



One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

The Honorable Click Bishop
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

April 9, 2019

Dear Senator Bishop,

The Alaska Municipal League (AML) is comprised of 165 incorporated cities and boroughs, local governments charged with providing essential public services. One of the building blocks of community development is fulfillment of the State's Constitutional obligation to maintain schools in Alaska.

While some in the State argue against increasing State revenues, AML members in August and November identified a mounting number of needs that would necessitate a State budget able to meet its obligations. In November, AML voted in favor of a broad-based tax. AML's 2019 position statement supports "investment in infrastructure and deferred maintenance."

Senate Bill 50 – the Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance and Construction Tax – is one small step toward meeting the State's responsibility for maintaining public education, consistent with Article 7 of the Alaska Constitution.

We understand the intent to adjust the previous school head tax for inflation, from \$10 to \$30. We believe this is reasonable in its impact on local economies, but would also express concern that the net revenue to the State is insufficient to meet the needs of those school districts. We encourage consideration of an amount consistent with those needs as this bill undergoes the legislative process.

Local governments contribute significantly to school districts, in many cases well beyond their required local contribution. Many municipalities also contribute to construction and maintenance costs of schools. Municipalities have taken on roughly \$900 million in bond debt for school construction, and even with State reimbursement, the annual payments are important in terms of local budgets.

SB50 is a step in the right direction, and we commend the sponsor for following through on the State's commitment to education.

Respectfully,

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director

Introduced by: Council Members Therrien,
Rogers, Kun, and Ottersten
Introduced: April 22, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 4875

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 50, AN ACT
IMPOSING AN ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
AND CONSTRUCTION TAX**

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska had an annual employment head tax for the purpose of collecting revenue to fund schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10.00 per person, which has the equivalent value today of \$30.00; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 50 proposed to revise the repealed head tax on individuals, both resident and non-resident, with income from a source in Alaska; and

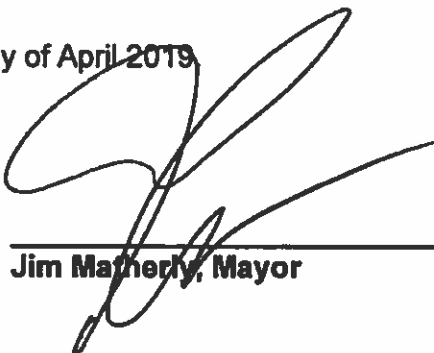
WHEREAS, according to statistics from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 441,596 employed individuals in Alaska, and roughly 20% of those workers do not reside in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the proposed \$30 per person tax would generate \$13 million each year; and

WHEREAS, under Senate Bill 50, the revenue collected would be deposited in the state's general fund and accounted for separately to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks City Council supports the passage of Senate Bill 50 and directs the City Clerk to distribute this signed resolution to Interior Alaska legislators.

PASSED and APPROVED this 22nd day of April 2019.



Jim Matherly, Mayor

AYES: Therrien, Rogers, Ottersten, Kun, Cleworth
NAYS: Pruhs
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: April 22, 2019

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


D. Danyelle Snider, CMC, City Clerk


Paul Ewers, City Attorney

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2019-21:

**SUPPORT FOR SB 50: EMPLOYMENT TAX FOR EDUCATION FACILITIES
IN THE STATE'S K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, recent research by the Association of Alaska School Boards, the Alaska Council of School Administrators, and the Coalition for Education Equity in Alaska shows Alaska adults overwhelmingly support government funding for public K-12 schools and support elected officials who support public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, and when adjusted for inflation would have the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Superintendents Association believes most working Alaskans would readily pay such a tax again if it were reinstated at the proposed \$30 per worker; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address maintenance and new school construction needs in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, the need remains to finalize and implement a complete long-term multi-revenue fiscal plan for the State that includes additional revenue streams; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and


WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education supports SB 50: Employment Tax for Education Facilities to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools, and encourages the Alaska Legislature and Governor Dunleavy to approve SB 50, as soon as possible.

Passed and Approved: April 16, 2019


Wendy Dominique, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:


Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board of Education





**Iditarod Area School District
PO Box 90
McGrath, AK 99627**

Resolution 19-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 50, SPONSORED BY SENATOR BISHOP,

A BILL TO RAISE NEW REVENUE IN SUPPORT OF CAPITAL NEEDS IN THE STATE'S K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, From 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools, and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which has the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address deferred maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school system; and


WHEREAS, SB 50 which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually, and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

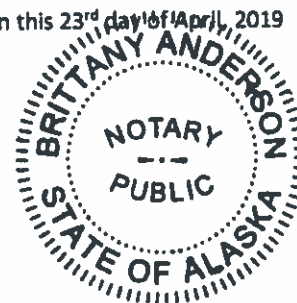
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Iditarod Area School District Board of Education supports Senator Bishop's efforts to address the capital needs of Alaska's school and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB50.

Passed and Approved by the Iditarod Area School District Board of Education this 23rd day of April, 2019

Alice Dale, Board of Education Chairman

ATTEST:  4/23/2019

Brittany Anderson, Notary
My Commission Expires February 14, 2020



Vote:



April 11, 2019

Senator Click Bishop
Chair, Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Bishop,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 50 (SB 50), the Alaska Education Facilities Tax to reinstitute the "education head tax."

On behalf of the 13,000 members of NEA-Alaska, I am writing in support of SB 50. SB 50 is a commonsense proposal to restore the long standing tradition of individual employed Alaskans and non-Alaskans alike supporting public education with a modest annual payment.

Investing this revenue in maintenance and construction for public education facilities is a practical way to support public education while maintaining our aging education infrastructure. Hundreds of our public school facilities currently operating were built before 1980. Many of them require maintenance and repair for basic health, life, and safety issues.

The State of Alaska is facing many budgetary and fiscal challenges. SB 50 is a simple, straightforward, and modest measure to engage Alaskans, as well as non-Alaskans who make a living here, in support of our constitutional commitment to maintain a high-quality system of public schools.

Thank you for your leadership in making sure that Alaska's students have the facilities and support they need to be inspired and succeed.

Sincerely,

Tim Parker
President, NEA-Alaska

NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Phone: (907) 832-5464

Fax: (907) 832-5625



P.O. BOX 00010
Nenana, AK 99760

RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-2019

A Resolution by Nenana City School District in Support of SB 50, Sponsored by Senator Bishop, to Raise New Revenue in Support of Capital Needs for the State's K-12 School System

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska as a Territory and State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which is the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address differed maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 school.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT supports Senator Bishop's efforts in promoting SB 50 to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.

DATED THIS 3rd DAY OF APRIL 2019.

ATTEST:


Rosemary Allen, President


Maryellen Robinson, Board Member

Mission Statement

The Nenana City School District will provide an innovative education through the utilization of tools and techniques that engage students in relevant activities that promote personalized learning, problem-solving, engaged citizenship, and teamwork.

SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution 2019-04

A Resolution by the Southeast Island School District in Support of SB 50, Sponsored by Senator Bishop, to Raise New Revenue in Support of Capital Needs for the State's K-12 School System.

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which has the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address deferred maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Southeast Island School Board of Education supports Senator Bishop's efforts in promoting SB50 to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.

ADOPTED April 17, 2019 at a duly convened meeting of the Southeast Island School District Board of Education at which a quorum was present and voting.



Heidi Young
SISD Board President

Attested:



Shannon Silverthorn
SISD Board Clerk

RESOLUTION OF TANANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resolution No. 2018-2019-02

A Resolution by the Tanana City School District in Support of SB 50, Sponsored by Senator Click Bishop, to Raise New Revenue in Support of Capital Needs for the State's K-12 School System

WHEREAS, from 1919-1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which as the equivalent value of \$30 today, and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address differed maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually, and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tanana City School District supports Senator Bishop's efforts in promoting SB 50 to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.



Courtney Agnes, School Board President

DATE: 4-16-19



Cliff Wiehl, School Board Vice-President

DATE: 4-16-19

The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Tanana City School District's Board of Directors on April 4, 2019 public meeting.



Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

Telephone: (907) 374-8400
Fax: (907) 374-9440

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Click Bishop
Alaska State Senate
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska

Subject: Support for SB50, revenue for school maintenance & construction

Dear Senator Bishop:

On behalf of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, this letter is to express for Senate Bill 50, which will raise new state revenue to help maintain and build schools.

From 1919 to 1980, Alaska had an annual employment tax to help pay for the cost of schools. The tax was repealed in 1980 when Alaska was coming into an era of oil revenue. Over the past 39 years, North Slope oil revenues have blessed our state's public services and infrastructure while our population numbers have essentially doubled. Those nonrenewable revenue sources are now diminishing.

School districts have been closely monitoring the budget debate this session, and it is clear that the State of Alaska needs to come up with solutions to address the need to maintain and construct schools. Senate Bill 50 is a reasonable approach that helps move us forward with a revenue source to address basic needs for public education.

Sincerely,

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent



Yukon Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

Telephone: (907) 374-9400
Fax: (907) 374-9440

YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 19-06

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 50, SPONSORED BY SENATOR BISHOP, A BILL TO RAISE
NEW REVENUE IN SUPPORT OF CAPITAL NEEDS IN THE STATE'S K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which has the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address deferred maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school system; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Yukon Koyukuk School District supports Senator Bishop's efforts to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS 5th DAY OF April 2019.

ATTEST:

Maurice McGinty
Maurice McGinty, YKSD Board Chairperson

Shirley M. Kruger
Shirley Kruger, YKSD Board Secretary

**DENALI BOROUGH ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 19-08**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 50, SPONSORED BY SENATOR
BISHOP, A BILL TO RAISE NEW REVENUE IN SUPPORT OF CAPITAL
NEEDS IN THE STATE'S K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which has the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address deferred maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school system; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and


WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Denali Borough Assembly supports Senator Bishop's efforts to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 13th day of March, 2019.



CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

Amber Renshaw, BOROUGH CLERK



VOTE: unanimous

Alaska Superintendents Association

234 Gold Street • Juneau, AK 99801
907.586.9702 • (Fax) 907.364.3805



April 3, 2019

Honorable Senator Bishop:

On behalf of the Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA), thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 50, the Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance and Construction Tax. Our organization supports this bill and urges the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Mike Dunleavy to approve it as soon as possible.

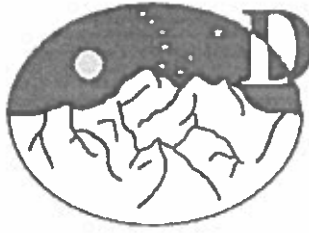
SB 50 makes a great deal of sense. Our organization carefully considered that working adults in Alaska used to pay a \$10 per head school tax for 60 years, until it was repealed in 1980. We believe that most working Alaskans would readily pay such a tax again if it were reinstated at the proposed \$30 per worker, adjusted for inflation. As a member organization of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, ASA embraces the highest priority in the Joint Position Statements adopted for 2019: Priority Funding for Education. This Joint Position Statement calls for, in part, “timely, reliable and predictable revenue for schools and a call for a Revenue Enhanced Fiscal Plan Imperative. This position statement notes that, “the need remains to finalize and implement a complete long-term multi-revenue fiscal plan that includes additional revenue streams.” We believe SB 50 aligns with both of these top two position statements.

In addition, results from a recent survey show that Alaska adults overwhelmingly support government funding for public K-12 schools, ranking them ahead of public health and human services, corrections, public safety and law enforcement, and higher education. This research was a collaborative effort of the organizations that make up the Alaska Council of School Administrators, and our partners at the Association of Alaska School Boards and the Coalition for Education Equity of Alaska. Released in February, the research also shows that Alaskans support elected officials who, in turn, support public K-12 education. You can find out more about this new research at: <http://www.alaskaacsa.org/new-survey/>.

SB 50 provides a productive solution to an ongoing, vexing problem; lack of money for maintenance and repair in our schools. Thank you again for your sponsorship of SB 50. If there's anything more ASA can do to ensure swift passage of this legislation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Lisa Skiles Parady, JD, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Denali Borough School District

P.O. Box 280 • Healy, Alaska 99743 • (907) 683-2278 • FAX (907) 683-2514

Resolution 19-05

A Resolution by the Denali Borough School District in Support of SB 50, Sponsored by Senator Bishop, to Raise New Revenue in Support of Capital Needs for the State's K-12 School System

WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1980, Alaska, as a Territory and a State, imposed an annual employment head tax for the purpose of funding schools; and

WHEREAS, when repealed in 1980, the tax was \$10 per person, which has the equivalent value of \$30 today; and

WHEREAS, the current budget deficit of the State of Alaska constrains the state's ability to address deferred maintenance needs and new school construction needs in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, SB 50, which revives the employment head tax imposed on both residents and nonresidents, is estimated to raise \$13 million annually; and

WHEREAS, these new funds will be accounted for separately and used to pay for the growing maintenance and construction needs of Alaska's K-12 schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Denali Borough School District supports Senator Bishop's efforts in promoting SB 50 to address the capital needs of Alaska's schools and encourages the Alaska Legislature to favorably consider SB 50.


James Tench, DBSD Board Chair
Denali Borough School District

3/21/2019
Date


Trista Davis, DBSD Board Secretary
Denali Borough School District

3/21/19
Date

The foregoing Resolution was PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Denali Borough School District Board of Education this 21st day of March 2019.

Mission Statement

Nurturing, empowering and inspiring today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world