



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance

Committee on

HB 2001

Committee Name

Dated

7/17/19

Bill / Subject

Restore the budget cuts: Your budget was sensible, the vetos are reckless & will send this state into a downward spiral.

Ideas:

- ① taxes based on income - this does not hurt our most vulnerable
- ② PFD's on a sliding scale - ~~it~~ again this allows the lowest income people/families to keep their PFD's while decreasing them for people like me who (at the moment) have good jobs.
- ③ Change funding source for the University - no University can provide a good education when ~~the~~ it is beholden to ideological warfare. A university needs a steady "base" budget it can rely on each year. A portion of ^{the interest from} ~~the interest from~~ AK's invested savings could be set aside to fund education. This would keep a steady base budget that could be counted on.

I am sure there are smarter people than me that have even better ideas. I support HB 2001 but also support changing the way we fund the running of the state of Alaska. It won't be easy, it

SIGNED:

Nicole Misarti

Testifier

Myself as an Alaskan Resident

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will be controversial & I do not envy those of you
that must make those hard decisions. But you must
make them, or Alaska will become an extraction state
with few permanent residents, abandoned towns, and no
future.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Committee on HB2001

Committee Name

Dated 7/17/2019

Bill / Subject

This is a dark time in the state of Alaska and the pervasive angst is palpable. The inability to override the vetoes last week was, to put it mildly, painful.

I join the many here today that spoke passionately and eloquently and ask you to support and pass HB2001 and reinstate the funding eliminated via Dunleavy's draconian and heartless vetoes. I also ask you to reverse sweep the funding for the PCE and performance scholarships and return that funding.

I have heard it said that budgets are moral compasses. Dunleavy's budget is both a directionless compass and lacks morality. It also lacks empathy, compassion, reality, knowledge of Alaska, common sense, and any sense of caring about Alaska and Alaskans.

To sacrifice health, safety, education, public broadcasting, public services, the young, the elderly, the poor and underserved, the arts, and wellbeing of Alaska and Alaskans is abhorrent. And for what? An unsustainable \$3000⁰⁰ PFD? That won't help us. For \$1.2 billion oil tax credits to oil industry that has record profits in Alaska? That amount of money - redirected to state services - would largely balance our budget. We can't expect the oil industry to save us. They have not done so yet.

This situation is further evidence that it is time - or past time - to cut the oil industry umbilical cord.

(see other side)

SIGNED:

Lisa Baraff

Testifier

Self

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Please, do right by the state, its people, and future and pass HB 2001. Do the Alaskan thing and prove through your actions that you care for our great land, the people, the young and old, and future generations.

I support a smaller, sustainable PFD, the dissemination of which does not supersede state services. I also support a progressive income tax and eliminating oil tax credits.

Alaska Public Media ran a story in April 2009 in which Dunleavy stated, "I am going to take us back to the '60s. We were a state of 250,000, maybe 300,000, and our budgets back in the mid- to late 60s were about \$175 million a year. Our budget today is \$5.7 billion."

This is not only an absurd statement, ~~that~~^{it} fails to account for numerous population and political and economic changes since the 1960s.

I would ask Dunleavy, however, to remember this was a time pre-TARP, pre-PFD, when we paid income tax, AND we were a blue state. So, if we are going back to the 60s, let's go back to taxes and democracy.

Thank you.





ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE

Committee on HB3001
Bill / Subject

Committee Name
Dated 07/17/19

MY NAME IS DANIEL STICH, I WAS STATIONED AT FORT WAINWRIGHT IN 2012 AND CALLED FAIRBANKS HOME UNTIL 2018. I COMPLETED MY ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT VAF ~~AND~~ BUT DUE TO THE CUTTING OF PROGRAMS AT VAF I CHOSE TO ATTEND ANOTHER SCHOOL TO FINISH MY EDUCATION. I AM CURRENTLY ATTENDING KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND STUDYING SOIL SCIENCE. I HOPE TO BRING MY KNOWLEDGE BACK TO ALASKA AND WORK ON PERMAFROST PRESERVATION, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR ALASKAN INFRASTRUCTURE. IT WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY AROUND THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY THAT DROVE ME TO LEAVE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN ALASKA, TO PURSUE MY EDUCATION IN ANOTHER STATE. THESE BUDGET CUTS TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WILL FORCE OTHER YOUNG ALASKANS TO LEAVE OUR STATE AND SEEK EDUCATION ELSEWHERE. SOME MAY NOT CHOOSE TO RETURN AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INPUT WILL BE LOST TO US FOREVER. MANY YOUNG ALASKANS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ATTENDING OUR UNIVERSITIES ON SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE UNABLE TO FINISH THEIR EDUCATION AT ALL. THEIR IDEAS AND SKILLS ARE NO LESS VALUABLE THAN ANY OTHER STUDENTS AND THEY DESERVE THE CHANCE TO BETTER THEMSELVES AND ALL OF US. ~~THEY DESERVE THE CHANCE TO BETTER THEMSELVES AND ALL OF US.~~

SIGNED:

Daniel Stich

Testifier

DANIEL STICH

MYSELF

Representing

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ALASKAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CLIMATE CONCERNS DUE TO THEIR EXISTENCE IN VERY CLIMATE SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM. REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING WILL HURT EACH OF US, ~~AND~~ BECAUSE THESE PROGRAMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF COMING CHANGES IN GLOBAL CLIMATE. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR UA TO DRIVE THE CHARGE ON CLIMATE RESEARCH BECAUSE WE WILL BE THE FIRST TO FEEL THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR ARCTIC ECOSYSTEMS. WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO WAIT ON THE LOWER 48, WE NEED TO HELP UAF TO BECOME A UNIVERSITY THAT OTHER STATES LOOK TO FOR SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE, NOT ALLOW IT TO FALL INTO FINACIAL INSTABILITY AND IRRELEVANCY.

I WANT ~~TO~~ COME HOME TO ALASKA. I WANT TO BE PROVD TO LIVE HERE AND RAISE A FAMILY, BUT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD MY FUTVRE CHILDREN THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AT EDUCATION THAT I HAVE RECIEVED IF WE ALLOW THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO BE GUTED IN THIS WAY.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

193

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance

Committee on HB 2001 Appropriations Committee ERA Committee Name Dated 07/17/2019
Bill / Subject
for Permanent Fund Dividends

attached

SIGNED:

Anne Brenner Armstrong

Testifier

myself

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Testimony for HB2001: Appropriations Committee ERA for Permanent
Fund Dividends
House Finance Committee

Good Afternoon, Co-Chair Neal Foster, Co-Chair Adam Wool and members of the House Finance Committee.

My name is Anne Brenner Armstrong. I am a graduate student and educator from Fairbanks. In a volunteer capacity, I work with the Center for Civic Education as state coordinator of Project Citizen, supporting K-12 public policy research.

[A shout-out to Rep. Jennifer Johnston here who has interacted with Project Citizen students on their research.]

Today I represent my family and myself as I share three short-term and three long term recommendations.

First I want to share my pride and appreciation of the 37 Legislators working across the aisle to override Governor Dunleavy's budget vetoes. Your outreach to Alaskans was impressive; your communication meaningful and memorable. This collaboration will build and carry forward.

TWO Immediate Recommendations

- Reduce the PFD to a sustainable amount. Our state needs continuous growth with this fund for the good of our people. The proposed \$3000 dividend will spike negative effects for individuals and Alaskan communities.

Its impact will be compounded for victim populations of the Governor's vetoes...young children, seniors, and specific demographic populations will realize the available protection provided by every level of public safety officers will be minimized or unavailable.

- Return to the balanced budget you intentionally designed for reasonable, sustainable public services. Adopt the budget you worked hard to negotiate.

THREE Long-term Recommendations

- Revive a tax base to support education, health, safety and community development.

Tax options would include oil tax and state income tax.

- Adjust State Constitution to clarify purpose, function, and use of the PFD
- Adjust the State Constitution to change the % of votes needed to override a governor's veto. 60% is reasonable.

Thank you.



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Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee

Committee on HB 2001

Bill / Subject

Committee Name

Dated 7.17.19

Dear Finance Committee Members,
I urge you to support HB 2001.

The governor's vetos are already beginning to hurt people around the state. Electric rates are rising in the bush, people are losing access to dental care, students are losing scholarships, poor seniors are losing income that they depend on to live, the Arts Council is gone along with its economic benefits to the state, and teachers and professors are already making plans to leave the state. And there is so much more.

These impacts are hurting people directly, and they will have additional impacts on local businesses, like my own small business, from unemployment and jobs loss in our communities.

If other budget impacts are confirmed, cities and towns will have to increase their property taxes, ferry service to coastal communities will be strangled, important at-sea monitoring of cruise ship pollution will disappear in 2020. The lasting damage to children from the loss of early childhood education will be felt for a life time. Not to mention the loss of federally matching funds.

(continued on the back)

SIGNED:

Laurie Walton

Laurie Walton

Testifier

self.

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that will be leaving the state. All these draconian cuts hurt our most vulnerable citizens while the oil companies, who are making record breaking profits, go untouched.

The governor's cuts are cruel, mean spirited and worst of all unnecessary.

The state is perfectly capable of paying for the programs in HB 2001 and still giving every person in the state a permanent fund dividend of over \$900.

I urge you to support HB 2001 and the legislature's budget.

Sincerely,

Laurie Walton

P.S. Thank you to the Bipartisan Majority for all their dedication, courage and work for the citizens of Alaska.