

**From:** [Amy Ainslie](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 1:38:33 PM

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Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee:

I would like to provide testimony on SB 50, a proposed head tax to fund education related infrastructure projects.

Broadly, I support the idea of a head tax/income tax to pay for these type of expenditures. I think that a \$30/year tax is not unreasonable, especially given the importance education has in keeping families in Alaska, and providing for opportunities and economic development of the local workforce into the future. I also agree that both residents and non-residents should pay a share; non-resident workers benefit from the public infrastructure of the state, and should also bear some of the cost in its maintenance.

I would like to voice three concerns I have:

1. I do not support the funds from this tax just going into the general fund. Even though it will be accounted for separately, that does not create any mandate for the funds to be used for education infrastructure. I would like to see a separate, enterprise-like fund set up for tax expenditures.
2. I would like to see a fair system in place wherein all school districts will have equal opportunity to access these funds; I do not want to see my tax dollars concentrated in particular regions while others are effectively excluded. I would also hope that these funds would be used for critical infrastructure first rather than major capital expansions for recreational facilities. Not to say we don't need recreation, but we should ensure first that our students have warm, dry, safe, and modern buildings to learn in before funding recreational projects.
3. I would like to see a statutory limit on the upward expansion of the tax. Is there a schedule built in for inflationary effects? Or is this a tax that legislators can adjust annually? I think more clarity should be provided.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. I agree that our education infrastructure deserves care and funding and I support the idea in principle. I would like to make sure that it is done right, in a way that is transparent, direct, and equitable.

Thank you,  
Amy Ainslie

**From:** [megan bahrt](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Support of SB50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:41:33 PM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and Members of Committee,

Thank you for considering SB50. It's been nearly 40 years since Alaska has had a similar tax to fund our schools and it was a mistake to have ever gotten rid of it.

SB50 promotes equity and keeps earnings within Alaska. Though the funds raised will be small in the overall school funding picture, they are reliable, sustainable, and fair.

Please vote to advance SB50.

Best,  
Megan Pepper

**From:** [linda](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:06:33 AM

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Dear Senators,

I support SB 50. It makes good sense to have all who live and/or work in Alaska contribute to support Alaska's education system. Excellent public education should be a primary goal for our state and our country— democracy depends on a well educated and informed public. I have two boys in the Sitka School District both of whom participate in extra-curricular activities and are benefiting from advanced placement classes. I regularly remind them that an excellent education is both a privilege and a responsibility. They are fortunate to be able to attend school and by receiving a good education they have a responsibility to our community, state and country to make a positive contribution. Please support SB 50 to ensure all Alaskan's have access to an excellent public education.

Sincerely,  
Linda Behnken

  


**From:** [Kathleen Brandt](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:09:37 AM

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Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee:

I support SB 50 as a way to improve the funding of our schools--a foundation of our democracy.

Kathleen C Brandt

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Kathleen C Brandt

[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK 99835

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jeanine Brooks](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 9:16:53 PM

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Dear Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

Please pass SB 50 and reinstate a system of providing dedicated funding for maintenance and construction of our education facilities through a state employee head tax.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Brooks, MSW, PPSC  
Sitka, Alaska

**From:** [jeff budd](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 6:53:48 AM

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Please support Senate Bill 50, our schools need the funding. Thank you. Jeff Budd

**From:** [Stephen Courtright](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:31:35 AM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and Members of Committee,

Thank you for considering SB50. It's been nearly 40 years since Alaska has had a similar tax to fund our schools and it was a mistake to have ever gotten rid of it.

SB50 promotes equity and keeps earnings within Alaska by taxing all earnings by people employed within the state. Though the funds raised will be small in the overall school funding picture, they are reliable, sustainable, and fair.

Please vote to advance SB50.

Stephen Courtright  
Sitka

**From:** [Patricia Dick](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:23:44 AM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee,  
You need to pass this **“Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance, and Construction Tax”**! Our schools are the center of our communities all over this state. Our communities depend upon the state to provide facilities, maintenance and construction costs. I realize that the money has to come from somewhere. This tax was a good idea initially and I have no clue as to why it was ever repealed. If you asked people in my community to put in \$30.00 a year to go toward school facilities, maintenance, and construction, they would do it. That is not too much to ask.

It is your job as legislator to pass legislation that supports communities supporting themselves. This is what this tax does.

Please pass this “Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance, and Construction Tax” Senate Bill 50 so that our community can have save schools.

Patricia L. Dick

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]



**From:** [Sara Dykstra](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:10:18 PM

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Please support Senate Bill 50. A smiliar bill was in place from 1919-1980, so reinstating it reflects a return to Alaska's original values. Our schools need funding, especially with the loss of school bond debt reimbursement.

Sara Dykstra  
Anchorage, AK

**From:** [Sandra Fontaine](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:02:51 AM

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PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 50. OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IS OUR FUTURE!

THANK YOU.  
SANDRA FONTAINE

# ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage.lio@akleg.gov 907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: W. HARRINGTON

REPRESENTING: SELF

BILL#/ SUBJECT: SB 50  
COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: 1-28-2020

EDUCATION IS VITAL AND PAYING FOR IT IS THE WHOLE PUBLIC'S RESPONSIBILITY.

THIS BILL TAKES DISPROPORTIONATELY FROM THE LOWER INCOME CLASS - THE NEAR HOMELESS AND SINGLE WORKING PARENTS, WHILE NOT EVEN REGISTERING AS AN EXPENSE FOR THE LUXURY/MERCHANDISE CLASS - THEN I EXPECT SOME WILL DEDUCT IT FROM FED. INCOME TAX VIA "ITEMIZED DEDUCTION" - THE PROVIDENCE AND PROFIT ONE IS NOT IN THE LOWER INCOME POOL.

FAIRNESS IS THE ISSUE.

A SLIDING SCALE BASED ON INCOME WOULD HAVE THE 100K<sup>+</sup> YR. PAYING 3X THE 30K<sup>+</sup> YR WORKING POOR WOULD.

FAIRNESS IS THE ISSUE.

AS A SENIOR WITH AN ALASKAN UNION PENSION INCOME BUT NO W-2'S WOULD I BE LIABLE FOR THIS TAX?  
HOW ABOUT AN EXEMPTION FOR OLD HANDS?

AS TOM BEGICH IN A KTVA 1/29/2020 ARTICLE SAID ABOUT LOTTO " "LOOK AT WHO IT IMPACTS IN A NEGATIVE WAY

**From:** [Kate Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Support fro SB50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:20:17 AM

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Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee,  
I am writing to voice my support of SB50. I support this bill to help fund our schools.  
Thank you, Kate

**From:** [Chum Troller](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#); [senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.org](mailto:senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.org)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50 "Alaska Education Facilities, Maintenance, and Construction Tax"  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:43:00 AM

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Dear Senator Bishop and Senate Commerce and Labor Committee members,

I am a 70 year old lifelong Alaska resident. I have children and grandchildren that have gone through school or are going through school in Alaska. I strongly support SB 50. My only concern is that it is too low an amount. I think at least \$50 or maybe even \$100 would be better. Thank you for considering and hopefully voting for this. My education in Alaska, which includes public schools in Wrangell, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and studies at University of Alaska Fairbanks and Sheldon Jackson College prepared me well for a highly successful career as an Alaskan Commercial salmon fisherman, coach, and community activist.

Sincerely,

Eric Jordan

**From:** [Susan Litman](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:32:05 AM

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Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee-

I would like to voice my support of Senate Bill 50. This bill is a small step to help fund our schools in Alaska. The amount of \$30/person employed in Alaska is a small amount but a move in the right direction.

Thank you,  
Susan Litman  
Sitka

**From:** [Katherine Prussian](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 8:46:59 PM

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To Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB 50. I am a parent of two Alaska school children, I work full time and I volunteer in the schools and community. I am asking for your support in SB 50 because our kids need schools and a proper education which comes from adequate funding. I am concerned over smaller and smaller budgets and hope that this bill can help to better support our schools and young Alaskans. Thank you for working hard for the people of Alaska - we appreciate your time and energy.

Sincerely, Katherine Prussian  
SITKA, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Catherine Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** SB 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:13:58 AM

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Chairmen Bishop and Members of the Committee,

I am sending this email regarding the SB50 to have a head tax for all employees to fund maintenance and construction for Alaska education facilities. I am for it and hope it will be passed so our children can have the proper facilities to learn and become the future legislators of Alaska.

Catherine Reynolds

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Paul Rioux](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Sb50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:41:12 AM

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I support this bill.

Yours,

Paul Rioux  
Sitka, Ak

**From:** [Beth Short-Rhoads](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote in favor of SB 50  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 8:44:55 AM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to ask for your "yes" vote on SB 50. With the loss of school bond debt reimbursement, Alaska schools are in even greater need of the funds this bill would raise. Given the historical precedent, it seems that reinstating the tax would be a return to the original values of this state.

Thank you for your service,

Beth Short-Rhoads  
Sitka

**From:** [Ariel Starbuck](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Please support Senante Bill 50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:39:12 AM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your work on this committee and HB 50.

My husband and I, home owners, tax payers and registered Alaskan voters, deeply support this bill. We believe in funding education as much as possible for the health of the great state Alaska, present and future. Schools are expected to educate the whole child, with more and more triage being required every year, and every year they are left wondering if they will have enough money to fund their schools and retain all their teachers. It is imperative we keep education healthy in Alaska, for everyone's sake.

Please vote yes on HB 50. Thank you for your time,

Ariel and Lucas Starbuck

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Ariel and Lucas Starbuck.

**From:** [math](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB50  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:06:55 AM

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Dear Chairman Bishop and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce committee,

My name is Math Trafton, and I am a concerned Alaskan. Ever since the governor released his proposed budget cuts last February, I have been deeply worried about the state of Alaska on many fronts, though probably with regard to education most of all.

I am emailing today to plea for your support for SB50 to help secure funding for our schools -- and thus for our future.

Thank you for taking the time to listen,  
Math Trafton



**From:** [Benjamin White](#)  
**To:** [Senate Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** head tax  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:51:38 AM

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Good Morning,

PLEASE pass SB50. 30.00\$ / per head for our employees is reasonable. We need to ensure quality education for all of Alaska's students. Thank you.