

House Public Testimony
HB 286 Operating Budget FY19
HB285 Mental Health Budget FY19

Compiled emails
March 6-16, 2018

From: Sarah Vance <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 12:14 PM
To: Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Dear Legislators;

I am a voting resident in Homer who respectfully asks you to look to the future of Alaska. We are left at the mercy of your hand in regards to our economic wellbeing. Streamlining the budget with strategic pruning is long overdue. No one likes cuts; but pruning is essential to growth.

Now is the time to make necessary CUTS in order to SAVE our STATE.
Return the PFD to its historical value into the hands of The PEOPLE.

How is an economy expected to thrive when spending outweighs income; exponentially? How is an economy expected to bolster when millions in dividends have been pulled directly from the hands of its people? We refuse to listen to the narrative that using the majority of the Permanent Fund for governmental expenditures is our only option.

The government was never intended to become a social welfare program as it has currently evolved. Its purpose is to ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens through limited government. Less government = more liberty.

Wise fiscal management implores you to make reductions to services that are uncomfortable, but beneficial. Doing what is right is not always popular, but I trust you will ACT in good conscience.

Respectfully,
Sarah Vance

-----Original Message-----

From: Francesca A <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 9:38 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Dear House Finance,

Why is the Permanent Fund part of the budget?

The Permanent Fund is our royalties not an expense. Stop stealing from the people.

Stop spending already.

Francesca Allegrezza

From: Carol Carman <district9@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 8:03 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 285 and HB 286

Hello Again House Finance,

KUDOS to Rep **Tammie Wilson** and Rep **Cathy Tilton** for their heroic efforts to cut waste out of your inflated budget.

A **shout out** also to Rep **Lance Pruitt** and Rep **Steve Thompson** for voting for common sense cuts.

They are all excused from my **NO** 'fiscal common sense' remark yesterday.

I can hardly wait for November! I expect many of you to be fired!

Carol Carman
Chair, ARP District 9E
907-746-8670 - [Facebook](#)



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Homer City Council

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March 13, 2018

Alaska State Legislature House Finance Committee,

Alaska's vast land and water resources, and diverse habitats support healthy and abundant fish and wildlife. Our wildlife has a significant positive impact on Alaska residents and communities, and on our economy.

Two Federal programs provide valuable funding to States to assist with projects that restore, conserve and manage wildlife and their habitat, as well as enhance safe public access to these resources. However, due to budget cuts, Alaska will be losing out on these funds for lack of Alaska Division of Fish and Game staff to administer the funds.

We are writing in support of adding funding to the State budget to restore ADF&G staffing to a level at which the division can administer Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson federal grants. Without it, the State is poised to forfeit millions of dollars in federal funding for habitat protection and public access programs.

Responsible use and development of our lands and waters is important to Alaska's economy and culture in terms of quality of life, money spent in the state and job creation. Over the last thirty years, Dingell-Johnson funds have completed more than 160 capital improvement projects to provide new and improved access to waters throughout the state. Homer's harbor users recently benefitted from the program. Dingell-Johnson funds helped upgrade the load and launch ramp.

Likewise, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program funds have helped rehabilitate and enhance wildlife habitat and populations, and provided public access for hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreation. The City of Homer has Pittman-Robertson eligible trail and wayside projects and a dedicated fund for the required match which would provide public access for wildlife-oriented recreation.

Adjusting funding levels for ADF&G will allow the State to leverage these important Federal dollars which can be put to work for the benefit of Alaska and its communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bryan Zak

On behalf of the Homer City Council



*Promoting Public Safety &
Strengthening Our Community*

March 4, 2018

Alaska House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, RM 3
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 285 and HB 286, the Mental Health and Operating Budgets

Dear House Finance Committee:

The Juneau Reentry Coalition (JREC) is a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and not-for-profit agencies, faith-based and business partners who are united and committed to reducing recidivism among ex-offenders returning to our community. The mission of the JREC is to promote public safety by identifying and implementing strategies that increase a former prisoner's well-being within the community and reduces the likelihood of their return to prison through recidivating.

JREC supports continued State investments into recidivism reduction services and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and community supports. JREC asks that you continue investing into these community programs in the operating and mental health budgets.

Thank you,

Don Habeger
Community Coordinator
Juneau Reentry Coalition