on which the Secretary establishes a plan under section 297C of the AMA.<sup>2</sup>
- **Section 10113** amends the AMA by adding a new subtitle G (sections 297A through 297E) (7 U.S.C. §§ 1639o – 1639s) relating to hemp production. Under this new authority, a State or Indian tribe that wishes to have primary regulatory authority over the production of hemp in that State or territory of that Indian tribe may submit, for the approval of the Secretary, a plan concerning the monitoring and regulation of such hemp production. *See* AMA § 297B. For States or Indian tribes that do not have approved plans, the Secretary is directed to establish a Departmental plan concerning the monitoring and regulation of hemp production in those areas. *See* AMA § 297C. The

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<sup>1</sup> The 2014 Farm Bill defines “**industrial hemp**” as “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.” 7 U.S.C. § 5940(a)(2). The 2018 Farm Bill added a new, slightly different definition of “**hemp**” in section 297A of the AMA, defined as “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.” 7 U.S.C. § 1639o(1). Both definitions require a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 percent for a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant to be considered hemp versus marijuana. For purposes of this legal opinion, I use the terms “**hemp**” and “**industrial hemp**” interchangeably.

<sup>2</sup> The Conference Report accompanying the 2018 Farm Bill explains the effect of the repeal as follows: “The provision also repeals the hemp research pilot programs one year after the Secretary publishes a final regulation allowing for full-scale commercial production of hemp as provided in section 297C of the [AMA].” H.R. REP. NO. 115-1072, at 699 (2018).

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 3

Secretary is also required to promulgate regulations and guidelines implementing subtitle G. *See* AMA § 297D. The new authority also provides definitions (*see* AMA § 297A) and an authorization of appropriations (*see* AMA § 297E).

- **Section 10114** (7 U.S.C. § 1639o note) is a freestanding provision stating that nothing in title X of the 2018 Farm Bill prohibits the interstate commerce of hemp or hemp products. Section 10114 also provides that States and Indian tribes shall not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp or hemp products produced in accordance with subtitle G through the State or territory of the Indian tribe.
- **Section 12619** amends the CSA to exclude hemp from the CSA definition of marijuana. Section 12619 also amends the CSA to exclude THC in hemp from Schedule I.<sup>3</sup>

In passing the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress legalized hemp production for all purposes within the parameters of the statute but reserved to the States and Indian tribes authority to enact and enforce more stringent laws regulating production of hemp.

## II. ANALYSIS

### A. As of the Enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill on December 20, 2018, Hemp Has Been Removed from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and Is No Longer a Controlled Substance.

CSA § 102(6) defines “controlled substance” to mean “a drug or other substance, or immediate precursor, included in schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of part B of this title. . . .” 21 U.S.C. § 802(6). Marijuana<sup>4</sup> is a controlled substance listed in schedule I of the CSA. *See* CSA § 202(c)(10), schedule I (21 U.S.C. § 812(c), Schedule I (c)(10)); 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(23).

The 2018 Farm Bill amended the CSA in two ways.

- First, 2018 Farm Bill § 12619(a) amended the CSA definition of marijuana to exclude hemp. Before enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, CSA § 102(16) (21 U.S.C. § 802(16)) defined marijuana as follows:

(16) The term ‘marihuana’ means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin. Such term does not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake,

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<sup>3</sup> For additional background on hemp production prior to enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, *see* Congressional Research Service, “Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity” (RL32725) (updated July 9, 2018), *available at* <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32725>.

<sup>4</sup> This opinion uses the common spelling of “marijuana” except when quoting the CSA, which uses the “marihuana” spelling.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 4

or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination.

As amended by the 2018 Farm Bill, the CSA definition of marijuana now reads:

(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ‘marihuana’ means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin.

(B) The term ‘marihuana’ does not include—

(i) hemp, as defined in section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946; or

(ii) the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination.

- Second, 2018 Farm Bill § 12619(b) amended the CSA to exclude THC in hemp from the term “tetrahydrocannabinols” in schedule I. As amended by the 2018 Farm Bill, CSA § 202(c)(17), schedule I (21 U.S.C. § 812(c)(17), schedule I) now reads:

Tetrahydrocannabinols, except for tetrahydrocannabinols in hemp (as defined under section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946).

By amending the definition of marijuana to exclude hemp as defined in AMA § 297A, Congress has removed hemp from schedule I and removed it entirely from the CSA. In other words, hemp is no longer a controlled substance. Also, by amending schedule I to exclude THC in hemp, Congress has likewise removed THC in hemp from the CSA.

It is important to note that this decontrolling of hemp (and THC in hemp) is self-executing. Although the CSA implementing regulations must be updated to reflect the 2018 Farm Bill amendments to the CSA, neither the publication of those updated regulations nor any other action is necessary to execute this removal.

I address here two principal objections to the view that the decontrolling of hemp is self-executing. The first objection is that, because regulations have not been published under CSA § 201, the legislative changes to schedule I regarding hemp are not effective. This objection is not valid.

The typical process for amending the CSA schedules is through rulemaking. Under CSA § 201(a), the Attorney General “may by rule” add to, remove from, or transfer between the schedules, any drugs or other substances upon the making of certain findings. 21 U.S.C. § 811(a). However, the schedules also can be amended directly by Congress through changes to the statute; and Congress has done so several times.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Pub. L. 112-144, § 1152 (amending schedule I to add cannabimimetic agents); Pub. L. 101-647, § 1902(a) (amending schedule III to add anabolic steroids).

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 5

The second objection is that, because the legislative changes to schedule I regarding hemp are not yet reflected in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11, the removal is not yet effective. This objection also is not valid.

It is axiomatic that statutes trump regulations. See *Nat'l Family Planning & Reprod. Health Ass'n, Inc. v. Gonzales*, 468 F.3d 826, 829 (D.C. Cir. 2006) (“[A] valid statute always prevails over a conflicting regulation[.]”). Congress established the five CSA schedules in statute, providing that “[s]uch schedules shall initially consist of the substances listed in this section.” 21 U.S.C. § 812(a).<sup>6</sup> Congress further provided that “[t]he schedules established by this section shall be updated and republished on a semiannual basis during the two-year period beginning one year after October 27, 1970, and shall be updated and republished on an annual basis thereafter.” 21 U.S.C. § 812(a). The requirement to update and republish the schedules, however, is not a prerequisite to the effectiveness of the schedules “established by [the statute].” *Id.* In other words, where Congress itself amends the schedules to add or remove a controlled substance, the addition or removal of that controlled substance is effective immediately on enactment (absent some other effective date in the legislation); its addition to or removal from a schedule is not dependent on rulemaking.<sup>7</sup>

To illustrate, Congress amended the CSA in 2012 to add “cannabimimetic agents” to schedule I. That amendment was enacted as part of the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-144, title XI, subtitle D), which was signed into law on July 9, 2012. Almost six months later, the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) published a final rule establishing the drug codes for the cannabimimetic agents added to schedule I by Congress and making other conforming changes to schedule I as codified in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11. See 78 Fed. Reg. 664 (Jan. 4, 2013). In explaining why notice-and-comment rulemaking was unnecessary, DEA noted that “the placement of these 26 substances in Schedule I **has already been in effect since July 9, 2012.**” *Id.* at 665 (emphasis added). In other words, the legislative changes to schedule I were effective immediately upon enactment. The reflection of those changes in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11, although required by 21 U.S.C. § 812(a), was not necessary for the execution of those changes to schedule I.

Accordingly, enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill accomplished the removal of hemp (and THC in hemp<sup>8</sup>) from the CSA. Conforming amendments to 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11, while required as part

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<sup>6</sup> “Marihuana” and “Tetrahydrocannabinols” were both included in the initial schedule I established by Congress in 1970.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. *United States v. Huerta*, 547 F.2d 545, 547 (10th Cir. 1977) (“[F]ailure to publish the ‘updated’ schedules as required by Section 812(a) had no effect upon the validity of those substances initially listed in the five schedules.”); *United States v. Monroe*, 408 F. Supp. 270, 274 (N.D. Cal. 1976) (“Thus, while section 812(a) clearly orders the controlled substance schedules to be republished, it is clear that Congress did not intend republication to serve as a reissuance of the schedules, which if done improperly would cause those schedules to lapse and expire. . . . [T]he requirement that the schedules, once ‘updated,’ be ‘republished’ was solely for the purpose of establishing one list which would reflect all substances which were currently subject to the Act’s provisions. . . .”).

<sup>8</sup> Schedule I, as published in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11, includes a definition of “tetrahydrocannabinols” in paragraph (d)(31) that does not appear in the CSA. Notwithstanding the presence of that definition in the current regulations, I

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 6

of DEA's continuing obligation to publish updated schedules, are not necessary to execute the 2018 Farm Bill changes to schedule I.<sup>9</sup>

**B. After the Department of Agriculture Publishes Regulations Implementing the Hemp Production Provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill Contained in Subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, States and Indian Tribes May Not Prohibit the Interstate Transportation or Shipment of Hemp Lawfully Produced Under a State or Tribal Plan or Under a License Issued Under the Departmental Plan.**

AMA § 297D(a)(1)(A) directs the Secretary to issue regulations and guidelines "as expeditiously as possible" to implement subtitle G of the AMA. 7 U.S.C. § 1639r(a)(1)(A). These regulations will address the approval of State and Tribal plans under AMA § 297B and the issuance of licenses under the Departmental plan under AMA § 297C. As explained below, once these regulations are published, States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the transportation or shipment of hemp (including hemp products) produced in accordance with an approved State or Tribal plan or produced under a license issued under the Departmental plan.

Transportation of hemp is addressed in 2018 Farm Bill § 10114.<sup>10</sup> Subsection (a) provides:

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title or an amendment made by this title prohibits the interstate commerce of hemp (as defined in section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (as added by section 10113)) or hemp products.

7 U.S.C. § 1639o note. This provision states that nothing in title X of the 2018 Farm Bill

am of the opinion that THC in hemp is excluded from THC as a schedule I controlled substance under the CSA by virtue of the 2018 Farm Bill amendments.

<sup>9</sup> Schedule I, as reflected in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11, includes a separate listing of "marihuana extract" in paragraph (d)(58). Marijuana extract is not reflected in schedule I in the statute because it was added after 1970 by regulation under CSA § 201. The term "marihuana extract" is defined in regulation as "an extract containing one or more cannabinoids that has been derived from any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, other than the separated resin (whether crude or purified) obtained from the plant." The 2018 Farm Bill amended the definition of "marihuana" to exclude hemp, but because the regulatory definition of "marihuana extract" in schedule I does not use the words "marihuana" or "tetrahydrocannabinols" to define the term, a question arises whether **hemp extract** is still considered to be listed as a schedule I controlled substance. While the issue is not further addressed in this opinion, I think that the revised statutory definition of "marihuana" has effectively removed hemp extract from schedule I, and that reflecting such in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(58) would be merely a conforming amendment.

<sup>10</sup> Hemp transportation is also addressed in annual appropriations acts, which restrict Federal appropriated funds from being used to prohibit the transportation of hemp. However, those provisions are limited in scope because they address only hemp produced under the 2014 Farm Bill authority, and they address only Federal government actions. That is, while the provisions prohibit Federal actors from blocking the transportation of so-called "2014 Farm Bill hemp," they do not restrict State action in that regard. See Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019, Pub. L. 116-6, div. B, § 728 (prohibiting funds made available by that Act or any other Act from being used in contravention of 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 or "to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with [2014 Farm Bill § 7606], within or outside the State in which the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated"). See also Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019, Pub. L. 116-6, div. C, § 536 ("None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of [2014 Farm Bill § 7606] by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.").

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 7

prohibits the interstate commerce of hemp. However, this provision, standing alone, does not have the effect of sanctioning the transportation of hemp in States or Tribal areas where such transportation is prohibited under State or Tribal law.

Subsection (b), however, specifically prohibits States and Indian tribes from prohibiting the transportation of hemp through that State or Tribal territory. Subsection (b) provides:

(b) TRANSPORTATION OF HEMP AND HEMP PRODUCTS.—No State or Indian Tribe shall prohibit the transportation or shipment of hemp or hemp products produced in accordance with subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (as added by section 10113) through the State or the territory of the Indian Tribe, as applicable.

7 U.S.C. § 1639o note. In effect, this provision preempts State law to the extent such State law prohibits the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp that has been produced in accordance with subtitle G of the AMA.

As a matter of constitutional law, “[t]he Supremacy Clause provides a clear rule that federal law ‘shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any [S]tate to the Contrary notwithstanding. . . .’ Under this principle, Congress has the power to preempt [S]tate law.” *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 398-99 (2012) (citing U.S. Const. art. VI, cl. 2). “Under the doctrine of federal preemption, a federal law supersedes or supplants an inconsistent [S]tate law or regulation.” *United States v. Zadeh*, 820 F.3d 746, 751 (5th Cir. 2016).

Federal courts generally recognize three categories of preemption: (1) express preemption (where Congress “withdraw[s]” powers from the State through an “express preemption provision”);<sup>11</sup> (2) field preemption (where States are “precluded from regulating conduct in a field that Congress, acting within its proper authority, has determined must be regulated by its exclusive governance”);<sup>12</sup> and conflict preemption (where State laws are preempted when they conflict with Federal law, which includes situations “where ‘compliance with both federal and [S]tate regulations is a physical impossibility’” or situations “where the challenged [S]tate law ‘stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress’”).<sup>13</sup> *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 399-400 (citations omitted); *see also Zadeh*, 820 F.3d at 751.

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<sup>11</sup> *See, e.g.*, 7 U.S.C. § 1639i(b) (“(b) Federal preemption.—No State or a political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food or seed in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling of whether a food (including food served in a restaurant or similar establishment) or seed is genetically engineered (which shall include such other similar terms as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture) or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed or produced using genetic engineering.”).

<sup>12</sup> *See, e.g., Pac. Gas & Elec. Co. v. State Energy Res. Conservation & Dev. Comm’n*, 461 U.S. 190, 212 (“[T]he federal government has occupied the entire field of nuclear safety concerns, except the limited powers expressly ceded to the [S]tates.”).

<sup>13</sup> *See, e.g.*, 21 U.S.C. § 903 (“No provision of this subchapter shall be construed as indicating an intent on the part of Congress to occupy the field in which that provision operates, including criminal penalties, to the exclusion of any State law on the same subject matter which would otherwise be within the authority of the State, unless there is



Section 10114(b) of the 2018 Farm Bill satisfies the definition of conflict preemption because a State law prohibiting the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp or hemp products that have been produced in accordance with subtitle G of the AMA would be in direct conflict with section 10114(b), which provides that no State may prohibit such activity.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, any such State law has been preempted by Congress. The same result applies to Indian tribes.<sup>15</sup>

In sum, once the implementing regulations are published, States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the shipment of hemp lawfully produced under an approved State or Tribal plan or under a license issued under the Departmental plan.

**C. States and Indian Tribes May Not Prohibit the Interstate Transportation or Shipment of Hemp Lawfully Produced Under the Agricultural Act of 2014.**

Because the 2018 Farm Bill does not immediately repeal the hemp pilot authority in 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 — and because the publication of regulations implementing the hemp production provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill will likely not occur until later in 2019 — the question arises whether States and Indian tribes are prohibited from blocking the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp (including hemp products) lawfully produced under the 2014 Farm Bill. The answer depends on the meaning of the phrase “in accordance with subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946” in 2018 Farm Bill § 10114(b) (7 U.S.C. § 1639o note). Only hemp produced in accordance with subtitle G is covered by the preemption provision discussed above. As explained below, it is my opinion that the answer to this question is yes, by operation of AMA § 297B(f).

AMA § 297B(f) states the legal effect of the provisions authorizing States and Indian tribes to develop plans for exercising primary regulatory authority over the production of hemp within that State or territory of the Indian tribe. Specifically, section 297B(f) provides:

(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section prohibits the production of hemp in a State or the territory of an Indian tribe—

(1) for which a State or Tribal plan is not approved under this section, if the production of hemp is in accordance with section 297C or other Federal laws (including regulations); and

(2) if the production of hemp is not otherwise prohibited by the State or Indian tribe.

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a positive conflict between that provision of this subchapter and that State law so that the two cannot consistently stand together.”).

<sup>14</sup> Alternatively, section 10114(b) might be considered an express preemption provision because the statute expressly withdraws the power of a State to prohibit the transportation or shipment of hemp or hemp products through the State.

<sup>15</sup> AMA § 297B(a)(3) contains an anti-preemption provision stating that nothing in § 297B(a) “preempts or limits any law of a State or Indian tribe” that “regulates the production of hemp” and “is more stringent than [subtitle G].” 7 U.S.C. § 1639p(a)(3). However, that anti-preemption provision is limited to the production of hemp — not the transportation or shipment of hemp — and thus does not conflict with 2018 Farm Bill § 10114(b).

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 9

7 U.S.C. § 1639p(f) (emphasis added).

This provision addresses the production of hemp in a State or Tribal territory for which the State or tribe does not have an approved plan under AMA § 297B. This provision acknowledges that, in such a scenario, the production of hemp in that State or Tribal territory is still permissible if it is produced **either** in accordance with the Departmental plan under AMA § 297C **or** in accordance with other Federal laws, and the State or tribe does not otherwise prohibit its production.

The plain language of subtitle G of the AMA, as added by the 2018 Farm Bill, thus clearly contemplates a scenario in which hemp is neither produced under an approved 297B plan nor under a license issued under the Department's 297C plan, but is still legally produced under "other Federal laws." It is my opinion that "other Federal laws" encompasses 2014 Farm Bill § 7606.<sup>16</sup>

To my knowledge, before enactment of 2014 Farm Bill § 7606, the CSA was the only Federal law that authorized the production of hemp. Indeed, the production of hemp — as the "manufacture" of a schedule I controlled substance — was generally prohibited under the CSA except to the extent authorized under a registration or waiver under the CSA. *See* 21 U.S.C. §§ 802(15), 802(22), 822, and 823; 21 C.F.R. part 1301. Given (1) the removal of hemp as a controlled substance under the CSA, (2) the delayed repeal of the 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 authority, and (3) the enactment of the new hemp production authorities in subtitle G of the AMA, it is my opinion that "other Federal laws" refers to the provisions of 2014 Farm Bill § 7606, which are still in effect. Such an interpretation gives immediate effect to the phrase "other Federal laws." It is a "cardinal principle of interpretation that courts must give effect, if possible, to every clause and word of a statute." *See, e.g., Loughrin v. United States*, 573 U.S. 351, 358 (2014) (internal quotations and citations omitted).

Therefore, reading AMA § 297B(f) in harmony with 2018 Farm Bill § 10114(b), if the hemp is legally produced in accordance with 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 ("other Federal law"), then, by virtue of AMA § 297B(f), its production is not prohibited. Such hemp would have been produced "in accordance with subtitle G," which specifically addresses just such a scenario, as AMA § 297B(f) is part of subtitle G. Accordingly, under 2018 Farm Bill § 10114(b), a State or Indian

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<sup>16</sup> That Congress envisioned such a scenario is apparent given the language in 2018 Farm Bill § 7605(b) delaying the repeal of 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 until 12 months after the Secretary establishes the 297C plan. Accordingly, this interpretation is not precluded by AMA § 297C(c)(1), which provides: "[i]n the case of a State or Indian tribe for which a State or Tribal plan is not approved under section 297B, it shall be unlawful to produce hemp in that State or the territory of that Indian tribe without a license issued by the Secretary under subsection (b)." Given the reference to "or other Federal laws" in AMA § 297B(f)(1) — and the fact that 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 is still in effect — it would be an absurd reading of AMA § 297C(c)(1) to conclude that hemp produced in accordance with Federal law (2014 Farm Bill § 7606) is, at the same time, unlawful without a separate license issued by the Secretary under the 297C plan. As courts have long recognized, statutory interpretations that "produce absurd results are to be avoided if alternative interpretations consistent with the legislative purpose are available." *Griffin v. Oceanic Contractors, Inc.*, 458 U.S. 564, 575 (1982).



MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 10

tribe may not prohibit the transportation or shipment of so-called “2014 Farm Bill hemp” through that State or Tribal territory.<sup>17</sup>

Recent Developments

I acknowledge that this conclusion is in tension with a recent decision in a case in the District of Idaho, but it also is consistent with a recent decision in a case in the Southern District of West Virginia. Neither court addressed the “other Federal laws” language in AMA § 297B(f)(1), which I find conclusive.

In *Big Sky Scientific LLC v. Idaho State Police*, Case No. 19-CV-00040 (D. Idaho), a magistrate judge found that a shipment of Oregon hemp bound for Colorado and interdicted by Idaho State Police could not have been produced “in accordance with subtitle G” because the State of origin does not yet have an approved plan under AMA § 297B and the Secretary has not yet established a plan under AMA § 297C.<sup>18</sup> The magistrate acknowledged Oregon law authorizing the cultivation of hemp, noting the plaintiff’s assertion that the hemp was produced by a grower licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (and, thus, presumably in compliance with 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 requirements).<sup>19</sup> However, in denying the plaintiff’s motion for a preliminary injunction, the magistrate concluded that, in enacting the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress intended to “create a regulatory framework around the production and interstate transportation of hemp for purposes of federal law, and that framework is to be contained in the federal (or compliant [S]tate or [T]ribal) plan for production of hemp found in the 2018 Farm Bill.”<sup>20</sup> Although the 2018 Farm Bill allows hemp to be transported across State lines, the magistrate found those interstate commerce protections apply only to hemp produced under regulations promulgated under the authority of the 2018 Farm Bill.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, because those regulations do not yet exist, the interdicted hemp is subject to Idaho law prohibiting its transportation.

USDA is not a party in the *Big Sky* case, and this office does not concur with the reasoning of the magistrate regarding the shipment of hemp lawfully produced under the 2014 Farm Bill. In

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<sup>17</sup> This conclusion seems to be supported in the legislative history as well. In explaining the effect of the preemption provision, the Conference Report states: “While [S]tates and Indian tribes may limit the production and sale of hemp and hemp products within their borders, the Managers, in Sec. 10112 [sic], agreed to not allow [S]tates and Indian tribes to limit the transportation or shipment of hemp or hemp products through the [S]tate or Indian territory.” H.R. REP. NO. 115-1072, at 738 (2018). Notably, the Managers referred to hemp generally, not merely hemp produced under a plan developed under subtitle G of the AMA.

<sup>18</sup> See *Big Sky*, ECF Doc. #32, Memorandum Decision and Order Re: Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction; see also ECF Doc. #6, Memorandum Decision and Order Re: Plaintiff’s Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction and Plaintiff’s Motion to File Overlength Brief (available at 2019 WL 438336 (Feb. 2, 2019)).

<sup>19</sup> *Big Sky*, ECF Doc. #32, at 5, 7-8.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 19-26.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 11

interpreting the statutory language, the magistrate correctly noted the well-recognized principle of statutory construction that statutes should not be interpreted “in a manner that renders other provisions of the same statute inconsistent, meaningless, or superfluous.”<sup>22</sup> However, seemingly ignoring that guiding principle of interpretation, the magistrate did not address the effect of the “other Federal laws” language in AMA § 297B(f) or attempt to give that language any meaning. The Idaho court failed to read the statute as a whole and did not consider the “other Federal laws” clause that I find conclusive. Given the preliminary nature of the magistrate’s ruling, I find his opinion denying a preliminary injunction unpersuasive.<sup>23</sup>

Conversely, the interpretation of 2018 Farm Bill § 10114 advanced by this legal opinion is consistent with a decision issued in the Southern District of West Virginia. In *United States v. Mallory*, Case No. 18-CV-1289 (S.D. W. Va.), the Department of Justice filed a civil action to seize hemp allegedly grown in violation of the CSA and also outside the scope of the 2014 Farm Bill. At issue in that case was hemp purportedly grown by a producer licensed by the State of West Virginia under a 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 pilot program, where the hemp seeds were shipped from a Kentucky supplier licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky under a 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 pilot program. The court relied on a combination of laws — the 2014 Farm Bill, the appropriations acts provisions,<sup>24</sup> and the 2018 Farm Bill — to dissolve a preliminary injunction against the defendant<sup>25</sup> and to dismiss entirely the government’s case.<sup>26</sup> In dissolving the preliminary injunction, the court permitted the defendants to transport the hemp product across State lines to Pennsylvania for processing and sale.<sup>27</sup>

Although the *Mallory* court did not have occasion to address any State attempts to block the transportation of hemp, the court did reference 2018 Farm Bill § 10114, noting that it “expressly allows hemp, its seeds, and hemp-derived products to be transported across State lines.”<sup>28</sup> The district judge’s opinion addressed hemp produced under 2014 Farm Bill § 7606 and not hemp produced under State, Tribal, or Departmental plans. The conclusion reached by the *Mallory* court is consistent with my interpretation that States cannot block the shipment of hemp, whether

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<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 21-22 (citing *Padash v. I.N.S.*, 258 F.3d 1161, 1170-71 (9th Cir. 2004)). The magistrate continued:

It is a cardinal principle of statutory construction that a statute ought, upon the whole, to be so construed that, if it can be prevented, no clause, sentence, or word shall be superfluous, void, or insignificant. . . . It is our duty to give effect, if possible, to every clause and word of a statute.

*Id.* at 23 (internal quotations and citations omitted).

<sup>23</sup> Indeed, the magistrate’s ruling is under appeal. See *Big Sky Sci. LLC v. Bennetts*, Case No. 19-35138 (9th Cir.).

<sup>24</sup> See *supra* footnote 10.

<sup>25</sup> *Mallory*, ECF Doc. #60, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 2019 WL 252530 (S.D. W. Va. Jan. 17, 2019).

<sup>26</sup> *Mallory*, ECF Doc. #72, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 2019 WL 1061677 (S.D. W. Va. Mar. 6, 2019).

<sup>27</sup> *Mallory*, ECF Doc. #60, 2019 WL 252530, at \*3.

<sup>28</sup> *Mallory*, ECF Doc. #72, 2019 WL 1061677, at \*6.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 12

that hemp is produced under the 2014 Farm Bill or under a State, Tribal, or Departmental plan under the 2018 Farm Bill. It is also a final judgment of the Southern District of West Virginia court, and not a preliminary ruling as with the District of Idaho magistrate's opinion.<sup>29</sup>

In matters of statutory interpretation, the text of the statute governs. One must read that text in its entirety and give every word meaning. The reference to "other Federal laws" must be given meaning, and that language clearly refers to the Federal law that currently authorizes the production of hemp — 2014 Farm Bill § 7606. Therefore, hemp produced under that pilot authority is hemp produced in accordance with subtitle G of the AMA. States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the transportation or shipment of such hemp through that State or Tribal territory.

**D. The 2018 Farm Bill Places Restrictions on the Production of Hemp by Certain Felons.**

The 2018 Farm Bill added a new provision addressing the ability of convicted felons to produce hemp. The 2014 Farm Bill is silent on the issue. AMA § 297B(e)(3)(B) (hereafter, "Felony provision"), as added by the 2018 Farm Bill, provides:

**(B) FELONY.—**

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), any person convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance under State or Federal law before, on, or after the date of enactment of this subtitle shall be ineligible, during the 10-year period following the date of the conviction—

(I) to participate in the program established under this section or section 297C; and

(II) to produce hemp under any regulations or guidelines issued under section 297D(a).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any person growing hemp lawfully with a license, registration, or authorization under a pilot program authorized by section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940) before the date of enactment of this subtitle.

7 U.S.C. § 1639p(e)(3)(B) (emphasis added). The references to "the date of enactment of this subtitle" are to subtitle G of the AMA, as added by section 10113 of 2018 Farm Bill. Therefore, the "date of enactment of this subtitle" is the date of enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill — December 20, 2018.

In explaining the Felony provision, the Conference Report notes:

Any person convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance shall be ineligible to participate under the [S]tate or [T]ribal plan for a 10-year period following the date of the conviction. However, this prohibition shall not apply to producers who have been lawfully participating in a [S]tate hemp pilot program as authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014, prior to enactment of this subtitle. Subsequent felony convictions after the date of enactment of this subtitle will trigger a 10-year

<sup>29</sup> *Mallory*, ECF Doc. #72, 2019 WL 1061677, at \*9 (denying the United States' motion to amend and granting the defendants' motion to dismiss). *Big Sky*, ECF Doc. #32, at 28 (denying the plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction and noting that the court will separately issue an order setting a scheduling conference to govern the case going forward).

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 28, 2019

Page 13

nonparticipation period regardless of whether the producer participated in the pilot program authorized in 2014.

H.R. REP. NO. 115-1072, at 737 (2018).

In sum, a person convicted of a State or Federal felony relating to a controlled substance — regardless of when that conviction occurred — is ineligible to produce hemp under subtitle G of the AMA for a period of 10 years following the date of the conviction. An exception exists in clause (ii) of the Felony provision that applies to a person who was lawfully producing hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill **before December 20, 2018**, and who had been convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance before that date. States and Indian tribes now have a responsibility to determine whether a person wishing to produce hemp in that State or Tribal territory has any Federal or State felony convictions relating to controlled substances that would make that person ineligible to produce hemp.

### III. OTHER ISSUES

There are two additional important aspects of this issue that should be emphasized.

First, the 2018 Farm Bill preserves the authority of States and Indian tribes to enact and enforce laws regulating the production of hemp that are more stringent than Federal law. *See* AMA § 297B(a)(3) (7 U.S.C. § 1639p(a)(3)) (“Nothing in this subsection preempts or limits any law of a State or Indian tribe that . . . (i) regulates the production of hemp; and (ii) is more stringent than this subtitle.”). For example, a State may continue to prohibit the growth or cultivation of hemp in that State.<sup>30</sup> As discussed above, however, while a State or Indian tribe may prohibit the production of hemp, it may not prohibit the interstate shipment of hemp that has been produced in accordance with Federal law.

Second, the 2018 Farm Bill does not affect or modify the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“HHS Secretary”) or Commissioner of Food and Drugs (“FDA Commissioner”) under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.) and section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 262). *See* AMA § 297D(c) (7 U.S.C. § 1639r(c)). While AMA § 297D(b) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall have “sole authority” to issue Federal regulations and guidelines that relate to the production of hemp, this authority is subject to the authority of the HHS Secretary and FDA Commissioner to promulgate Federal regulations and guidelines under those FDA laws. 7 U.S.C. § 1639r(b).

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<sup>30</sup> Certain states continue to prohibit the cultivation of hemp. *See* National Conference of State Legislatures, “State Industrial Hemp Statutes,” available at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/agriculture-and-rural-development/state-industrial-hemp-statutes.aspx#state> (updated Feb. 1, 2019).

#### IV. CONCLUSION

I have analyzed the hemp provisions enacted as part of the 2018 Farm Bill and reach the following conclusions:

1. As of the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill on December 20, 2018, hemp has been removed from schedule I of the CSA and is no longer a controlled substance.
2. After USDA publishes regulations implementing the hemp production provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill contained in subtitle G of the AMA, States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under a State or Tribal plan or under a license issued under the Departmental plan.
3. States and Indian tribes may not prohibit the interstate transportation or shipment of hemp lawfully produced under the 2014 Farm Bill.
4. A person with a State or Federal felony conviction relating to a controlled substance is subject to a 10-year ineligibility restriction on producing hemp under subtitle G of the AMA. An exception applies to a person who was lawfully growing hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill before December 20, 2018, and whose conviction also occurred before that date.

The 2018 Farm Bill preserves the authority of States and Indian tribes to enact and enforce laws regulating the production of hemp that are more stringent than Federal law. Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill does not affect or modify the authority of the HHS Secretary or FDA Commissioner to regulate hemp under applicable FDA laws.



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

# Commodity Inspection Division

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## *Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program Information*



# IHRP Overview

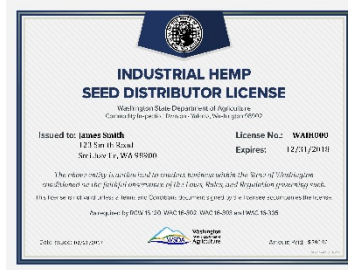
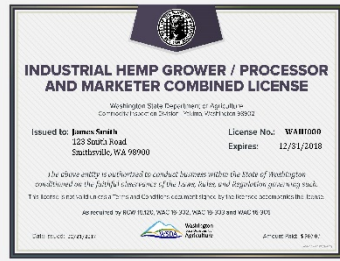
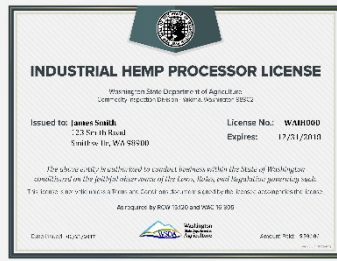
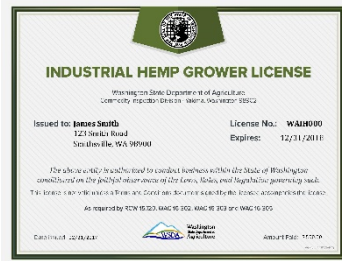


- 2014 Federal Farm Bill allowed states to create pilot programs for industrial hemp research
- 2016 State Legislature created Washington's pilot under chapter 15.120 RCW, directing WSDA to adopt rules for the Industrial Hemp Research Pilot (IHRP)
- Rule making by WSDA in 2016 and 2017 culminated in the adoption of new chapter 16-305 WAC regulating industrial hemp as an agricultural product, requiring licensure of industrial hemp operations, and setting fees
- IHRP is research based
- Anyone growing, processing or possessing industrial hemp requires a license from WSDA

# Licensing Overview

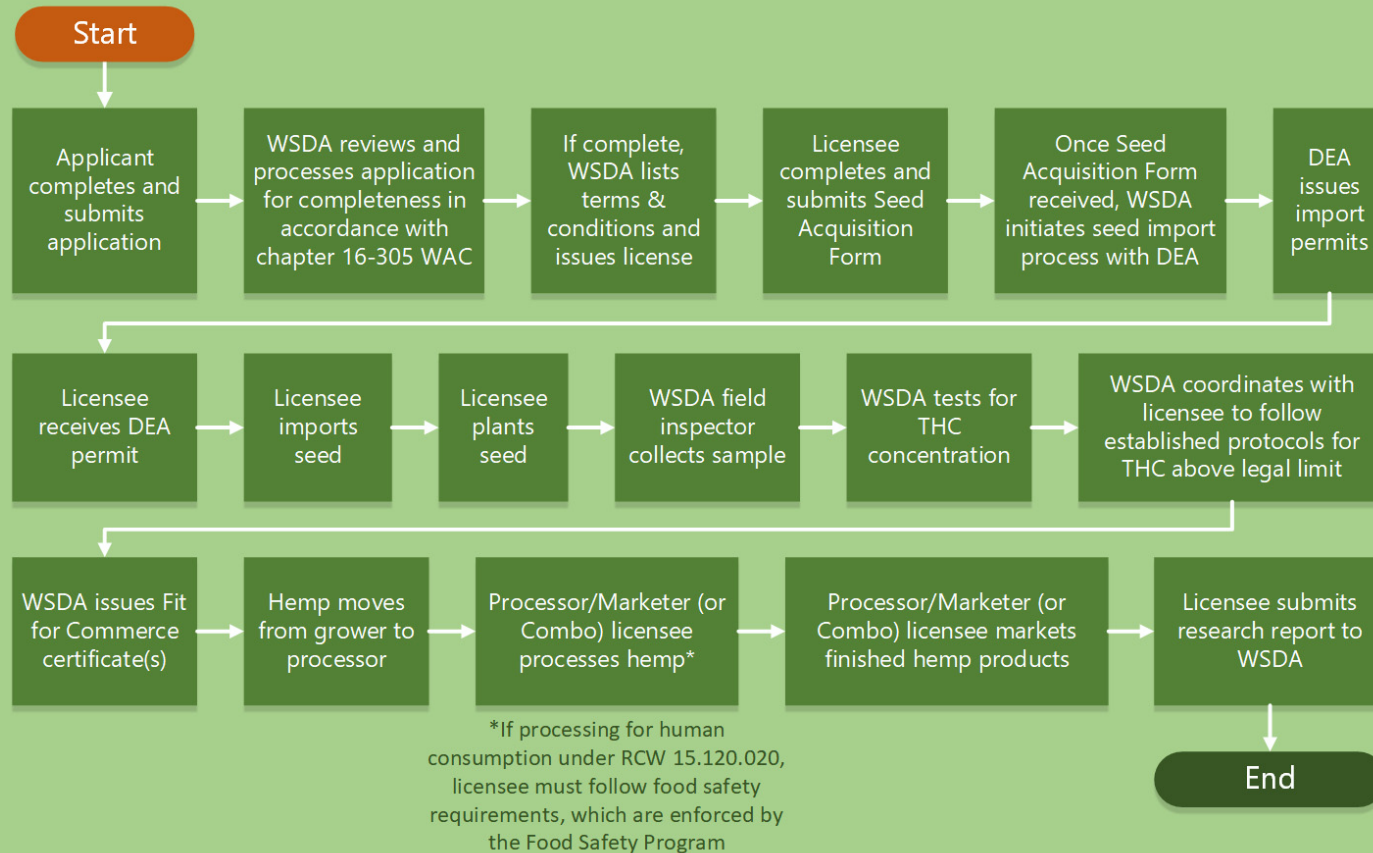


- Four main types of licenses:
  - Grower license
  - Processor/Marketer license
  - Combination license
  - Seed Distributor license
- Seed Distributor licensees may not hold any other type of license; other licensees may not hold a Seed Distributor license
- Details about licenses:
  - Only valid for one year from date of issuance
  - Non-transferable to another person or entity
  - Research goal required
  - Photographic aerial map required
  - Inspection, sampling and testing required






# IHRP Licensing Process



# Application Checklist: What to Include



 <b>Washington</b> State Department of Agriculture	Industrial Hemp Research Pilot 21 North 1st Avenue, Suite 203 Yakima, WA 98902 (509) 249-6931 hemp@agr.wa.gov	CASHER USE ONLY - 8250

## Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Application

Industrial Hemp may be grown, processed, marketed, or handled in Washington only through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Industrial Hemp Research Pilot as established in [Chapter 16-305 WAC](#). At the end of the licensure period, pilot participants will be required to submit an agricultural/agronomic report regarding their industrial hemp crop.

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete all parts of the application and submit this application, the nonrefundable application fee, and all required attachments (listed on page 2) to:

Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Industrial Hemp Research Pilot  
PO Box 42591  
Olympia, WA 98504-2591

Postmark / Received on:

**Email submissions will not be accepted.** Be sure to keep a copy of the full application for your records. All information submitted must be accurate, legible, and complete. If WSDA determines that any of the information submitted is missing/not included or inaccurate, the application will be deemed incomplete. Applications that are incomplete, or do not include the required attachments, will not be considered.

Applicant Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Grower (\$450 fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Processor / Marketer (\$450 fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Grower / Processor / Marketer (\$800 fee)			
Applicant Name		Social Security Number (Or Tax ID if Business)	
Business Name or Affiliation			
Physical Street Address (No PO Box)		City	State Zip
Mailing Address (If Different)		City	State Zip
County	Primary Phone	Primary Email	Website
Indicate the name and contact information below for up to one authorized person or designee who has signing authority for matters relating to industrial hemp.			
Name	Title	Cell Phone	Email
Licensed Business Information			
Licensed by State <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Business License Number	
Operates as one of the following <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> LLC <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> S-Corp <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			

- Completed application for an Industrial Hemp License (example at left)
- Maps (including name, address, GPS coordinates)
- Application fee (plus additional fee per field/greenhouse, if applicable – see page 4)
- Information and documents related to your intended research goal
- Soil test results

# WSDA's Research Goals



- Potential areas for the department's studies and research include the following:
  - Growing industrial hemp grain;
  - Growing industrial hemp fiber; and
  - Developing a seed certification program



## CERTIFIED SEED

WASHINGTON CERTIFIED SEED OFFICIAL TAG



SEED PROGRAM  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
YAKIMA, WA 98902  
AGR 651-4651 (R/5/05)

Handler or shipper is responsible for labeling to conform with State and Federal Seed Law. The Washington State Department of Agriculture warrants that this seed has been produced and conditioned according to certification rules and regulations promulgated under SEEDS, Chapter 15.49 RCW. See WAC 16-302-115 for limitation of liability for this certification.

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES

# How to Develop a Successful Research Goal



- A key factor in submitting a successful application to grow industrial hemp will be to clearly and completely describe your research goal, including the following:
  - Have a research goal
  - Describe how the research goal is attainable
  - Address obstacles and challenges
  - Identify the focus of your research project

# Potential Research Topics



- Hemp pests/pest management
- Beneficial insects
- Pollen flow studies
- Planting depths
- Genomics-assisted crop improvements
- Variety trials
- Planting date studies
- Disease management

- Soil quality studies
  - Germination rates
  - Quicker, cheaper methods of retting
  - Cross-pollination studies
- This is not an exhaustive list—  
contact the program at  
[hemp@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hemp@agr.wa.gov) to inquire about  
research topics not listed

# Mapping Overview

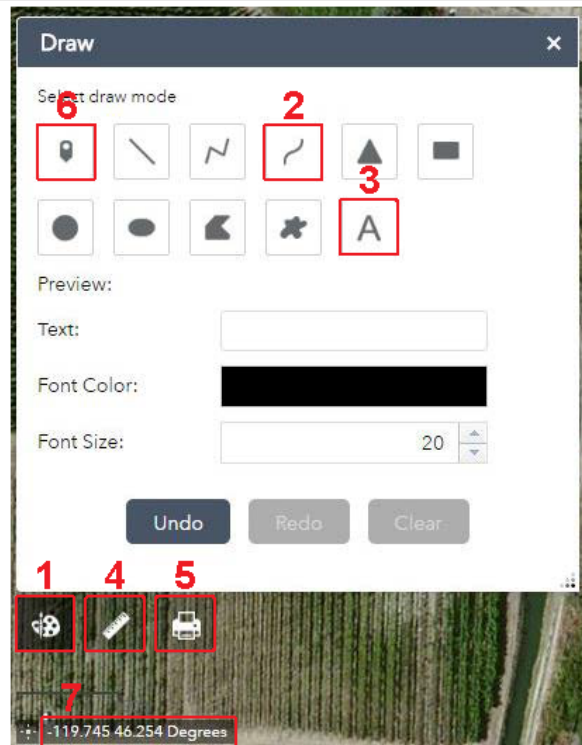


Figure 1

WSDA IH location reporting tool:

[bit.ly/HempReporting](https://bit.ly/HempReporting)

- Put the address of your proposed location in the address search box at top right
- Use Paintbrush tool (Figure 1, item 1) to circle your fields & storage/processing locations
- Use Free-form Line tool (Figure 1, item 2) to draw free-form lines
- Use Text tool (Figure 1, item 3) to add text
- Use Pin tool (Figure 1, item 4) to pin field center
- Use Print button (Figure 1, item 5) to print your completed map
- Find Decimal Degrees at bottom left (Figure 1, item 7)



# Map Checklist



- Circle the field (or greenhouse or other building)
- Include the Field, Building or Storage ID name
- Include variety of hemp grown in each field
- Include acreage of each field
- Include Decimal Degrees at approximate center of each field
- Use a pin to indicate where Decimal Degree reading taken
- All information on map must be consistent with the rest of your application
- Throughout licensing period, do not move hemp to places not indicated on the map without prior approval from WSDA



# Fees – RCW 15.120.030 and .050, WAC 16-305-210 and -220



- \$450 Application Fee – Grower or Processor/Marketer
  - Non-refundable
- \$800 Application Fee – Combination License
  - Non-refundable
- \$300 License Fee – All Licenses
- THC lab testing fees at the end of growing season
  - \$200 to \$2,000, depending on size of test batch





# Getting Seeds




- Search the web for seed supply companies that sell industrial hemp seed for growth, not grains; make sure it is seed certified by either AOSCA or OECD
- Securing certified seed from other U.S. states is prohibited
- Ask the following:
  - Do you have industrial hemp seed available for spring 2018 planting? If so, how many pounds can you provide?
  - Can you provide documentation that your hemp seed is AOSCA/OECD certified?
  - What varieties of industrial hemp seed can you provide? (i.e., Epsilon or Delores)
  - Are there any restrictions on what I may do with your seed?

# Getting Seeds



- Fill out a WSDA Seed Acquisition Form to give WSDA the information needed to obtain the permits to import your seed through the DEA
- Industrial hemp seed may not cross state borders, so getting seed from Oregon or Colorado would be illegal
- Once your completed Seed Acquisition Form has been processed by WSDA, WSDA will complete the necessary DEA forms to facilitate the import of your seed from Canada, Europe, or elsewhere abroad
- Your seed may be delivered directly to your field or may be stored at the secure WSDA facility in Spokane; seed must be planted within 24 hours of receipt

 Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Industrial Hemp Research Pilot  
21 North First Avenue, Suite 203  
Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 349-6051  
hemp@agr.wa.gov

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH PILOT  
2017 SEED ACQUISITION REQUEST FORM**

» If you wish to import seeds from different exporters, you will need to submit a separate form for each exporter. «  
Once WSDA processes this form, it generally takes the DEA 10-14 days to issue the permits.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
BUSINESS NAME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

1.) Certified seed stock tags must accompany this document to provide proof that the import seed complies with certification standards. This may be a photocopy, picture, scan, or other image.  
2.) Complete the seed source information in the table below.  
NOTE: The Signatory is responsible for all seed costs including shipping, brokerage, import, inspection, etc.

I. Name of foreign exporter:	_____
II. Address of foreign exporter:	_____
III. Foreign port of exportation:	_____
IV. Port of Entry : (US Customs port where the shipment will clear)	_____
V. Latest date shipment will leave foreign port:	_____
VI. Name of shipping company, if known:	_____

3.) Indicate mode of transport: ☐ Air ☐ Truck & Sea ☐ Car ☐ Mail ☐ Truck  
☐ Sea ☐ Train ☐ Train & Sea ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4.) Complete the seed variety information below:

Seed Variety Requested	Quantity of Packages	Type of Package	Weight of Each Package (kg)	Total Weight (kg)
Ex: Hemp02	20	Bags	25 kg	500 kg

5.) By signing and submitting this form I understand that I am requesting the WSDA initiate the DEA seed import process on my behalf and I assume all risks associated with viable industrial hemp seed importation into the United States. I further understand that I must have an appropriate industrial hemp license to access any seed imported and stored through the WSDA. I understand that without a license, I will not be able to access the requested seed when it arrives in Washington. If I choose to sign and submit this form before I receive an appropriate industrial hemp license, I assume all risks associated with the request.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WSDA FORM 817-1733 (REV 11) Page 1 of 2

# What is Certified Seed and Why Use It?



- Certified seed is a type of seed that has been bred to, over many generations, have certain traits. Plants with all the same traits are called “varieties.” A variety is bred and maintained so that its characteristics are uniform, distinct and stable across generations. Plant traits that certified breeders breed for are things like plant height, plant uniformity, drought resistance, etc. There are different organizations that certify crop seeds.



# Four Certified Seed Classes for the IHRP

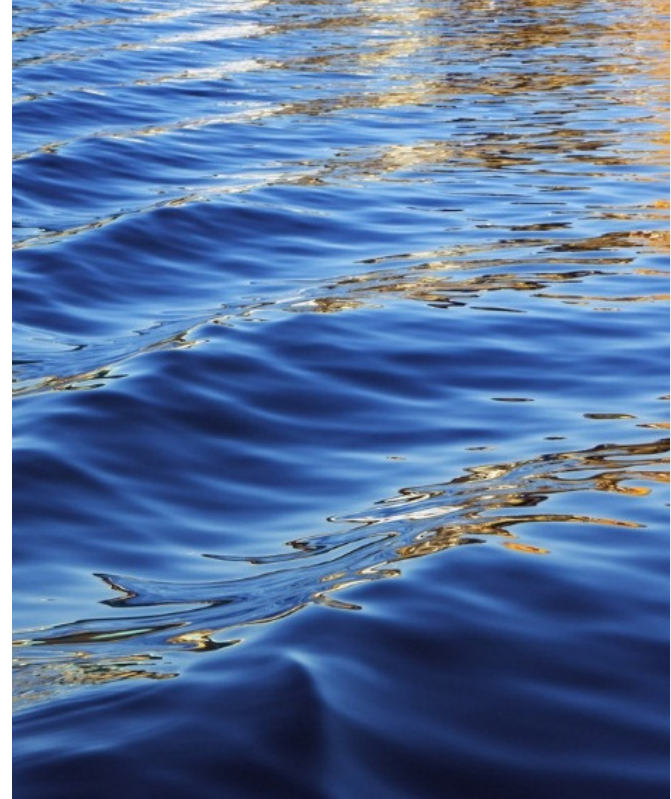


- These are the “certified seed” classes; any of these may be used in the IHRP*
- Highest Class
- **Breeder** seed – Experimental, mainly for varietal research; can be used under the IHRP to create new varietal seed for industrial hemp plants within the state\*
  - **Foundation** seed – Can be used under the IHRP to create Registered class industrial hemp seed within the state\*
  - **Registered** seed – Can be used under the IHRP to create Certified class industrial hemp seed within the state\*
  - **Certified** seed – The progeny of Breeder, Foundation or Registered seed handled to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and varietal identity; used in the IHRP to produce grain or fiber
- Lowest Class
- \*Provided the company with ownership rights allows*

# Water for Irrigating Industrial Hemp



- Irrigation wholly dependent on federal reclaimed water **cannot** be used to irrigate industrial hemp crops at this time
- Water from wells, city water, or water from “mixed” water sources may still be used to irrigate industrial hemp crops
- Irrigation of your industrial hemp crop will be an important aspect to consider before deciding to apply for or renew a WSDA research license
- Information from other states with industrial hemp programs shows it requires consistent irrigation





# Bureau of Reclamation Water Policy for Hemp



**Policy.** Reclamation will operate its facilities, make available contract water, execute and administer its water-related contracts, and otherwise perform its contractual and legal duties in a manner that is consistent with the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

- Reclamation will not approve use of Reclamation facilities or water in the cultivation of marijuana\*.
- Should Reclamation employees become aware that Reclamation facilities or the water they supply are being used to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana\*, they will...report such use to the Department of Justice and document the reporting action(s).

**Commingled Water.** This policy does not apply to non-contract water commingled with contract water in non-Federal facilities.

*\*Includes industrial hemp*

# Department of Revenue (DOR) Q&A



## 1) Do I need to register with DOR and obtain a business license to participate in the IHRP?

**Answer:** It depends on the activities you will conduct in Washington. Persons who grow industrial hemp generally qualify as farmers.

- If you intend to only grow (no processing) and wholesale industrial hemp, you are not required to register with DOR or obtain a business license. Your income from these activities is exempt from Business & Occupation (B&O) tax.
- If you intend to process hemp and estimate that you will make more than \$12,000/year, you are required to register with DOR and get a business license.
- If you intend to make retail sales of industrial hemp, you are required to register with DOR and obtain a business license; such sales are subject to retail sales tax and B&O tax under the retailing classification.

## 2) What taxes might I owe if I decide to grow or process industrial hemp?

**Answer:** It depends on the specific activities you will conduct in WA. In general, tax would apply as follows:

- If you only grow and make wholesale sales, your income from these activities is exempt from taxes in Washington.
- If you process and then sell industrial hemp, you would owe B&O tax on both the value of the industrial hemp processed and on the income from the sale of the hemp. However, in this situation, you would take a deduction for the lower of the two taxes, so that you only pay B&O tax once.
- If you make retail sales of industrial hemp, you would owe B&O tax under the retailing classification and would be required to collect and remit retail sales tax on such sales. However, products with hemp sold as food for humans are exempt from sales tax.



## 3) Are there any tax breaks or exemptions available to growers or processors of industrial hemp?

**Answer:** Yes, industrial hemp is considered to be an agricultural product; therefore, persons who grow industrial hemp are entitled to the same exemptions as any other farmer, including:

- B&O Exemption for Wholesale Sales
- Sales Tax Exemption for Replacement Parts
- Purchases of feed, seed, seedlings, fertilizer, spray materials, or agents for enhanced pollination
- Purchases of fuel to be used on the farm
- Sales Tax Exemption on Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment
- Property Tax – Open Space Act



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

# Thank You!

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*Industrial Hemp Research Pilot*

*For additional information, contact:*

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