

House Finance Committee
Public Testimony
HB 2001
Emails received to
HouseFinance@akleg.gov
July 19, 2019

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 12:20 AM

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

Subject: HB2001

I was born and raised in Juneau. Now I have 3 kids under 7 years old here. We moved in with my parents to get out of an abusive relationship with my husband so we all need the services vetoed by the governor. My parents are retired seniors living on a fixed income, my kids and I receive Medicaid and my 4 and 1 year old receive or will need various early childhood development services. My kids will one day (hopefully) want to go to college and should have the opportunity to do that in their home state. They should be able to benefit from the arts council and public broadcasting. None of us should have cruise ships polluting due to lack of monitoring. We need these services much more than we need a big PFD. When I was young, an \$800 PFD was huge. It's ok to change things when there's no longer a surplus, as what's happening now. Please find a way to restore these services. If a small PFD is the only way, so be it.

Ariana Roberts
Nowell Avenue
Juneau

From: Toni Bocci <tbocci@ctcak.net>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 5:31 AM

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

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

Dear honorable legislators

My name is Toni Bocci, and I am a 47 year resident of Cordova, Alaska.

I appreciate all of your hard work and perseverance in these difficult times. I truly believe that you can work together and will do the best for all Alaskans and our state of 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.

Respectfully
Toni Bocci

From: S Schell <saranaschell@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 7:42 AM

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

Subject: In support of HB 2001, protection of a humane Alaska

Hello,

Thank you so much for all the work you've done to take testimony from Alaskans and to find ways to counteract Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes.

I am writing as a lifelong Alaskan. I support a state budget that funds everything from senior benefits to the arts council, and of course recognizes the university system for the engine of innovation, discovery, personal development and economic stimulation that it is.

I support a multi-pronged approach to balancing our budget, including
- reducing oil tax credits

- a progressive income tax (which would capture income from our-of-state workers; I prefer leaving sales taxes as an option for communities. We might consider Fran Ulmer's parachute plan of having an income tax be contingent on the lack of other revenue.)
- having a flexible cap on the dividend and using some of the Permanent Fund as needed to balance the budget and meet our obligations.

We have the means to have a stellar credit rating. Let's get there again.

Listening to my fellow Alaskans testify about the dividend, I hear how important it is to so many, both in practical terms and as a concept of fair distribution of state wealth. That has moved it up in importance for me, from optional to important as long as our overall budget is sustainable. The bottom line must be a functioning state — and that includes a ferry system that gets Cordova groceries more than a few months a year. A huge dividend at the expense of seniors in poverty and former foster children trying to put themselves through the UA system is unacceptable and un-Alaskan. And so shortsighted!

My parents, my son and I all graduated from UAF. Please protect the incredible opportunities this campus and our other institutions provide. On top of the return on investment of seven federal and other grant dollars for each one the state puts in, there's the pride and practical value of being globally recognized for the work done there, for the value of an engineering degree from there, of being the only Land, Sea and Space Grant institution in the nation. Look at the recent news story about the bio-packaging for seafood developed by one of our university researchers!

I'm proud to be an Alaskan because to me, that means humility in the face of natural forces larger than ourselves, a recognition of and appreciation for each other's humanity and value regardless of flaws and differing viewpoints, action to help each other in times of need, a willingness to dream coupled with preparation and pragmatism, and a deep and abiding love of first the beautiful wild land and creatures who are Alaska and second the culture and institutions the first Alaskans and later pioneers cultivated here.

We have rich traditions of resourcefulness, perseverance, humor, caring, art, exploration, nurturing, creativity... in villages and on our university campuses, on our remote job sites, in our health care settings and our schools. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your work to protect and continue these traditions.

Sarana Schell
1320 F St.
Anchorage, AK 99501

saranaschell@gmail.com

From: Mara Sheakley-Early <marakearly@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 7:51 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Our State -- State Budget

Hello,

My name is Mara Sheakley-Early and I am a lifelong resident of Juneau, Alaska. I am currently a teacher at Thunder Mountain High School. I live in Juneau with my husband and two children who are three years old and one year old. My husband works for the university system.

I grew up in Alaska when the oil money was booming. Not only did I get a great education, I also received many PFD checks that helped my parents pay for trips and luxuries that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford. Currently, having a PFD for my children allows us the same luxuries and we are currently saving up for a camper trailer to adventure in. Do I like the PFD money? Yes, who doesn't? Do I need or want the PFD money in exchange for state services? NO NO NO.

I would much rather have a good education for my young children than PFD money for my family. I would much rather have a stable job for my husband and an education system for my students to rely on than PFD money for my family. I would much rather have a school to work in that is staffed for success than PFD money for my family. I would much

rather have a ferry system for my children and family to adventure on than PFD money for my family. This list goes on and on and on because of the severity and radicalness of the Governor's budget cuts.

This isn't just about priorities. It's about abilities. I have the ability to buy my family a trailer camper without the PFD money. It will take me longer to save the money, but I CAN do it. I do not have the ability to provide early childhood education, jobs, education, transportation, etc. to my friends and family. I simply can't save up and provide this for people. But YOU can. And have. And are in many cases obligated to by the State Constitution. Please help.

I am willing to do my part. Take our family's PFDs. Tax my income. PLEASE provide Alaska with the revenue it needs successful. While I hear the message, we have to get our house in order, I also know that my house has adults with have jobs and a source of revenue to provide for our house and our family. We don't expect to pay for the things we believe are important without that income. It seems ridiculous that that is the state's answer. No, we won't get a job but we will cut our needed programs that support our family...

I am still hopeful that a state budget will be passed that funds and supports the people in our state because the alternative outcome is unbearable to believe. Thank you for your hard work in figuring out how to keep Alaska great and in providing the things that we individuals simply cannot.

Sincerely,
Mara Sheakley-Early
8925 Tanis Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Nancy Berland <nancyandburl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 7:53 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy vetoes

I urge you to override Dunleavy's line item vetoes and provide funding for the most basic and essential services that distinguish America from 3rd world countries: 1) education (public school and University funding), 2) transportation (Alaska Marine Highway), 3) access to health care (Medicaid), 4) the 4th estate (public media).

Nancy Berland
Haines AK.

From: Maria Allison <malaalaska1764@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:05 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Regarding funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts

Dear Representatives, Our great state of Alaska has always been very creative with the arts, from our Native arts heritage, to the incredible musicians, dancers, artists, who have chosen to move here and create arts in this state, one of the most beautiful and inspirational places in our country. Because of this, young people grow up with this heritage and inspiration as well. We need to continue support for the ASCA - for all the work they do in the schools, in the communities and to preserve the arts traditions we have had in our state for all these years.

Please do your best to continue our funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Maria and Tom Allison, Kenai AK

From: Betty James <thunder@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:28 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

How dare you insult every citizen of this state with this ridiculous amount of for the pfd. Pay the full statutory amount! You are nothing more than common thieves! I hope if you try this our Honorable Governor Dunleavy vetoes it! you should be ashamed of yourselves. you claim to care about the people of this state but all you care about are over paid non-profits they say they are helping and maybe they do a few at the detriment of those that don't ask the government for help. This check is a payment of my share of the resources not a handout. Stop this insanity and return the pfd to the way it was intended.

Put in perspective

Saving a child's PFD for 8 years will pay their entire tuition at UAA without any State subsidy.

Saving a child's PFD for 10 years will pay for a highly technical trade school with a certification.

Taking a child's PFD for 12 years paid the illegal per diem last session for Cathy Giessel, Bryce Edgmon, Chris Birch and Harriet Drummond.

Is this why you want our PFD? So you can illegally pay yourselves!!!

From: k12.path@gci.net <k12.path@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:07 PM
To: LIO Kodiak <Lio.Kodiak@akleg.gov>
Subject: Letter to House finance on Dividend levels HB 2001

Mr. Neil Foster, Jennifer Johnston
Co- chairs, Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee
Subj: HB 2001

I am sorry that you folks are having all of the unnecessary difficulties with the budget.

A \$3000 dividend is too excessive.. The consequences to other state programs are too severe. The early level (near a \$1000 is adequate, the \$1600 a compromise and \$3000 is absurd and totally politically based.

As an Alaska basically from statehood I feel Dunleavy's cuts are draconian and unnecessary.

I recall HS in FBKS in 1960, when gov. Egan drove himself up after a 4 months session: "it was hard but we balanced the budget for our goals Education, Public safety, transportation (incl. ferries) and Fisheries' management. We even got some things moving for Jack Coghill in Nenana." Its ironic the Dems were the conservatives then, there was little income to the state but they made it work for the "whole" State, without the divisiveness that now pervades.

I was proud to pay state income tax (and school tax) the following year (shoveled barns, chicken houses and a lot of snow). I voted republican when I was old enough. However it is no wonder that there are more "undeclared and independent voters in Alaska than republican or democrats. I hope that you folks can bring some common sense to the budget process. I appreciate your hard work.

Sincerely

Patrick Holmes

From: Joan Starn <mtnstar@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:06 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD Resolution Comments to Alaska Legislators

Dear Alaska State House Finance Committee Members, et al:

We do not approve of reducing the PFD from the statutory formula, or redirecting disbursement of these designated shares of mineral wealth royalties to other than the residents, all of them, of this state. This is the fundamental intent of the PFD statute from its inception, and has worked well to share the State's resources with we, the people.

Now comes the special interests that benefit from government spending, which may promise to enrich those who join their movement at public expense, but these are not entitled to these assets. You as a legislator are bound to represent the people, all of them, not just a select group of interests that may have significantly contributed to your election and are ever before you in Juneau with their promissory notes. Please do not trade your personal integrity for a mess of political caucus benefits. Before you sell out the people, all of them, in this state, think not that you as a legislator are indemnified against lawlessness by permitting an overreaching, entrenched bureaucracy to dictate policy.

This appeal should go without saying, or calling for debate, if you chose to follow the law and work within the law, as the Governor has requested. The PFD is not a discretionary fund for the Legislature to barter away to the highest bidder or to the noisiest rabble conscripted to chant, squat, and debase the rule of law, in the face of law enforcement which has demonstrated amazing restraint and even accommodation to this point in allowing a disgraceful public display of civil disobedience. You should not be found complicit and bound to this movement or its advocates.

Do not allow the PFD fund to be raided and destroyed by the insatiable special interests; you know who they are. Obey the law and deliver these funds to the entirety of Alaskans, as it was intended.

Sincerely,

Bill and Joni Starn
PO Box 1782
Palmer, AK 99645

From: sarahfinnell <sarah.finnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In support of House Bill 2001

To the esteemed members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

As a citizen of Alaska, I'm writing today to express my deep concerns for our state's future if we do not fund homeless assistance programs, the University of Alaska system, Medicaid, and the State Council on the Arts. It's my understanding that these programs will be severely impacted by the Governor's budget, so I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2001.

Housing the homeless is a cost effective measure. Programs that support the homeless really support everyone's health, well-being, and quality of life.

The University of Alaska conducts vital research on climate change, so we can participate in important worldwide discussions and programs that will help us move forward responsibly and adapt to, or even possibly slow down, the harmful effects of global climate change. UA also brings and keeps engaged citizens in our

communities who can keep our economy thriving by utilizing services, shopping, and investing in the overall well-being of our state.

Medicaid programs provide assistance for vulnerable and needy community members- without these programs, many people will suffer.

Art is a vital tool for healing and community wellness, and the State Council on the Arts provides support and networking to create a thriving arts community, with programs that uplift and promote healing and wellness throughout our state.

I'm hopeful that you will be able to restore and continue funding for these vital programs, so we may all thrive in a healthy world.

With sincere hope for our future,

Sarah Finnell
3771 Old Wood Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Jane Ransdell <taigametalworks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote for HB 2001 - testimony

I respectfully appeal to this committee to reverse the governor's vetoes. The budget he proposed will harm many vulnerable people who truly need the services provided. It will deprive our communities of art, theatre and public radio which help people through long dark winters, affecting our quality of life. It will absolutely devastate the University of Alaska. I know the governor attended the university of Alaska but I don't believe he understands the important work that goes on there, in terms of research, what it means to a secure future for so many, many students, and how integrated it is into the very fiber of Alaska's economy, on many levels! All of the vetoes will guarantee the loss of many many Alaskans' jobs, people who are very qualified, who have, and continue to, contribute so much to our state! This will have a big impact on our economy, certainly - but don't the Governor and those who were against the override care that these vetoes will mean the dismantling of thousands of people's lives, who will lose their jobs and who will have to leave alaska, their home, to try to start over somewhere else? In fact, let's be quite honest: it will actually ruin many lives. All to hold to one promise of a triple wide PFD? Does Alaska really want to drop down to the very bottom of the barrel for one big PFD?

I strongly support House Bill 2001 and urge you to reverse all the vetoes.

My name is Rebecca Jane Ransdell and I live at 607 Bullion Dr., Fairbanks AK 99712

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tom Green <tkgreen99@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a UAF Professor with over 30 years of experience teaching organic chemistry and preparing students for the workplace. I have educated countless students, including undergraduate and graduate, who currently work in the health fields. Some former students are pharmacists and dentists in Fairbanks. My dentist is a former student of mine. Some are vets and doctors. Several work in the lower 48 as research scientists working in pharma, making new discoveries all the time. They make good salaries and raise their families. They contribute to the economy. They are the future of this great state.

It is now time to provide the funding for our university that it deserves. Our students deserve it. I support House Bill 2001 to reverse the vetoes. Please act responsibly and pass this bill. Let's roll up our sleeves, get back to work and move forward. Unlike the irresponsible proposals of Governor Dunleavy, let's provide realistic solutions to our fiscal problems that don't damage the state and our citizens. We can do it.

Respectfully,

Tom Green
607 Bullion Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712
Tel 9074526370

From: Jessica Armstrong <jjarmstrong9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support restoring the funding for the University

Thank you for all of your work in our legislature.

I realize that we have to come up with the money from somewhere and I want you to know that I strongly support restoring all funding to the University even at the cost of my PFD or the introduction of taxes. I also hope that it is possible to restore funding for some of the other programs that were decimated by the governor's vetos.

Thank you again,
Jessica

From: andrea bersamin <abersamin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: restore funding for University of Alaska, Head Start and K-12!

Dear House Finance Committee,

I came to Alaska as a young nutrition scientist to work at the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at UAF more than a decade ago and fell in love with its people, culture and beauty. I'm deeply concerned that the impact of defunding the University of Alaska will go beyond people losing their jobs and will severely harm Alaskan families and communities who depend on the excellent education it offers and the money it brings to the state. I'm writing you to urge you to support full funding for the University.

Students from all walks of life come to UAF for a high-quality education: first generation students, returning students, Alaska Native students. I teach nutrition and epidemiology to some of the brightest and the best undergraduate students who are eager to become doctors, nurses, dentists. These are the students who will provide care to us Alaskans in the future. We have already seen enrollment decrease as a result of budget cuts over the years. If the Governor's budget goes through, this will undoubtedly cause a brain drain as our brightest and best leave the state. Who will care for Alaskans then?

The Center for Alaska Native Health Research at UAF has been working with Alaska Native families and communities over the past 15 years to eliminate health disparities and address urgent public health issues. Our Center brings in millions of research dollars—and every much of this money goes directly to Alaskan businesses and community organizations. Our grants pay for our salaries and research, but we depend on UA infrastructure to get these grants. If the Governor's budget goes through, it's hard to see how our work will continue. Public health issues such as suicide and childhood obesity have no easy solution. It is only through research that we can make strides to improve the health of Alaskans.

Please support UA's state funded budget of \$322 million- the amount approved by both the House and Senate. Please support Alaskan families and communities.

Sincerely,

Andrea Bersamin
Associate Professor
UAF

From: Yoko Kugo <ykugo@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 2:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: My testimony

July 17, 2019
Dear Alaska Legislators

Hello. My name is Yoko Kugo and I am a Ph.D. Candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies housed in the Arctic and Northern Studies Program at UAF. I adamantly encourage you to support the various social programs for Alaskans demand on. Furthermore, I urge you to consider the funding for the University of Alaska's high quality of education and positive impact on our local economy.

Alaska Natives have a long history of trauma in boarding schools since the early 20th century. A hundred years later, the state finally recognized 20 Alaska Native languages. UAS, UAA, and UAF teach some of these languages. I have seen many Alaska Native students pursuing their higher education to work in their local tribes, schools, and ANCSA regional corporations. If the State drastically cuts UA's budget, young students will have to move to the lower 48 to complete their college education.

The University of Alaska is internationally known as one of the best institutions to study Arctic physical and social sciences in the world. Numerous international researchers offer special sessions to students and locals while visiting to conduct their research on campus. University communities benefit from such opportunities to learn about plants, animals, earth, arts, and other topics from research professionals. Universities also benefit from researchers, professors, and graduate students

who receive federal funding because more than 40 % of the funding goes to the institutions for administrative services.

I am also concerned about rural and elderly Alaskans who depend on Medicaid, and the communities in need of public safety from drug and alcohol abuse, and physical harms. Social services are crucial for all people in order to maintain local communities' and individuals' physical and mental health. I fear that without strong higher educational institutions, and the ability to protect the well-being of its citizens, many will leave the state, crippling Alaska's economy and spirited social fabric.

Thank you,
Yoko Kugo

Yoko Kugo
Ph.D Candidate, Interdisciplinary Studies Program & Arctic and Northern Studies
Resilience and Adaptation Program (RAP)
Anthropology Department and University of Alaska Museum of the North Research Assistant
University of Alaska Fairbanks
ykugo@alaska.edu

From: Shirley Tuzroyluke <stuzroyluke@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 12:22 PM

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

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

Subject: Request to Restore Funds Vetoed by Governor Dunleavy

House Finance Committee Members

I'm asking you to step forward with decency and courage to respond effectively and thoughtfully to the challenges that lie before us. I'm asking you to restore all the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

A large PFD is a short-term financial boost to a household. I prefer that the funds go to building our community. The loss of funds to the University of Alaska, medical services, the arts, homelessness services and senior benefits will have long term and devastating effects on the world that we inhabit here in Alaska.

These are current trends in Alaska:

According to the February Alaska Economic Trends, Alaska has been losing jobs for the last 39 months, for a total of about 12,700 jobs lost. Since 2013, the net out-migration, taking into account in-migration, is about 35,400. Two more people have left for each one that has arrived in the state of Alaska.

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

If “Every U.S. State Were A Country”, according to The Prison Policy Initiative, as compared to every other country in the world Alaska has the 26th highest incarceration rate in the world. Alaska represents another grim statistic. Alaska has the second highest suicide rates in the United States, with 27 deaths per 100,000 total populations, according to a 2017 CDC report. It is the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska.

I have paid my property taxes for 40 years in District 21. Throughout these years, I felt assured that most of the taxes went into education. I am opposed to the devastating loss of funds to the University of Alaska. A 40% reduction would result in the elimination of about 40 of 105-degree programs at the school and, consequently, the loss of a minimum of 3,000 students. Students have already been notified that they will not be receiving scholarships, and many are wondering whether the classes that they need for their degrees will be available.

Over 90% of the students attending the University of Alaska campuses are from the state of Alaska. I can see by the legislative profiles that many of our representatives had once attended one of the University of Alaska campuses.

According to a Forbes article, dated June 30, 2019

According to a presentation from the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's Alaska Common Ground meeting the University of Alaska system provided \$714 million (directly) and \$402 million (indirectly) to the statewide economy (year 2012 numbers)

Alaska businesses rely on local talent from University of Alaska for their workforce needs as studies show that 68% of two-year graduates and 42% of four-year graduates remain in the state.

University of Alaska-Anchorage alone generated \$40.2 million in research dollars in fiscal year 2016.

I'm respectfully requesting that you vote to restore the university system's budget. The decision to gut the university system is unprecedented and unacceptable.

We become an ascendant nation by investing in education. On a global scale, the United States ranks 31 in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). As a nation, we are outpaced by 30 other nations, with Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan scoring the highest. Seoul is ranked as the world's "leading digital city" and a "tech capital of the world" South Korea is also among the world's most technologically advanced and digitally-connected countries; it has the third most broadband Internet users among the OECD countries and is a global leader in electronics and digital displays.

I respectfully request that you use every tool in your power restore the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

Thank you,

Shirley Tuzroyluke

From: Jennifer Young <npactreasurer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:46 PM

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

Subject: Restore Vetoed Money

House Finance Committee:

My name is Jennifer Young and I am writing to you today to urge you to restore the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

The House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, worked together to create a bipartisan bill that supported the growth, prosperity, and continued operation of our state. In one swift news conference, Dunleavy negated all of that work, compromise, and strategic planning.

I moved to Alaska when I was 7. I grew up on Eielson Air Force Base, attended UAF upon graduation from high school, worked my way through UAF as a student assistant, and settled my family in North Pole after graduation. I now work at UAF as a staff member, teach at UAF as an adjunct faculty member, and am pursuing my CPA and doctorate through UAF courses. My husband attended UAF after he left the military due to long-term medical issues and is now employed with the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Fire Service. These are unique places where the majority of their employees have graduated from UAF's distinctive wildlife and fire sciences programs.

We have three children who attend local schools, participate in local youth sports, plan on attending UAF for college, and making Alaska their forever home. My eldest daughter plans on becoming a pediatric physical therapist helping to rehabilitate children impacted by cancer and major accidents. My son plans on becoming a mechanical engineer, and my youngest daughter has dreams of becoming a neonatologist. All three of my children constantly comment on what a wonderful place Alaska is to grow up and how glad they are that they can enjoy the beauty and unique personality that is Alaska - we are welcoming of all.

If the veto stands, I am afraid of what it will do to my family, my children, my community, and the state. I have already received a furlough notice and am in constant fear of receiving a termination notice. My husband and I live paycheck to pay check and losing my position would be devastating. My children would need to seek educational opportunities in other states and would more than likely not return due to the lack of opportunities. The local economy would suffer tremendously without the injection of local dollars, small businesses would close, the housing market would bust as people leave for opportunities outside the area, the cost of remaining programs would sky rocket, volunteer organizations that are led by members of the UAF community would disintegrate, and cultural opportunities in the state would disappear.

I urge you to put a stop to these massive cuts. Our educational system, state's economy, and future opportunities will be swiftly and permanently crippled.

Thank You!

Jennifer Young

From: Sveta Yamin-Pasternak <rechichanka@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:39 AM

To: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: Wednesday - Testify to House Finance

Hi Grier, I am not sure who receives the emails sent to HouseFinance@akleg.gov. I am copying below the message I just sent to that email address. Thank you so much for everything.

Sveta

Please support House Bill 2001.

Hundreds of thousands of lives and livelihoods depend on it. Over the last few weeks I have participated in local town halls in Fairbanks area, visited several rural communities, and read hundreds of stories on facebook and in letters to the editor in Alaskan newspapers. The evidence is overwhelming: what Governor Dunleavy is attempting is nothing short of a genocide. This is not a metaphor or exaggeration. All genocides involve cutting state population and access to education, art, access to information (in our case it is public broadcasting and internet broadband in libraries). So many people testified saying that without the essential services included within those that the governor is refusing to provide, they or their close family member will die. The impact of this will be felt for generations and will result in suicide, malnutrition, disease, early death, and economic hardships. The example is right next door, in Chukotka, Russia - what our governor is doing now is what their governor did in the 1990s under the pretenses of making the region "open for business." I have seen the impact firsthand, it really continues to be felt today, and I speak from the position of having done in-depth research on the lasting devastating results of such policies (please feel free to contact me if I can be of help providing further insight).

Please don't let it happen in Alaska.

Please support House Bill 2001.

Thank you very much.

From: erica watson <ytalvezporquellueve@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:30 AM

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

Subject: HB 2001

Thank you for hearing comment on HB 2001 today.

I live in District 6, at Denali Park. I urge you to vote yes on HB 2001, and restore the funding that the governor's vetoes removed from our state's much-needed programs.

In recent weeks, I have heard from friends and community members who don't know how they'll eat with the loss of food banks, how they'll pay bills or tuition with the loss of expected work or need-based student funding, or how they'll get housing loans from banks facing uncertain futures financing Alaska. I am especially concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts, which performs needed support for our creative communities; as history shows us, a culture without creative expression doesn't give its people much to protect about that culture, and the state support of our creative professionals and services demonstrated a commitment to Alaskans as full humans, capable of innovation, healing, and envisioning a future; don't allow us to become the only state in the nation that does not credit its residents with this capacity.

The PFD is a perk of living here, but not a sole reason. Please, restore funding to our communities, our elders, our young people, our institutions that show that we are a society that supports our vulnerable people. Show that you stand with Alaskans, not oil companies.

Thank you for your time,

Erica Watson

PO Box 69

Denali Park, AK 99755

From: Minnie Mark <krptc_mark@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:39 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: POWER EQUALIZATION CUT-PLEASE DO NOT CUT!

THERE ARE TOO MANY NATIVE FAMILIES WHO NEED THIS. THERE ARE MANY WHO'S FAMILY WITH CHILDREN WHOSE ABLE MEMBERS ARE UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO NONE AVAILABLE AND UNABLE TO PROVIDE NEEDED MONEY FOR BILLS!
THERE ARE MANY ELDERS WHO NEED THIS TOO!

OUR TRIBE WHO IS STRUGGLING WITH SELF GOVERNANCE AND 638 COMPACT HAS A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ITS PEOPLE. IT IS NOT PROPERLY DONE AND THE RAISES DO NOT AND CANNOT MATCH THE ANNUAL FOOD RAISES NOT TO MENTION CONSTANT DIESEL RISE COSTS! WHO CAN SURVIVE ON 10 CENT RAISE PER YEAR????? YET IT IS FORCED ON US DUE TO TRYING TO RUN OUR OWN.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS!!!!

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS!!!!

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS!!!!

From: kara Johnson <hippychiquita@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:11 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Keep Power Cost Equalization for Rural Alaska!!!

As a board member of my local electric cooperative, Cordova Electric Cooperative, I see how important the PCE is to our residents. Removing this basic help will drastically impact our ability to pay the electric bills. This will increase prices and costs across the community as businesses increase the price of their goods and wares to cover their increased costs. So our residents will be hit doubly - once on their own bill and again on the store's bill. Further, with the cuts to funding rural communities along with taking our fish tax money, this becomes a recipe for disaster and will lead to significant exodus of citizens.

Please keep the PCE in place for rural Alaska.

--

Kara Johnson

From: tom baran <tmbaran@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:11 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony House Finance Committee

House Finance Committee,

Don't flush the state economy down the toilet! Here are my recommendations:

Use half the dividend for state funding AND add a state income tax at 20 to 25% of the federal income tax.
This would raise \$700-800 million, with the total revenue to be \$1.7-1.8 billion.

This will still leave a PFD of \$1500.00. It also shifts the cost to those of us that can most afford it, and maintains a budget that provides the services the people need.

If the governor STILL wants to pay a higher dividend, consider proportionally raising the income tax.

Also consider increasing the gas tax 24-cents per gallon.

Tom Baran
FLT SIM Tech III
Pulau Corp.
BLDG 3000
Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703

From: Sign 1n 1nfo <wdonaldson1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:29 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cold Climate Housing Research Center Funding

I appreciate this opportunity to give testimony.

Please support full funding for the University of Alaska and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

Reducing the permanent fund is one way to accomplish this.

Both of these entities benefit the state immensely and are necessary for a successful future.

The critical services CCHRC provides, regarding building and infrastructure, are invaluable to the state.

Funding CCHRC will effectively cost the state no money.

The energy savings in public buildings far exceed the state's investment in them.

Thank you for your time!

William Donaldson
Kodiak

From: Carol Carman <district9@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:04 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Joan Starn <mtnstar@mtaonline.net>
Subject: Re: PFD Resolution Comments to Alaska Legislators

I cannot say it better than the Starns.

I will emphasize their point that the purpose of a **republic** is to protect citizens from being overrun by entities like the ones demanding you steal our inheritance. Your character as lawmakers becomes that of lawbreakers when you violate statutes.

On Jul 19, 2019, at 9:06 AM, Joan Starn <mtnstar@mtaonline.net> wrote:

Dear Alaska State House Finance Committee Members, et al:

We do not approve of reducing the PFD from the statutory formula, or redirecting disbursement of these designated shares of mineral wealth royalties to other than the residents, all of them, of this state. This is the fundamental intent of the PFD statute from its inception, and has worked well to share the State's resources with we, the people.

Now comes the special interests that benefit from government spending, which may promise to enrich those who join their movement at public expense, but these are not entitled to these assets. You as a legislator are bound to represent the people, all of them, not just a select group of interests that may have significantly contributed to your election and are ever before you in Juneau with their promissory notes. Please do not trade your personal integrity for a mess of political caucus benefits. Before you sell out the people, all of them, in this state, think not that you as a legislator are indemnified against lawlessness by permitting an overreaching, entrenched bureaucracy to dictate policy.

This appeal should go without saying, or calling for debate, if you chose to follow the law and work within the law, as the Governor has requested. The PFD is not a discretionary fund for the Legislature to barter away to the highest bidder or to the noisiest rabble conscripted to chant, squat, and debase the rule of law, in the face of law enforcement which has demonstrated amazing restraint and even accommodation to this point in allowing a disgraceful public display of civil disobedience. You should not be found complicit and bound to this movement or its advocates. Do not allow the PFD fund to be raided and destroyed by the insatiable special interests; you know who they are. Obey the law and deliver these funds to the entirety of Alaskans, as it was intended.

Sincerely,

Bill and Joni Starn

PO Box 1782

Palmer, AK 99645

Carol Carman

Chair, ARP District 9E

907-746-8670 - [Facebook](#)

From: Jan Gregg Levy <levyjan@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:22 AM

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

Subject: Budget

Dear Representatives:

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your hard work this year. I write to ask -- implore, really -- that you take all steps possible to restore to the budget the appropriations vetoed by the Governor. I have always been so proud of Alaska, even in years where I have not agreed with everything. It should be unthinkable that a Governor would want to decimate our university system, taking away jobs, scholarships, and the only opportunity some of our young Alaskans have to obtain higher education. It should be unthinkable to deprive rural Alaskans of power cost equalization which, as you know, was intended to equalize the benefits to urban parts of the state resulting from subsidized Cook Inlet Gas, hydro projects, and other capital projects that benefited larger population areas. We have spent decades building up Alaska. It is not prudent, wise or fiscally responsibly to essentially throw away the investments made over the last 20-30 years. Any changes made must be instituted gradually so as not to shock our state into recession.

Killing the State Council on the Arts does not save the state a lot of money -- it essentially costs the state money. That seed support for arts brought in federal, nonprofit, and private funds. It made Alaska an attractive place to live for many. The cuts to the court system are simply outrageous. Our constitution has 3 branches for a reason -- each with a check on the other. If the Governor doesn't like the fact that we have a right to privacy in this state, he can propose a constitutional amendment. He shouldn't try to wield his power by defunding a branch of government because he doesn't like their decisions. Under that theory, if the legislature gets 45 votes it can defund the Governor's budget and the OMB. This is not wise governing.

I won't go through all the vetoed items -- I believe they should all be restored.

I don't think I'm telling you anything you don't know, because you took the necessary (and difficult) steps already in constructing an operating budget that was painful, but that we could live with.

Please do what it takes to restore your previous appropriations, set a PFD that the legislature believes we can afford. **Further, I hope it is finally time to discuss additional revenues.** I support any kind of a broad based tax that is not too onerous to lower income Alaskans (and brings in money from non residents who benefit from Alaska and leave nothing in return.) I would also support changes to the oil and gas tax system that the legislature determines are appropriate. Their tax credits are not more important than marine transportation, seniors, rural Alaskans, arts, and education.

Thank you.

Janice Gregg Levy
534 5th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-1427

From: Shane Billings <pennyandgroot82@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:25 AM

To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: support for UA

To whom it may concern

Today I decided to write this letter to voice my support for the University of Alaska. I realize that we are in a very difficult fiscal climate, and I will not pretend to be an expert on the subject. I will therefore refrain from offering any opinions with regard to resolving the state budget challenges.

I do have an informed perspective in regard to some research at the University, and this is what I would like to discuss. Currently I manage a research laboratory within the College of Engineering and Mines. Many citizens within our community have expressed their negative perception of the University, with a common misbelief that the work done here does not benefit them. I would like to take a moment and comment about a few research projects that I have contributed to:

Within the oil fields of Kuparuk and Alpine the local lakes provide the drinking water and water for the ice roads. UAF conducted a study to better understand how drawing water during the winter may negatively influence these lakes. The concern is that too much removal may lead to an anoxic condition, negatively impacting the aquatic life and making the water unsuitable for the water treatment plants.

The Alaska Railroad invests considerable effort and expense removing brush along the rail lines, in an effort to minimize train-moose collisions. UAF conducted a multiyear study of herbicides' attenuation, longevity, etc. in arctic

climates. This study was considered necessary in order for the railroad to petition for the use of herbicides as an economical means of clearing brush along the lines.

A number of past and present dry cleaning locations within the interior have been contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE). This solvent can intrude buildings through concrete, and represents a clear health hazard. UAF monitored PCE above and below the buildings' concrete floors, along with temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, etc. Modeling this data gave valuable insight for preventative measure to protect the building occupants.

The prospect of offshore drilling on the arctic coast presents unique challenges. One of these challenges involves the difficulty of responding to an extensive spill during conditions of bad weather, large amounts of ice, etc. Such conditions make the use of an oil boom difficult or impossible. Under this scenario burning the oil spill in place is a viable emergency option. UAF has been investigating the use of a chemical herder known as OP-40. This product breaks the surface tension, and causes oil over water to contract. The contraction helps maintain the minimum film thickness needed to sustain an in-situ burn.

The sulfolane contamination in the ground water has been a major concern for many residents of North Pole. Research done by UAF has given insight into the extent of the contamination, future behavior of the plume as it travels, potential for microbial degradation, health concerns, treatment options, etc.

I have intentionally been brief in my descriptions of these research projects, as my aim is not to describe them in detail, but to point out the benefits to both industry and residents in our state.

My involvement in these research projects focused primarily on the instrumental chemistry aspects, and to a lesser degree data analysis and modeling. More specifically: mass spectrometry, inductively coupled plasma spectroscopy, gas chromatography, ion chromatography, factorial design, and partial least squares principle component analysis. This knowledge can only be gained through secondary education, so where did I gain these skills? The answer is simple, UAF.

At the age of 18 I moved into a dry cabin, accepted any work I could find, applied for grants, took out a modest student load, and started attending UAF. Eventually I earned a B.S. degree in chemistry, and then an M.S. degree in chemistry with an emphasis on quantitative analysis and chemometrics. Nowhere else in this nation, with my then limited financial means, could I have afforded to do this. I will be forever grateful to UAF, and not just because I'm currently employed there. A paycheck, and a job for that matter, are transient. Knowledge and skills are gifts that last a lifetime. I understand you have a difficult task in front of you, and I do not envy the position you are in. I sincerely hope you can find a compromise that will not prove too devastating to our University.

Thank you
Shane Billings
2680 Saint Elias Dr.
Fairbanks Ak 99712
(907) 328-8904

From: Rodney <rotney@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:26 AM
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: Barbara Ross <iditarod_barb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 12:01 PM

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

Subject: AK Budget

I would like to weigh in on the recent budget cuts and vetoes. I am willing to get smaller (or no) PFD checks. I am OK with some kind of tax (sales or income) to pay for the services we enjoy.

I feel education (preschool to University) should be our biggest priority. Also please undo the cuts to services for the poor, elderly and homeless. Services like "The Door" are very important to our at-risk youth and should be restored. The Arts Council is very important to society. Bring it back, please.

The vetoes should be overridden. The legislature passed a balanced budget. Look elsewhere to raise money!

Sincerely,

Barbara Ross

1701 2nd Avenue

Apt 35

Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Rika Mouw <rikamouw@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 12:23 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>

Subject: HB2001

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I support this bill with every fiber in my body. It is so important that the legislature restore funding for state services. They are the life blood to the citizens of this state.

It is time to understand that the people of Alaska come before tax oil and gas credits or any subsidies to this industry. At this point it feels like there is an oil addiction going on with the leadership in this state. Are you really willing to cut out the vital organs of the state to support continued subsidies to an industry that is making more money in Alaska than anywhere else in the world?

Without the social infrastructure at all levels in this state, we are left impoverished as a state. It took decades to build what we have in this state. It is unthinkable to diminish it as proposed by the governor's vetoes. This is not cutting the budget, this is destroying the state.

The full PFD people think the State Services people are greedy takers. And the State Services people think the Full PFD people are greedy takers. And they're beating each other up for lunch money on the playground while the governor sits on a giant pile of \$1.2 billion in oil and gas subsidies over there eating his lunch. Repeal the oil subsidies that are crippling our ability to pay a full PFD and fund essential services. So let's just join forces and get this done!

Please pass this last chance bill to restore the assets we have built and invested in for decades.

Thank you,

Rika Mouw

Homer

From: Alioto, Frank H. <falioto@cpgh.org>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 12:33 PM

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

Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarship - YES!

Greetings:

My son, Zion Alioto, has been blessed to receive the Alaska Performance Scholarship and is currently in year two of benefitting from this funding. He chose UAF and to stay in Alaska because of this scholarship award he worked hard for and is currently on track to earn a Master's Degree in Engineering in 2022. While we understand cuts are necessary we cannot understand why you would strip a promised scholarship and choose not invest in the next generation of committed Alaskan students.

Please honor the commitment to Alaska's youth and future by funding the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Frank Alioto
37524 Wanda Gail Street
Kenai, AK 99611

907-252-0036

From: Amy Breen <amy.akillik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 1:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB2001

Hello:

I live at 9082 South Sherry Road in the Knik River Valley in Palmer (District 12). My representative is Cathy Tilton.

I am writing to express my support for HB2001. Please, vote to restore all of the funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. I am very much in favor of support for state services, over a larger PFD.

I agreed with former Governor Walker's approach to balance the state budget over the short-term. In the long-term, additional options beyond oil revenue are needed to fund the state government. I will support a state income tax to maintain our current level of budget needs.

I am also writing as an alum of UAF's graduate program in biology. UAF is the lead research university in the circumpolar Arctic, and it would be a loss to the state (and the nation) to lose this status and no longer train the next generation of Arctic scientists.

I hear again and again from local communities in Arctic Alaska, they want Alaskans - and particularly native Alaskans - to conduct research that is applicable to their environmental needs. I suspect successful programs such as the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program would cease to exist with the proposed UA budget cuts.

Thank you,
Amy Breen

From: Jeffry Silverman <jeffrylloyd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 1:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In Support of HB2001

Thank you Co-Chair Foster and Co-Chair Wilson and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jeff Silverman. I have lived in Alaska for 36 years. I serve on the Alaska State Council on the Arts board of trustees, which is the focus of my testimony today. I speak in favor of HB 2001.

I strongly object to this governor's veto of the State Arts Council, which as of Monday is now closed and shuttered, making Alaska the only state in the union without a state arts agency, created 53 years ago as part of an innovative federal state partnership.

In addition to the oft-mentioned quality of life impacts of Alaska's vibrant cultures, the creative sector is an industry, an economic driver. Each grant to an individual artist, educator or organization may look small compared to the billions you are considering, but I assure you the impact on Alaskans is huge. The Arts Council's support for arts organizations helps create micro-economies in communities large and small across Alaska.

The National Governor's Association agrees; in its report on Rural Prosperity Through the Arts and Creative Sector, it highlights positive economic and quality of life outcomes from arts sector activity.

The cornerstone of Alaska's state arts agency must be – in accordance with federal law – the investment of the relatively modest amount of \$700K by the Legislature and Governor. Since this amount will do next to nothing to balance the budget, there is no sound fiscal or policy basis for eliminating the state arts council and its oversized impact on everyday Alaskans, like veterans turning their lives around with help from the Arts Council's Creative Forces program, Alaska Native artists and small business owners counting on the Alaska Silver Hand program to protect them and shoppers from copy-cat, fake art in Alaska's gift stores, and teachers and artists who work in rural Alaska communities or have travelled there as part of the Arts in Education program.

By restoring the modest State Arts Council funding, you affirm your support for your Alaskan neighbors in the arts and cultural industry and your faith in the values expressed in our constitution.

I close with a quote that speaks to the ideals Americans and Alaskans hold dear: "The arts and sciences are essential to the prosperity of the state and to the ornament and happiness of human life. They have a primary claim to the encouragement of every lover of his country and mankind." -- George Washington

Thank you.
Jeffry Silverman
(907) 351-5995

From: bruce farnsworth <whenpoetsfly@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 1:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pass A Senate Version of HB2001

-Dear Alaskan Members of the Senate,

You have heard from me before so I will skip the introduction and get straight to the purpose of this letter, except to repeat that I am an Undeclared Super-Voter with 42 uninterrupted years of Alaska residency and have raised three children here, all of whom have and continue to make positive contributions to our state.

I am writing to strongly urge you to pass a version of HB2001 if the final version is written with the intent of achieving the following outcomes:

1. ALL of the vetoes are overridden and your original compromise budget is restored.
2. A PFD payout gets agreed upon even if a one-time payout of \$3,000 is the price for the overrides.
3. The CBR Sweep is reversed.

Personally, I think you should muster 40 votes, call your own session and put revenues on the table but even if there's no will to do all of that this session, pass your version of HB2001 and take up much-needed revenues in the next session.

Thank you for taking time to listen to your constituents.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

-Bruce Farnsworth

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT VETO OVERRIDES

AARP	Alaska State Employees Association/AFSCME Local 52	Chugachmiut	KPB Architects
Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)	Alaska State Homebuilders Association	Chugach Alaska Corp.	League of Women Voters of Anchorage
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association	City and Borough of Juneau	LOVE Inc.
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association	Alaska Supreme Court	City of Fairbanks	Lynden, Inc.
Alaska Academy of Family Physicians	Alaska Women's Ascend	City of Unalaska	Mammoth Marketing
Alaska Adult Education Association	Alaska Women Lawyers	Conference of Mayors	Maniilaq Association
Alaska AFL-CIO	Alaskans Together for Equality	Cook Inlet Housing Authority	Municipality of Anchorage
Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation	Alaskans Together for Medicaid	Cordova Arts and Pageants	MSI Communications
Alaska Association of School Business Officials	Aleut Corporation	Covenant House Alaska	NAACP
Alaska Bankers Association	All Alaskan Pediatric Partnership	Denali Borough School District	National Alliance on Mental Illness Alaska
Alaska Behavioral Health Association	American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska	Denali State Park	National Education Association (NEA)
The Alaska Center	American College Personnel Association - College Student Educators International	F. Robert Bell & Associates	Native Peoples Action
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts	American Council on Education	Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	North Star Council on Aging
Alaska Child and Family	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	Fairbanks Coalition on Homelessness	Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Alaska Children's Trust	American Geosciences Institute	Fairbanks Concert Association	Oceanside Farms
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness	Anchorage Chamber of Commerce	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Editorial Board	Parents as Teachers
Alaska Commission on Aging	Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness	Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation	Perseverance Theatre
Alaska Credit Union League	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services	Fairbanks Native Association	Planned Parenthood
Alaska Democratic Party	Anchorage Concert Association	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Polaris House, Inc.
Alaska FFA	Anchorage Economic Development Corp.	Fairbanks Reentry Coalition	Portugal. The Man
Alaska Faith and Action Congregations Together (AFACT)	Anchorage Education Association	Fairbanks Rescue Mission	Program for Infants and Children Inc.
Alaska Farm Bureau	Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council	Fairbanks Senior Center	Protect Our Care
Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)	Arc of Anchorage	Fairbanks Youth Advocates	Providence Health & Services Alaska
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association	Anchorage Municipal Arts Advisory Commission	Family Physicians of Alaska	Rasmuson Foundation
Alaska Food Coalition	Anchorage Senior Activity Center	First Alaskans Institute	Recover Alaska
Alaska Head Start Association	Anchorage Senior Center	First City Homeless Services	RIM Architects
Alaska Hospital & Nursing Home Association	Associated Students of University Alaska Fairbanks	Food Bank of Alaska	Ruby Tribal Council
Alaska House Majority	Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities	The Foraker Group	Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)
Alaska Interfaith Council	AWARE, Inc.	Four A's	SALT AK
Alaska Legal Services Corporation	Bean's Café	Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education	Save Our State
Alaska Mental Health Board	Bering Straits Native Corp.	Great Alaska Schools	Sitka Fine Arts Camp
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Best Beginnings	Great Harvest	Spawn Ideas
Alaska Municipal League	Bethel Community Services Foundation	Greater Fairbanks Board of Realtors	Southcentral Foundation
Alaska Native Health Board	Big Brothers Big Sisters	Homer Council on the Arts	Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association
Alaska Native Policy Center	Calista Corporation	Homer Foundation	Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Campbell Scientific	Homer Senior Citizens Inc.	Student Educators International
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Catholic Community Services of Juneau	Hope Community Resources	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Alaska Nurses	Catholic Social Services	Icicle Seafoods Identity, Inc.	Thread
Alaska Nurses Association	Central Council Tlingit-Haida	International Arctic Social Sciences Association	UA Student Body Presidents
Alaska Primary Care Association	Indian Tribes of Alaska	JDW Counsel	Umeå Universitet Climate Impacts Research Centre
Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association	Children's Lunchbox	JL Properties	UNAVCO
Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG)	Christians for Equality	Juneau Arts and Humanities Council	United Way of Anchorage
Alaska Regional Coalition		Juneau Central Labor Council	University of Alaska Alumni Association
Alaska Regional Hospital		Juneau Chamber of Commerce	University of Alaska Anchorage
Alaska Sea Grant		Juneau Economic Development Council	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Alaska Senate Democrats		Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition	University of Alaska Southeast
		Juneau Youth Services	University Women's Association
		Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District	U.S. Permafrost Association
		Kawerak, Inc.	USUAA Student Government
		Kids Corps	Weidner Apartment Homes
		KNOM Radio Mission	Women in Safe Homes
		Kodiak Chamber of Commerce	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
			Zan Inc.

From: Susan Sommer <sbsommer@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:06 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Yes on HB2001

Do not let Alaska go crashing backward. Please pass HB 2001. Fund our state for now and for the future.

Susan Sommer
Palmer, AK

From: Jim Brader <jimbrader@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Budget Testimony

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I urge you to pass a budget amendment to override the Governor's vetoes, and to restore the funding that the House and Senate agreed on in their operating budget.

The devastation of the Governor's cuts to Alaska seniors, to medicaid patients and their providers, and to the education of the youth of Alaska, will set our state back decades and make more life difficult for all of our citizens. It will cause the Alaska economy to shrink as well.

A simple solution is to cut the amount of the PFD, and use a portion of the PFD to restore the cuts made by the vetoes. The Governor's Budget proposal to use 37% of the state funds to pay out the largest ever PFD is simply very poor management of the state. No CEO would ever pay out 37% of earnings as a dividend, while cutting essential elements of a business such as R & D and security.

I have received PFDs since 1989, and it has ranged between \$500-2200. The proposed record high \$3000 PFD is way beyond previous PFDs, and is too high during a time of state budget crisis. The PFD has served its purpose to keep Alaskans alert to the use and protection of the Permanent Fund, but paying out a record PFD while cutting essential services is poor management of state resources.

The Permanent Fund is a great idea, and a great asset to the state of Alaska, but it is a public asset, just like oil in the ground is. When our state has greatly decreased income such as now, the Permanent Fund should be used to help fund our basic services.

I would suggest cutting the PFD to \$1000/person, and using the remaining earnings from the Permanent Fund to restore the \$400 Million in vetoes, and the rest to inflation proof the Permanent Fund, or to keep in reserves for future budgets. The Federal taxes alone on the \$1.8 Billion paid out in the \$3000 PFD would almost equal the \$400 Million in cuts, so a small PFD and using the savings on the small PFD to restore budget vetoes would keep more of this money in Alaska, where it belongs.

Sincerely
Jim Brader
PO Box 74263
Fairbanks, AK 99707
907-452-4986

From: Alida van Almelo <alidarae@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PLEASE re-fund our state!

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a registered voter in District 11 (Palmer), and I want to ask that you reduce our PFDs in order to re-fund the budget cuts made by the Governor's veto to our state.

A large PFD is not worth the loss that every single Alaskan will feel from the state-wide cuts. I ask that you reduce our PFDs to the necessary amount to restore ALL funds vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. From reports, I have been told that in doing so, PFDs will still be close to \$1600, which is a perfectly acceptable amount.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Alida van Almelo
Alaska House District 11 resident.

From: Catherine Felt <cmmoll@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2001 testimony

It is unethical to place the cost burden on lower income households. Funding government with the PFD Exclusively puts the cost burden on Alaskan's, letting non residents who work and play here completely off the hook. They take our resources, jobs, and pay nothing. Same goes for the highest income earners in the state. High paid state employees are the ones willing to give up the PFD to fund gov't bc it is not a significant percentage of their income.

Alaska's greatest achievement is the permanent fund. The dividend was set up to protect the fund and has done a damn good job of that since its inception. There is no reason we should be limiting our Revenue options to PFD cuts. To me, it appears that many legislators who say they are here to protect the vulnerable from cuts to programs don't care about placing the tax burden on them through highly Regressive PFD cuts. Legislators also have shown the public they are very capable of ignoring statutes and vote in their own financial self interests (per diem backpay). Pushing for PFD cuts as the only revenue option seems also to be just one more way you are voting for your own financial self interests. Y risk the Permanent Fund, Alaska's Greatest Achievement? Why a war on the PFD?

I support a Constitutional Amendment 50/50 POMV split. That is a fair deal for the people and preserves the PFD and provides revenue. The budget can be balanced the rest of the way through cuts and other revenue options such as a FLAT INCOME TAX, sales tax, and oil taxes.

DO WHATS ETHICAL AND FAIR. THINK OUTSIDE OF THIS BOX! (PFD OR SERVICES) Quit being so hellbent on destroying the dividend program and be willing to pony up some of your income to resolve our budget woes instead of pushing the costs onto families like mine.

I oppose HB2001 bc its an unethical, regressive tax that destroys the PFD, Alaskans legacy.

Catherine Felt
Kenai

From: Bobi Trani <btrani@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 3:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Veto Impact

My husband, George Trani, a retired Juneau SD teacher, suffered a brain aneurysm in 2000. Months in ICU and rehabilitation gave him the ability to be cared for at home, by me for 14 years. Aging, dementia overlying many reasoning and memory deficits, and other medical problems led to placement in the Pioneer Home in Sitka as there was no room for him in Juneau.

Our long term Bronze plan does not cover the monthly cost. The payment assistance allowed me to continue to live in my home and pay toward his balance each month.

Statutes allow the Pioneer Home to now increase the payment assistance amount and leave the "community Spouse" at an income 1 (ONE) dollar above the poverty line. This payment amount is triple the current amount I am paying.

Long term care insurance is coming to an end in \$50,000 of a \$200,000.00 policy.

The Pioneer Home requires the Miller Trust be applied for. A component of that is George qualifying for Medicaid. We are currently in the process of application.

What if these draconian vetos are allowed? Where does this leave folks, like us, who can't afford the payment demands but do not have the Long Term Assistance/Medicaid program?

What will assure me that there will be care available? My daughters and my grandchildren live here and are my support system as George ages and declines. Leaving our community that we have lived in since 1976 and his failing health is daunting.

I thank you for reading my plea for your votes to make Alaska a state that cares for it's disabled and aging citizens.

From: Sandy Shoulders <sandyshoulders@gmail.com> On Behalf Of Sandy Shoulders
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 3:52 PM
To: senatefinance@akleg.gov; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Do it! And be prepared to override a governor who thinks that using a blow torch on the budget is a really cute way to get what he wants. This governor has no idea how to work with others, how to persuade, how to see things from a different perspective. Those of you who agree with his method are not looking at the long range health of this great state. The people who demand a \$3000 PFD are the same ones who scream about "government handouts" and don't want government in their lives. It is insane to think that we should have that amount of money and not even do a minute of volunteer work or make any effort to receive it.

The PFD calculation needs to be changed. Deal with that next, after you PASS 2001 AND OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S INEVITABLE VETO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sandy Shoulders
tkb@alaska.net

From: Bob Hartley <Bhartley55@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 4:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please fix the budget

So really I don't think it matters what you do as the big scary clown with the evil smirk will probably just veto it anyway or pull some other nasty trick out of his dirty bag of sleazy politics but hey-you gotta give it the old college try . . . well not from UA as that will be non-existent if clown boy has his way, that as well as most other agencies that help others in need or who are trying to better themselves. Seriously, this is pure evil happening here.

Let's try to get some of that money back. I've got a whole bunch of things you can try-like start taxing the oil companies again. i mean, come on! We're giving it away for crying out loud! I'd be open to some taxes too and a much smaller or no dividend. But I guess what I want in return for that is all vetoes restored and clown man out of office. The dude is a rebel without a clue and has to go. You can tax me extra and never give me a dividend again if you can make him go away. Why he has a mission of destroying Alaska is really beyond me and I get it that most of you are his puppets. Can you guys look past party lines and try doing stuff as decent human beings? I don't care what party you belong to-helping people should be a universal goal, and destroying families and livelihoods should not be wanted by anyone. And yet-that is apparently what Dunleavy want-he made that pretty clear. So he's got to go regardless of what happens next.

To recap:

little to no dividend is ok.

taxes are okay too in reason and only after you start taking your fair tax share from the oil companies.

Evil line item veto money must be restored, starting with our university, but since UAA threw Fairbanks under the bus, you can leave a little of their money out too if you want. But I want it all put back in budget if for nothing else to spite our Alaskan Dictator.

Dunleavy must go. He's unfit to be anything but perhaps Trump's stunt double.

not joking-in fact i can't recall being this angry about political incompetence my entire life. And I'm an undeclared voter, as in I don't vote for parties-I vote for people. And the wrong people won.

Regards,

Bob Hartley

From: Mary Gunderson <maryclaregunderson2002@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 4:23 PM

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

Subject: Refinancing Public Radio

To Whom It May Concern,

Please arrive at a compromise that will reinstate funding for public radio along with education and programs for the elderly/poor etc. We live in the Talkeetna area and our local KTNA was our life line during the Montana Creek and Malaspina fires. We were only 3 miles from the fires and listening to continuous fire updates via our local radio station was extremely vital and reassuring.

I would be more than willing to live with a locked in permanent fund yearly amount or an income tax. Please don't send us back to pre-statehood days.

Sincerely,

Mary and Bruce Gunderson

Willow/Talkeetna area

Sent from my iPhone

From: Thomas Heywood <heywood@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 4:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee,

It is critical to the survival of our state's population from young to old that these budget cuts are avoided. In particular, since I am the president of the Haines Arts Council, I would like to point out that the elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts is short-sighted and embarrassing. Do we really want to be the only state in the US that does not have a state arts council? ASCA provides critical support to many communities, including Haines, to see that performing arts are available and affordable so that we can bring shows to our communities and our schools. Also understand that by cutting the ferry schedule, as proposed, I will not be able to get touring artists to commit to coming to our town in the winter months. They can not afford to wait in various towns for days on end to make a ferry, when they could be touring elsewhere and performing each night. Though it is true that flying (\$\$\$) is sometimes an option, due to weather issues we cannot guarantee an artist they will be able to fly here. As I book artists 6 months to a year in advance, they will not be able to commit if there is risk of not being able to get here in bad weather. Ferries generally travel in bad weather, and they allow us the leverage in booking artists to make them comfortable committing by contract to performing.

Please ensure that ASCA and the ferry system continue to function in the role of enabling performing arts in Haines and many other communities in Alaska. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Thomas Heywood
Haines Arts Council President

From: Bill Rodwell <billrodwell3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 4:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comment from Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce

The Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce asks that you carefully evaluate the budget cuts along with the Governor's vetoes and their effects on our economy. Please work to preserve vital services to our state and our communities.

We ask that you restore **funding to Public Broadcasting and the State Council on the Arts**. Among our local non-profits that are losing state funding are KTNA Talkeetna Community Radio, Denali Arts Council and the Talkeetna Historical Society.

These organizations are the heartbeat of Talkeetna and **crucial entities that are needed to maintain our town's year round frontier hospitality**. These organizations provide important services, communication, education, arts, and humanities. They provide value to our town and thus benefit our businesses and our economy. While our community and businesses add much support to these non-profits, we do not foresee the capacity to make up the loss of state funds.

Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce asks for cooperation and negotiations that find a way to restore funding to our crucial state services.

Respectfully,
Bill Rodwell, President
Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce

From: Marissa Palmer <marissa.palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 4:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Yes on HB 2001

Good morning,

I am writing again in support of HB 2001.

The cuts proposed by the governor via his vetoes would be devastating for Alaska. Our economy is barely in recovery, and I believe the legislature understood this when they negotiated and passed their budget. I am more than happy to accept a smaller PFD in order to support essential state services. We simply can't afford a \$3,000 PFD. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and I received both of my degrees from the University of Alaska Anchorage after starting both at institutions out of state. If I did not feel that UAA could provide an equally excellent education at less cost to me, I probably would have left the state and not returned. I want my children to have the same opportunity to build a future in Alaska that I had. That will not be possible if the governor's cuts to the UA system and other important programs stand.

Thank you,

Marissa Palmer
Anchorage, AK 99504

From: Katrina Hoffman <khoffman@pwssc.org>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 5:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: CSHB 2001

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing in regards to CSHB 2001. On p. 40-41, Section 23, the bill language refers to allocating the roughly \$200,000 balance of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Fund to the Prince William Sound Science Center as a contribution to the new facility we are constructing to allow us to continue to play a leading role in the restoration and research monitoring that we conduct in the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. This funding was originally passed by both the House and Senate with extremely strong support in this session. We are the only place-based institution on Prince William Sound that has continually engaged in restoration research and monitoring for over two decades, and there is no entity better positioned to put these non-general fund monies to use.

In October 2018, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council allocated \$17.5 million to the Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute's new research and education facilities *in recognition of the fact that we are critical to their ability to carry out the restoration mandate of the consent decree*. However, they gave us a deadline of June 1, 2020 to demonstrate commitments made to raise the balance of funds necessary to complete the project. The balance of funds necessary to complete the project is approximately \$1.6 million.

The \$200K in the EVOS Restoration Fund is critical to helping us get across Trustee Council's mandated fundraising deadline. If not allocated now, it puts us at risk of losing access to the full \$17.5 million committed by the EVOS Trustee Council. There are private foundations who are collectively interested in contributing approximately one million dollars towards this project. If the balance of the EVOS Restoration Fund is not dedicated to this project this year, the whole project is at risk.

The veto language associated with this budget item confusingly stated, "Funding for projects that are complete should lapse and new capital projects should be established." This project is not complete. It is just getting started. This *is* a new capital project. Please restore these funds to the Prince William Sound Science Center so we can continue to generate the important restoration benefits and ecosystem understanding that our region requires.

If I can answer any additional questions, I am at your service.

Regards,
Katrina

Katrina Hoffman
President/CEO, Prince William Sound Science Center
Executive Director, Oil Spill Recovery Institute
PO Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574
www.pwssc.org
www.pws-osri.org
khoffman@pwssc.org
907-424-5800 x225 (office)
206-947-7990 (mobile)

From: Kip & Patty Kermoian <alaskakip@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 5:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Finance committee's substitute for House Bill 2001.

To all those concerned,

We support House Finance committee's recent substitute for House Bill 2001.

We encourage each member to consider the devastating impacts the ill conceived draconian policies of our state's inept Gov., Mr. Dunleavy, will have on Alaskans and the sustainable health of our communities.

Crippling Alaska future by driving talent and innovation out of state, gutting education, health and social welfare programs, vital transportation services and the PEC, and telling seniors that their lifetime of commitment and contributions to and state are not valued, while oil tax credits to billion dollar corporations continue, is unconscionable.

While the Governor pursues his future corner office with big oil, his vetos, if sustained, will leave a wake of destruction, for our children and those that follow, to suffer.

Please support this substitute for HB2001.

Sincerely,

Kip & Patty Kermoian

From: Pam Watts <akpamwatts@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 5:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Letter of Testimony

Pamela Watts
3290 Nowell Ave
Juneau, Alaska 99801

July 19, 2019

Rep. Neal Foster, House Finance Committee Chair and
Committee Members:

My family moved to Anchorage in 1958, when Alaska was a territory. I have lived in Alaska most of my life. I graduated from high school and completed my undergraduate degree at Alaska Methodist University (with the help of grants, loans and work-study employment) before UAA was finished and Anchorage Community College was the only other option.

Public schools were of high quality and teachers were paid well, even before we had oil revenues. **I paid income tax and school taxes as did everyone, including non-residents who made money here seasonally working in Alaska, but lived out of state. We had a “can-do” and, “help-your-neighbor” spirit strengthened by a sense of “we’re all in this together” that built this state.**

When oil began to flow, everything changed; not all for the better. The state became far more politically polarized with the influx of oil money and many who came with it. While Alaska enjoyed the wealth of oil revenues and the Permanent Fund was created, the decision to eliminate those taxes, against the advice of Governor Hammond, was a mistake. Nothing lasts forever, and although the Governor thought that giving residents a PFD would cement support for development of the Permanent Fund, and while it has helped many families in positive ways, **it has fostered a mentality of entitlement and dependency because there is no personal investment by too many Alaskans, many of whom moved or stayed here mainly so they could be PFD recipients. We began to lose the sense of unity and commitment to our state that has been replaced by too many with an “I, me, my” attitude that undermines collaborative problem solving and only serves to stoke resentment, divisiveness and anger. Instead of thinking about what’s in the best interests of the entire state, too many think only of “what’s in it for me?”.**

Anchorage and Fairbanks (and their bedroom communities) have always relied heavily on the financial benefits of Federal spending with their large military bases. Other communities are not so fortunate so when cuts impacting municipalities are made. They don’t have that to fall back on so the cuts are felt more deeply. **Many Alaskans living in or near larger communities fail to appreciate the challenges faced by those in more rural areas, especially those not on the road system, failing to acknowledge the size, geography and diversity of this state.**

Population numbers matter when funding education, public safety, infrastructure, and other necessary and constitutionally-mandated services. Our state population is small and **unless we acknowledge and reckon with that to understand our governmental economy-of-scale financial challenges as compared with other states we will continue to fail to realize why it is more expensive to live here and why we can’t just cut our way out of our fiscal problems.**

Now, we are in a financial/political crisis as the result of the failure of too many legislators and governors who have been unwilling to take the political risk of doing what’s best for the state by sacrificing their own political viability at election time. Instead, they have pandered to their narrowest of constituencies as we’ve recently seen. **Refusing to consider smaller PFDs, income and school taxes, road and bridge tolls, some just think we should shutdown government except for the parts that**

they personally benefit from, and let the chips fall where they may. This attitude of “I’ve got mine; to hell with you” is not what Alaska was built on, contrary to what many may think. It greatly saddens me that this newer breed of Alaskans has changed the culture of Alaska to become so selfish, self-righteous, and in some dangerous ways, backward thinking.

I ask that this Legislature and administration take a firm grip on the reins and take the political risk to do the right thing for the current and future viability of our State and develop a responsible solution that includes use of the Permanent Fund along with state income and school taxes so we do not have a dismantled system of government that will take years, if ever, to recover from and that could put us even further toward the bottom than we already are in critical quality of life indicators.

Decimating our state infrastructure to keep a full PFD in place is irresponsible and political gamesmanship. Let’s not go down with the Titanic clutching our pearls.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the state and all Alaskans.

Pamela Watts

From: Sylvia Geraghty <sylviaagain@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:43 PM

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

Subject: Reversing Gov's vetos & Sweep vote

Dear Representatives:

Please vote to add in to HB 2001 or other vehicle the many critically important programs that Gov. Dunleavy sought to zero out or to cut beyond sustainability (e.g. the University system). And vote the reverse sweep to restore funding in critical programs. The Governor's refusal of a reverse sweep is another radical and irresponsible move.

Concerning the University of Alaska, now three generations of our family have received important education or degrees from U of A. I earned a masters degree, my grandson just finished his freshman year at a branch of the University. This institution has taken generations to build it up, It prepares Alaska residents for important careers in Alaska that we need, for example nursing and teaching. It is an important research institution for Arctic, subarctic and marine matters. Perhaps Gov. Dunleavy dislikes northern research that could contradict his apparent denial of climate change, or that could assist fisheries managers by helping learn what is going on in our warming and acidifying ocean.

Thank you for your work, I'm sure you did not want or expect to spend your summer in special sessions.

From: Sharon Baring <sharon_baring@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:32 PM

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

Subject: Please continue to support our State now, with eyes to our future

Good morning, Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to add my voice to the majority of us Alaskans who seek a way forward that acknowledges our declining revenue yet doesn't put our children, our elderly, our common good at risk.

I absolutely oppose Gov. Dunleavy's current budget and ask that you continue to work in a bipartisan manner to respect and reflect the diverse population that lives here. HB 2001 seems on track.

I agree with those who claim the full dividend is rightfully ours, as owners of Alaska's natural resources. I appreciated then, and still do today, the visionary thinking that retained those resources in public trust. I also agree with those who call for reform to the oil tax subsidies. There is no justification for oil companies continuing to get fat while the rest of us go lean. So my proposal is either of these:

Set a budget that fully funds our schools, pre-school through university, our social safety net services and the arts - all things that benefit all of us, whether or not we directly participate in, or even appreciate, any of them.

Draw down equal *percentages* from the full \$3000.00 PFD as well as from the oil tax subsidies in order to fund this targeted amount, so that both sides are giving a little for the sake of the whole. In this scenario, everyone has a stake in our state's infrastructure. *Everyone*. Even those who are living on the edge can, and should, participate in some way. It feels good to be invested.

OR...

Set a budget that fully funds our schools, pre-school through university, our social safety net services and the arts... consider the family income threshold for taxes and then tax us accordingly, up to the full amount of the PFD to cover the costs of the budget. Again, oil companies would be expected to contribute a comparable portion as well.

I support a \$50/first paycheck tax for public education. I support efforts that have those who draw an income from this state paying a share of the infrastructure, whether they live here or not. I support paying for what we have here in Alaska and I definitely support fully funding initiatives, such as our university system, that bring new money into our state, thereby diversifying our economy.

Thank you for your work on my behalf. I will continue to uphold you in my thoughts,

Sharon Baring
2583 Doc John Dr.
Fairbanks

From: Mary Miller <Jnucheese@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:32 PM

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

Subject: Support for HB2001

Mary E. Miller

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of my thoughts on matters currently under consideration by the Alaska Legislature. In recent weeks, you've heard passionate testimony about the impacts of the governor's vetoes from all sectors of Alaskan society. You've also heard testimony about the "guarantee" of a full PFD, and the independence and self-sufficiency of Alaskans. Many express views on the evils of government and overspending, while others see the collapse of our economy and state if the vetoes go through. These testimonials reflect personal beliefs about the role of government in society, how much, what kind, where, who, etc.

While in the Peace Corps (2012-2015), I lived in what some might call collective cultures including Ukraine and Rwanda. In these countries, the individual "rights" were often sacrificed for the good of the collective. Indeed, hiding ones individuality was also frequently a matter of survival; do not draw attention to yourselves, blend in with the masses, etc.

or face persecution, death and/or disappearance. Keeping your identity and personal viewpoints private was taught as a matter of survival. However, the collective or community consciousness also brought about incredible close family ties, duty to each other over self, a government or society that provided for each other. It provided housing and education, medical care, public utilities, etc. to everyone.

In contrast, in the US and here in Alaska, it appears that the collective is frequently sacrificed for the good of the individual. For example, an individual's right to possess a firearm supersedes the deaths of thousands killed every year through mass shootings, suicide, domestic violence, accidental deaths, etc. At the same time, individual thinking also brings about incredible creativity, thinking outside the box, and ethics of personal responsibility, to name a few.

I believe both the collective and the individual views possess positive and negative qualities and the danger lies in the extreme views of each, with no tolerance or consideration for the other's views. This is where we are now.

Most of the testimony indicates that government funds and personnel provide essential services to Alaskans and their communities. Individual and public health, education (pre through post), transportation, housing, the Arts, food security, senior care, environmental protection, energy and utilities, legal assistance, the courts, etc. are all examples of government funded services that benefit all Alaskans, directly and/or indirectly.

The question/problem is how to balance the budget with these expenditures. Either cut them and do without, or be irresponsible and keep funding government services and go bankrupt. But these are not the only choices, as some might want you to believe. The governor is not acting in good faith. Repeatedly, I have heard members of this administration and legislature talk about his budget and vetoes as a beginning of the discussion. Where have you been for the past 7 months, or even past 10 years, as budget cuts and compromises have been taking place? This is not the beginning of the discussion; rather it is the continuation of "death by a thousand cuts". Privatization is not a viable option for the provision of these services, nor is the unmonitored and unregulated mining, logging, and raping of our natural resources a viable option to increase revenue.

I have also heard about the need to negotiate and compromise, yet the governor takes the PFD, oil tax subsidies and a progressive income tax off the table, not up for discussion or negotiation. To this I object. I have no problem with a full PFD, but only if oil tax subsidies and a progressive income tax are also parts of the funding for state government and the valuable services these Alaskans provide for and with each other.

Today, I write to express my views on HB2001. While this bill resulted from bipartisan hard work and compromise, it is still the result of an uneven playing field and a budget crisis created by the governor and his minions. While I support HB2001 as a compromise, I think any reductions in state government programs should only be considered after the implementation of a progressive income tax and cuts to the oil company subsidies.

So I ask you, as Alaskans, to have courage and do what is right for both the individual and collective societies that make up the Alaskan spirit. Fund these valuable services and programs as outlined in HB2001.

From: Troy Swanson <alaskatws@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:41 PM

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

Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>

Cc: Meu Amor <AlaskaBR@gmail.com>

Subject: Testimony to the House Finance Committee of the Alaska Legislature on the 2019 PFD Payout with regard to the HB2001A (Amended)

Good evening members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Claudia Swanson from Palmer and I'm representing myself. My husband came to Alaska in 1969 and was present for the formation of both the Permanent Fund and the PFD by bipartisan legislative members of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and the Libertarian Party, and Gov. Jay Hammond. I and my Husband are Citizens of Alaska, working and living in the South Central area. We are also both graduates of UAA. I support a full PFD and the back capped PFD payouts. Regarding HB2001A (as amended), I do NOT support it, but support a FULL STATUTORY PAYOUT as per A.S. 37.13.140 (b), not what the legislators want to arbitrarily give us Alaskans as per SB 26.

As envisioned by its Founders, the PFD belongs to the people, not state government, and it benefits EVERY Alaskan, not just certain special interest groups or government contractors, so every time the legislature tries to tamper with the traditional PFD formula, it makes matters worse. Until recently, Alaskans believed that the PFD was not a part of the state budget but just a transfer. That is because the PFD was a part of the DGF (Designated General Fund) portion of the budget, just like where incoming federal monies are placed that cannot be manipulated by the Legislature. However, under the leadership of the Finance Committees in 2017, the Legislative Finance Division placed our PFD payouts into the UGF (Undesignated General Fund) portion of the budget, so that, when coupled with SB 26 and continued overspending, the PFDs now have to compete with other state funded services and subject to legislative manipulation. It does not have to remain this way. This discussion should NOT be the PFD vs. state services. Quit tampering with our PFD. Quit capping our PFD. Quit stealing our PFD. Honor the time-tested traditional statutory PFD payout formula and pay us Alaskans the FULL PFD AMOUNT, which is estimated to be about \$3,000 this year.

I would like to emphasize that proper budgeting and cutting expenses should be the priority. We the citizens expect you to recognize the fact the State of Alaska is now anticipating lower revenue for the foreseeable future. From a perspective of metrics, the ratio of current spending to our number of citizens is high, even given the remoteness of some parts of Alaska. Our budgets are too high to sustain given the current and anticipated future of our revenues. This excessive spending HAS to stop. This bill and its proposed use of the Dividend as a method to continue this excessive spending is NOT a solution, nor any other form of taxation. The excessive spending HAS TO STOP.

Also, this bill was not introduced legally under the proper venue in Wasilla according to the Governor's 2nd Special Session Proclamation, but was first introduced by the House Rules Committee on July 8, according to the Legislature's website (<http://www.akleg.gov/PDF/31/Bills/HB2001A.PDF>). This bill being considered now is another example of some legislators trying to muck things up badly. I would suggest that those legislators who remained in Juneau illegally and unconstitutionally join their fellow legislators in Wasilla to conduct the people's business and to negotiate with Gov. Mike Dunleavy to resolve many of these problems that many of you have created over the years.

In conclusion, I support the FULL TRADITIONAL STATUTORY PFD payout, not your arbitrary half-funded, capped theft. Also, repeal SB 26, restore our PFD payouts to DGF budget status, and let Alaskans have a vote on a Constitutional Amendment to put the traditional PFD into our state constitution. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to testify.

Claudia and Troy Swanson

From: 9072400206@vzwpix.com <9072400206@vzwpix.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:
Yes on hb2001

From: Jennifer Gordon <jengordonmom@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: YES on hb2001

YES on hb2001. Please vote for Alaskans, save our state from demise. Save our schools and arts and communities in need.

--

The largest tree that you can't wrap your arms around started with a seed. The thousand-mile journey began with one step.

From: Livjed Sims <jedandoliviasims@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Yes on HB2001

From: Becky Anderson <beckyandersonart@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fairbanks LIO Testimony to House Finance Committee, July 17, 2019

Fairbanks LIO Testimony to House Finance Committee, July 17, 2019

- My name is Becky Anderson. I'm a resident of Fairbanks, represented by House District 5's Adam Wool and Senator Scott Kawasaki.
- I support House Bill 2001.

I support a reduced PFD.

I support overturning the governors vetoes to come together to create a reasonable budget for our state. I support an increase in state revenue for this generated by income tax, the PFD, or a reduction in oil tax credits. I am against the steep and cruel cuts Dunleavy has chosen, which is already causing the crumbling of our state.

- I speak to you today on behalf of myself, my family, and I am also representing Jo Scott, co founder of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, with permission. I speak to you in support of saving our Alaska State Council on the Arts.
- First, I will speak, with permission, for Jo Scott:

"I must share my sadness. I just heard that the Alaska State Council on the Arts has been dissolved.

I was one of the first arts supporters in Fairbanks, who — under the guidance of the late Geneva Emmal — established the Alaska State Council on the Arts in the 1960s.

Actually, Geneva was in contact with the newly established National Endowment for the Arts, which stated that all the states should establish their own state arts councils.

Those of us in Fairbanks were especially proud that Alaska was one of the first states to get their own arts council established.

And now, sadly, Alaska is the only state to no longer have an arts council.

The people who have been involved with ceasing to fund ASCA should be concerned about the harm they have done to Alaska.

I believe I'm the last one left who dedicated their time to establish ASCA in the 1960s. Now I'm 90. And I never dreamed this could ever happen.

Many of us worked for months to get the Alaska State Council on the Arts established, and then-Gov. Bill Egan appointed Geneva as the very first ASCA chairman.

My heart is broken — this is so sad. Is there any way this can be reversed?

Thank you for letting me share my feelings."

- I now speak on behalf of myself and my family;

Dunleavy's nonsensical dissolving of the Alaska State council on the arts is one of many cuts that makes no financial sense. The Alaska State Council on the Arts costs the state a minute 1/100 of one percent of general fund spending package. In turn, For every \$1 that ASCA awarded in 2018, grantees secured an additional \$27 in local match, private contributions and earned income. The contribution back to our state far exceeds the 1/100% cost to the state budget. Losing the Arts is more than losing pretty pictures off the wall. The ASCA has a wide reach of benefits to our people.

The ASCA supports the economies of rural communities which are awarded over 60% of ASCA's grants.

- Healing arts services for Alaskan service members and military families. (Art-based treatments for PTSD and depression save more than \$1000 per veteran.)
- Programs, including The Arts in our Schools boost the academic success of Alaskan youth and reduce school dropouts. (Lowering Alaska's dropout rate could lead to more than \$31 million annually in economic growth opportunities and reduced dependency on the state's social safety net.)
- Promotion of authentic work by Alaska Native artists. (The Silver Hand program protects the livelihoods of Alaska Native artists and secures Alaska's position in a competitive global art marketplace.) This is a huge slap in the face of our indigenous population.
- Also lost is the leveraging power of the state arts agency. Without a state commitment to ASCA, the agency will not be eligible to secure a share of National Endowment for the Arts funds. Those dollars will be allocated elsewhere, leaving Alaskan taxpayers to foot the bill for the arts in other states.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts is a necessary piece of Alaska's culture and service.

Please come together to develop a more sensible budget that will not cause our state to implode.

This is my testimony. Thank you for providing a platform on which to speak today.

Becky Anderson
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Chelsea Lauer <clauerwork@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:26 PM

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

Subject: HB2001

Dear Finance Committee,

First, thank you for your time and service to Alaska. I'm sure you are getting less thanks than you deserve these days, as we, the ordinary citizens, grow weary and concerned about our economy and our future. We have elected you to make decisions for us, for the futures we hope for our children and ourselves, and for the best interest of Alaska. I don't pretend to know all the details or believe all that has been reported. There are many sides to this debate, and truth is largely a matter of opinion. What I do know is that you are elected, chosen, hand picked by the voters of Alaska to make tough decisions. Now is the time, Alaskans!

Political gamesmanship against one another will not produce a win for anyone, especially the citizens that elected you. It's time for everyone to make some compromises. Put down your ego's and serve. Sometimes that is hard when you believe yourself to be "in the right." There is no victory in standing with the governor, and there is no victory in passing everything how you would like, only for him to veto it again.

I encourage you to compromise. Find the middle ground. We are in a moment of reckoning. Believe me, we are there with you as we begin to tell our teenagers to move away, as we tell our seniors to retire elsewhere, as we begin to wonder if our friends will leave too, to find a more stable place to live and work. These are the conversations we are having. Never before have I thought I would tell my kids to leave Alaska, get a job for a year, and then go to school outside. Never before have I thought that maybe I should invest less of my heart, time, and resources in a place that I love because our leadership refuses to find middle ground.

Make some more cuts. Do not impale the university or our schools. Find a way to pay for VPSO's and fund the new crime legislation. Find a way to give an olive branch to Dunleavy and give him some wins. Do NOT pay a full dividend. It is unrealistic to pay a full dividend when we cannot process rape kits or reduce sexual assaults or thefts, or fund drug and mental health related treatment programs, let alone allow school districts to know their budgets a year in advance. You cannot give me dividend and then simultaneously talk about income or sales tax. Consider making the PFD a voter approved fund vs a payout. The PFD is the battleground. Take the piece off the board..one option. Taxes and PFD cannot be an option. PFD and no University or funded education cannot be an option.

Be wise with our trust and our faith in you that you all want what is best for Alaska. A full PFD is not best. A hemorrhaging education system is not best. A village without protection or heat is not best. A state with leaders willing to find solutions and compromise is best. Please. Please figure this mess out. Republican, Democrat or Independent affiliation should not matter. Being an Alaskan first is what matters. It has always mattered to me. Please help make Alaska a place you want to live, work and play in, and that your children and grandchildren will too.

Thank you.

Chelsea Lauer

From: Sean McPhilamy <seanmcphilamy@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 11:43 PM

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

Subject: In support of Public Broadcasting

Good day.

I am writing in support of Talkeetna's community radio station, KTNA, along with other public broadcasting in Alaska.

KTNA is an important part of my life and an important part of my community connection.

For the past four years, I have been assigned away from Alaska as part of my duties in the United States Coast Guard. As a military service member, connection to community is essential, and KTNA helps provide this network for me, no matter where I am stationed.

I am greatly appreciative to be a member of KTNA, even though at the moment, I can't turn on my radio to listen to friends and neighbors volunteering to provide local news, election coverage, and art events. Instead I am able to do this through the internet and stay connected to my community.

But I am very aware that in Talkeetna, as in much of Alaska, that the local community radio station is often the first source to report on emergency alerts and provide support during earthquakes, fires, and floods. While I was home on leave over the Independence Day holiday, the two forest fires located near mile 99 of the Parks Highway were reported, and updated, consistently and coherently for myself and my neighbors, by KTNA staff.

I am looking forward to returning to Talkeetna at the end of this current assignment and once again listening locally to KTNA in the morning with my first cup of coffee.

KTNA is essential. State funding is essential to support KTNA and public broadcasting in Alaska. Please continue to fund the State grants program for public broadcasting.

Thank you,

Sean

—

Sean McPhilamy

22252 South I Street
Talkeetna, Alaska

PO Box 324
Talkeetna, AK 99676

SeanMcPhilamy@mac.com
(907) 947-4310



July 17, 2019

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Sen. Cathy Giessel
Senate President
State Capitol, Rm. 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

Rep. Bryce Edgmon
House Speaker
State Capitol, Rm. 208
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

Dear Senate President Giessel and House Speaker Edgmon,

Article VII of Alaska's Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for the public education (including state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans.

The Legislature generally fulfills this responsibility—and did so on June 10—by appropriating sufficient funds to administer these (and other essential services) in the state's annual operating budget.

Regrettably, the Governor reversed the Legislature's fulfillment of its Article VII constitutional responsibilities by vetoing almost half a billion dollars before signing the budget on June 28.

Chignik Lake Village Council strongly supports the operating budget originally passed by the Legislature. Please work collaboratively with your colleagues to reexecute your constitutional responsibilities.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Lind", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Lind, Chignik Lake Village Council President

Cc. Senate Members
House Members

Encl. Resolution, *Supporting the State's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget as Passed by the Alaska Legislature*



July 17, 2019

Sent Via Electronic Mail

The Chignik Lake Village Council writes to convey our support House Bill 2001. Our position is rooted in the Legislature's constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

Article VII of Alaska's constitution obligates the Legislature to provide for the public education (including a state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans. **Upholding these responsibilities should be the Legislature's sole concern.** Prolonged focus on the location of the second special session or the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend, as various members continue to do, absolves individual lawmakers of their Article VII constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

For this reason, I urge the Legislature to reinstate the operating budget it passed on June 10 through HB 2001.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Lind", is written over a horizontal line.

Don Lind, Chignik Lake Village Council President

Cc. Senate Members
House Members



Resolution 2019-02

Title: Resolution SUPPORTING THE STATE'S FISCAL YEAR 2020 OPERATING BUDGET AS PASSED BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS: Alaska faces a period of fiscal uncertainty unrivaled in state history; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska is one of the most economically disadvantaged places in the nation, with some people living in third world conditions and limited opportunities for jobs; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to provide for the public education, public health, and public welfare of all Alaskans under Article VII, sections 1, 3, and 5 of Alaska's constitution; and

WHEREAS: These responsibilities are not found in the foundational documents of other states, making their discharge particularly important to the inherent rights of Alaskans delineated in Article 1, Section 1 of Alaska's constitution—namely 'all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State;' and

WHEREAS: The Legislature generally discharges its Article VII responsibilities by appropriating sufficient funds to operate state government, including essential services and supports; and

WHEREAS: The Governor typically carries out his Article VII responsibilities by signing the operating budget enacted by the Legislature with minimal line item vetoes; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy's proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget contained an unprecedented number of cuts to state government totaling more than \$1.5 billion, which reduced or eliminated services and supports for public education, public health, and public welfare; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature took public testimony on the Governor's proposed budget through a series of statewide hearings, and an overwhelming majority of the almost 1,100 who testified (990) strongly opposed it due to its economic and social impacts; and

WHEREAS: Responding to the needs of Alaskans, the Legislature sent the Governor a constitutionally responsible operating budget for FY '20, which was the smallest budget enacted in over a decade; and

WHEREAS: The Governor vetoed or reduced almost 200 line items totaling nearly half a billion dollars from the legislatures operating budget without explaining the short-term or long-term consequences to Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chignik Lake Village Council supports the state operating budget passed by the Legislature on June 10 because it fulfills the Legislature's constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

Adopted at a duly called quorum of the Chignik Lake Village Council on this 17th day of July 2019

Signed Don Lind 07-17-19
Don Lind, President Date

Attest Clinton Boskofsky 07-17-19
Clinton Boskofsky, Member Date



North Pacific Fisheries Association, NPFA
P.O. Box 796 Homer, AK 99669
npfahomer@gmail.com

July 18, 2019

House Finance Committee
Attn: Co-Chairs Rep. Foster & Rep. Wilson

RE: HB2001 "APPROP: ERA FOR PERMANENT FUND DIVIDENDS"

Co-Chairs Foster and Wilson, Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ongoing work on this controversial issue of budget and appropriations. We understand this is not a simple task.

North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) is a Homer-based, multi-gear, multi-species commercial fishermen's organization founded in 1955. We represent 65+ fishing families, their crews and approximately 16 business sponsors that are impacted by commercial fishery decisions.

On June 30, 2019 the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund received a sweep of funds from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), Test Fishery and other receipts constituting 15% of the Commercial Fisheries Division annual budget. The result of this sweep will impact fish weirs, aerial surveys, test fisheries (which also add to the state economy indirectly as fishermen earn money from fish sales upon completion of surveys), tagging and monitoring programs and other programs around the state. These programs are crucial to sustainable fisheries management and the state economy. Without the proper tools to make accurate in-season calls on openings, the state, fishermen and local economies lose out on revenue.

We ask that as you deliberate on HB2001, and consider other budget items related to commercial fisheries, that you act quickly to "reverse sweep" funds from the CFEC and other commercial fishery revenues to restore vital funding to ADFG, as they manage Alaska's fisheries sustainably and provide maximum return on investment to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Milne
President, NPFA



July 19, 2019

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear House Finance Committee,

We are writing to request that all vetoed and swept funds be restored. These drastic cuts to programs across Alaska will have negative and lasting impacts on rural and urban Alaska.

Native Peoples Action strives to provide Alaska Native communities and our traditional values with a voice at all levels of policy making. For thousands of years, Alaska Native people have been stewards of the lands and waters. It is important that we continue to see Alaska flourish. To do this we must fund essential services for Alaskans to keep us all safe, healthy, and to continue living our traditional ways of life. At the core, Alaskans have always taken care of each other, no matter political affiliation or status, and we know when to come together to support each other. Now is one of those times when we need to work together for all Alaskans.

An unprecedented number of Alaskans have sent a clear message through thousands of emails, calls and rallies across the state. The vast majority of Alaskans are not in favor of these cuts and have clearly stated that they are invested to ensure that all of our citizens, from children to Elders, are properly cared for.

A recent report stated that one in three communities are without law enforcement. This crisis has been highlighted nationally and will only get worse with the cuts to public safety and the Village Public Safety Officers. Alaska also ranks in the top ten states with the highest rate of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. We cannot adequately protect Alaskans or implement public safety protocols that were passed in the recent crime reform bills without funding. All Alaskans deserve to be safe, no matter their place of residence.

Cuts to mental health, wellness, treatment facilities, and healthcare will only increase our healthcare costs in the long run and create more dire situations for Alaskans. It is shortsighted to cut preventative programs that can help Alaskans overcome wellness issues, drug and alcohol related problems. From a humane standpoint, we need to ensure that we are taking care of our most vulnerable citizens, and if you are only looking from a financial point of view, the preventative costs far outweigh the expensive care in emergency rooms.

These massive cuts to education from Head Start to the University will only limit opportunities for our children and our future. Ensuring that our children have the opportunity to gain a strong educational foundation is an investment in the future of our state. These cuts will lessen the program opportunities available for our youngest and may result in the closing of University campuses throughout the state. It is important that we are afforded the opportunities to stay in our home communities, but without educators and schools, how are families going to continue to work and educate their children? Furthermore, the University has leading international impacts on research, especially in the Arctic, that will have deep, negative impacts on our economy. It will take years to recover and build up what we will lose should these budget cuts remain.



Also critical to rural Alaskans is the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program. The Governor's budget sweep is essentially divesting PCE which provides some equilibrium to rural residents for the cost of their energy. Years ago, the Legislature decided to invest in urban infrastructure for urban Alaska, however, not in rural Alaska. PCE was created to as a way to provide some equity to Alaska's rural citizens. Without this program, rural Alaskans will be paying an exorbitant amount for their energy, leaving some to choose between heating their homes or food as soon as August 2019.

For all these reasons, and many more, we are asking you to restore the vetoed funds and reverse the sweeps.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa/Quyana/Mahsi'/Baassee'/Maasee'/Dogedinh/Thank you,

Kendra Kloster (Tlingit)
Executive Director
Native Peoples Action



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052-3981
425 558 4224
Fax: 425 376 0596
www.nwccu.org

July 18, 2019

Via Electronic Communication: housefinance@akleg.gov

**Finance Committee Co-Chairs
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol**

**Testimony of Sonny Ramaswamy, President
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
July 18, 2019
Redmond, Washington**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Finance Committee.

My name is Sonny Ramaswamy. I currently serve as the president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities located in Redmond, Washington.

I write to share the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' (NWCCU) support for the students of Alaska and to express my continued concern about the ongoing funding challenges for the state's institutions of higher learning.

NWCCU is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and accredits 161 institutions of higher education, including the University of Alaska system, in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington by applying evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote student achievement and success.

Students, the public, state regulatory agencies, such as the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, other higher education institutions, and employers recognize that accredited institutions offer universally accepted degrees and programs. Additionally, students at *only* accredited institutions are eligible for federal funding, i.e., Title IV federal financial aid and federally sponsored grant programs.

Loss of accreditation has had devastating effects for institutions of higher learning across the United States, including: *loss of all federal funding; such as financial aid and federal grant programs; loss of state authorization to operate within a state, or; even closure.*

In my previous correspondence to the members of the Alaska legislature, I shared that the University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Anchorage, and University of Alaska Southeast, each accredited separately by NWCCU, have been subjected to budget reductions for most of the last decade. Significant additional cuts, reductions, and program closures could pose a material and significant risk to the quality of education provided to the students within those

institutions. If student success and achievement are demonstrably affected, it could potentially jeopardize the accreditation status of these institutions. Students attending such institutions then become ineligible for federal financial aid and grants that, combined with the loss of scholarships from the state of Alaska and the recent downgrading by Moody's Investors Service of the University of Alaska's general-revenue and lease-revenue bonds, could be the death-knell for the institutions and, ultimately, the students.

NWCCU has met with University of Alaska system leadership and other administrators, faculty, and staff over the past month and is maintaining daily communication with the institutions to provide advice and counsel on the impact of potential educational, structural, and programmatic changes in response to the budget situation on students and on institutional accreditation.

NWCCU has noted and commended the improvements in student success measures over the past five years at all Alaska institutions as a result of consolidation, the use of online technology, the sharing of resources, partnerships within and without the system, partnership with the private sector, and the critical care for native people.

The Commission has also previously informed the University of Alaska system institutions they must continue to ensure sufficient funds are invested to improve student learning and assessment and student educational attainment. In light of the continued budget woes, these latter efforts could be potentially compromised, which NWCCU is concerned about.

The institutions of Alaska are critical innovation and economic engines, as well as engines for social mobility and the hope for many to lead a better life for themselves and their families. I write today to share my continued concern over the proposed reduction in funding and urge you and your colleagues to ensure the University of Alaska campuses are provided adequate funding to continue the delivery of high quality public education to the citizens of Alaska.

I wish you the best in your deliberations and efforts to support the University of Alaska system.

Please contact me if you need additional information in this regard.

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Holly Scott
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 2001
COMMITTEE: House Finance DATE: July 16, 2019

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

I am a resident of the Kenai Peninsula and have spent over 30 years living in Alaska.

I attended elementary and secondary schools in Soldotna.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from the University of Alaska, Anchorage after attending most classes at Kenai Peninsula Community College.

I graduated with a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from Wayland Baptist after attending classes at their Anchorage and Wasilla sites.

I have worked in the field of Human Services for over two decades working with families through Child Protective Services, Juvenile Justice and provider agencies that serve individuals on Home and Community Based Medicaid waivers.

I started my own business in 2015, providing care coordination.

I am a guardian of an individual that is served on an Intellectual and Developmental Disability waiver who receives Social Security, Adult Public Assistance and Alaska Medicaid.

I have raised three sons in Alaska, with my youngest still in high school.

The Governor's proposed budget harmfully impacts my loved ones, my community and friends across the state.

I am so appalled by the chaos and confusion the Governor has created with the proposed budget that I vehemently opposed and wrote to every single member of the legislature.

I have been in distress as I have seen my own business as well as all healthcare providers impacted by the budget cuts enacted on July 1, 2019. My distress has been further exacerbated watching the people I serve and interact with daily harmed by the cuts.

I am saddened to see those with quality educations leaving our great state. What a disheartening act to watch as young people lose the scholarships they worked so hard for in addition to university programs being cut to the point they must look outside of our state.

It is gut-wrenching to watch homeless shelters closed and programs ceased due to inaction of our legislative body.

Please take my Permanent Fund Dividend and tax all individuals making money in our state (yes, those who take from our state and live elsewhere too) to fund necessary programs that benefit the lives of so many Alaskans!