

Steve Lindbeck

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

To: Senator Matt Claman
State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

VIA EMAIL

February 14, 2026

Dear Sen. Claman:

I write to express my support for SJR 2, "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to actions upon veto."

SJR 2 would give Alaskans the opportunity to adjust the balance of powers between the Executive and Legislative branches of government regarding appropriations measures. The current system under the Alaska Constitution requires a three-quarters legislative vote to override a governor's veto – a standard that, in practice, has led more to governmental dysfunction than to the intended executive initiative. It is the highest such standard among all the states, and we've had enough experience by now to make an informed judgment on its wisdom. Too often, clear legislative consensus has been thwarted by this exceptionally difficult standard.

I believe we have found the three-quarters requirement unworkable. Since statehood, only five applicable bills have seen a successful veto override. This is evidence not of alignment among Alaskans, but of too-strong executive powers.

I hope this Legislature will advance the measure to the ballot so Alaskans can reconsider this unusual balance of powers, debate whether to adjust them, and decide accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts.

With Regards,

Steve Lindbeck

Carly Dennis

From: Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 12:22 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk
Cc: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: Testimony in support of SJR 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a former legislator and candidate for governor, I write to offer my support Sen. Claman's SJR 2.

As a legislator, I introduced similar legislation, as did Sen. John Coghill before me. I've also shared my perspective in an [ADN op-ed](#) (July 2019).

Simply put, Alaska is a lonely national outlier in its three-quarters line-item veto override threshold. The bar is so high that it creates an imbalance between our legislative and executive branches of government.

I think my perspective is perhaps somewhat unique in that I am currently a candidate to lead the executive branch of state government (as is Sen. Claman).

I suppose the thought of wielding a nearly all-powerful line-item veto pen is an attractive thought as an aspiring chief executive. But ultimately, this should not be a question about what best serves the interest of any one governor, whether they are a Democrat, independent, or Republican. The real question is what best serves Alaskans.

And the answer to *that* is that Alaskans are best served when there is balance between their branches of government, and Sen. Claman's SJR 2 is an important step towards creating better balance, which in turn will best serve everyday Alaskans' interests, regardless of who happens to be in the legislature or governorship at any given time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and thank you for your service to Alaska,

Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Carly Dennis

From: Jacqueline Muehlbauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: Support for SJR 2 – Veto Override Threshold for Appropriations

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 2, which proposes amending the Alaska Constitution to lower the veto override threshold for revenue and appropriations bills from three-fourths to two-thirds of the Legislature.

Alaska’s current three-fourths requirement is an outlier nationally and places an extraordinary level of authority in the executive branch. Every other state operates with a lower threshold. Aligning Alaska’s standard with the rest of the country would restore a more appropriate balance between the legislative and executive branches.

While SJR 2 is not tied to any single policy area, it has significant implications for public priorities that depend on predictable and transparent budgeting, including education. Recent vetoes to education funding demonstrated how difficult it can be for the Legislature to respond. A two-thirds threshold would still require broad consensus, while ensuring that the will of the Legislature, and ultimately Alaskans, can be meaningfully exercised.

Importantly, SJR 2 does not impose this change outright. It simply allows Alaska voters to decide whether this constitutional provision still reflects the balance of power they want today. I strongly believe voters deserve that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of this resolution and for your continued service to Alaska.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Muehlbauer

Carly Dennis

From: Jessica Noble [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: Support of Lowering the Veto Override Threshold

I would like to express my support of lowering the veto override threshold from 3/4 to 2/3, Senate Joint Resolution 2. Alaska is not aligned with the rest of the states and is giving too much executive power to the governor and not enough to the legislators.

Jessica Noble

Carly Dennis

From: Rachael Posey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: SJR2

Senate Finance Committee Members and Chair,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 2. It makes sense to lower the veto override threshold for revenue and appropriations bills from a three-fourths majority to two-thirds. This would bring Alaska into alignment with all other states, and also create a more balanced distribution of power between the executive and legislative branches of government. I encourage that this resolution be passed so it can be put to the voters on the November ballot.

Thank you,

Rachael Posey
9541 Arlene Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99502

Carly Dennis

From: B Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 3:46 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Cathy Tilton
Cc: Sen. Matt Claman
Subject: Support for Senate Joint Resolution 2

The Honorable Chair Senator Kawasaki; Vice Chair Senator Bjorkman; and Senate State Affairs Members Senator Wielechowski; Senator Gray-Jackson; and Senator Tilton:

We write in support of Senate Joint Resolution 2 to bring Alaska's budget veto threshold in line with other states. We agree that it is time to modernize Alaska's rule for governor's veto of revenue and appropriation bills from three-fourths to two-thirds of the Legislature for an override. This will make the threshold consistent with that in use for all other vetoed legislation in Alaska.

It is understood that to maintain the balance of power among the branches of state government there should not be a higher override threshold for the Legislature because that would impede their ability to act as a meaningful check on executive power. Alaska is the only state in the country that has this higher threshold for veto votes and it is time to rectify this imbalance by the means with which we have to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support.

Sincerely,

Barbara L Carlson
Michael P Carlson

Barbara and Michael Carlson
6050 W Dimond Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99502