

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Ward <bdward@hughes.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 128, SB 114

This is submitted as testimony on the hearings for SB 128 and SB 114.

I am **in favor** of the legislation to restructure the earnings of the Permanent Fund which would allow it's use for the necessary obligations of state government.

I support the capping of the dividend paid to Alaska residents to be limited to \$1000 or even \$500 provided the extra money available to the state is used to benefit all the residents by means of basic services and infrastructure development.

I do not support it if the money is used primarily to maintain the bloated bureaucracy of the state.

Submitted by:

Bill D Ward
Box 1087
Delta Junction, AK
907-895-5415

Doniece Gott

From: Joyanne Bloom <joyanneb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB128 Yes!

The rainy day has come in a downpour! Founders of the Permanent Fund were wise to set this money aside. I don't need a \$2000 bonus check. I'll settle for \$1000 or even \$500. I support SB128 so the Fund can be used as it was designed.

Respectfully yours,
Joyanne Bloom

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Joyanne Bloom
883 Basin Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 723-3604

Doniece Gott

From: Martin Schuster <mdschuster@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Walker's fiscal plan

To the Senate Finance Committee of the State of Alaska,

I would like to encourage the Committee to consider a diversified approach to closing our budget gap. While I can see the temptation in using our State's savings to close the gap until our revenue returns to average levels I believe that now is the time to change the way that we see our State's revenues. An income tax that is a fraction of the federal income tax is not something to be afraid of. A hike in our amazingly low gasoline tax is not something to be afraid of. Cutting the oil tax credits that cost our State hundreds of millions of dollars annually is not something to be afraid of. I believe that the people of Alaska realize that we can't indefinitely survive on oil revenue, though we've done so for a long time. As governor Walker has said, the time to change our paradigm is during this legislative session, when economic hardship makes it clear that there is a better way.

I humbly encourage the finance committee to consider all the options, and to have faith in your constituents that we will understand the difficult decisions you must make this legislative session,

Sincerely,

Martin Schuster

Doniece Gott

From: Betsy Brennan and Mike Wade <betsmike@nome.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB128 and SB114 public testimony

March 23, 2016

Dear Senators,

I would like this entered into the public record for the two Senate Bills regarding Permanent Fund legislation you are hearing testimony on today.

My name is Elisabeth Brennan and I live in Nome with my husband and two children. I have been a resident of Nome since 1988. I would like to express my frustration about the slow pace the legislature has taken in getting to the budget revenue part of the budget crisis equation. Frankly, the budget deficit did not suddenly appear overnight. The State knew this situation was upon us long ago. Both SB 128 and SB 114 have good merits. Personally, I believe SB 128 is the best option. Here is my humble advice: Pick one and go with it. I am willing to pay more taxes and have less PFD (or none!) to keep the state services we need for healthy communities.

Public polling shows Alaskans want three things: A balanced plan to restructure the PFD; Strategic budget cuts and; Trying out new taxes. This makes logical sense. So why is there so much delay? Relying on cuts alone will spell disaster for our State.

I have read news article and heard quotes from legislators saying we need to cut more before looking at revenue measures, or that the cuts that have already happened have not been felt because no one is complaining enough. Senator Kelly was quoted as saying he knows government is too big because "we cut a whole bunch of fat off of it and nothing happened." I wonder where he may be looking to see this "nothing" happening? Who may he be talking with that feels no repercussions from budget cuts that have occurred in the last several years?

In the area I live in, we have some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault in the ENTIRE NATION. Yet, we have had an unfilled State Trooper position for the last 5 months. Perhaps it may not be filled to help save the State of Alaska money. This does not seem right. Public Safety is important to communities, and the response time increases when you lose 1/7th of your public safety force in a large chunk of Western Alaska.

I attended a FY 17 budget meeting last night for Nome Public Schools. I care about the future of all children in my community (Two of them are my own). The School District in Nome will be cutting their budget by almost \$1,000,000.00 from the FY 16 budget. The District has already operating on a very lean budget. There is no fat

to trim, but class sizes will increase and Pre K funding is gone. Staff work to the best of their abilities with less, and supplies are being cut. Hard choices were made and our JROTC program will be cut for next year. The District is going into its fund balance to help balance the budget and make ends meet as they have for several years. Yet, some legislators think nothing is happening because of cuts?

We have an amazing University of Alaska System that looks to be gutted by some legislators. This is extremely scary and short sighted in my opinion. I hope my children will stay within Alaska for higher education. I see great hope for the youth of our State with such a fine institution. Can the University be better managed? Of course, and the powers that be are working on that change. But the proposed cuts I have read about will devastate a top notch education institution.

Please put in the hard work now in this legislative session. Do not prolong the situation and leave this important work of resolving the fiscal state for the future. Get serious about looking into revenue and work on a plan to fix the deficit that does not do irreparable damage to Alaska.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your service.

Elisabeth Brennan

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Nome, AK 99762

Doniece Gott

From: Charlotte Fox <cafox@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 2017 budget

Dear Finance Committee:

Please take steps to ensure a healthier future for our state by determining a revenue method for sustainability. While I prefer Governor Walker's combination of revenue methods, and combination of Permanent Fund earnings coupled with income tax would suit us.

What is not acceptable is not taking action NOW on this critical issue. We can't cut our way to prosperity.

Charlotte Fox
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Doniece Gott

From: Bill Ward <ward-farms@hughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:56 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony SB114 & SB128

I would like to provide testimony on SB114 and SB128.

I support these pieces of legislation which will reduce the dividend payout each year to the residents of Alaska and allow the State of Alaska to use part of the earnings for basic needs.

I remember that the fund was initially established as a "rainy day fund" and if needed it could be used in the future. The reduced income from oil revenues at this time justifies the need for these monies by the state.

Since these earnings are considered property of all the residents of Alaska, it is important to me that the utilize these fund to pay for basic services and development projects that will benefit all Alaskans.

I do not want these monies to be used just to keep funding a bureaucracy that is to big. Our large government came from excess oil wealth and now must be reduced to live within our means.

Submitted by:

Marcia E. Ward
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907-895-5415

Doniece Gott

From: Bruce Jaffa <bruce@jaffaconstruction.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; 'Ben Jaffa'; 'Carole Jaffa'; 'Jake Jaffa'
Subject: SB 128 & SB114

Senators Micciche, McGuire , et al.

Although my work assignment is heavily in Fairbanks, I will try to attend the Seward meeting.

I have considered the deference between the Governor's Bill SB 128 and the Finance Committee Bill SB 114. Obviously both plans have merit. The method used to use the PF for benefit in the current crisis can be debated endlessly depending on the individual views of participants. Suffice to say some change in the distribution of the PFD is needed. Thankfully we have this opportunity. The debate of what is meant by a "rainy day account" was postponed until now. Whichever method is used, the citizens, legislators and voters of this State MUST decide philosophically if we wish to support the needs and obligations of Statehood. I believe the use of the PF or rather PFD should be a small bridge to help us cross the funding gap.

We have had a free ride for a long time based on the extraction of a finite resource. Participation can be explained as simply as "put your money where your mouth is". The complete cancellation of statewide taxes in the 1980's was ill conceived. Today we have become a population with our hand out expecting the government to meet our requests with no pain. That pain is meeting our responsibility. Any plan to solve Alaska current shortfalls should include the reinstatement of a graduated income tax. This tax will be collected from all wage earners regardless of their place of residence. Further, immediately reinstate the "School Tax" that was assessed to all workers. This tax had been dedicated but could just as easily be collected to the GF. This is a small amount in the overall scheme of things, but some of us still think it is important to collect pennies, after all each penny puts us that much closer to our goal.

I have had discussions with my Moose Pass neighbors and in other parts of the State. I believe that most Alaskans realize the time for personal income taxes is now or right around the corner. As the Governor's description of delays has merit, please find the resolve to address these remedies in the current term. I believe that the need for a special session would suggest timidity. The plans have been on the table for long enough to fully consider already.

Respectfully,

Bruce Jaffa

Quality Control Manager

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Doniece Gott

From: MICHAEL WISNEWSKI <alaskamike38@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Yes to APFPA

To the Finance Committee,

My wife and I both support Senate Bill 128, the bill to use part of the permanent fund to fund the government of AK. We have collected the dividend every year since its inception, and at the very beginning, I felt that it was a marvelous far sighted thing to set up for the state. Even back then, I thought that someday, the state will need to use it for the budget. That time has arrived.

Combine it with taxes, perhaps an income tax and/or a small sales tax (not too big as local areas need sales taxes too). Cut spending as much as you reasonably can.

We have to have a good plan. I think we have enough wise heads in the legislature to do it and to do it now. The Perm. Fund has been the goose that laid golden eggs. The goose will be dead if we don't start using some of the eggs to support the government. We can do it without killing the goose if we are smart and set it up wisely.

Lastly, Alaska has been very good to us. I feel we owe the state some help.

Sincerely,
Mike and Marcy Wisnewski
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Ketchikan, AK
99901
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Sent from Windows Mail