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></fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>	
Cc: KIMBERLY MAXWELL <	>
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

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.

[] 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) .? <u>The 30th legislativure ca</u>me 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 <u>so.At</u> 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.

<u>BTW Deposit Gov. Dunleavy mistake</u>n 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 <u>Recipient.To</u> Alaska Joint Fiscal Plan Working Group. Commitee. Alaska Legislature,July 17 2021.

Hello Working Group Members,

I listened to some of the testimony the other evening on Gavel to Gavel. Whoever it was moderating the calls - you are a saint.

That people feel entitled to the PFD is yet another sad reflection on humanity. I wish the PFD would have never been created as a citizen dividend but rather a fund.

A fund that would go into supporting the training, education and infrastructure to work on our social ills. We desperately need trained social and mental health care workers. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic and substance abuse. It has a burgeoning homeless population. The new self-serving Anchorage mayor can sidestep these issues but they will not go away.

I see a sad lack of educated, trained/skilled mental health professionals adequately paid to work in this field. I don't blame them, humanity is a mess. But somehow the state needs to better fund and attract mental health workers.

I support an income tax. I've lived here 40 years and most of that as a property tax payer. I and many in my age group hitting 65 will get a break from that. That's a pretty sizable population no longer paying into an infrastructure tax.

Even a full PFD is not going to cover someone's annual utilities or car repairs while they budget for their cigarettes or pot or whatever. This can't be policed of course but this is what I see from some. Alaskans - really? Give them their guns, pot and PFD. I sense all your callers only care about themselves.

I say fold the PFD into the smallest dividend possible without getting death threats and put those dollars to social services.

Thank you, Therese Lewandowski Homer.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Steve Theno < Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 8:54 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: State Fiscal Plan

Hello:

I would like to offer my input to the Fiscal Policy Committee Working Group prior to the upcoming Special Session. I appreciate your consideration of my input.

Sincerely,

Steve Theno Retired - at the end of the Road

<Attachment>

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some input on resolving the State's current fiscal challenges. I believe it is the most critical issue facing the State and has been for some time. I am a life long Alaskan, a professional engineer and former business owner. I currently reside in Homer.

I believe the purpose of government is to provide those basic functions and services that we collectively need, but are not capable of effectively delivering individually. I believe these functions and services should be accomplished as efficiently as possible, but I do believe they are necessary and that we are each responsible for sharing fairly in the cost of those services.

I believe we have all benefited greatly from Alaska's wealth of natural resources, gas and oil in particular, and this is as it should be. The Permanent Fund has been a wise vehicle to capture, preserve and leverage a significant portion of that oil wealth and has matured into a unique and extremely valuable state asset. Those same oil and gas revenues allowed us to enjoy a generally tax free environment for many years, along with receiving a PFD, both of which have been of significant benefit to Alaskans.

The oil and gas industry in Alaska however has matured and indeed is in decline and has been for a number of years. This was not unexpected. My understanding of the Permanent Fund at the time of its creation was that one of its benefits would be its ability to capture oil revenues as they occurred and leverage that value to grow a self-sustaining asset that would eventually replace oil revenues as a primary state revenue source in the future. In my view, it has met that objective, and is now the primary revenue source for state operations.

But a responsible annual withdrawal from the Permanent Fund is not capable of meeting all of the basic services the citizens of Alaska desire from its government. A significant, sustainable additional revenue source is needed. I believe that long term revenue source should be some form of broad based tax. My preference would be an income tax, since sales taxes are used by a number of local governments for local revenue generation.

It is clear that we cannot draw sustainably from the Permanent Fund, pay a PFD and fund all necessary government services without another key revenue stream. Facilitating a vibrant, growing economy, increasing the state GDP and securing high paying jobs for Alaskans is all good, but that does not in and of itself generate a revenue stream to support state functions. There must be some vehicle to tap that economic stream to funnel responsible revenue to the state. A general tax of some sort is the normal vehicle.

A number of other revenue sources have been mentioned from time to time during budget discussions; state lottery, speciality taxes and licenses, gaming, etc. But really, all fall orders of magnitude short of what is needed. If we consider that a major supporting revenue source would need to deliver ballpark \$500 million to be meaningful; then there are no other credible options other than a general tax. Here is a clear example. The fishing industry is considered one of the pillars of the Alaska economy. But, according to the State of Alaska Annual Revenue Report, the state derives something less than \$50 million in annual revenues from that sector. If revenues from the fishing industry were to be tapped to fill a \$500 million target; either the fishing industry would need to increase ten fold, or the taxes levied would need to be increased by an order of magnitude. Neither is even remotely realistic.

Furthermore, I do not believe that looking to the gas and oil sector to save the day offers any long term potential. Gas and oil has arguably served Alaska well, but it is a declining industry. The world is moving on to a cleaner, sustainable, more climate friendly future with renewables while gas and oil is receding into a declining future. Alaska needs to move on as well.

I favor then diversifying and boosting Alaska's revenue stream with the implementation of a broad based general tax, preferably an income tax.

I am not in favor of the proposals to incorporate the PFD or the Power Cost Equalization Program into the state constitution,. In the case of the PFD, I understand the rationale that it was derived from the state's natural resources, which are our resources as citizens, and therefore the value should flow to each of us. However the same may be said of Alaska's fish and game, however no one would rationally suggest the value of the commercial salmon harvest should be divided up amongst all the citizens each year. I believe the wealth that flowed from the state's natural resources should be managed to the benefit of all citizens, and leveraging that wealth to responsibly address the common needs of the citizens of the state through the services provided by state government seems most beneficial. I do understand that quite a number of citizens have come to rely on the annual PFD. It is not discretionary income from their perspective, but is critical to help meet their basic financial needs. For a larger majority of Alaskans, however, the PFD is not a necessity. I would favor gradually phasing out the PFD. For those that rely on the PFD to meet basic income needs, I would favor implementing tailored programs administered by Health and Social Services.

In the case of the Power Cost Equalization Program, I view it as just that, a program. Its designed to fill a specific need. That need will likely change over time and, like any program, we should have the flexibility within our state government to enact and shape programs to fit current needs. I wouldn't make it a constitutional requirement.

My final comment is centered on the proposal to enact a constitutional amendment requiring a vote of the citizens to enact or increase any tax. I do not favor such an amendment. The state constitution authorizes the legislature to enact taxes from time to time, as necessary to conduct the state's business.

Our state constitution prescribes a representative form of government. As citizens we elect representatives and empower them to perform the duties and business of government on our behalf.

Enacting or modifying taxes is a standard method by which government generates and regulates the revenues necessary to provide the services we require and our elected representatives should have that authority, as it is prescribed in our constitution. I do not believe there is a reason to change this. As citizens, we already have the power to regulate taxes that might be enacted; by wisely choosing the representatives we elect.

To that end, personally, when I vote for my representative, I cast my vote for the person I believe most closely represents my views. I am, however, placing trust in that person to adhere to their responsibilities, to be accountable, to solicit my input, to explain their rationale, and get the work of government done. I do not vote for someone to draw a line in the sand beyond which no compromise is possible. I expect my representative to negotiate, compromise and ultimately to make the best decision they can, given all the information they have, in the best interest of all. I do not expect my representative to simply vote based on party line. I did not vote for a party, I voted for a representative.

I do not expect my representative to make decisions based on what is in their best re-election interests or political ambitions. I expect my representative to make the best decision for all, even if that might be an unpopular decision at the time it is made and even if it means potentially not being re-elected. Over the last several years, it seems that all our legislature has done is chip away a little here and there at the budget, then borrow from the savings accounts and kick the fiscal can down the road. This is no longer acceptable. What has been even worse, in my view, is legislators enacting some bill to "protect the permanent fund from the hands of greedy legislators who find it too easy to tap and spend". Good grief, you are passing laws to protect the permanent fund from yourselves! We didn't elect you to spend away the permanent fund, nor protect it from yourselves. We elected legislators to act responsibly and in the best interest of all Alaskans. We need a significant fiscal course change now, for the good of Alaska in the long term. I would strongly encourage you to show the leadership we need now and make responsible decisions for Alaska.

In summary:

1. I support a broad based general state tax to generate additional state revenues.

2. I support a POMV approach to sustainably managing the Permanent Fund.

3. I do not support constitutional amendments that would lock in the PFD, the PCE program, or require a vote of the citizens to enact any tax legislation.

4. I favor a gradual phase out of the PFD program, replaced by targeted services and assistance for those that need it.

5. I support a long term strategy to diversify the states economy away from resource extraction and towards renewable, sustainable, climate friendly business and industries.

6. I hope that our representatives will work cooperatively together to make responsible decisions that are in the best long term interest of all Alaskans.

Thank you for considering my input.

Steve Theno, PE, Retired Homer From: Kathy Conn < Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:08 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: Budget/Fiscal Policy

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to express my concern for our current financial situation in this great State of Alaska and the considerations being explored. It is beyond time for our legislators to take giant steps towards fiscal responsibility. Instead of token budget cuts, like we do in our own homes and families, spending needs to be sharply curtained on unnecessary items. I think the definition of "necessary" needs a serious, honest overhaul. In addition, I am sick to death of the politicization of the PFD and PCE. These items should be protected by the constitution of the state and the people of Alaska should have the opportunity to vote on it. Having the state government annually derailed for months on end while they haggle over how much the PFD is going to be is downright ludicrous. Its time to put the "big boy" pants on and get the job done that the people of Alaska deserve.

Kathy Conn Blessed beyond measure! Legislators:

I am very familiar with Gov. Dunleavy's 50-50 plan. The plan fails muster due to his requirement to take money from the Permanent Fund (PF) in excess of the 5% POMV draw. Also, his attempt to hold the PCE endowment hostage in attempt to get is way with large PFDs and plan to enshrine the PFD in the Constitution is despicable. He and his cohorts in 2019 sabotaged the PCE creating the current situation.

His plan does have merit, once the requirement for keeping the PFD **and** the portion required for government services within the lawful POMV draw is attained. This may be accomplished in several ways:

1. The PF has a sufficient total value to fund both government services and PFD with the lawful 5% POMV draw.

2. The PFD formula is reformulated in a responsible manner so that the PFD is able to share the 5% POMV draw equally (50/50 split) with the amount required for government services. The reformulation of the equation that sets the PFD should be heavily weighted toward the amount contributed by natural resources and only augmented by the earnings and increase in total value of the PF. This should take one or more legislative sessions and be transparent to Alaskans during the process. This should not happen in a special session.

3. The PFD universe could be reviewed and more stringent requirements be set as to who qualifies for the PFD. Possible changes could be to revoke the liberal interpretation of military participation for those members not currently residing in the state. Or the amount of participation by a family (i.e. limit the number of PFDs per family to 2 adults and 2 children, for example). Another potential revision would be to place all PFDs of children under the age of 18 into an escrow in the PF to be used for post-secondary education or qualifying trade schools or apprenticeships to be awarded after the minor completes the qualified program and remains/returns to the state and is gainfully employed in Alaska.

4. SB-21 could be modified to eliminate the current \$8/ barrel credit enjoyed by the oil industry on oil produced in the legacy fields on the North Slope as well as a minimum tax of 10% of the current value of a barrel of oil. This increase in tax revenue would be used to offset the budget deficit required for government services.

5. The tax on other natural resources, such as mining, could be increased. This should be a tax on gross revenue or a minimum tax of 10% on production, not the current low tax rate on net profit, which removes any potential for revenue to the state as the resource project deducts start-up expenses during the first decades of production.

6. A broad based income tax could be implemented based on a percentage of Federal Income tax similar to that in place in the 1970s to offset the budget deficit required for government services.

I strongly believe that the PFD or anything involving the PF should not be placed in the Alaska Constitution at this time by law or put to a vote of the people prior to several years of earnest and transparent discussion by the Legislature. There is too much chaos and uncertainty in the current environment.

Alaska as a state has been on hard times since 2015. You have already spent over \$16 billion of our savings account to make up budget deficits. Well-run organizations don't pay dividends to shareholders when they are operating in the red and have minimal revenue. Fiscally conscientious families don't spend their savings down to nothing when they are on hard time; they reduce spending and increase income. Why should the state be different? If a \$532 PFD per qualified person will eliminate this year's deficit, the answer is simple. The PFD for this year should be \$532. Work should start immediately to increase revenue and reduce spending; in the long term a fiscally sustainable revenue stream needs to balance the budget. That is your job. Do not blow the future PF potential with Governor Dunleavy's current 50-50 plan.

Barry and Lona Santana Pedro Bay and Wasilla, Alaska From: Matt Smith < Sector 2012 Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 6:55 PM To: Fiscal Policy < fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: PFD That is owed to the people. Please consider.

My name is.

Matthews W. Smith

My mailing address is.

Girdwood, Ak. 99587

My Email is.

My phone Number 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.

Signature . Matthews W. Smith

From: >
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov></fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>
Subject: Working Group Written Testimony

To the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan Working Group,

Thank you for your efforts to solicit feedback from the citizens of Alaska - we are at a crossroad and the decisions made be this legislature will affect us all for years to come. Like any business, our budget should be based on the realities of the situation.

On Budget Cuts:

-No more cuts to health and social services supports for low income families - this is not an effective strategy.

Providing basic food and shelter support, access to basic health care, drug and alcohol treatment, and mental health services helps people get back on their feet, and become productive members of their communities.

Failure to provide adequate funding for local governments, public safety, education, and public transportation options strangles our local economies and makes Alaska a very unattractive place to work, and raise our families. We also want to keep our seniors here, making it possible to continue to live full lives and contributing thousands of volunteer hours to their communities.

-Restore the Power Cost Equalization (PCE). Please find a way to fund this.

On Revenue Increases:

-One budget cut I do support is a revenue increasing strategy: decrease the oil credits that we are paying for outside companies to profit from our oil. We should be taxing them, not paying them.

-Consider a small state-wide sales tax.

-Consider a state income tax

-Protect the Permanent Fund from future raids.

-Consider a cap on annual PFDs - maybe \$1000 as a maximum with a range of \$500 - \$1000.

-Restrict Governor's ability to hire multiple people for "special" projects with 6 figure salaries. We have a functioning government with many talented people who are already drawing a salary

-Defund the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Department (AIDEA).

I appreciate your efforts to find a way forward this past legislative session - it was clearly a rocky road.

Patricia Dooley

Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: seek camera < Sent: Saturday, August 7, 2021 4:21 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: Pfd

I don't want food stamps and government spending on social programs. I want my full pfd . I want the original formula used

>

From: seek camera < Sent: Saturday, August 7, 2021 4:23 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: Pfd

>

Hello. My name is judah Ridgway. I live at used. Cut spending . Thank you

. Nenana Alaska. I want the original pfd formula

From: Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 5:42 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Cc: Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov> Subject: Alaska State Budget

Dear Alaska Budget Work Group,

You have been tasked with the difficult job of bringing balance to Alaska's state budget. Having lived here for over 44 years, we remember the early days of discussion around the Permanent Fund acting as a rainy-day account for when the oil revenues dried up. We continue to believe that should be the case.

Specifically:

- 1. We support use of Permanent Fund earnings to fund state government and its services. We support dedicating the earnings to services which benefit all of us and our communities rather than higher dividends going to individuals.
- 2. We support the Percent of Market Value approach to determining how much money should be drawn from the Permanent Fund. State services should be funded before any dividend. If necessary, eliminate the PFD. We do not believe the dividend should be enshrined in the Alaska Constitution.
- 3. We do not support the concept of "repaying" dividends from previous years or the current "50-50 plan" as is currently being proposed by Governor Dunleavy.
- 4. We support a state income tax.
- 5. We do not support any further cuts to Alaska's state government. Not to education at any level, not to public libraries, not to road maintenance, not to the state ferry system, not to public broadcasting, not to the State Troopers or Village Safety Officers, not to health care, not to Medicaid, not to Community Revenue Sharing, not to parks and trails, not to overall maintenance, etc. None. If anything, some past cuts should be reversed.
- 6. We support the Power Cost Equalization Program. Its fate should not be linked to the PFD discussion as is currently being done by Governor. Donleavy.
- 7. We do not support a constitutional convention to resolve these issues.

Alaska is a unique state and deserves solutions which respect its history, peoples, natural beauty, and resources. Tough decisions on a balanced budget are required. Last, with respect to the Permanent Fund, please don't kill the goose which lays the golden egg.

Sincerely, Jeff and Carrie Keene

Chugiak, Alaska 99567

cc: Senator Shelley Hughes Representative Cathy Tilton -----Original Message-----

From: Katie Botz <

Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 9:48 PM

To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov> Subject: Another idea to consider

Greetings,

Would it be possible to consider placing a tax upon alcohol and tobacco products in hope to discourage constituents, especially young constituents, to fall into poor behavior?

It was an idea that my therapist and I thought of when was explaining how my week went.

Katie Botz Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

From: Scott MacManus < Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:40 PM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: State of Alaska Fiscal Policy

To the members of the Fiscal Policy Committee

I encourage the members of the Alaska Fiscal Policy Committee to look at the current state of our finances in an honest and transparent way, and to make the hard decisions that you were hired to do. This is your moment to do what is right for the long term benefit of Alaska.

The PFD needs to go away, and a reasonable tax implemented. We know this. It is not popular, and I am in the minority, I know. But it is something that is needed. Alaska residents have benefited directly and indirectly, from having a resource driven tax base in the form of oil, for decades. I have personally received every single one of those checks, and I was happy for them...but those days are over. The PFD was never intended to become the entitlement it's become. But we've made our bed, and the bed is burning with that entitlement. Now it's time to put that fire out and move on.

The plan in the beginning, was to transform the income from an oil-based economy to operate state government, into an income earned from financial investment derived from that oil, to do the same. The government is for we the people...and so we the people must pay for it, harness it, and be responsible for it. We do this by owning it...literally, and when you own something you are responsible for it.

We know that there are those who do need help, and understand that the PFD is very important to them. Assistance in the form of some sort of tax rebates would help address the needs of the 30% - 40% or so of Alaskans who typically spend their PFD on paying bills or providing the basics for their family. Those who use their PFD to take trips outside or buy side-by-sides...will be fine without it. Some of them might be mad...but they will be fine. Maybe they will leave Alaska, to live in a state with a better PFD, and lower taxes. But they will be fine.

The rest of us will appreciate having a state government that is funded and functional. We will enjoy having reliable funding for our schools, and properly funded State Troopers. We will like being able to get on a ferry once in a while, or drive on roads that are in good shape. In particular, we will enjoy having a legislature that is able to adjourn when they are supposed to.

With greatest respect for the difficult work you have at hand,

Scott MacManus smacmanus@yahoo.com Tok, Alaska

"There is always, always, a way."

From: Dave Jones < Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 11:04 AM To: Fiscal Policy <fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: Fiscal Policy

Rather than issuing dividends to all Alaska residents, we should institute a refundable tax credit.

I suggest this because I believe the legislature has already made excessive cuts to the state budget ---particularly for the University of Alaska and the Alaska Marine Highway System. I believe further major cuts would seriously harm the state, making it a much less attractive place to visit, move to, or stay.

Some argue that we must keep cutting the budget until the cost matches our existing revenue. I disagree. Instead, we should decide what services are necessary to keep our state the kind of place where we want to live, determine what those services will cost, and increase our revenue to meet those costs.

Some draw an analogy to a household budget, arguing that a person facing a decline in income would certainly reduce his or her household expenses to reflect the decline. But what if that person's income was a generous allowance from a parent or rich uncle that had been sufficient to cover all of the person's expenses, making it unnecessary for the person to work. If the allowance became inadequate to cover housing, utility, or food costs, wouldn't it be time for the person to get a job to help cover those expenses?

For decades Alaskans have been spoiled by the steady stream of oil and gas revenue that allowed us to enjoy state services while someone else paid for them. But that stream has slowed so much that it is time for Alaskans to start paying for the services they receive, just as residents of other states do. It's time for us to pitch in to cover our own expenses through a state sales or income tax.

A percentage-based sales tax is less attractive because it would impose a greater burden on residents of rural Alaska, where prices tend to be much higher than prices in Alaska's urban areas. A statewide sales tax might also interfere with existing or future local sales taxes. On the other hand, a sales tax would have the advantage of allowing visitors to contribute toward the cost of our state services.

A percentage-based statewide income tax is more attractive. It's only fair that those who earn more income in our state should contribute proportionately more toward the cost of state services. And unlike a sales tax, an income tax would require contributions from those who earn their income in Alaska but spend it elsewhere.

Some argue that we shouldn't adopt an income tax because it might encourage some residents to leave Alaska and discourage others from moving here. But if people are unwilling to pitch in for the cost of state services --- as people do in the other states --- perhaps Alaska isn't the place for them. And I am much more concerned that further cuts to state services will harm our state and drive good Alaskans away.

With the statewide income tax, we should also convert the Permanent Fund dividend to a refundable tax credit. For Alaskans with substantial income, the credit would reduce their state income tax liability. Those with insufficient income would receive a payment for the difference between their tax liability

and the credit amount. So, for example, an Alaskan with no taxable income would receive a payment for the full amount of the credit.

Some Alaskans rely on the Permanent Fund dividends to cover their essential expenses, while many Alaskans do not. Establishing a refundable tax credit would treat both groups of Alaskans fairly.

Dave Jones

From: Matt M. Maixner <

Sent: Saturday, August 7, 2021 6:47 AM

To: chair@alaskalp.org; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <<u>Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Robert Myers <<u>Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <<u>Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Mike Shower <<u>sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Joshua Revak <<u>Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Bert Stedman <<u>Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <<u>Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Click Bishop <<u>Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <<u>sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Adam Wool <<u>Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <<u>Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <<u>Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Christopher Kurka <<u>Rep.Christopher.Kurka@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Kevin McCabe <<u>Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov</u>>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <<u>Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov</u>>; Sen. Mia Costello <<u>Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov</u>>; Fiscal Policy <<u>fiscal.policy@akleg.gov</u>>; me@michaeldukesshow.com **Subject:** Alaska At A Crossroads & Alaska LP Formal Statement

The following statement is the addition of my testimony which should have been heard at the Comprehensive Legislative Work Group Hearing on Monday, August 2 2021, but was subsequentially cut off due to time constraints, ill-preparedness, and a lack of communication with the hearing chairperson.

The Legislators at A Crossroads:

Pro-PFD Legislators and Alaskans today, insist that the Alaskan Permanent Fund Dividend is "The people's money"; that deviating from the statutory formula every year is an unfair form of taxation. Perhaps an explanation of what they mean is in order:

Despite the record total Permanent Fund earnings, Legislators on the other side of the issue insist that the state can't afford a full statutory PFD - and that paying people more than a few bucks would bankrupt us and harm the entire Permanent Fund. In their deluded minds, these politicians think they are correct in this assumption as they believe that the entire dividend (made up of "seed corn" money from oil Royalties and leases) is the government's money and that the dividend is simply another appropriation for them to dole out - just like Medicaid or public safety - that could be increased or decreased based upon revenue and the makeup of the legislature each year.

This sad and quite pathetic philosophy, however – simply relegates the PFD to being merely an evenly distributed, oft-viewed socialist "welfare check" of what is left over, after the rest of the budget has been carved out and decided. However, pro PFD-Alaskans are correct when they state that the Permanent Fund *is the people's money* (Looking directly at YOU, Senator von Imhoff). By direct statute written within the Constitution of the state of Alaska, all of the money that comes directly *into* the Permanent Fund (oil/gas, mining, logging, stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.), belongs to Alaskans. That means that **ALL** the royalties, lease payments, and production taxes; including every single penny of the earnings from the Permanent Fund, belong directly to the people.

At the front end, however, there is a constitutional 75/25 ratio that splits royalties and lease payments between the government and the Permanent Fund. This year that 75% simply wouldn't have been enough to fund government due to decreases in oil revenues, during the past 6 years. At the back end, is the statutory formula for dividing the earnings from the Permanent Fund earnings between the government and dividends. That is where the PEOPLES Dividend resides. Some might say the money that shouldn't go to dividends because, it belongs directly to the government. Notwithstanding the Alaska Constitution, Article 8, section 11, what they're conveniently forgetting is that within the United States and especially in Alaska, government is consisted "Of, by and for the People" and govern by their will only (Article 1, section 2). Therefore, by inference, ALL PFD money belongs to the people, and the Constitutional Permanent Fund structure is simply a way to fundamentally explain the tax code. Let me explain that a bit:

In FY2019, the state of Alaska earned approximately \$5,980,600,000 from oil, mining, and other earnings from the Permanent Fund. If you divided this amount, by 633,243 Alaskans who received the dividend for that year, the total comes out to \$9,444 in resource income per Alaskan. The statutory PFD calculation in 2019 was \$2910, which effectively meant that there was a tax rate of 69% on each Alaskans' resource income. The actual PFD payout was \$1606. This means that each Alaskan was taxed at a rate of 83% on just their resource income alone. The actual formula is a lot more complicated, and I recognize that I am only using the earnings from just 2019, not the five-year trailing average. In FY2020, the numbers are a little different. Alaska earned approximately \$3,114,100,000 in resource income and other market-driven earnings. Dividing this by 630,937 Alaskans, comes out to \$4,877 (again, one year of earnings; not the five-year trailing average). The statutory PFD calculation in 2020 was \$3,064. This means that the tax rate on Alaskan's resource income would have been 37% if the full Dividend had been paid out. Instead, it was 80% because the unconstitutional, non-statutory dividend paid was \$992.

Simply put, deviating from the statutory PFD formula is not just an unfair, unconstitutional tax on every Alaskan citizen; it is unlawful and deliberate **THEFT**. Some in the legislature call this the "surplus" method of paying the PFD. Alaskans, who are supposed to get "first call" of their "fraction of a fraction" of the Permanent Fund earnings, get the leftovers – the scraps off an ever increasingly big government table; even if it's not within the bounds of the statute. It would be the same equation if the federal government withheld whatever amount they deemed necessary from our paychecks regardless the tax code. Just because the PFD goes through an appropriation in the budget (which, truthfully speaking it shouldn't), doesn't mean that the elected state Legislature can take "what it needs or wants" each year. Consequently, the Permanent Fund Dividend and its earnings *are not* government earned revenues. Truly, if the state wants the money – then change the law. Pass a bill that would effectively tax every Alaskan's resource earnings – if you think you can. But good luck in the attempt. You'll need it! So, herein lies the fundamental disagreement: Who does the money/resource belong to? The people? Or the government? The statehood compact said the state collectively owns the resource. Governor Jay Hammond interpreted this compact to directly mean that the people own the resource; being effectively consistent with our "Of, by and for the People" government model. The question is - are we going live up to those constitutional words, or are we going to be a government "Of, by and for the GOVERNMENT" and those that have the resources and influence to control it? SJR6 and the 50/50 split of the 5% Percentage Of (shared)Market Value is NOT a starting point for compromise. It IS, in fact, the compromise – upon our values.

<u>PAY THE FULL AND STATUTORY PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND – or continue to</u> face the full and direct ire of the Alaskan people!

Have a nice day! Matthew M. Maixner Juneau AK

Enclosure: Alaska Libertarian Party Statement dated

Sent from Mail for Windows

The Alaska Libertarian Party resolves that the Permanent Fund Dividend will be restored. The below resolution will be forwarded to all legislators in the upcoming special session in October.

RESOLUTION ON THE RESTORATION OF THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND FOR ALL ALASKANS

Whereas Alaskans' resources rights have been held in common in exchange for Statehood.

Whereas apportion royalties from these resources pay the owners of those resources, Alaskans, dividends under the Permanent Fund Dividend.

Whereas the statutory disbursement required of these funds – essentially rent on Alaskans' property – go unpaid in favor of money to special interest groups.

Whereas the Permanent Fund Dividend is a bulwark against irresponsible expansion of state government.

Whereas Alaska Libertarians were instrumental in getting the Permanent Fund Dividend established and are determined to preserve that legacy.

Whereas numerous Alaskan statesmen, elected leaders, and governors have upheld the precept that each resident is in fact a co-owner of state resources held in trust, that these joint holdings earn royalties that are in fact the property of each Alaskan.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaskan Libertarian Party (ALP):

1. urges all state legislators to restore and return all dividend payments that have been wrongfully taken.

2. urges that all future payments be disbursed using the current statutory calculation formula.

3. urges that an amendment to the Alaska Constitution be written and passed forever protecting and establishing these property rights for all Alaskan residents.

4. supports all efforts toward this end, be they executive, legislative, or citizens' referendum.

From: Karl Schleich < Sector 2012 Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:24 PM To: Fiscal Policy < fiscal.policy@akleg.gov> Subject: It's time for a long-term, sustainable fiscal plan!

Dear Fiscal Plan Working Group,

Thank you for your efforts to develop a plan, long-overdue in Alaska.

I recently send a concise message to my Representative and Senator, referencing an opinion piece by Cliff Groh that generally captures my thoughts for your consideration. It appears below.

Thank you! Let's get a plan, without opening up the Constitution! A balanced approach is called for here, and within our grasp! Every other state in the nation would love to have our problem! Don't be afraid to use the earnings reserve, but keep that fund in tact for the future....don't be afraid of new revenue sources....yes, it's time we Alaskans taxed ourselves (and corporations) for the services we receive and want.

Here's the message sent a couple weeks ago:

Dear Senator Holland and Representative Snyder,

I trust you saw this morning piece in the ADN by Cliff Groh. I think it is an accurate description of our fiscal plan dilemma. And I concur with Mr. Grohs' conclusion in terms of the solution being a balanced approach using the PMOV as a cornerstone of a fiscal plan.

Good luck in the consultations that are eminent around a fiscal plan. Perhaps it is time for all elected officials to detach from their constituents and come to an agreement about what can be done that is fair, just, sustainable and that makes sense in the long term. While the situation is complex, we are so blessed to have the tools to create a long term plan (e.g. The Permanent Fund and the lowest taxes in the nation).

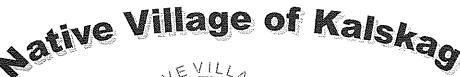
Good luck! Were watching with a degree of optimism!

Follow the link below to view the article. http://adn.ak.newsmemory.com/?publink=04aea652c

Respectfully,

Karl Schleich

Anchorage 99504



Julia Dorris, President, Kenneth, Morgan, Sr, Vice President, Loreen Steeves, Secretary, Diana Samuelson, Member, Geceilia Aloysius, Member, Lena Stewart, Member,



Bonnie Persson Administrator

PO Box 50, Kalskag, AK, 99607, (907)471-2207, phone, (907)471-2399, fax,

kalskagtribal@yahoo.com

August 5, 2021

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 Native Village of Kalskag 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 to be a 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 consumers because of the major hydro projects and interests 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 rose 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.

Neglect 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 with the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic.

It is a Constitutional responsibility as legislators to ensure that all Alaskans are treated equally by the 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 this state's people. Native Village of Kalskag respectfully asks that you keep rural families, communities, and businesses in mind as you plan an Alaskan future.

Sincerely,

Julia F. Dorris Tribal President

Re: Dividend underpayment for years (circle all that apply) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

lyname is Jannis L. Deband	
Iy mailing addr	
ly email is	
ly 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.

Signature Janvis J. DeLand

Re: Dividend underpayment for years (circle all that apply) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

My name is _	Michael	W.	DeLand	 	
My mailing a					
My email is _					
My Phone is					

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Signature Michael

Re: Dividend underpayment for years (circle all that apply) (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) 2020 (2021)

Myname is Phillip M. DeLand
My mailing addı
My email is
My Phone is

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Signature

Re: Dividend underpayment for years (circle all that apply) 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2020	
My name is Kathleen Rhodes	_
My mailing add	-
My email is	0
My Phone is	

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My email is	
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