Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group

July 27 2021. Thank You.

Did we choke ourselves of a dividend to have a balanced budget (appropriation limit?).

Do I except a Dividend payment when it is made of Tax money derived from Other Laws that created the Tax? Do not pay a Alaska PFD check that is from other 'tax source,or the Cbr,or some other Revenue source. The source the PFD is the Permanent Fund Corporation.

- [] The PFD is a Earnings model engine.
- [] The POMV is a Percent of Market Value engine.
- [] There is a Appropriations Limit. Of which has no accommodation for the 'Earnings model PFD

Formula'.

[] There is the stress on the PFC itself, of 'several DRAWs to a single session of the state.

Should we (I') abandon the "Earnings" engine that is a component of the Formula for the PFD ? For a "Percent Of Market Value "model, - There is no law to base a Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend formula within the POMV (SB 26 AS 37.13.140 a,b).?

The 30th legislative came out of a conference committee with neither of these two "POMV PFC PFD Dividend formulas:

25/75 house

33/66 senate

of course the changing of a substantive portion of a law cannot be done in a conference

commitee. The full legislature was to return, and fullfill this entry of law, but did not do so.

Need an Amendment, a Law within SB26 POMV for a POMV PFD, that of which has no effect of those 'Earnings'engine Dividend statutes. Have a law the 5% POMVC that is a formula for the "POMV PFD". To end debate, Create statute with a minumal 50% /25% (variable) formula within the SB 26 statute so *law exists to the necesity of having done so*.

At a future date the state can still (even presently)utilize the Earnings engine. Given again Revenue is available to run the State Services from those sources of Revenue.

Put a Dividend Formula within the POMV

- (SB26) to determine "POMV PFD" with several stipulations:
- NO TAX MONIES shall be made to pay for a POMV PFD. Except in rears. If none of the %5 POMV remain, then no PFD should be paid.
- The rest of Statutes can mirror those Statutes necessary for the 'earnings'engine. To accommodate requirements for recipients of POMV PFD Dividend. To recieve payment.

A suggested Statute "POMV Dividend Formula:

The 5% POMV,50% POMV Less POPBS. To 25% POMV dividend Payment amount formula calculation. Its a mandatory 25% POMV,but does not reflect ACCOUNT,ACCOUNTS,or APPROPRIATIONS still to be made.

Further stress reasons that this should be Legislated w/o Bundling (see Finance Committee Both Bodies), is several. Reasons, including the Legislative Branch, and other Branches of government to be able to recognize what monies they actually have. We must see as well the question of 'Appropriation 'from the Legislative point of view to a 'Representative Republic, that has to come from a relationship of Law that 'actually exists". To those represented by them ,those laws and 'The People. While generally speaking, the Dividend Recipient is harmless to other laws that are composed - those which make state Revenue for services. Bundling (see both bodies Finance Committees) ,and using Tax money makes to the PFD Recipient, either a Tort, or a Conflict of Interest, or at easily shown, an Ethics situation.

Via the Laws from proceedings of the previous Legislatioms representing the People that make up those Tax Laws.

So the 'bundling' might be very simple appropriation structure, but it is a very bad 'Policy'. Please, Dont use the Cbr, to pay Dividends. Easy example.

And Deficits are not good. Thats money that don't have the following session. And they are additive. Deficits add a negative to the income of the next cycle of legislation. Is up to the Legislature to make those Budgetary Operations work, and work well.

BTW <u>Deposit</u> Gov. Dunleavy mistaken 4 billion deposit - put into PFC, <u>into the CBR</u>. Would be a good policy to have no greater than 1/4 of POMV amount as a deficit amount.

It is not of a Republic ,or Union to disenfranchise,600,000 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Recipients of their persons since Law is not in effect by the People. And within Separation of Powers ,We should have Law . Of the Republic that make them up . Of the Share of Alaska unique resource wealth to the people. Via the Alaska Permanent Fund . Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend,of which I am a Recipient.

Thank you. Anonymous. Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Recipient. To Alaska Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group. Commitee. Alaska Legislature, July 17 2021.

From: joyfamily < > Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 6:52 PM
To: Fiscal Policy < fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: Comprehensive Fiscal Plan

Please review the Anchorage Daily News Letters to the Editor of August 2, 2021 for Glenn Cravez's letter. I share his opinion on the comprehensive fiscal plan subject. Please finish this hard unpopular work during the upcoming special session. It's past due.

Thank you.

Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone:
Mobile:
Email:

From: Putt Clark < >
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Fiscal Policy < fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD

Dunleavy is trying to reinvent himself as the champion of the PCE endowment, never admitting that he had repeatedly tried to get rid of it.

He's trying to pull the same trick now, claiming that depositing more than \$1 billion from the endowment into the Permanent Fund would secure its future. The constitutional amendment he proposed to try to buy the vote of Sen. Lyman Hoffman would leave it up to future legislators to set the amount of the annual electric subsidy "according to state law."

We must preserve the PFD for the future, safeguarding it for future generations, maintaining the investments and the powerful interest accruing aspect of the fund. With wise investment and spending, the PFD was designed to produce a PFD for generations, with available funds for the state as well. Not something to be played politics with, to buy votes with, or pay for everything else with.

It is short sighted to empty the PFD at this stage. We MUST act now in finding other monetary income for our state: build up agriculture, create manufacturing, and PLEASE impose an income tax!

Sincerely and thank you for your time,

Putt Clark Fairbanks From: attorneyrobinschmid <

Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:57 PM **To:** Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD

I live in Sitka and we need a full PFD. I can't believe I even need to say this but I feel like our representatives in Juneau really don't know it, but the economy has absolutely tanked us. Our ferry service and airline flights have been cut to nothing. Shipping has skyrocketed for necessities like food, lumber, appliances, furniture and supplies of all kind.

State funding is just not there. If it is being used for the greater good of our communities, I've yet to see it. A full PFD will SAVE a lot of families including mine and my business. The PFD was designed to be given to those Who would know which way was best and which to spend it...so speaketh Jay Hammond. Our legislators are not spending the money for our good. If we can't get ferry service or decent flights out at least give us money so we can pay the extra fees we need to be able to get the things that we need just in order to live here.

Robin Schmid, Attorney

Sitka AK 99835

From: Marie McCarty <

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 8:53 AM **To:** Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD for support

Good morning,

My name is Marie McCarty. Jacque Tinker gave me this e-address to share my reason for relying on the PFD. I would have completed my engineering degree years ago, but for a mistake on the university's part. In January 2009 I returned to Fairbanks for the spring semester and my student loans weren't available. I was told that I didn't file for any loans. I gave the clerk a cooy of my paperwork that showed that I had filed on time for loans. It took 3 weeks for the loans to arrive and during that time I lived in my car! I have no family here and couldn't get a loan because I didn't have a job. I was a full time student and being homeless in Fairbanks in the coldest time of the year my grades deteriorated. All I could think about was where was I going to park my car to get some sleep and hope that I wouldn't freeze to death or die of CO poisoning. Once I got my student loans I was able to pay deposit for an inexpensive place to live but the damage was done. I failed my classes and changed my focus from being a full time student to having a full time job so that I wouldn't be homeless again.

On top of that I neglected to keep in mind that I needed to start repaying my student loans and of course, I defaulted on them. It seems like I am never going to finish my college studies. But I worked 2, 3 jobs to get my bills paid and my credit repaired. I have saved tuition for 1 class this fall semester. I rely on my PFD and native dividends to pay for auto repairs and maintenance and any other emergency that comes up. One class at a time is how I will finish my studies at UAF.

Thank you for hearing my story and my need for the PFD.

Marie

From: Kerri Mullis < > Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 10:33 AM

To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Prax <Rep.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov>; Rep. George

Rauscher < Rep. George. Rauscher@akleg.gov>

Subject: Pfd

Good Morning-

Since Monday evening, and the overwhelming discussions about returning to the statutory PFD formula, and paying back what was illegally siphoned off every man, woman and child that was legally qualified to receive the PFD since 2016 -I have a few more thoughts-which I have voice MANY times over the past few years.

- 1. You will not be able to tax enough to replace the level of overspending the legislators are doing. Let's break that down further-realistically you wouldn't tax the elderly, the disabled, 18 and under, the incarcerated nor the unemployed, so you are down to a taxable level conceivably of 300,000 to a maximum of 325,000. That would be a mighty stiff tax.
- 2. The infrastructure (employees, pensions, training and management) required to set up any new "tax program" would not allow for any monetary gain for potentially the next four years-and then there is the Pers issue that the state doesn't have enough to pay the retirees (don't keep denying it-we are fully aware).
- 3. You also talked about taxing the one revenue that carries this state-is that prudent? The one main revenue -which is the oil industry is over 44 percent- I believe the last number I saw. That could be an outdated number as I have been busy for the last year and was exhausted after kicking Giessel and Coghill to the dirt pile -so I needed to recharge my batteries! But when talking about loss of oil industry -even down to 25 percent-how much salmon, halibut, tourism and trinkets do you think Alaska will need to sell to replace that revenue? Tongass is shut down -again. Now we lost revenue due to drilling on federal lands -because we have no financial jurisdiction. Marijuana produces no revenue that goes towards our budget line items per se. Basically-you are asking Alaskans to carry your bloated (and we are the highest government per capita in the United States), budget. You touched on property taxes-well gee, if people had things like real value other than driving their trash to a local area, maybe. Let me use Virginia -just a random state because my friend is moving there. There is high speed transit -for free, high speed internet, great places to shop, eat out, great roads, schools aren't at the bottom, their colleges weren't de certified.....the list goes on. I just keep remembering Van Flein talking on Monday night from Fairbanks about the great schools and colleges here-his kids went to Monroe (a private school).

During the original covid idiocy -everyone of you continued to get money, while many of us did not. I had to sell my business at a loss and leave my home I had lived in for 30

years and now -living within my means, rely on social security and the pfd. While you Voted yourself a big, fat per diem raise while not doing your job I was worrying about keeping my lights on and my heat going with the increasing costs. Now you have again made me beg for my rightful share of my PFD. While you vacationed, boated, ate well, I planted a garden and prayed things grew. You think nothing about \$3000-it means heating oil, a load of firewood, a years worth of groceries so much to me and my husband-you should hang your head in shame-but you seem to not have any morals nor compassion.

What should be cut? Expanded Medicaid (Walker instituted it-bag it), no more Wami-no other college students get this credit and it's less than 75 percent successful at a cost of almost \$1 million per year. No non profit that gets money from the federal government should get money from the state -period. Natives double dip, churches double dip, etc.

Focus on-safety (fire, troopers, emt), and dot (road safety) that's it-that's it-cut government in half and move to wasilla -boom

Kerri Mullis

----Original Message-----

From: Melissa Riordan <

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 11:07 AM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: Fiscal plan comments

Hello, I want you to know my position on a few keystone issues regarding Alaska Fiscal plan.

- -I support partially protecting PFD, a 1000.00 helps us pay for our heating fuel and found that amount is part of our annual budget. Maybe add an inflation factor to increase annually, but tied to inflation and not pfd earnings.
- I support tax revenue, personally income tax seems more fair, but what ever it takes.
- -Stop paying oil companies to explore in Alaska, unfortunately fossil fuels are not our future anymore.
- -Good idea to protect pdf allocation in the constitution, so not a political football any more. I'm sick of this conversation.

I think a mixed bag approach is a sound approach, and don't believe overall that more cuts to government are the best approach with so many deferred future costs to come.

Thank you for working to find solutions for our state, Melissa Riordan

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ronald Johnson <

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 11:52 AM **To:** Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: my written testimony

I look forward to seeing your long-range plan re a sustainable budget before the legislature meets in August. I think a 5% [or close to 5 %] POMV draw should be a crucial part of this. If you propose budget cuts, and or revenue enhancements, be specific. One may get lots of support from the public by saying, for example, that we will cut the UGF spending by ,say, 10 %. This support would diminish if a community realized its public safety response, for example, would be diminished.

AD-HOC draws, like the \$ 3B one the governor proposed, can lead to a continuation of a slippery slope that, in the past, resulted in the CBR being reduced from \$ 16 B or so to around \$ 1B.

One idea that I like re the PFD is to give each of us a sustainable amount like \$ 500 and use the money saved from a larger amount to increase HESS funding to help those who are in real need.

At least half of us will survive just fine with \$500. This is especially true this and next FY with all the CARES related federal funding. I'd rather see my share of a personal income or sales tax used this way rather than to have me pay, say, a \$2000 income tax one day, and then, in return, get a \$2000 PFD.

Re the POMV split, I would like to see a serious discussion about splits other than 50/50 such as 75/25. Is there some magic about 50/50? I'm very concerned about putting a large PFD guarantee in the constitution. Does that mean that if the

POMV amount [based on a 5 yr average] falls a lot, we all get a PFD but we eliminate much of public safety and education. I don't think you want that.

In your discussions, I'd like to see more said about the fact that the premise under which the 1980 [statutory PFD] formula was enacted is no longer valid. Then, none of our government was funded by the PF earnings. We could have given it all as PFDs and our government would have been fine. The opposite is true now with 2/3 of our UGF revenue coming from the PF earnings. Talking more about this would help the legislature and the public better understand the issues.

Ron Johnson

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Bruth George < Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Fiscal Policy < fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support Alaska

Dear Legislators,

I've said it before and will repeat. I am willing and able to help pay (via an income tax) for the functions we expect from the State--education, health facilities, fire protection, and all the many other duties we expect the state to perform. The Permanent Fund was a great idea for its time but has led many to believe that the state owes them money.

I'm hopeful that we have enough responsible legislators to get us back on a reasonable tack.

Thank you, Betty R. George From: > Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 9:16 PM

To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>
Cc: KIMBERLY MAXWELL <mcmax@gci.net>

Subject: alaska's budget

Two or three years ago, I spoke at multiple town-hall style meetings held by Fairbanks area legislators. At that time I expressed my opinion that the use of the permanent fund as the primary (only?) source of state funding was in fact a very regressive tax on low-income Alaskans and I asked that the legislators reinstate the state income tax to provide part of state funding. I was told that "currently, there was no appetite in Juneau (the legislature) for new taxes". I responded "If not now, when"? That was two years ago and more of Alaska's savings have been spent. This cannot continue.

Most Alaskans want state services but when the income tax was eliminated, those services became "free" and because we were not contributing to the cost of these services many Alaskans now feel that the services AND their permanent fund dividends are not services, but are entitlements.

Oil production is declining and even if oil prices went back over \$100 per barrel, I would imagine that there would still be a budget deficit due to the changes in oil taxation.

Alaska cannot continue to simply spend down our savings, because we can't - the legislatures of the past ten years have spent it all.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome. Alaska's budget process needs counseling so that it can be released from the insane asylum and return to its mission of making hard decisions and providing services to Alaskans in a sustainable manner with a sustainable funding mechanism.

That funding mechanism needs to use some of the revenue from the permanent fund while allowing for inflation proofing the fund and paying dividends. The only way that will be possible is if there are increased taxes on both individuals and corporations (including the oil producers).

I urge you to avoid mandating the payment of dividends by amending the state constitution as that will limit the options of future legislatures. The job of future legislatures is the same as your current job - make the hard decisions and figure out how to fund both a dividend, but primarily state services, in a sustainable manner.

I ask that you figure out how to fund state services in a sustainable manner. It may cost some of you your next election, but you will have done your job and future generations of Alaskans will owe you their thanks.

Your task at hand will not be easy. Thank you for your public service.

Steve McGroarty

Ester, AK 99725

From:

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 11:13 AM **To:** Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony. No Tax Monies USED to Pay Dividend(July29AncLIO)Mike

Mike. Anonymous, Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Recipient Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group July 27 2021. And Anchorage LIO July 29. Mike. Thank You.

Did we choke ourselves of a dividend to have a balanced budget (appropriation limit?).

Do I except a Dividend payment when it is made of Tax money derived from Other Laws that created the Tax? Do not pay a Alaska PFD check that is from other 'tax source, or the Cbr, or some other Revenue source. The source the PFD is the Permanent Fund Corporation.

[] The PFD is a Earnings model engine.
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[] There is a Appropriations Limit. Of which has no accommodation for the 'Earnings
model PFD Formula'.
[] There is the stress on the PFC itself, of 'several DRAWs to a single session of the state

Should we (I') abandon the "Earnings" engine that is a component of the Formula for the PFD? For a "Percent Of Market Value "model, - There is no law to base a Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend formula within the POMV (SB 26 AS 37.13.140 a,b).?

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Need an Amendment ,a Law within SB26 POMV for a POMV PFD, that of which has no effect of those 'Earnings'engine Dividend statutes. Have a law the 5% POMVC that is a formula for the "POMV PFD". To end debate, Create statute with a minumal 50% /25% (variable) formula within the SB 26 statute so law exists to the necesity of having done so. At a future date the state can still (even presently)utilize the Earnings engine. Given again Revenue is available to run the State Services from those sources of Revenue.

Put a Dividend Formula within the POMV (SB26) to determine "POMV PFD" - with several stipulations:

- **NO TAX MONIES shall be made to pay for a POMV PFD.** Except in rears. If none of the %5 POMV remain, then no PFD should be paid.

- The rest of Statutes can mirror those Statutes necessary for the 'earnings'engine. To accommodate requirements for recipients of POMV PFD Dividend. To recieve payment.
- The POMV PFC PFD Formula, does not make obsolete,or replace any 'Earnings Model' dividend Statute.

A suggested Statute "POMV Dividend Formula: The 5% POMV,50% POMV Less POPBS. To 25% POMV dividend Payment amount formula calculation. Its a mandatory 25% POMV,but does not reflect ACCOUNT,ACCOUNTS,or APPROPRIATIONS still to be made.

Further stress reasons that this should be Legislated w/o Bundling (see Finance Committee Both Bodies),is several. Reasons,including the Legislative Branch,and other Branches of government to be able to recognize what monies they actually have. We must see as well the question of 'Appropriation 'from the Legislative point of view to a 'Representative Republic,that has to come from a relationship of Law that 'actually exists". To those represented by them ,those laws and 'The People. While generally speaking,the Dividend Recipient is harmless to other laws that are composed - those which make state Revenue for services. Bundling (see both bodies Finance Committees) ,and using Tax money makes to the PFD Recipient,either a Tort,or a Conflict of Interest,or at easily shown,an Ethics situation. Via the Laws from proceedings of the previous Legislatioms representing the People that make up those Tax Laws .

<u>So the 'bundling' might be very simple appropriation</u> structure, but it is a very bad 'Policy'. **Please, Dont use the Cbr,to pay Dividends. Easy example.**And Deficits are not good. Thats money that don't have the following session. And they are additive. Deficits add a negative to the income of the next cycle of legislation. Is up to the Legislature to make those Budgetary Operations work, and work well.

BTW Deposit Gov. Dunleavy mistaken 4 billion Corpus deposit - put into PFC, into the CBR. Would be a good policy to have no greater than 1/4 of POMV amount as a deficit amount.

It is not of a Republic ,or Union to disenfranchise,600,000 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Recipients of their persons since Law is not in effect by the People. And within Separation of Powers ,We should have Law . Of the Republic that make them up . Of the Share of Alaska unique resource wealth to the people. Via the Alaska Permanent Fund . Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend,of which I am a Recipient.

Thank you. Anonymous. Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Recipient. To Alaska Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group. Commitee. Alaska Legislature, July 17 2021.

From: Dorothea Adams

To: Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Ben

Carpenter; Rep. Calvin Schrage; rep.Honathan.Kriess-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Rhonda Pitka; Rhonda Pitka; Kevin

Theonnes; Chiefs; Manager Team; Sen. Click Bishop; Rep. Mike Cronk

Subject: Letter to Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group from Chief Rhonda Pitka

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 3:03:38 PM

Attachments: Signed Resolution 2021-11 Reversal of PCE Cuts by SOA.pdf

PCE Letter from Chief of Beaver.PDF PCE Letter from CATG Chief Rhonda.PDF

Senators: Hughes, Hoffman, Kawaski & Kiehl:

Representatives: McCabe, Carpenter, Schrage &Kreiss-Tomkins:

- 1. Attached please find Beaver Chief Rhonda Pitka's letter in opposition to SOA Governor Dunleavy defunding and dismantling the PCE program.
- 2. Attached please find CATG's Chairperson Chief Rhonda Pitka's letter in opposition to SOA Governor Dunleavy defunding and dismantling the PCE program.
- 3. Attached please find CATG Resolution 2021-11 reversal of PCE Cuts by SOA that supports these letters.

--

Respectfully,

Dorothea Adams

CATG Administrative Operations Director 907-662-7511 Direct Line

Determine to make a difference!



BEAVER VILLAGE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 24029 Beaver, Alaska 99724

PHONE (907)628-6126 FAX 628-6815

Sent Via Email

Alaska Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group

Senator Shelley Hughes

Senator Lyman Hoffman

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Representative Kevin McCabe

Representative Ben Carpenter

Representative Calvin Schrage

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Re: Protecting Power Cost Equalization Program

Dear Legislators,

The Beaver Village Council writes to thank you for taking on the critical task of developing a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska, and to strongly encourage you to include the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program as part of that plan.

PCE is not a subsidy for rural Alaska. Rather, it was established in 1984 by the Alaska State Legislature to equalize the inequitable subsidization of energy development that occurred decades ago in urban parts of the state. Energy has remained relatively affordable for urban

Rhonda Pitka, Chief Arlene Pitka., 2nd Chief Selina Petruska , Secretary Aaron Petruska, Bertha Billy, Nellie Winer, and Kody Vanderpool consumers because of the major hydro projects and interties for which the entire state paid. PCE, in turn, has helped keep costs down for rural communities. Without it, as we have seen since July 1, the price of power in rural Alaska rises dramatically.

As reported by Alaska Public Media, without this equalization, residents of rural regions will soon see their power bills rise by as much at \$100 a month. Others could see their bills double or triple. This increase would be considered unacceptable in any urban region of the state, and rural Alaska should not be treated differently.

Neglecting to protect the PCE endowment will cause disproportionate harm to rural Alaskans. Affordable energy is essential to the survival of Alaska's rural, Native communities through continual economic swings, particularly now as Alaska climbs out of the coronavirus pandemic.

It is your Constitutional responsibility as legislators to ensure that all Alaskans are treated equally by state government. Preserving the PCE program and its endowment must be a part of Alaska's long-term budget solution, in addition to reimbursing the credits that were not paid during this impasse. Whatever the sustainable, long-term plan looks like, PCE must be a part of the picture to ensure equitable treatment for our residents no matter where they live.

We greatly appreciate the work you are undertaking on behalf of our great state. The Beaver Village Council respectfully asks that you keep rural families, communities, and businesses in mind as you plan for Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Pitka

Chief, Village of Beaver



COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

P.O. Box 33 Fort Yukon, AK 99740 Ph: 907-662-2587 Fax: 907-662-3333 www.catg.org

August 2, 2021

Representative Mike Cronk 1292 Sadler Way Suite 328 Fairbanks AK, 99701

Senator Click Bishop 1292 Sadler Way Ste. 308 Fairbanks AK, 99701

Senator Bishop and Representative Cronk,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the ten federally recognized tribes that make up the membership of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) to strenuously oppose the actions taken by the Dunleavy Administration to defund the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program. The PCE program has apparently become a political issue currently. For our villages, it is a life or death program with dire consequences. Without PCE funding, our villages face choices like whether to use electricity or not, which itself is the only means of providing safe storage of food. In rural Alaska, and for the 84,000 Alaskans that rely on the PCE funding, there are no neighborhood supermarkets that keep food in cold storage. Subsistence hunters and fishers cannot provide for their families properly without power.

Attached is CATG Resolution 2021-11 which provides further background on the communities impacted and the threats they now face due to PCE funding loss. Please contact me, or CATG staff, at your first convenience to inform us what you intend to do about the loss of PCE funding. These are difficult times for our communities, with the ongoing threats of COVID, and this additional decision by the Governor to turn his back on rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives is an absolute affront to CATG member villages.

Sincerely.

Chief and Chairperson Rhonda Pitka

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

rpitka@catq.org

907-628-6126, Office of Chief Rhonda Pitka

907-350-8643, CATG ED

Cc: Governor Mike Dunleavy



COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS P.O. Box 33 Fort Yukon, AK 99740 Ph: 907-662-2587 Fax: 907-662-3333

www.catg.org

RESOLUTION 2021-11

URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO RECONSIDER CUTTING THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION FROM THE 2022 BUGET

WHEREAS: The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a tribal consortium composed of Arctic Village Council, Beaver Village Council, Birch Creek Village Council, Canyon Village Council, Chalkyitsik Village Council, Circle Village Council, Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Council, Rampart Village Council, Stevens Village Council and Venetie Village Council; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of CATG is to conserve and protect tribal lands and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-government; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and its respective individual members; and to preserve and maintain the cultural and spiritual values of the Tribe and its Tribal members; and

WHEREAS: The CATG Council of Chiefs is the legal governing body of the CATG by the authority of the Constitution and the By-Laws of the CATG; and

WHEREAS: The Power Cost Equalization (PCE) is not in the FY 2022 State of Alaska budget which will negatively impact all rural villages in Alaska. The PCE Program was established in the mid-1980s as an annual appropriation. The fund was established in 2000 with an initial \$100 million endowment. Subsequent endowments were made and the fund grew. These funds are near critically low levels; and

WHEREAS: The PCE fund is used to help rural communities pay for high energy costs. The Alaska Energy Authority says that power bills can be three to five times higher in rural Alaska than urban Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The already the high cost of fuel in the CATG region is upwards to ten dollars a gallon and PCE cuts would cause life-changing decisions such as electricity vs food, or electricity vs clothing where the majority of our communities live a traditional subsistence lifestyle and the cost of living in rural Alaska is extremely high; and

WHEREAS: The member Tribes and villages within the CATG region will join the other 84,000 Alaskans that previously received the payments in communities that largely use diesel to generate electricity. PCE usage by member tribes is critical and essential for our communities to thrive and survive.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments urges member tribes, tribal citizens and sister organizations to join CATG in writing to or contacting our Legislature in opposition to the cut of the PCE's from the SOA budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments seeks full restoration of the PCE program in the SOA's budget not only for FY 2022 but for future years to come.

CERTIFICATION

Resolution 2021-11 was adopted by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Council of Chiefs on the 241, day of June 2021.

ATTESTATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-11

Roll Call Vote:	YES
Chief Robert Sam, Arctic Village	Political
Chief Rhonda Pitka, Beaver	Au for
Chief Jacqueline Baalam, Birch Creek	
Chief Delma Fields, Canyon Village	Dona Full
Chief Stephanie Herbert, Chalkyitsik	
Chief Dennis Carroll, Circle	voice vote via phone
Chief Michael Peter, GZ Tribal Government	Michael pla
Chief Michael Wiehl, Rampart	
Chief David Kriska, Stevens Village	Mitch
Chief Paul Tritt Jr., Venetie	·
Attest: VIII JUU Kelly Fleids, Executive Assistant	Date: <u>6/30/2-</u> [

To: Anna McKinnon, Acting Director, Permanent Fund Division, Alaska Dept. of Revenue, PO Box 110460 Juneau, AK 99811-0460

Re: Dividend underpayment for years (circle all tha	t apply) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
My name is	
My mailing address is	
My email is	
My Phone is	

I am writing to notify you that I have not yet received the full amount of the permanent fund dividend I was eligible to receive for dividend years (circle years that apply) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021

As you know, an individual who complies with the stipulations of AS 43.23.005(a) is eligible to receive one permanent fund dividend in an amount to be determined under AS 43.23.025. I complied with the stipulations of AS 43.23.005 for years (circle) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021. (Electronic application forms attesting to these facts are on file with your office.) Therefore, to the best of my knowledge, I was eligible for and should have received the following payments:

\$2,085 for dividend year 2016, \$2,458 for dividend year 2017, \$2,924 for dividend year 2018, \$2,884 for dividend year 2019, \$2895 for dividend year 2020, and \$3687 for dividend year 2021

But I have only received the following payments:

\$1,022 in October of 2016, \$1,100 in October of 2017, \$1,600 in October of 2018, and \$1,606 in October of 2019 and 992 in 2020, and nothing for 2021

Based on the annual rate of return posted on line 1 column G of the June 30th reports by the APFC board of Trustees and the back owed balances, I am owed the unpaid balance, plus the earnings on that sum (circle one below that applies to your eligibility).

Since 2016	Since 2017	Since 2018	Since 2019	Since 2020	Since 2021
\$13,564.60	\$11,746.18	\$9,650.96	\$7,806.31	\$6,131.59	\$3,687

If you wish, you may deposit the payment to the bank account I listed on the PFD application form I submitted for the 2021 dividend year. Otherwise, please mail the check to my mailing address on file at your office.

Email to fiscal.policy@akleg.gov cc rep.mike.prax@akleg.gov

Signature

To: Anna McKinnon, Acting Director, Permanent Fund Division, Alaska Dept. of Revenue, PO Box 110460 Juneau, AK 99811-0460

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