

House Finance Committee
Public Testimony
HB 2001
Emails received to
HouseFinance@akleg.gov
July 20-21, 2019

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

From: Eileen Buchanan <tbuchone@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 12:46 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore funding

Hello,

Please restore funding for UAF and the Alaska Performance Scholarships for this year. If higher education is to be reduced so severely, please do it gradually over a few years. Tuition can't be raised immediately and students need time to plan especially when programs will be cut.

Thank you.

Eileen Buchanan

From: Fritz Iversen <fritz_i@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 8:18 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cutting off my lifeline

KTNA public radio is vitally important to my health and wellbeing. As a bush resident it is my source for emergency information on wildfires. I urge you to keep funding this important resource.

Frederick Iversen
Katie Lake, Talkeetna

From: Margareth <mbtwigg@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 9:33 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: public radio

Dear House Finance committee,

I am writing you in support of public radio. I live in rural Talkeetna, and want to stress the importance of our local radio station KTNA. We, like many other parts of Alaska are experiencing major wildfires. KTNA was instrumental in reporting hour by hour about the wildfires, and evacuation notices well before the Emergency Alert system and Nixle system. As well, the November earthquake, KTNA reported throughout the whole emergency. Local media is essential during an emergency!

Please reconsider funding public radio.

Thank you,
Margareth Twigg
Talkeetna, Alaska

From: Carol Hazeltine <cbhazeltine@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 9:37 AM

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

Subject: Public Broadcasting is vital!

Dear House Finance Committee,

Again we have an opportunity to do the right thing by way of what is actually important to the people of Alaska. Because public radio news producers have close and immediate relationships with first responders in rural areas of our state, they provide the first, timely, and true information of local emergency information to the local and affected communities.

The first responders could never field all the calls and questions from local community members that flood the local radio stations during local emergencies. But stations, such as KTNA, during the recent fires did.

From KTNA:

- When fighting the two fires was handed off to a national incident management team, they spoke with KTNA first because their experience is that **local radio is the effective way to get information out in rural areas during a wildfire**. The Anchorage Daily News quoted our interview with the incident commander for its news story.
- Tens of thousands of people followed our social media posts and our online streaming was maxed out.
- Local media is essential during an emergency. **In rural Alaska, public radio is often the only local news source and already has the relationships and infrastructure in place to provide information during an emergency. The state's investment in public broadcasting is a small item for the state (\$2.7 million) but of large importance to rural stations. At KTNA, the state grant is one-quarter of our budget. Without it, we will be cutting staff and will not be as responsive in the next emergency.**

Not only is public broadcasting important for local, especially rural and remote citizens in emergencies, but it provides education and cultural enrichment that connects out into far

reaches of the bush. This cultural enrichment at our fingertips is part of what makes so unique and so wonderful. Please help keep our state the wonderful place that it is by funding Public Broadcasting. This is very important to me. More important than the permanent fund!

Thank you, Carol Hazeltine

From: Diane DeSloover <dianedesloover@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 9:42 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's vetoes

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

I must register my voice with thousands of my fellow citizens in pleading for the needs of our vulnerable Alaskans and quality of life for all of us. the Governor's vetoes are drastic and harmful to our state and are not necessary. There are alternatives to gutting social programs, educational institutions and transportation services. The PFD was established to provide funds for times such as these, and an income tax would be preferable to doing away with vital services. We have a government to serve the people and that government requires our support.

Thank you for considering my views and listening to all Alaskans. Let's keep Alaska a state where the quality of life is valued and where people want to live.

Thank you,

Diane DeSloover
Juneau

From: Mary Macfarlane <mamacfarlane@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Thank you for accepting continued emails from Fairbanks today on this important issue. (I was signed up yesterday to testify as citizen #226 but had to leave for another commitment long before my time was available.) I want to strongly endorse the plans HB2001 addresses to meet the fiscal needs and I believe responsibilities our state has to its citizens. The budget vetoes by Gov. Dunleavy are appalling and saddening in the scope of devastation they have created prominently to the University of Alaska and as a consequence especially to Fairbanks and the Interior of Alaska, as well

as the entire state. This smacks so much of a personal vendetta on the part of the governor, without any justifying explanation for such a targeted fund cut. Is it??? He is revealing not only a serious deficiency in his own understanding of and ability to fairly balance the finances and economy of the state by the catastrophic impacts in monetary cuts his vetoes have created. I believe he is also demonstrating an astonishing lack of awareness of what so many Alaskans value about life in this state as I have known it for almost the past 50 years, but I reject the PFD as the foremost quality that makes life here so desirable. It is simply a sometime bonus to an already beautiful attractive place to live where human diversity, talent, willingness to share and serve are valued. To the best I can discern, our governor must believe greed and selfishness are our overriding Alaskan characteristics and motivate our desire to live here and be identified as Alaskan. To deny so completely the value of education at all levels, research in all areas of human activities including the impact of climate change on living conditions and the ability to earn a living, remove health and mental health benefits, cancel support for seniors who have donated their life's work to the benefit of our state but struggle financially to continue living here, completely devalue the role of arts and music in our lives, reduce fire and police protection, law and criminal justice, greatly decrease social services support for the very real and pervasive issues of substance abuse, child protection and domestic violence, homelessness, allow for sports and recreation during and outside of the school systems, drastically limit transportation provisions and road maintenance, etc. etc. etc. These are all situations and challenges which require a community/state support and will not be provided for fairly or effectively if each citizen takes home an unrealistically large PFD. Please work (AGAIN!) to balance the financial needs of the state as well as establish a fair PFD; consider again at least in the short term an income tax to provide income to this state and avoid the disastrous situation with which we are faced today. On a personal note, even with a stable retirement income I see a VERY negative impact on my financial situation here in Fairbanks if the vetoes are sustained and HB2001 fails. (How can selling a house happen with no buyers, and with an expected significant loss.) I want to continue to be a proud Alaskan, not a citizen ashamed of the selfish greedy model of statehood our governor appears to support. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all the citizens of this great state. Mary C. MacFarlane MD

From: Sam ACA <sam@alaskaacupuncture.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Samantha Berg - my husband, Kevin Meddleton and I are residents of District 9 in Palmer, AK. We have lived in Alaska for 25 years, since 1994. We are small business owners in the Mat-Su Valley - we currently own and operate an Acupuncture Practice in Palmer, Alaska - we have been serving the Valley with Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine since April of 2005.

We are writing to ask that you please consider overriding the Governor's short-sighted and potentially devastating vetoes.

We are all for fiscal responsibility, but the State's budget difficulties should not be taken out on the Educational system nor should the State's challenges become a burden to the most vulnerable and at risk members of our community - the elderly, the sick and the children.

Future generations need a strong, world-class, and affordable University system - it's the only way forward to keep talented and vibrant people in our community.

We are also specifically disheartened by the Governor cutting the funding for the Alaska Arts Council - making us the only State in the union without a State supported Art Council.

We would choose to give up our Permanent Fund checks AND pay a measured and well -thought out State Income Tax rather than see these budget cuts become a reality.

Please restore the funding to these vital programs including the scholarship money to students, funding for homeless shelters, support for Women's health and reproductive services, subsidies for seniors, and support for the Arts council and most of all, please do not cut funding to our University system.

Alaskans deserve better than budget policies that will disproportionately affect education and opportunities for the youth, quality of life for the elderly, and safety nets for the sick and the poor.

Why is the State Government, the Governor and the Legislature not addressing the 1.2 Billion dollars in oil subsidies? If those subsidies went away or were reduced, there would be no need to take drastic measures to achieve a balanced budget.

And if you can't consider ending those subsidies -how about a compromise between a partial repeal of the subsidies, a reduced Permanent Fund, a gas tax or other sales taxes and a measured State Income tax if it is still needed with the other changes in place.

Ultimately it's the property owners who will end up paying more to subsidize local services when there is a lack of funding from the State. We all know this.

Alaska is a unique place - and we need to take a longer view of how to preserve the beauty, opportunities and the resources for generations to come.

Please carefully consider your friends, neighbors, children and fellow residents of this State when you make your decision. Alaska's great potential and opportunity in the years ahead depends on balanced approaches to complex challenges. The Governor's budgetary stance is a radical gamble on the future of Alaska with potentially dire consequences on too many lives.

There are other ways to solve this budget problem - we the people are counting on you to find them.

Thank you!

Samantha Berg and Kevin Meddleton

Sam: [907-232-7798](tel:907-232-7798)

Kevin: [907-232-7806](tel:907-232-7806)

[PO Box 2575](#)

[Palmer, AK 99645](#)

Sam@alaskaacupuncture.com

Kevin@alaskaacupuncture.com

From: Michelle Hale <beshellie@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 10:38 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Capital Budget -- Please restore funding

Good day,

First, thank you for your great efforts to responsibly govern the State of Alaska. I appreciate the hard work you have put in on the budget this year.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. I was born here just after statehood, in 1961, and I have watched and accompanied our state as we have grown. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how you see it, our growth has been accompanied by a wild ride on the oil train.

I was here when our income tax was phased out and just paid state income tax before that tax's demise. My parents and grandparents were here, born here, before we became a state and before the oil money, and they paid income taxes and we had a functioning state government. I have worked in private industry and in state government, and I serve on Juneau's assembly now, and have no small amount of experience with budgeting. I am certain that a combination of a reasonable income tax, reasonable but scaled-down tax incentives for industry, and a reasonable PFD will give us a balanced budget. Please, please, please do this for Alaska.

Please restore funding for our seniors, dental funding for Medicaid recipients, Head Start, and all of the numerous other social programs that have been devastated by the governor's veto pen. How we take care of our needy is a reflection of who we are as a society. We don't wait until people are old and incapable of feeding themselves and then starve them. We don't wait until people are destitute and then kick them in the teeth, which is what the dental benefits cuts do. We feed those who are hungry and we help those who are needy and we treat those who need treatment.

Please restore the school bond debt to municipalities. People talk about the statutory obligation to pay a full PFD. Yet they don't mention the statutory promise to pay the school bond debt. Nor the statutory requirement that municipalities provide a property tax break for seniors and that the state reimburse the municipalities -- which the state has not done for many years, although the municipalities have upheld their end of the deal.

Please restore funding to the University. And the Arts Council.

I know you have negotiations ahead of you and I know they will be very hard. I so appreciate the work you have done and continue to do. Even those who support these draconian cuts know in their hearts that they are wrong. Please do the right thing for Alaska.

Just for the record, I would rather a zero PFD than these cuts. I am not wealthy and in fact have a very tight budget, but I would rather a zero PFD than see my beloved state and home be so damaged.

Thank you,
Michelle Bonnet Hale
Juneau

From: Michelle Ethun <cethun@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 11:29 AM

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

Subject: Econometrics, Amway and the State of Alaska

The State of Alaska OMB director has a solution looking for a problem, except our problem is different.

Our problem is that we lack diversification in revenue. Our entire budget is subject to the volatility of the oil market and whatever we can scrap of from federal funds. Initially the investment of oil revenue and decision to do away with income tax was sound. We did somethings right- we made a decision to invest the surplus, created the corpus and made a commitment to use investment profits to take care of social services, education, budget shortfalls and offer cash paybacks. It really is a sound and reasonable concept. We just didn't account for population increases, hyper-inflation rates and a massive downturn in the oil prices.

Time to readjust. Time to re-write the formula. And yes, it has been that time for a number of years. A varied team of experts and stakeholders to examine all aspects of the problem and come up with a spectrum of solutions. It is possible and it is an absolute must. No one can argue with that.

The econometrics formula pushed by Ardiun, Laffler and Moore is nothing more than an off-the shelf Amway-type product. Somewhere, somehow, our Governor or his advisors went shopping and found an add that promised great miracles, much like the add for face cream that takes away wrinkles in 20 days or less. We are all familiar with the formula that promises great riches if you just try the product now... Apparently our platinum sales associate level comes from privatized prison and our first installment was the Palmer Correctional Facility.

I don't want Amway. It is irresponsible to cead our state's fiscal future to a canned financial product. It is even more irresponsible and potentially unethical to pay that "consultant" as a state employee when they are functioning in consulting position. If Ms. Arduin is acting in a state employee capacity, then she carries out her duties as directed from the Governor; however the application of econometrics and her actions within the chamber hearings have indicated that she is acting more like a consultant.

I urge every one of you to take a step back. Take the heat where you need to. Agree that we have to redo our fiscal formula. Commit to it and make it clear to the Governor that this state's financial future should not be part of a pyramid scheme. If he chooses to keep Ms. Arduin here than there needs to be clarity on her role and authority. She is either an employee who acts on the direction and behest of the Governor and the legislative body or she is a consultant. Regardless, we have no business buying a product we don't need.

Thank you,
Michelle Ethun
Two Rivers, AK

From: Lindsay Clark <limaclark@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 12:24 PM

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

Subject: Thoughts re: HB2001

To the House Finance Committee,

I am deeply concerned about the potentially economic, social, and cultural devastation that looms ahead for the State of Alaska as a result of the Governor's harmful, shortsighted vetoes.

As regards HB2001:

I support a version of this legislation that,

1. overrides all of the vetoes and restores the legislature's compromise budget,
2. establishes a PFD payout for this year even if it has to be \$3K in order to **get the needed override votes**.
3. restores the CBR Sweep, and

4. It makes sense to muster the 40 votes to call a session that could add revenue-generating solutions to the mix but if there's no will to do that its best to still get that other stuff done and tackle revenues next session.

Thank you for your time,
Lindsay Clark
1303 W. 23rd Ave. #2, Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Erin Fleischer <erininak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 1:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: YES on HB2001

Hello,

I strongly urge you to vote YES on HB2001

Respectfully,

Erin

Erin Fleischer

1359 W. 11th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
erininak@gmail.com

From: skhansen@ak.net <skhansen@ak.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 2:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments on HB2001 and Governor Dunleavy's budget cuts

For House Committee members,

I approve of a reasonable permanent dividend fund such as \$900 for this year.

I do NOT approve of a \$3,000 permanent fund supported by Governor Dunleavy.

Paying out a full dividend such as \$3,000 would empty the dividend fund.

A \$3,000 permanent dividend fund will not replace the loss of University of Alaska campuses. It will not pay for Climate change research and will not pay for the loss of research at the Geophysical Institute at UAF. It will not pay for the loss of all the

Alaska students who move out of state to get a higher education
It will not pay for K-12 education. It will not pay for the upkeep
of ferries or for building bridges or roads.

A \$3,000 permanent dividend fund will not pay for my profoundly deaf daughter's hearing aids,
speech therapy, audiological exams or ear molds! She has medicaid. Governor Dunleavy's cuts to
to Medicaid services can not be replaced by a \$3,000 permanent dividend fund.

Eliminate the outrageous oil tax credits, Invest in renewable energy.
Eliminate the Pittman-Robertson matching funds (\$30 million) that ADF&G uses to kill wolves
and bears from Helicopters and airplanes. Thus killing predators which tourists pay top dollar
to come to Alaska in the desire to see LIVING wildlife. Most Alaskans treasure seeing living
wildlife. 15% of Alaskans have hunting licenses. 1% Alaskans have trapping licenses. The
economic benefits to the State of Alaska from tourism and Alaskans who observe living wildlife
far exceeds the fees of hunting and trapping licenses.

Invest in diversifying Alaska's economy, invest in k-12 education, the University of Alaska and its
research
institutions. This is where our future lies.
Invest in Alaska's renewable resources-sockeye salmon, tourism, broadband economy, etc.
Alaska's future depends on these investments.

Susan Hansen
PO Box 81967
Fairbanks,
Alaska 99708

(818) 614-2734

From: Chelsea Morey <chelsmm8894@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 2:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: Ketchikan non-politics testimony

Please do what is right and help gather 30 votes for this I am so tired of begging and pleading. I know you showed up to
the capitol and were the only NO vote.. But I ask you to think of the elders, children, students and teachers who are
suffering far worse than we were before now. I am non politics. I did vote for Dunleavy and I regret it so much already.
Please help us who don't have a voice or a choice in the future of our state and our lives being affected.

On Monday, July 15, 2019, Chelsea Morey <chelsmm8894@gmail.com> wrote:

If you have time..
Chelsea Morey
to Representative.Tammi.Wilson
6 days ago
Details

Hello, my name is Chelsea. I have a 3 year old in Ketchikan as well as a 20 month old and I am very worried for the state they will
grow up in. If all these budget cuts stick, I will have to find a way and funds to move out of state away from our families. It is critical
that they attend Headstart, my oldest was set up to start in September when school starts. This will make it possible for me to afford

rent, daycare for my other child which is almost the price of rent, utilities, food, diapers and most importantly, to maintain a full-time job. The UA college cuts may put us into a recession that we will not recover from. So the question it comes down to is do you care about our state, its future, and its people who have made themselves heard and are outraged by this? We are starting to feel defeated. I've e-mailed and called and it's done nothing. I am neither Democrat/Republican and I NEVER follow any of the news on politics. But this... This caught my attention and it keeps me lying awake at night. It has a hold of me during the day. I can not stop thinking about our state and its future that has been put on the line and so many already suffering its awful and inhumane. Please find a way to veto all line items. I would rather give up my pfd's then have all of these people suffer. The only one that affects me directly is the Pre-K cut. As well as the Medicaid cut my husband relies on for healthcare with his Non Hodgkins Lymphoma and Type 1 diabetes also he needs dental work done and he is non native. Please please, think of all whom this will affect and please help us save our state. I have faith our members of legislature will make the right decision but still I am constantly stressing out over this. Thank you for your time, I'll be tuned in on Gavel to Gavel.

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 4:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

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

From: Lisa Alexia <lisa.alexia@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 7:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Hello,

I write to support the budget the legislators negotiated and agreed to, which includes federal matching funding, which does not compromise our university's stability, and which does not put villages over a cliff. I don't know the current details or what has been irrevocably lost, but I do believe the majority of our legislators know what needs to happen, how to do the right thing. No PFD is worth the chaos these cuts will wreak on our state. There are plenty of revenue options that haven't been seriously explored.

If anyone doubts the risks of proceeding with the budget vetoes, please realize that infrastructure and lives are at stake. I've seen this before.

I was a community health aide/practitioner in an Alaskan community when the PCE cuts hit hard in the early 2000's. We lost our city administrator as a result, and things fell apart. We faced the next six years with no city council and uncertainty about whether we'd be able to purchase fuel to power town generators, which were necessary to keep the sewer system running and food frozen. By the time a new council organized (some time after PCE funding was restored) our generators and sewer system were in grave disrepair. The new Council barely arranged for purchase of new generators in time, and in fact, the last old generator died during a cold spell of 40 below zero. This was the scenario I had feared for years, and which the new Council worked very hard to avoid. I was thankful the community only spent a

few hours without power at 40 below, as by that time the new generators had been purchased and were in the village, ready to switch. I was keenly aware that the cost to the state and nation and the self-respect of our community of the arrival of FEMA for a rescue, should the generators fail and none be available to replace them, would be great, perhaps more than the cost of the PCE we had lost with budget cuts.

I also knew the public would not remember the drastic cuts six years before as a contributing factor but would instead blame the community for such a situation. I felt it my duty as a citizen to work hard to avoid that kind of waste. But the reality is, if PCE funding hadn't been restored, I think those generators would have failed without replacement, and we would have had a failed sewer system on our hands. I wonder if it would have been a nightmare reminiscent of the years in remote parts of Russia after the USSR collapsed, where people went without power for months at a time, and some froze to death.

I feel similarly now: is that the sort of disruption we seek? Because the vetoes, if allowed to go forward, are too much, too steep, and will result in both unforeseeable tragedies and far greater expense (both lives lost and damage to existing infrastructure) in the long run. I am afraid for the pain this will cause many, many people. Both in that village all those years ago, and in this state now, my family is personally buffered from the worst impacts, but I believe the situation before us as a state is both dangerous and morally unconscionable.

Please do all you can to restore funding to the levels to which the legislature agreed on in their budget. There are many other options which are far less dangerous to the fabric of our society in this state.

Thank you,
Lisa Alexia, PA-C

From: Zoe Hill <zahill@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 7:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Override

Zoe A Hill
1189 Obrien St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
[\(907\) 978-0268](tel:(907)978-0268)
zahill@alaska.edu

Hello,

My name is Zoe Hill and I am a lifelong alaskan. I plead that you work to override the vetoes with a new capital budget. I would much rather have no PFD and/or have sales taxes than lose the essential programs that are losing massive amounts of funding. The cuts that are being introduced will hurt every single alaskan more than any \$3000 pfd could ever help them. The cuts to UA will devastate the economy and if the university loses

accreditation (which is very likely), thousands of students will lose years of hard work and money and will have to scramble to find an alternative. The cuts to the K12 system will make the bad test scores Dunleavy cares so much about even worse. The cuts to the arts council will devastate the tourism economy in fairbanks. The cuts to homeless shelters will actually kill people. The cuts that allow the electricity to be equal to the interior price wise will eventually leave hundreds without power (which may kill people). The cuts to the ferry system will devastate communities in the islands. How are any of these things worth a one time \$3000 pay out. How dare you let the oil companies buy out alaska like this by lobbying to keep their taxes low. Please save Alaska. Save our future and fight these cuts.

Thank you,
Zoe Hill

From: Rodney <rotney@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 7:57 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: jo.bennett907 <jo.bennett907@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:17 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: Take care of Alaska - take the right action - Cooperate

Legislators,

Please invest in our future. Fund our UA system, education at all levels, the seniors who built ths state, health, to include mental health care and agriculture. In light of our fiscal situation, go with a reasonable PFD ie about \$1000. Don't decimate the state for some pie in the sky amount eg \$3000 which is wayyyyy out of line from previous year's of PFD payouts. Fund the capital budget. Complete the reverse sweep.

I am stunned at the inappropriate and unethical use of state monies on praise and criticism of certain legislators by the governor. In light of the governor's irresponsible and poorly considered vetos, I hope Alaska's legislative body will walk the high road, compromise and focus on a comprehensive, long-range plan for what is in Alaska's best interest.

Alaska needs to consider multiple revenue sources. One source is insufficient. Budget cuts alone will not solve our fiscal woes. Tax oil companies- it's past time they pay their fair share. Implement a seasonal sales tax exempting food, prescriptions, hygiene items. Reinststate a state income tax. I am tired of workers from Outside not contributing.

I especially appreciate the efforts of my representatives - Begich and Fields. I appreciate the legislators willing to work across the aisle. I wish more would reach out.

Thank you,

Jo Bennett

From: Bonnie Landis <focusak49@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 11:52 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Dear Committee,

The governor's vetoes will destroy our state, and make it a place we no longer want to live.

Please find a way this week to refund the state programs, including the Alaska State Arts Council. We need the Alaska State Legislators to:

1. Override all the vetoes
2. Fund the PFD at a compromised level
3. Reverse the CBR sweep.

The PFD is the least important of the items, and many of us would give up the entire PFD to save our state from Dunleavy's budget cuts, so please figure out what will work that will refund programs and won't be vetoed.

Thank you for your service to Alaska,
Bonnie Landis
Senate District N
House District 28

From: Joe Ransdell-Green <jeransdellgreen@alaska.edu>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 12:27 PM

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

Subject: Please Vote 'Yes' for HB2002

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am asking that you please be sure that all funds from the "sweep" get "reswept".

I hope you will fund it in full, including the capital budget, funding of Alaska Performance Scholarships for students, WWAMI medical school program, rural power cost equalization, village safe water, wildfire suppression and homeless assistance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joseph Ransdell-Green
607 Bullion Dr
Fairbanks, AK
99712

From: Jane Ransdell-Green <ecransdellgreen@alaska.edu>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 1:01 PM

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

Subject: Please vote yes on Resweep bill

Dear House Finance Committee ,

I wanted to contact you about the Resweep that is needed to assure funding of the capital budget. I beg you to restore funding to the Alaska Performance Scholarships that so many hardworking students have worked for.

Please fund the road construction projects that have promised matching funds from the federal government.

I also strongly support funding for the WWAMI medical school program, the rural power cost equalization, the funding of safe water for villages, for wildfire suppression and for homeless grants. All of these are necessary for us to fund for the good of people trying to get an education and contribute to Alaska, and to prevent vulnerable people from true suffering.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Ransdell-Green

[607 Bullion Drive](#)
[Fairbanks, AK 99712](#)

From: bruce farnsworth <whenpoetsfly@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 1:46 PM

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

Cc: Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sharon Jackson <Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Joshua Revak <Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Story <Rep.Andy.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>

Subject: There Is A way!

-Dear Representatives,

I know you worked hard to craft a budget full of cuts and compromises. It was a bad budget bill that you sent to the governor but it was apparently the best case scenario for the moment.

So restore it! Fully!

I know everyone keeps saying it's soooo complicated but it's not.

There is a group in the legislature that insists that Alaskans need a \$3,000 PFD payout.

There is a bigger group that believes all of the vetoes need to be overridden in order to avoid tanking the state's economy.

By embracing both ideas and combining forces you can put together the necessary 45 votes to pass a veto-proof bill restoring your original budget and SAVING OUR STATE.

Most of us think that the \$3K PFD payout is a bad idea and risks the health of the fund's future but this can be fixed later.

What we know for sure is that pitting Alaskans against one another by weighing the costs and benefits of each of the vetoed line items is an unacceptable compromise of our state's best interests.

Please find a way.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

-Bruce Farnsworth

From: Mark Youngblood <mark@markyoungbloodsportfishing.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 1:47 PM

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

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

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

From: Joan Franz <joanbf Franz@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 1:53 PM

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

Cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Senator Dan Sullivan <Senator@sullivan.senate.gov>; Senator@murkowski.senate.gov

Subject: Override the Governor's Budget and PFD amount

To the House Finance Committee and all legislators:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify and encouraging Alaskan citizens to express their concerns regarding the budget and the PFD. On Wednesday, I waited 3 hours and had to leave for an appointment; therefore I could not testify in person. I commend you on the bipartisan budget that you and other legislators wrote together that required compromising and efforts to look into the future of our state. Your bipartisan budget is respectful of the essential services that are needed for our state as well as reasonable cuts to the state budget. I support both the bipartisan budget and I also support HB 2001. Please continue to defend Alaska from devastation and override the governor's vetoes by reaching a compromise with other legislators.

I ask the governor and his incompetent Budget Director, Donna Arduin to present a careful analysis of each cut that they have proposed and the expected consequences of those reductions. I, like you have not received a response. Governing requires that kind of intelligent and thoughtful process. Gradual cuts over 3-5 years will help us better understand how to support the agencies and the programs that we need to continue to uphold our infrastructure of essential services without destroying their ability to function. The governor's budget was written like the failed plan in Kansas without connecting with communities, legislators and others who know their communities. Government's essential services are to provide for health needs, public safety, infrastructure, support to the poor, elderly and disabled, and education from birth, K-12 to the University. For Fairbanks, UAF is a primary economic engine and so much more to each and every one of us. Both of my children have greatly benefitted from the University throughout their high school years and WWAMI for my son who is a doctor practicing in Alaska. Please reinstate the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund and the Power Cost Equalization program as well as other programs swept into the constitutional budget reserve. This action by the governor appeared to be in retaliation for rejecting his budget.

Revenues must be on the table! This year we need to remove the oil tax credits with a review and change to oil taxes that pay the State of Alaska for our oil resources. The present Oil Tax, SB 21 was created by an Alaskan government directed and influenced by oil companies. We also need to change mining laws that prevent the state from receiving proper revenues for our mineral resources. They extract, pay almost nothing to our state and leave the clean up of toxic wastes to the state. I strongly support a progressive income tax, a \$50 school tax and feel that it is time to change to a progressive PFD. Many Alaskans have asked for the above revenues. Have the courage to stand up to the oil and mining corporations. Do not just extract and destroy the essential government services with the guidance of the Governor.

During the next legislative session when the budget crisis is resolved, please amend the constitution to provide a healthier balance of powers by requiring a 2/3 vote of the legislature to override the governor's line item veto power.

Why are you afraid to touch oil tax as a revenue source that should be supporting our state services, not paying wealthy oil companies through oil tax credits? SB21's oil tax credits and taxation on oil does provide a fair benefit to our state revenue and primarily provides wealth to oil companies. Alaska is their bread and butter and now their extreme royalty oil with this tax structure in place.

What does this governor have to gain by pushing through this budget? The majority of Alaskans have voiced concerns for the depth of these drastic cuts and the economic consequences. The attack on Education at all levels is real and will definitely effect our future generations. However this governor and his budget director do not listen. Are you listening? Why are 23 legislators standing with this governor and an incompetent budget director? Is it partisanship? Campaign funds? Please help me understand.

Yesterday as I was clearing my yard of vetch, it occurred to me that the Koch brothers, Dunleavy's brother, oil and mining corporations and Americans for Prosperity are much like this greedy, invasive weed and how it smothers Native plants to proliferate. With the support of Americans for Prosperity and corporations, the Governor and Arduin's budget strategy is invasively using lies and misinformation, propaganda and fear to

smother Alaskans, drain the resources and ultimately the future of our state. Please put Alaskans and the state of Alaska first in the decisions that you make regarding the budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joan Franz
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: maryostermick <maryostermick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 2:43 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Mary/Rollie Ostermick <maryostermick@gmail.com>
Subject: public broadcasting funding

Dear House Finance Committee legislatures,
I am urging you to reinstate funding the governor vetoed. Not only is it unconscionable to slice funds to education and social services but there are also less costly programs that are critically important to rural areas. **Public broadcasting** is an example of this. These state cuts drastically affect our local **public radio** station (as well as in other rural areas). Here in Talkeetna KTNA recently provided services imperative to maintaining public safety. We had two wildfires and KTNA was the sole consistently reliable source of information to the public. The coverage was ongoing and timely, something no one else could provide. The radio station provided the same level of service last year after the earthquake. In rural communities local radio is the only source for local news and emergency/public safety information.

Public broadcasting is earmarked to cost \$2.7 million, a small part of the state budget. Considering the impact on rural communities I urge you to consider the importance of these funds in a state filled with rural communities. Please reinstate funding for **public broadcasting**.

Sincerely,
Mary Ostermick
P.O. Box 827
Talkeetna, AK 99676
907 733-2467

From: Scott Miller <scottysusan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 2:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; gary@gmail.com
Subject: Hb2001

Please support Hb2001 and restore funding to our state.

Please don't "make Alaska a third world country again"

From: Emily Niebuhr <elniebuhr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 11:52 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Dear committee,

We represent a group of concerned citizens. We do not represent any particular interest group or organization, but came together solely based on our concern over the current vetoes. We currently believe the cuts will:

- Reduce future access of local businesses to skilled labor
- Significantly reduce the opportunities for future Alaskans to be educated within their current state
- Make it significantly more difficult to retain skilled health care workers
- Put the most vulnerable populations at needless risk by reducing services.
- The cuts will decrease property values while simultaneously increasing property taxes.
- The job losses and disarray caused by the Governor's cuts will likely result a recession.

Many of us either grew up in Alaska or moved thousands of miles to be a part of this great state. The proposed cuts represent a dramatic change in Alaska that does not reflect our values. We support to the fullest degree a complete and immediate restoration of the items that Governor Dunleavy vetoed from your initial budget.

Revak District:

Emily Niebuhr elniebuhr@gmail.com

Patti Saunders and Marshall Clymer saunders.patti@gmail.com

Lia Slemons liaslemons@gmail.com

Darcy Dugan darcy.dugan@gmail.com

Toby Schwörer toschwo@gmail.com

Jessica Roder JekkaRoder@gmail.com

From: Mo Radotich <raddog@cvinet.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 7:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: special session

Dear Representatives of Alaska,

I watched the session today. I appreciate everyone's passion and perception. We don't have the time for fighting over the SB2002 bill without creating incredible loss and consequences for this State.

Please pass the bill and funding for SB2002. This will bring us closer to what was voted on by the Legislature in the first place.

The economic impact of the vetoes is already being discovered with less services for the homeless, less benefits for the Seniors, the University rating has declined by 3 steps, the Alaska State Council on the Arts closed, the ferry system has limited trips which impacts whole communities, impacting agriculture, and cruise ships oversight, in general they are impacting negatively the future of Alaskans, everyone is harmed (well except the oil companies.)

Let us be more thoughtful and plan better for the budget and review studies of the unintended consequences some of the needless cuts create. We are creating a crisis that is rippling across the State, and even across the country.

I don't know what else to say, I've been walking around with a knot in my stomach since June 28th worrying about the future and the youth. Please do better for the citizens of this State.

Both the Senator and Representative for Valdez are excused absent and not responding to my emails. Please work together with who you have.

Sincerely,
Maureen Radotich
PO Box 3033
Valdez, AK 99686
9078353823

From: Lynn Spence <ltakeokaspence@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 9:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: BUDGET

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am asking that you recommend overriding the governor's vetoes and get back to the budget that was passed by the legislature. The governor and his aides have not thoroughly identified the consequences of the cuts they want and I believe it is up to the legislature to take care of the people of Alaska by overriding the vetoes. The cuts made in your original budget were significant enough for this year and I believe the governor's additional cuts are unreasonable and uncalled for. Your job is to make the lives of Alaskan's better, not worse, so please take action to reinstate the funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts, University system, senior benefits, and all the reverse sweep funding. It is time to take action that actually makes something happen. Each day you delay costs money. Please do your job and get the capital budget passed and the operating budget completed.

Thank you.

Lynn Takeoka Spence
331 Mountain View Drive
Homer, AK 99603

From: Mary McDowell <maryalaska@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 9:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on budget issues before the legislature

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am strongly in support of a PFD between \$900 and \$1600 for this year, enacting the reverse sweep, and restoring most or all of the funding that the Governor vetoed out of the budget that was painstakingly crafted and passed by the legislature.

Since inception of the Permanent Fund Dividend, the average annual PFD has been just over \$1100. The notion of now paying out a dividend nearly 3 times that average amount and nearly \$1000 higher than the highest dividend ever paid — at a time when doing so would result in the devastation of important state services and programs and harming all Alaskans and our economy and quality of life and handicapping our future — would be short-sighted and irresponsible.

I have been struck by how many of the Alaskans demanding a \$3000 dividend appear to have not paid attention to the presentations and information available about the state's fiscal situation and revenue streams. For example, many seem to think that enacting an income tax (which I support doing) would provide enough revenue to offset the payment of such a large dividend. In reality, it wouldn't come close. People need to really look at how critical the specific amount of the dividend is to our state's overall revenue picture and the ability to sustain a decent level of services and the state's economic well-being and future. I urge my fellow citizens to go back and look at the analyses done by the non-partisan Legislative Finance Division to get a more realistic grasp of what our public officials, who are responsible for making the best possible financial decisions for our state, are up against. While I don't like a lot of the cuts made in the budget the legislature passed, it is far more grounded in reality, analysis, and care for the state's future than what Governor Dunleavy has done.

The destructive vetoes the governor made are NOT necessary. While we do need to look at additional savings and revenue-generating measures in coming years, it is too late to implement such measures for FY20. For now, simply reducing the dividend to a more reasonable level than a strict application of the traditional formula, can provide sufficient revenue to avoid sending our state into a tailspin and help keep our state on an even keel with a bright future.

Thank you.

Mary McDowell
PO Box 7
Angoon, AK 99820

From: Allen Jessup Sr <hammer_aj1963@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 11:54 PM

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

Subject: Fiduciary

A fiduciary is a person who holds a legal or ethical relationship of trust with one or more other parties (person or group of persons). ... Fiduciary duties in a financial sense exist to ensure that those who manage other people's money act in their beneficiaries' interests, rather than serving their own interests.

This applies to you Governor and Alaska Legislature!

Its not the Governor's funds, its not the legislators funds either. Its the beneficiaries interest, you serve the people! Its the peoples \$

Please address SB#14, need to correct the oil tax credits to a reasonable amount.

You all were elected with a responsibility to get a budget within a certain timeframe....most jobs when you miss a deadline has repercussions, however it appears there is no repercussions for not passing a budget in a timely manner, it appears you all have to have special sessions and pay you all extra to get a job done before July 1st!

This is unacceptable and poor work by you all as a legislative body, if you have to have special sessions to get work done you shouldn't get paid extra for it.

Compromise....it appears you all don't understand what that means, a simply word but you all make it like its a difficult evil word! With all the fuss between the Governor and his staff, the legislator, its a public embarrassment!

With the Governor playing games with the location of special sessions, what a waste of time and money..... i listen and watch the sessions live on TV, when you the legislators have questions, to me it appears the administrative staff is unable to answer questions. I do feel sorry for the legislators its gotta make your job even tougher than it should be.

I think there should be strategic work sessions on budgeting cycles for 1, 3 and 5 year goals, it appears we work on one and we are done, lets be proactive instead of reacting, plan ahead....

I do support that you override the Governor's vetoes, add SB#14 work on correcting the oil tax credits, focus on compromise!! Put the original language on the PFD back to what it was before,

Its always is great to be an Alaskan, unfortunately with all the bad publicity i feel like i live in a circus 🎪...

From: John Neary <john.neary99@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 8:37 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; senatefinance@akleg.gov
Subject: comments on budget concerns

I am very concerned with the vetoes that Governor Dunleavy used to wipe out the difficult compromises reached in our State budget negotiations. He will damage our state economy if he continues to unfairly target our ferry system, university, arts council, and so many other vital programs that stimulate or support our economy. What's needed here is compromise and fairness.

I favor a PFD of about \$1000, not a higher amount that will cause long term problems for the fund.

I favor restoration of funds to the level of the original budget, or at least what's proposed in HB 21. It's the legislature's job to formulate a reasonable budget and not the governor's role to undermine it with unreasonable cuts.

John Neary
john.neary99@gmail.com

From: kari robinson <karirobinson93@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 9:19 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Restore Critical Funding for University!

As a long time Alaskan, I am concerned about Alaska's future for the first time with severe cuts to the University system and other critical services affecting Alaskan hard working families. Please do your job and restore this critical funding before it does long lasting damage to our state.

Kari Robinson