House Finance 2001

#### Linda Schandelmeier

lindaschandelmeier@gmail.com

District 4

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In a life long at raised on a homestead an alternal of UAT

I urge you to restore the budget you passed during the session, and to

reverse the sweep so the PCE and Student scholarships can continue.

There is so much wrong with the Governor's budget and the proposed \$3000 PFD amount that I don't have time to enumerate here, but unsustainable, heartless, morally bankrupt and dumb come to mind.

If the Governor's budget stands it will gut our university system and in the process take half a billion dollars out of our economy. Cuts to the university will diminish our ability to solve the climate crisis that is already impacting our state, and our ability to educate Alaskans.

A friend of mine tells this story of how the budget cuts are already impacting real people. A friend of hers was going to get a loan to fix a leaking roof, but the credit union said they were no longer giving loans to University employees because of the uncertain budget situation.

And what about the soul of our state? The Governor's budget is stunningly shortsighted and lacking in compassion. It is critical that we continue to support the State Council on the Arts, Public Broadcasting, Early Childhood Education, Healthcare and programs that aid the poor, those down on their luck or struggling mentally and physically.



Please enter into the record my testimony to the Home Final
Committee on 2001 Dated 7-17-19
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Please restore finneling to U.A. UA 13 the
States University for Alaska. It provides post-sundry
education, research and public services for the
state. It asto operates the community college
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SIGNED: John Derry
Testifier
Set / UX
Representing
Address / Phone Number
707 388-0193

7/17/19 HB2001

Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is William Smyth, from Fairbanks, Ak.

I normally don't express my opinions in public forums like this, but I feel very strongly that Governor Dunleavy's budget vetoes are extreme and will hurt our State economically for many years to come.

Cuts to the University of Alaska are excessive, if allowed to stand, will do irreversible damage to the university and higher education in Alaska. Our kids need to have a reason to stay in Alaska to go to school, the governor's budget doesn't give any incentive for them to stay in Alaska to further their education. We know that when kids go outside to school many don't return to Alaska and we lose that talent.

I also see the budget cuts having an negative affect on the overall quality of life that we enjoy here, and that makes Alaska such a great place to live. Rather than under funding education and critical State services, I'm in favor of eliminating or reducing the PFD and if necessary consider some sort of income tax for generating the required funds.

Thanks you for your time.

William Smyth 215 Rhubarb Dr.

Fairbanks, Ak (901) 750-9974



Please enter into the	e record my testimony to the House Finance
	Committee
Committee on	BUDGET / PFD HB Zero Dated 7/17/2019
	. Bill / Subject
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Repres	onting.
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9 (2)	1967) 457-1169
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Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Com
Committee Name
Committee on Pestore the velocal funds   Dated Duly /7
bull subject to the 17A
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system will cripple education.
Closing of compress will likely end up as a systemic cut throughout all programs.
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that service statewice health I the virology lab, mureing set, support for homeless and the elderily,
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but unique to location and research. Education is about diversity and not about
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967-461-8)W
Address / Phone Number
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*	self - Fairbanks ESTER	12
1741	Representing	
147	Address / Phone Number	
	PO-By 354-ESTEK 9972	<u></u>
	907-750-6616	



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	HOUSE FINANCE
Please enter into the record my testimony	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
*	Committee Name
Committee on HB 2001	Dated 17 July 2019
Bill / Subject	s s
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MY NAME IS DIEX, I MOVED TO DIASKA	IN 2016 ON ORDERS FROM THE U.S AIR FORLE,
IT DIONT TAKE LONG FOR ME TO EXPERM	ENCE THE COMMUNITY-CULTURE OF ALASKA.
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SIGNED:	ALEX COLON - RAMOS
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MYSELF	20 20
Representing	*
1547 CHENA RIDGE RO	FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

Address / Phone Number

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

Legislators, thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 2001, which would set the PFD for this year, restore funding removed via line-item veto, and accomplish the "reverse sweep" that is essential for funding some state programs.

I could direct my comments in so many different ways, appealing to your love of Alaska's people as I beg you not to take away health care, homeless shelters, village safety officers and so many other crucial services. But with only two minutes, I'll focus on my own story.

I have a PhD from UAF, and I work at UAF. My husband grew up in Skagway, earned a performance scholarship, graduated from UAF, and has worked at UAF ever since. Like everyone else, we spend money in local restaurants, stores, businesses, garages. We built our home with locally harvested wood from Northland Lumber, Fairbanks. We heat our home with locally produced wood pellets from Superior Pellets, North Pole. We love our community, and we love Alaska.

You might think that I'm here to plead for the jobs that support us and our two kids – and that's true. I'm deeply worried. But both our jobs are supported almost entirely not by state funds, but by grants – competitive grants from NASA, from NOAA, from BLM, from the government of Canada, from the US military, and more. If our university is undermined, if we start slashing departments and faculty, we will lose our competitive edge, and lose the ability to pull in this out-of-state money.

I'd support other ways to improve Alaska's budget, including taxing my income or my property. But hacking and slashing is desperately short-sighted, and will harm not only my family, but our community, our economy, and our state.

Again, thank you.

Nancy Fresco 93 Roxie Road Fairbanks AK 99709 907-888-6960



Love
Please enter into the record my testimony to the Fine wee Committee Name
Committee on HB 200) Bill / Subject Dated 7/7/9
Please record the Vetos, How can one person
decide to bring on a real regession. We have
had one before in the 80's and it has taken VS
decades to recover. We need reason and yes,
compromise (which the Legislature already how) th
their budget proposal). It's time for the Govenor
to compromise, We should move toward
making Alacka a better place to live, not
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The PF was started to help out in dire time
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Thanks for having this hearing
SIGNED: Testifier Melchin
Representing
2721 Horssfail In Folis 4556615



Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
Committee on the Governor's Vetoes Dated 4-17-19  Bill/Subject #B700
- Reject the Governor's
vetoes and restore the
coalition budget.
- Protect & fund the University,
Thank you public education and
health & social
services.
- Work toward an
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signed: finda file
Testifier Se ( f
Representing
820 Canterbury Dr. FBKS, AK 99709
Address / Phone Number 907-322-6548



The finance
Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget PFD
Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget PFD  Committee on Bill / Subject  Bill / Subject  Bill / Subject  Bill / Subject  Dated 7/17/19
Bill / Subject
: My name is Nancy Sonafrank, I live at 3860 Azurile.
in Ester, AK. I was born in Fairbanks nearly 60 years ago.
I have 2 children born, vaised an married and regustered to
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I strongly object to the governor's vetoes and other musu of power, such as "sweeping" the power cost equalization and student
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K-12 education and early education. I support either or both a reduction benefits and Proneer Homes. I support either or both a reduction
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Representing
3860 Azurite Dr. Fairbanks, AK 99709
Address / Phone Number
907-347-2932 /907-474-8831

HB2001

July 17, 2019

My name is Jeanette Grasto. I am the president of NAMI Fairbanks, family member of people with serious mental illness and friend of many people who live with mental illness.

I have already testified to this committee about the budget items that impact those with serious mental illness. You already passed a budget that although didn't address the total need, also didn't try to balance the budget on our most vulnerable Alaskans. Thank you for your work.

I am not sure what those who govern us think. Do they believe that not funding adequate services for those with serious mental illness and other disabilities will make the problem go away like the Arts Council did?

The truth is that the need exists even though the solutions and treatments are not funded and come back even more serious and more expensive. We are defaulting to expensive institutional care to take care of folks. That is now.

Just one problem, our institutional systems of care and our crisis systems of care are also inadequate to meet the need. I want to testify about that.

I attended the Alaska Mental Health Trust Disability Justice Focus group on July 12<sup>th</sup>. What I heard from programs who are sincerely trying to serve this population was discouraging. The Mental Health system in the whole state of Alaska is in crisis. There is one system the governor does not want to cut and it serves as our default mental health system, Corrections. I heard that on July 12<sup>th</sup>, Corrections had 5 people in custody who have no criminal charges against them. That means that our hospital beds were full so patients, yet people with an illness and not criminals, are being housed in jails. I didn't hear if they received treatment there.

The consensus of the focus group was that Community Mental Health Centers operate on the sustainability model providing only services that are Medicaid reimbursable. Community Mental Health Centers are not easy for people with mental illness to access and one CIT officer reported that when they refer people to them, they are turned away because their symptoms are too acute and staff does not have the training to deal with them

There is a lack of sub-acute residential stabilization programs facilities for those who cannot go home but don't meet the need for hospitalization. There is a lack of supported housing and assisted living for people with serious mental illness to support them in the community.

Once a mentally person enters corrections, the process moves very slow. Isn't it expensive to house people there? It is not therapeutic and contributes to their symptoms.

I am talking about people that I care about that need your help to bring us a system of care that meets the need. It is a win-win because it will save money by reducing more expensive institutional care. Mental Illness is an illness, treatment works and recovery is not only possible but probable with adequate care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

ingrasto@Mosgutonet.com



Please enter	into the record	my testimony	to the Hou	se Finance	<sup>я</sup> в
Committee o	1100		79	Committee Name Dated 7-17-2	019
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Testimony on HB 2001, July 17, 2019

The actions of the State of Alaska should improve the lives of the people of Alaska. The Governor's budget vetoes cause immediate and lasting harm to all people of Alaska. Please support HB 2001 and restore the funding to the core state service established in the budget passed by the legislature. The fall in property values due to the vetoes has already caused greater economic loss to homeowners then a \$3,000 PFD could restore. The loss of thousands of highly skilled jobs will collapse the state economy, sending us back into recession, and harming every small business in Alaska.

It has long been a goal in the state to fill highly skilled jobs in Alaska with Alaskan workers. This requires a strong and productive University. The destructive veto to UA funding will not only harm the students, but also leave no skilled workforce for employers. They will then need to hire outside workers, who will send their earnings out of state, doing more harm to the Alaska economy.

The Governor's budget vetoes hurt young Alaskans and old Alaskans, Alaskans in poverty and Alaskans who own businesses. The young people of Alaska are not a "special interest" group; they are the future of our state. Senior Alaskans are not s special interest group; they are the people who built our state. I can't take a \$3,000 PFD and buy back the things we will lose if funding is not restored to these core state services.

Please restore funding by supporting HB 2001.

Duncan Marriott Fairbanks Alaska

HPIN 7/17/19 HB2001

#### My Name is Deanna Lazarus

My Legislators are Bart LeBon and Scott Kawasaki

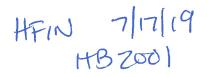
Thank you for hearing my testimony.

This Veto is hurting thousands of Alaskans with an uncertain future. Not just those that are part of the UA System, but our children that will be responsible for this Great State when they are all grown up and those that are most vulnerable. In the last few weeks I have watched people in this state become even more divided, pitting neighbors, friends and families against one another, all over a promise of \$3000 PFD. The PFD was never meant to be a "RIGHT" it was more of a "Perk" for living in Alaska. As it is known "Perks" eventually shrink or go away.

It is not just for my job as a UA employee that I am here. It is for the future of my son that I'm here, with public school cuts this year and over the last few years; his education will not be to the standards that Alaska has been known for and why many stay here. I have to think about him, if he does not get the education he deserves both in K-12 and at an amazing University. On top of that I may lose my job. I will be forced to leave the state for him and I know that he loves this state and it will break his heart if we have to leave.

Is 3000.00 worth the loss of generations of Alaskans?





July 17, 2019

Dear Members of the Alaska State House Committee on Finance,

I am a lifelong Fairbanksan and a UAF student. I am a public radio listener, a Planned Parenthood patient, a product of excellent public schools, a supporter of the arts, and an Alaska Performance Scholarship recipient. I am a volunteer and an employee. I am a hard worker, and I've been on Medicaid when I needed it. I am an Alaskan, and I love our home with all my heart.

I am here today urging you to support House Bill 2001, which will restore funding that Governor Dunleavy and his out of state puppet master have vetoed from the budget.

Every dollar we spend is a decision, and I hope you will choose to stand up for our elders, our artists, our educators, and our most vulnerable neighbors. Choosing to gut essential state services cuts us to our core, and tells my generation and the people who come after me that we are not worth investing in. I hope you will pass this bill and fund the programs and services that keep us healthy, safe, and employed.

Please stand up for the things we hold dear: education, healthcare, the arts, Alaskan jobs, elder care, public transportation, affordable and renewable energy, public radio, and the many other ways that our government serves us as Alaskans. Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,

Kasey Casort

870 Pickering Dr. Fairbanks, AK 99709 casort.kasey@gmail.com



Please enter into the record my testimony to the 413 200
Committee on open house Fairbanks Dated 7/19 (7/17/19)
Bill / Subject
I am a grade student of UAF native arts department. The
native arts department at UAF is one of the few on accordited graduate
arel programs in the notion. To teach native arts, I plan to earn
y MFA in native acts at UAF. However, with the current cuts to
e university the accredition for our program is now being reconsidered.
art of the accordiation is a stable fiscal plan that our program has
created for many years. The current cuts have put our fiscal plan in
provide apardy and can result in the termination of several professors
that are tenurce & on my acquise Committee. With only a year left to
that are tenurch 8 on my graduate Committee. With only a year left to complete my MFA, I will likely loose half or more of my Committee and program will likely be cut or loose accrediation. I would rather
and program will likely be cut or loose accreate from I would nather
Continue my research & MFA program rather then receive the
PFD as an handout. I would gladly pay a sales tax to continue
funding of the luniversity System,
12011
SIGNED: heresa Wolfed
Testifier
myself
Representing
Po box 56702 North Pole, Zip 99705

Address / Phone Number



#### **DENAKKANAAGA**

#### 101 Dunkel Street, Suite 135, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

July 17, 2019

Dear Chairman Foster and House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing you in support of HB 2001 on behalf of Denakkanaaga, the regional non-profit organization representing Native elders within Interior Alaska. We support the bill as it overrides the Governor's vetoes, what are extremely detrimental to our state's residents.

As you know, the Governor's proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget contained an unprecedented number of cuts to state government – including elimination or huge reductions to state services and supports for public education, elderly programs, and public welfare. Those cuts can not be allowed to go through. We believe the Governor's cuts only considered the impact to the state's treasury, not the impact on Alaskans.

We are asking you as representatives of the residents of Alaska; residents who will feel the brunt of the cuts, to please fulfill your Article VII constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans by overriding the Governor's vetoes through HB 2001.

Thank you for your time and service to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sharon McConnell
Executive Director

P: (907) 451-3900 F: (907) 451-3909

W: www.denakkanaaga.org



Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
Committee on HB 2001 Dated
Bill / Subject
Dear Committee Members,
Please restore funding to the vital
services the Governor Vetoed, Education
is vital to our economy and our community-
pre-K thru post secondary.
There are too many to mention by name,
but equity in rural of urban areas is
especially important in our state - power cost
equalization being one.
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iompensate for these losses.
Section 1980 and 1980
SIGNED: Charl Cheryl Keepers
Testifier
Self Representing
PO Box 74898 Fairbanks AK
Address / Phone Number  907 - 474 - 8063

I'm representing myself

HB 2001 7/17/19 HFIN

I'm Elizabeth Dobbins. I live in Fairbanks. I've attended 3 budget town halls hosted by members of the interior delegation. I've submitted written testimony, but I haven't spoken before. I'd like to thank you for those town halls and for the opportunity to speak today.

During the dueling Facebook posts and press reports of the last month, the rule of law has often been used to justify the actions of individual legislators. So I'd like to highlight sections of the Alaskan constitution that I hope will guide your discussions in the coming weeks.

Article 7,

Section 4. Public Health

The legislature shall provide for the promotion and protection of public health.

Article 7

Section 5. Public Welfare

The legislature shall provide for public welfare.

The Citizen's Guide to the Alaskan Constitution said of these two sections, "Neither section has spawned controversy or required judicial interpretation." So we might disagree over the details of the definition of welfare, but in the past, it's been obvious what these sections mean.

It doesn't mean the welfare of a political party or governor.

It doesn't mean the welfare of corporate interests.

The economy and jobs are important to a state, but they aren't its defining characteristic. Kennnecott Mine made lots of money and created jobs, but it didn't leave behind a community. It's a ghost town now. Prudhoe Bay is a fenced off work camp. Workers come and go, and its profits don't stay in Alaska either.

Please restore whatever funding you can this year. But more than that, please change the laws being used to justify ignoring the public's health and welfare. This is particularly important because another set of cuts is coming next year, and we don't want to go through this again.

The dollar amount of the PFD is irrelevant to me personally - except that it justifies heartlessness and divides citizens.

Thank you again, Elizabeth Dobbins To the Alaska Legislature:

I am here to urge the legislature to take back control of our state from outside influences – to pass and uphold House Bill 2001 and NOT to approve a \$3,000 pfd.

Ms. Donna Arduin's influence has led to the Gov's. VETO of a budget crafted and refined by Alaskans for Alaska.

The Governor's vetoes of YOUR budget will exact untold damage to our state for generations to come – to our economy, to our society, and to our culture. This harm, abetted by someone with NO ties to, knowledge of, or care for our state – is justified so that we can each receive a pfd check for \$3,000 this year!

\$3,000 will NOT make up for: losing a world class university that is an economic engine for the state, is a center of creativity, and that trains our engineers, scientists, teachers, and health professionals. The PEOPLE of our University are the economic engine of the communities in which they reside. When these neighbors leave the businesses, non-profits, and communities they supported are left with FAILED businesses, people in need, and empty homes.

\$3,000 will NOT make up for: the lost care and security of our seniors; or what will become a deteriorating public education system for our children; or the the loss of emergency planning like what we relied on this past year to help us through earthquake and fire emergencies; or for the safety net of health care, safe spaces, food and housing support that people at risk need and that a humane society provides.

\$3,000 will NOT make up for: the loss of the arts which add substantially to each community's economy, turn around kids at risk, improve student's cognitive abilities, and help those suffering from PTSD or contemplating suicide. The arts make a community an attractive place to live and raise a family, foster creativity and problem-solving, AND DEFINE US AS HUMANS.

\$3,000 will NOT make up for: the thousands of jobs that will be lost and the resulting harm to our state for decades to come.

Please re-instate a budget made by Alaskans for Alaskans. Please pass and uphold House Bill 2001 and do so without paying out a \$3,000 pfd.

Anne Ruggles 1807 Red Fox De Fair bornts 99709



Please enter	into the record my testimony to the douse Finance Committee
Committee	On MB 2001 Dated Auly 17, 2019 Bill / Subject
adding o	appropriations back into the budget that
1 1	He legistal and August 11 +11
the logi	slature had an opportunity to override (which
is be	(as has perogetive under the constitution), that islature had an opportunity to override (which is opportunity provided by the constitution) youd the process established by the Constitution.
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If y	ou want to reduce the dividend payment egislature must first pass a separate bill
To Co	hangoth statute.
9K	Gleun M. Prax
SIGNED:	Testifier
155	Self Representing
(B) /20	Address / Phone Number
± .	(907) 378-5667



Please enter into the record my testimony to the
Committee on HB 200/ Dated 7-17-19
Bill / Subject
I urge the legislature to fix what the
governor broke with his Vetres.
I am infavor of re-instrating an iname tax
the school tax and the legislature should
Seriously consider raising the gas tax.
We should quit subsidizing the most.
profitable corporations in the history of
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the university is a huge economic driver gothe state. Do NOT Cut! Satually
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more 58 should go to the Cenewrity system.
SIGNED: CAROL DAVIS
Testifier
Self.
Representing
1018 Collogo Rd. 99701
Address / Phone Number

HFIN HB 2001 7/17/19 hearing

July 16, 2019

Dear Alaska Legislators,

This testimony is to ask that you restore the funds cut by the Governors' vetoes particularly K-`12, the University of Alaska and Medicaid funding. I believe House Bills 2001 would do this.

If Alaska has an uneducated populace we will never progress economically or as a society. Also destroying the University of Alaska and the second largest city, Fairbanks, is wrong. If I remember my Economics course 101 correctly, money (salaries, investments) turn over in most communities 7x. Also many of the cuts have matching federal and private grants many times the amounts of the cuts.

Personally, I would be happy to have my PFD less (\$1000 vs \$3000) to allow some of the funding restored. I am sure the people of Fairbanks would rather have a job verses a \$3000 PFD. Do you remember Fairbanks after the pipeline with banks closing, houses foreclosed, no jobs and the saying "Please lock the door after the last person leaves town". Let's not do this again when it is avoidable.

Now is the time to look for other revenues. Sales tax, include on line purchases and excluding food and medical care. Also an income tax on salaried workers would provide some income. Both would derive some income from out of state workers. Possibly taxing the large tourist companies and also mining

operations and not giving the oil companies money to take our oil may also help. Smaller PFDs can also help.

Thank you Tul

Ronald M Teel, D.D.S.

Retired dentist and 50+ year Alaska resident

1009 Gilmore St.

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

familyteel@gci.net

907 452 2675

HB 2001 HFN 7/17/19

#### Scott C. Eickholt/Business Manager

Laborers' Local 942

3321 Chetana Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

As an Alaskan, I am incredibly saddened and frustrated with the inaction of our elected leaders of this State. I am more so saddened we have a governor who seemingly is focused on the complete destruction of our State and economy. These cuts are irresponsible, aimless and illadvised. The wake of damage is already apparent and will have lasting effects for years to come.

My main frustration is born through the inactivity and juvenile acts of the cowardly 22 who chose to break from their responsibility and insist on breaking from the majority. Their responsibility and power are equal to that of the Governor and the judicial branch of Government. It is odd then that 1/3 of said legislature would follow blindly the one person who should be encouraging the Legislative body, as a whole to work harmoniously together, to compromise and make a deal.

The Legislature did in fact at one time make a deal, this was delivered to the Governor who then decided to disregard the compromise and wisdom that was a budget which should have been signed. It is confusing that some of the same legislators who worked on this budget could then not agree to the same terms they themselves helped forge.

Political gamesmanship is at an all-time high and we are paying attention. We don't need politicians playing politics, we need politicians doing what they were hired to do; make hard decisions, lead and keep this great State on a path to prosperity.

With the development of HB 2001, we again have the possibility of compromise and a solution for Alaskans. I encourage ALL legislators to vote yes on HB 2001, make responsible cuts where they are needed but most importantly, save the critical services which were so cruelly slashed by the Governor.

The cuts are too many to list but at the top is the University of Alaska system. This preposterous, ridiculous and atomic in terms of destructive acts should be a no-brainer of a reason to over-ride the vetoes. Nearly every citizen is panicked that our economy will quickly slough to the mid-80's level and we will lose everything we have worked so hard to build, earn and save. A majority of the people I represent and know agree they would forgo most (if not all) of a dividend as a sacrifice to SAVE OUR STATE. The same dividend the Governor claims we deserve simply because he made a promise he could not keep. What we deserve is a true leader and not a coward who hides behind a red pen rather than rolled up sleeves and many sleepless nights.

We are asking you, the full legislature, all of you, to come together and pass this Bill.

Thank you for allowing my testimony.

TO: House Finance Committee
Fairbanks Hearing
July 17, 2019

HB2001

FROM: Phyllis Haggland 2100 Becker Ridge Rd Fairbanks, AK 99709

**RE: Public Testimony** 

- 1. Line-item vetoes: ALL should be reversed and the Legislature should change the law allowing this practice. The SEPARATION OF POWERS must be respected and defended to protect democracy from deteriorating into dictatorship.
- 2. PFD: the \$3000.00 amount, no matter how justified, should not be paid. Dunleavy politicized the PFD and used it to buy votes. Many Alaskans sold their government, culture, natural resources, public education, seniors, health and future generations for a few shekels. The Legislature should pay out a reasonable amount and try to remove the formula from the political arena.
- 3. Budget: oil tax credits need to be eliminated. It is simply stupid to pay Big Oil more than we receive from them. The public also needs to know the amount of political contributions received by every politician from oil companies, other large corporations and their front organizations. After that a progressive income tax should be on the table because it is not fair that property owners alone continue to accept the rising tax burden.

Respectfully submitted on July 16, 2019, Phyllis Haggland
2100 Becker Ridge Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-479-6737

phaggland@yahoo.com

#### Michael R. Lilly 650 Eton Blvd. Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

July 17, 2019

House Finance Committee HB 2001 Hearing Fairbanks Legislative Information Office 1292 Sadler Way Suite 308 Fairbanks, AK 99701

#### Dear Representatives,

My full name is Michael Russell Lilly and I reside at 650 Eton Blvd., Fairbanks, in District 4. I am testifying today for myself, and as a representative of the US Permafrost Association. The US Permafrost Association is a professional society of engineers and scientists incorporated in Alaska and we represent the US in various national and international roles. I have lived in Alaska since 1985, and have raised two children in Fairbanks. I am a small business owner and have been a registered republican my whole voting life and generally conservative.

I am personally not supportive of any of the Governor's budget vetoes or recent inappropriate fiscal sweeps. I agree with many other business representatives in the state that the current extent and pace of budget cuts will eliminate critical public services and result in losses of thousands of jobs both short term, and long term. I am speaking here today on the specific issue of funding for the University of Alaska. The US Permafrost Association strongly supports the University of Alaska and it's role in engineering and science in Alaska and the Arctic. University of Alaska graduates impact the daily lives of Alaskans across the state. These impacts cover all aspects of life in Alaska, such as housing, transportation and business. Petroleum, mining and resource development industries and supporting companies incorporate graduates from the University system now, and will need them even more in the future. Changing climate conditions, increased open water in the Arctic and more extreme fire seasons are just some of the examples that will require complex solutions coming from future graduates.

Building new businesses, addressing changing climate conditions, maintaining roads, buildings and housing and keeping more funding in the state will require a strong University System. Alaskans need a strong Alaskan workforce, raised in Alaska, taught in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Lilly