

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Sen. Click Bishop  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:08 PM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** FW: Anchorage School District Support for SB 50 Employment Tax for Education Facilities  
Facilitiesmichael.johnson2@alaska.gov

**From:** Bishop\_Deena <Bishop\_Deena@asdk12.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:59 PM  
**Cc:** anderson\_jim01 <anderson\_jim01@asdk12.org>; Hayes\_Janet <hayes\_janet@asdk12.org>  
**Subject:** Anchorage School District Support for SB 50 Employment Tax for Education Facilities  
Facilitiesmichael.johnson2@alaska.gov

Dear Elected Officials,

As superintendent of Alaska's largest school district, I write today in support of SB 50 as a reasonable mechanism in which to fund capital improvements toward the state's education facilities. It does not appear that Anchorage School District would receive a substantial amount of assistance as the state's capital grant program (AS 37.050.560 & AS 14.11.008) favors the state's rural districts.

SB 50 directs the revenue to be accounted for under AS 37.05.560 – *Educational facilities maintenance and construction fund*. The fund appropriations are subject to AS 14.11.008 – *School district participation in grant program*. Additional statements in the bill do not exist that would indicate any adjustment to how the state's grant program operates.

If SB 50 is approved as currently written, Anchorage would likely see a limited amount of construction funding unless the bill is amended to possibly add a separate allocation toward natural disaster (fires, earthquakes, flooding, etc.) requirements.

The following facts highlight present construction funding to Anchorage:

- Anchorage School District's Average Daily Membership (ADM) is **38.7%** of the state's student population, while ASD only receives **26.8%** of state education general fund revenue.
- During the past 11 years (FY11 – FY19), state capital grants (AS 14.11.008) has allocated **\$561,089,586** toward education construction statewide, and **\$121,888,881** toward major maintenance.
- During the same period, (FY 11- FY19), Anchorage School District received approximately \$21.3 million for three maintenance projects. This equates to 3% of the state's capital grants during this period of time.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly or ASD Chief Financial Officer, Jim Anderson, at 907-742-3480 or [Anderson\\_Jim01@asdk12.org](mailto:Anderson_Jim01@asdk12.org).

Cheers,

Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Anchorage School District  
30 E. Northern Lights Boulevard  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
Office Phone (907) 742-4312

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Carrie Harris <carrieharrishome@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:39 PM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** Support for SB 50

I am voicing my support for the SB50 head tax. With three young sons all in Anchorage Public Schools, I am for any and all money we can put in to the pot. Our children, teachers, and all ASD staff deserve to spend their days in properly functioning, well-maintained, and safe buildings and facilities.

Thank you,  
Carrie Harris  
ASD Parent

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Kathleen Easley <katmandu26@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 6:11 AM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** SB 50 Support

I am writing to show support for SB50 and ask that the bill be passed. Assessing the \$30 tax seems like a minimal amount to be "taxed" for working in Alaska. I'm glad to see a tax that might capture some of the employees who do not live in Alaska but profit from working here. It seems like an affordable way to share the burden. Even low income families should not be burdened by this minimal of a tax.

Until we appropriately tax oil companies profiting off our state, then this is at a minimum helpful in making some progress to covering our needs. While I understand these funds will cover school maintenance and such, it is a start.

I appreciate your time and hope you'll consider sharing my support of this bill.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Easley  
Anchorage Alaska

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Marnie Hartill <marniehartill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 6:24 AM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** Support sb 50

Dear Legislators,

Forgive the short note, but I don't have enough time to write a lengthy letter. You see, I'm up at 4:45 every morning to get ready to teach high needs 7th and 8th graders language arts. I believe a head tax will better support the essential services in our state that are being slashed by the drop in oil revenues.

So more I could say about roads and schools and fire fighting and ferries, but I need to get myself to work. Thank you for serving our state!

Sincerely,

Marnie Hartill  
4120 Resurrection Dr  
Anchorage AK 99504  
(907)744-6641

Sent from my iPhone

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Emily Lescak <emilfeet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 7:08 AM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** SB 50

Hello,

I am writing in favor of SB 50 to support the maintenance and construction of Alaska's schools. As someone with two small children, one of whom will begin kindergarten next year, I support this tax to help ensure that they will have adequate educational facilities.

Thank you,  
Emily

## Darwin Peterson

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**From:** Schuette <clkschuette@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 9:21 PM  
**To:** Darwin Peterson  
**Subject:** SB 50

Dear Senator,

I support the SB 50 bill. Investments in education are important and the positive externalities that come from that are hard to dispute.

Best regards,  
Christine Schuette  
99508

**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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**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]

**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 similar 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

**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:** [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

[REDACTED]

**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.



# 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/MIDDLE CLASS - THEN I EXPECT SOME WILL DEDUCT IT FOR FED. INCOME TAX VIA "LIMITED 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 100<sup>+</sup> YR. PAYING 3X THE 30<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 BE 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"