

Dear Alaska State Senators,

March 12, 2014

My name is Teresa Gilbert. I have been in Alaska since 1980. My grandparents were Pioneers of this great state. In August it will be 30 years that I have been employed by the Alaska Marine Highway System. I am whole heartedly **opposed** to SB 182.

This will affect me (and many others) decision to stay in this state, seek other employment or move south. I am a single person purchasing a home in Juneau. I purchased my car here locally. It is very difficult for me to believe someone even introduced this bill. Can you imagine taking a pay cut of \$600.00 to \$700.00 a month? I can't. If someone decided to cut your pay what would you do?

When I purchased my home I set a budget on what I could afford for mortgage payments, insurance, home fuel and property taxes. This cut will devastate me.

I don't know if you all totally understand what we do on our vessels. We are our own little city and take care of our passengers in many ways. If an emergency occurs we are there, fire, we suite up, we do everything from CPR to putting a band aid on a child's scratch, we have searched and found vessels in distress; we pay to keep our documents current as well as taking classes to keep updated.

I would challenge anyone of you to wash pots and pans on the Columbia in the summer for 12 hours a day, seven to fourteen days straight and then tell us that person does not deserve the pay.

You may have learned that in 1977, C.O.L.D was negotiated into our contract instead of merit and other raises.

I don't know what else to say but plead with you not to pass this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Regards,

Teresa Gilbert

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