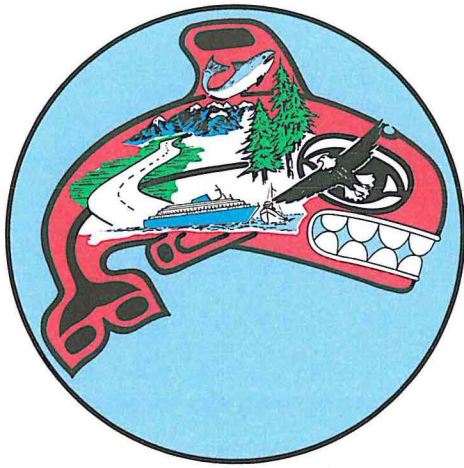


House Finance Committee

HB 72 — Operating Budget

Written Testimony

Through 11 a.m. — March 5, 2015



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 1209 • HAINES, ALASKA 99827
Administration 907.766.2231 • (fax) 907.766.2716
Tourism 907.766.2234 • (fax) 907.766.3155
Police Dept. 907.766.2121 • (fax) 907.766.2128
Fire Dept. 907.766.2155 • (fax) 907.766.3373

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
Finance Committee
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Email: lhscfin@akleg.gov

VIA EMAIL TRANSMISSION

Subject: FY 16 Department of Natural Resources Operating Budget

The House Finance subcommittee for Natural Resources has proposed budget cuts to the Division of Forestry that would end the Resource Management program in Southeast and South Central Alaska. This proposal will close all Department of Forestry offices in Southeast and eliminate the Resource Foresters in the South Central offices. Haines Borough recognizes the current fiscal situation is dire and cuts are necessary. However, we urge the Legislature not to act with undue haste and to recognize the significant impact to the livelihood and welfare of Southeast residents before taking action on this item.

The relationship between Haines Borough and the Haines State Forest is unique and in the best interests of our community, the Region, and Alaska. Throughout Southeast Alaska, as far as the land base is considered, we see Federal authority surrounding all other communities. The Haines State Forest is legislatively designated for multiple uses in the best interest of the people of the State of Alaska and, therefore, the communities it surrounds are the interests that matter, rather than the interests of Washington, D.C. or the communities of the lower forty-eight states. This, in fact, allows the citizens of our community to be directly involved with the management of our resources through the Division of Forestry; this is unique and perhaps unmatched nationally.

Potential impacts to the Haines Borough would be significant; starting with the immediate loss of access to the resources of the Haines State Forest because removal of the office would halt all future timber sale activity, including firewood sales. This loss of access would impact the local sawmill operators, firewood providers, thinning, pruning, and planting contractors who rely on this resource for their livelihoods. This is six to seven business owners and associated workers and families. Added to these losses would be the elimination of two forester positions with combined resource management knowledge of 50 years working in Haines. These foresters have

had long term connections to the community contributing to the protection and development of the area for 30 and 20 years respectively.

This change would mean that the roads maintained by those timber sale activities would be closed due to the inability to continue maintenance which would impact access to the state forest for recreation, firewood gathering, berry picking, hunting, fishing and other subsistence activities. The local office has also been responsible for wildland fire suppression in the Northern Lynn Canal area. While the Borough assumes that some other entity would have responsibility for working with the volunteer fire departments, it is likely that lack of direct face to face coordination would result in the potential for fire responses to be delayed.

The closure of the Haines office of the Division of Forestry specifically means the end of active resource management and the beginning of what is termed “passive” management by other agencies. This “hands off” approach could mean the development of a management structure that would put the State Forest in a “trust” or entitlement leading to revenue generating prioritized resource extraction-only similar to forests managed by private land owners. This is not in the interest of our community nor do we feel that it is in the interest of the Region or the State.

Haines Borough thanks you for your consideration of this request and looks forward to working with the Finance Committee and communities throughout Alaska to develop a responsible approach to addressing these issues.

Sincerely,



Janice Hill
Haines Borough Mayor

Cc: Senator Dennis Egan
Representative Sam Kito



City of Whitehorse

2121 - 2nd Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1C2 Bus: (867) 667-6401 Fax: (867) 668-8398

March 4, 2015

Jan Wrentmore
Chair
Skagway Ad Hoc Marine Highway Committee
jan@redonion1898.com

Dear Ms. Wrentmore:

Re: Alaska Marine Highway Operating Budget Reduction

The City of Whitehorse wishes to express its concerns regarding the proposed budget reduction for the operation of the Alaska Marine Highways System (AMHS), and its effects on MV Malaspina which services the Skagway port.

A major component of the Whitehorse economy, much like the Skagway economy is tourism. In that regard, the City of Whitehorse and the Municipality of Skagway share a very important economic link. Based on 2014 figures (<http://transborder.bts.gov/>), there were 362,637 individuals that crossed the Alaska/Yukon border at Skagway. Presumably, many of these individuals were either arriving in Skagway via the Alaska Marine Highway System or travelling to Skagway to utilize this critical infrastructure.

As a municipal government, we understand the duty of fiscal responsibility. However, we urge the House Finance Committee to carefully consider all the effects, intended or unintended, of reducing the budget and level of service of the AMHS. We believe that a reduction of service to this ferry system would be a detriment to the Skagway and Whitehorse economies individually, and a barrier to the continued development of the economic link between our communities.

Sincerely,

Dan Curtis
Mayor
CITY OF WHITEHORSE

c: Mark Schaefer, Mayor of Skagway
Christine Smith, City Manager
Mike Gau, Director of Development Services

From: [Mj](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Day Break - Adult Day Care
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:35:20 AM

My dad has advanced dementia. He is 80.

My mom has been his sole caregiver for several years. She is 78. They live in Anchorage and have been Alaskan residents for over 40 years.

She was tired, trying to care for the two of them when his condition was worsening and his care needs increasing. Always needing to walk or go somewhere. Needing to be changed, bathed, fed, dressed, medication management, doctor appointments. Not being able to easily take him places. Not being able to leave him at home or in the car unattended. Not having money to pay or the comfort level to allow in home care.

My mom was trying to do it all. One can say stubborn or one can say not accustomed to the idea of asking for help for her husband of over 50 years. Not able to rely on others. Not sure what could create an avenue of stimulation, interaction, activity, and movement for my dad.

Then we found Day Break Adult Day Care in Anchorage and Ms. Hunt, the Director.

Dad started going to Day Break in Anchorage two days per week. It provided him with a safe, welcoming environment. Trained staff to engage him. Activities like live music, walking and talking to others, eating lunch while mingling and interacting with others vs sitting at home, despondent.

For my mom, she finally experienced 8 hours per week of respite. Permission to practice self care such as doctor appointments, hair appointments, taking a shower. Being able to regroup as a full time caregiver. The sliding scale encourages participation vs being cost prohibitive or a perceived luxury expenditure.

My mom had tried and cancelled PCA in-home care. It felt uncomfortable, invasive, and she awkwardly hovered. Day Break gave her the permission to entrust dad with others and for her to see the benefit of outside stimulation and engagement.

I hope there is a way to help keep adult day care programs funded and accessible to all income levels. So many programs favor physical disability and programs like Day Break acknowledge how challenging it is to provide relief and respite to those caring for serious mental health conditions like Alzheimer's and Dementia. These programs are invaluable and in my opinion, prolong the ability to keep individuals like my dad and mom together, living at home, because of the services and support for both of them as Dementia sufferer and caregiver.

Thank you for what you have contributed to mental health programs and I ask that you continue to financially fund and support for our aging population.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deborah Sims](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Re: Funding for Adult Day Care
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:49:49 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Deborah Sims and my mother Edith Ann Thomas has been attending Adult Day Care since 2012. The first day care was Daybreak located at Jupiter. She was very comfortable and it gave me the freedom to go to work and not to be concerned about her care.

Since 2014 my mother has been attending Serendipity and it has been a great blessing. My mother for months love to walk around and I found the establishment allowed her the ability to walk around with assistance from staff. She was even able to go outside when the weather permitted. I feel a lot of people who have to work and are also caretakers for their love ones will suffer a terrible lost if the Adult Day Care we have now lose a portion of their funding.

Please reconsider cutting the senior benefits program and Adult Day Care so families like myself who don't have any other support system will not have to quit working and lose such a valuable source of support.

Thank you!

From: [techno.curmudgeon](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Subject: HR73 Mental Health Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:29:20 PM

Lee Thomison

2312 E 16TH AVE
Anchorage Alaska 99508

May 4, 2015

To the House Finance Committee,

It has been brought to my attention that HR 73 (Mental Health Budget) proposes to reduce \$500,000 from adult day care programs. I am sure you will hear many facts and figures and testimonies on the effects of these reductions and the valid health and public benefits these programs provide, so I will cut to the chase for my note here.

First let me say that I do not have a dog in this fight other than the fact that I know folks that are either participants in these programs or are caregivers for someone in these programs, and as an Alaskan taxpayer and property owner I firmly believe that public money should be wisely and judiciously spent.

That said, I have come to the conclusion that public money spent supporting adult day programs is money well spent. Reducing the amount is false economy.

Adult day programs provide a middle way between full long term care facilities and full stay-at-home caregiving for seniors who require fulltime care. The long term care facility is significantly more costly to either or both the family and the taxpayer. The stay-at-home option drags most families down, reducing the caregivers' and families' income, net wealth, and their very health. This in turn impacts the financial contributions, including wages, including taxes, that such families can return to the public good so that it ultimately costs more, one way and another, to take care of the larger, more extended issues that arise.

Either way, the community loses both hard and soft dollars. Adult day services provides an overall cost-effective option between the two extremes for the majority of seniors requiring fulltime care. Adult day services is one of the few cases I've seen of win-win all around. Because of this, as an Alaskan with a vested interest in seeing public monies efficiently utilized, my vote is to support these programs to the fullest because they are intuitively cost effective in both the short run and even more so in the long run.

Thank you for your time,

Lee Thomison

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis, Rep. Geran Tarr

From: [Bruce Williams](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: adult daycare funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:12:14 PM

I am writing to express my support for continued funding for the adult daycare funding that provides subsidies to help reduce the cost of daycare for my mother. Both myself and my wife work to support our family of 5, in addition to having the responsibility of being caregivers for my 81 year old mother who suffers from dementia. We have been taking my mother to the "Daybreak" facility here in Anchorage and couldn't be happier with the service they provide. My mother is thriving and well cared for during the day. It relieves a lot of stress to know that we can trust my mother with those individuals employed by this adult daycare center. We struggle to make it in this world with so many costs that we need to plan for, including my own health insurance which went from \$450 per month to \$875 per month (for just me!) due to the affordable care act. (what an oxymoron that is). So it is a tremendous help for us to have this extra funding provided by the state which lessens our burden for supporting our family. I would encourage you to keep the funding intact without reducing it. I'm sure there are other avenues for cutting wasteful spending than those I see a direct and clear impact for the good, especially our seniors. My mother has no voice but what I can give. She doesn't understand anything beyond the immediate conversation you have at the moment. After a few seconds she has forgotten what you just talked about. And so in closing may I say thank you for the help that is provided. We need it I assure you. I think our society will be judged in the future by how we treat those without a voice, especially the widows and widowers - those that have been forgotten. I hope we can all treat "the least of these" to such an extent that we find favor with the one who Father to us all. Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Williams
Anchorage, Alaska

From: [Ann McCann](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Best Beginnings and other Early childhood programs
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:09:03 AM

I am a Fairbanks resident convinced that focusing on early childhood education is the best expenditure that the state can make for the long-term benefit of Alaska and Alaskans. Please restore full-funding. If we need to implement an income tax to pay our bills, do it, but don't bankrupt our kids (and future).

Ann McCann
Fairbanks

From: chelseasternicki@hotmail.com on behalf of [Chelsea Sternicki](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: efloyd@bestbeginningsalaska.org
Subject: Best Beginnings funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:55:38 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Sub-Committee,

I am writing to ask that you maintain funding for Best Beginnings. My child receives a book every month through the Imagination Library program. Although we are financially able to purchase books for her, we still really appreciate the program as it expands the content that our daughter is exposed to. More importantly, Best Beginnings provides books to many families who could not otherwise afford books for their children. In these instances, every dollar spent towards early literacy through the Best Beginnings program is invaluable.

Research shows that exposure to books during the first five years of life positively affects a child's brain development. Without such exposure children often need remediation upon entering kindergarten, which is costly for elementary schools. It seems that funding Best Beginnings is a more straightforward and effective way to prepare young children for future success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Chelsea Sternicki
chelseasternicki@gmail.com

From: [Darrell Wayman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:02:49 PM

I'm Juliana Wayman and I volunteer with the Anchorage Imagination Library which works to increase children's literacy with support from Best Beginnings. Please restore funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers.

These two programs give parents the tools and training to prepare young children to succeed in school.

This is a long term, worthwhile and cost effective investment in our state, that can pay off with higher graduation rates and healthier communities.

I volunteer and I'm here today because I care about the many children in Alaska who need access to books and the parents who need help and encouragement to read to their children.

With funding mostly from Best Beginnings, dedicated volunteers with Imagination Libraries all over the state are providing books to more than 20,000 children in Alaska. Any Imagination Library family will tell you that when that book arrives in the mail, the child demands to read it, "right now". Not only do these books encourage print awareness and brain development, but the best thing, is the time in the parent's lap, feeling safe and loved. That time is so important to the emotional development of the child.

Please restore the funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers. Thousands of children all over the state are counting on you.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Juliana Wayman

Chair, Advisory Team

Anchorage Imagination Library

From: [Julie Reynolds](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Testimony from Cordova from 3/4/15 hearing
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:28:15 PM

My name is Julie Reynolds, I live in Cordova and I represent my family.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our testimonies today.

Please continue the funding for Best Beginnings which helps fund the Cordova Imagination Library and Puddle Jumpers music class. My five-year old loved getting the monthly book until she turned five and now my 7 month old son has received his first book. Especially for remote communities and those without a library, these books can be a rare treasure to young children and build the foundation for eager readers to have a lifelong love of reading and learning.

On another note, please continue funding for year-round ferry service in Cordova. Our remote community depends on this service for medical travel, school sports, supplies for goods in local stores, tourism and jobs.

Thank you again for taking the time to hear our testimony.

Sincerely,
Julie Reynolds

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Carol Brice Family Center](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: re: State of Alaska budget
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:31:01 AM

Hello... I just want to be on the record that I do not support going below the level of the governor's proposed budget. For instance, such things as doing away with the

Matching grant program and cutting Alaska Legal Services budget by 40% is extremely short-sighted. There are many other examples. (Best Beginnings, etc.) Eliminating or substantially decreasing the level of these services is only going to cost more in the long run. Thank you.

Karl Greer, Operations Manager

The Carol H. Brice Family Center

From: [Maligiaq](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Best Beginnings
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:24:14 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maligiaq <maligiaq@rocketmail.com>
Date: 2015 martsı 4 17:20:27 GMT-9
To: "Inscfin@akleg.gov" <Inscfin@akleg.gov>
Subject: Best Beginnings

My name is Maligiaq Padilla and I'm a father of two children's. 17 months and 4 year old.

Last year I work with 24 different schools in Alaska, teaching cultural values, and traditional skills. Including Qayaqs and hunting tools. Communities population from 60-to anchorage sizes.

I understand economic hard times, but I'm asking the committee to restore funds for best beginnings and support young children's.

As we know Best Beginnings is the statewide sponsor of Imagination library. Imagination Library is very important for me and my children's. The books help to teach my children in a lot of ways to develop their brains, also speaking multiple languages at home.

People in Kotzebue with the families needs opportunities to get books, especially high quality books.

Thank you,
Maligiaq Padilla

Sent from my iPhone

March 3, 2015

Dear State Legislators:

I am writing in support of Public Broadcasting and my concern over HB72 's proposed 59% cut to KYUK and other PBS stations across the state. All of our PBS stations are intertwined, sharing costs of services. HB 72 would be devastating.

I was born and raised in Bethel Alaska. As a child Armed Forces Radio was our connection to the rest of the state, nation and world. When I moved home as a young adult in the 70's KYUK TV & radio had just gone on the air. It became the information source for our region.

Still today our connection truly is KYUK and it's sister stations. When there are health or safety announcements or anything that would require getting the word out quickly, it is through KYUK. You should hear our bilingual talk shows that deal with fish issues, health issues, community issues. KYUK AM & FM are the ONLY non-religious stations for the whole Y/K Delta.

I know it's difficult for some to understand how important KYUK is to our communities and encourage you to visit. How important the other stations are in sharing costs of some of our radio programs.

I strongly urge leadership to PLEASE reconsider any cuts and look at solutions to rebuild our state budget.

After some research, here are some solutions for your consideration:

Rather than get into the State Savings account, what would it take to put a ten percent tax on our permanent fund checks and a 10 percent state income tax on all out of state people who make money in Alaska. In 2013, every permanent fund recipient would have paid \$90 in state tax. There were 668,362 recipients. That would have been \$60,152,580 in our state coffers.

The percentage of wages earned by nonresidents increased by six-tenths of a percentage point in 2012. Total private-sector and state and local government wages totaled \$15.3 billion in 2012. Nonresidents earned 14.8 percent of total wages, up from 14.2 percent in 2011.

What do you think of that idea.

2,264,400,000

22,644,000

I'm all over that or a state income tax. The folks who are low income are protected and those who make the money pay their taxes.

Thank you for all your hard work and your consideration of my statements. Signed
Beverly A. Hoffman, bev@kuskfish.com

From: [Jeanne Kitayama](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: early childhood education is a wise investment in our future!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:02:15 PM
Attachments: [jensen2009_fig2.7.png](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Heckman Equation handout.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Dear Legislators,

Economically, socially, scientifically, and for healthy communities -- investing in early childhood education is the wisest investment we can make for our future. Educating and supporting parents of children birth to age 5 is critical, as these are the years of rapid brain development. I urge legislators to use all their power to support all early childhood funding, for a healthy future for Alaskans.

From: [Freya Sakkinen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public testimony Mental Health Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:57:07 PM

To the committee:

I was born and raised in Fairbanks and will continue to be in lifelong support of the community and economic development of the interior. Although I live in Anchorage today, I think it is important that the consequences of the state's budgets cuts do not effect Fairbanks detrimentally. That is why I am against cuts to the budget that would close State offices in Fairbanks. My recommendation would be a review and audit to downsize these office's budgets, but not to the point of closure. The existence of these offices in Fairbanks are vital as Fairbanks is a hub for rural Alaskans, who do not have easy access to internet and flights to Anchorage or Juneau. The military rely on these offices to conduct urgent business when they are facing last minute notice to travel. The population of Fairbanks should not have to rely on offices 300 to 600 miles away for day to day government business, they deserve to have these offices in their community. Please continue to keep the doors of the Fairbanks Vital Statistics office open. Thank you.

Freya Sakkinen

12641 Rya Rd.

Anchorage, AK 99516

From: ddie39@gmail.com on behalf of [Idamarie Piccard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:33:44 PM

Why the 15-20 % cuts to education, safety, health and a 1% cut to the finance & audit section?
Just where are your priorities certainly appears not to be to the people of AK. But you surely protect yourselves. What a travesty

From: amandam@gci.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding - Anchorage
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:43:35 PM

Hello,

In January I had the privilege of attending Alaska Construction Academy's Carpentry class. In it, we received a plethora of valuable information and hands-on instruction.

When I applied to attend I was afraid the majority of our time would be spent in a classroom rather than workshop, but that wasn't the case. In fact my only suggestion for improvement, if anything, was that the three week session should be longer to allow more classroom review time. That said, the amount of information and techniques we covered was impressive!

Everyone walked away knowing how the process works to become a carpentry apprentice and the steps to take to make it happen.

I was pleasantly surprised at the age and ethnic diversity of the students and the enthusiasm I saw in all. The class mix included: myself (a middle-aged, military spouse and former DOD Civilian employee), a 52 year old foreign trained construction worker, an educator from the ANC Detention Center, a thirty-something bartender, an active duty soldier, King Career Center students and various young people.

At one point our instructor remarked "its great to teach a class that's so into it, I love this!" I mention this because that was the overall vibe of the experience. Everyone was happy to be there and eager to learn. It was refreshing, you could see the enthusiasm and it was indeed, contagious. I witnessed people who started out seeming intimidated come to feel more confident and assured of their abilities.

The majority of folks either had jobs or were students so the evening/weekend schedule was very beneficial. I'm positive that the tuition free aspect was a big incentive or motivation to attend for most and it would be a shame for that to go away. A program like this one, helping people better themselves to go forward and do better for themselves is definitely something that benefits all of us.

For me personally the Anchorage Construction Academy has helped me gain a much better understanding of the skills and requirements to become a carpentry apprentice or related trades person. It also gave me the opportunity to improve my existing carpentry skills and gain first hand knowledge on the local industry for future endeavors. I feel it was a valuable investment of both my time and tax dollars and we need more programs of this nature.

Best regards,

Amanda McGaha

From: [Eric Grzegorzcyk](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:47:42 PM

To Whom it Concern,

Hello my name is Eric Grzegorzcyk, and I have had the privilege of taking the carpentry, electrical, and safety bundle classes at the Alaska Construction Academy. The programs the academy offers are invaluable. The instructors are very knowledgeable and amazing educators. As a soldier transitioning out of the military, these classes not only gave me knowledge about the different trades and helped me find the trade for me, it also gave me the knowledge and skill to be able to do minor repairs around the house. Without these classes, I truly believe I would still be wondering what is next. Instead, I am currently in the number one position on the hiring list for the NEIEP apprenticeship. Many people that attend these classes probably could not afford to pay for them. This is a great program that I am sure helps to keep unemployment down and allows the trades to have people that already have an idea of what to expect on the job, keeping the turnover rate within the apprenticeships down.

Sincerely,
Eric Grzegorzcyk
(412) 606-7096

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

From: [Ginger Glasgow](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding Fairbanks
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:43:36 PM

Hello, my name is Ginger Glasgow, I have had the opportunity to attend the Women in the trades Program in 2013 and also Electrical classes in 2014 in which I obtained certificates for training. I really appreciated being able to work with the trainers and staff which helped tremendously to show me my full potential and abilities towards a construction career. As of now I am putting my application into the Plumbers and Pipe fitters Union and I really hope that many more people can be given this same career opportunity to begin in a construction workforce. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [rachel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska construction academy funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:44:51 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please, please continue funding for the Alaska Construction Academy. They are an awesome organization that has helped me tremendously!! I offer construction courses for free, which is a huge benefit because I would not have taken their Women in the Trades - Electrical class without them. Now, I have the knowledge and exposure to make a better career choice. I really see it as a win-win since they are providing quality education to Alaska's workforce. Not only do they provide quality education, but also outreach to get others interested in the field and I consider them an asset and a wise investment for the state.

Thank you!
Rachel Mireles
Anchorage, AK.

From: [Rommel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Fund
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:19:56 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my support for the construction academy and why it should receive funding. I have been in their program recently and it has helped me to start working towards my goals, which includes working in the construction field.

Providing free classes helps me, and others, afford to learn and get a start in this area. I am looking into attending more classes to continue my education in the construction field. The academy has many different classes that I am interested in. However, without the availability for the free class it would not be accessible for me at this time.

Beyond working in the construction academy it allows free training for people that wish to construction for home projects-they don't need a full college course to do that. They teach the basics which is what projects need.

Whether people are taking the class for home projects or to start in the field of construction the construction academy is a tremendous help. The free classes provide learning for many who would be unable to afford it. The academy does a great job and in order for that to continue they need funding. Please help them to help us.

Lastly, these classes help many to get apprenticeships in construction fields of their interest. Creating a career they can build on.

Thank you for your time!
Rommel Pantaleon
edong1962@yahoo.com
Sent from my iPad

From: [Tim Larson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding Anchorage
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:03:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Please do not cut the funding for Alaska Construction Academy. We have joined a partnership with them over the years supplying lunches and donating tools to the training over the years. We feel this is a strong asset to our state by training people in trades that will help Alaska grow.

Tim Larson

Account Manager
Alaska Industrial Hardware

2192 Viking Dr
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907)276-7201 - Office
(907)350-7477 - Cell

(907)258-3054 - Fax
tlarson@aihalaska.com



Now order online today! Ships out tomorrow at www.aih.com

or [CLICK HERE](#) for our Monthly Specials and Save, Save, Save!

This electronic message and any attachment contains information that may be privileged and confidential. The information is intended for the use of addressee (s) only. If you are not the intended addressee, note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message or any attachment is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please contact me.

From: [Me](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Construction Academy Funding, Fairbanks
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:46:18 PM

To whomever it may Concern,

My name is William R. Wood III. I went through the construction academy when it first began, I believe in 2009. I took the basic carpentry class which was taught by Mr. Wade Stark, I really enjoyed the class and learned a lot from it. I am currently a Journeyman Carpenter with local 1243 working on Ft. Wainwright and it all started with me attending the Alaska Construction Academy. After the basic carpentry class I applied for the apprenticeship with local 1243 and was accepted in 2010. The opportunities that are available to me now I honestly don't think would have been available to me otherwise. To me taking that class was the best thing I could have ever done for myself. Before going to the class I was working minimum wage jobs barely earning a living wage. The Alaska construction academy gave me the opportunity to learn a trade that allows me to provide for my family. The Alaska Construction Academy is a wonderful opportunity for anyone that is lucky enough to attend. It changed my life for the better and I will be forever thankful to those who provided it.

Thank You,
William R. Wood III

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew Allen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: McGrath DNR fire camp cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:34:19 PM

My name is Matthew Allen. I worked for over 25 years as an Alaskan wild land firefighter with over 20 years for the Alaska Smokejumpers.

I am concerned with the proposed cuts to the McGrath DNR fire camp.

The plan calls for smokejumper use for fire suppression. The state is only guaranteed one load of smokejumpers. If the areas of Federal wildfire protection are busy, they likely will not get smokejumper response to the SW area.

The distances to SW fires from Fairbanks can be a limiting factor. I have personally been dispatched to a fire that was over 700 miles from Fairbanks. Smokejumper planes fly 170 mph with slightly more than 3 hours of fuel on board. Fuel stops are few and far between. Last summer it took us almost 5 hours to respond to a fire on the west coast in McGrath fire protection area from Fairbanks. Often times we need re-supply just to catch the fire - waiting for delivery from Fairbanks can simply mean the fire is going huge. Having supplies in McGrath has proven valuable in the 40+ years McGrath has been a fire fighting base. The distance creates logistical headaches, but that is why the base needs to be there.

The SW Emergency firefighter (EFF) crews will be really challenged with the cut. The time, effort, and expertise to train them is huge. Their yearly refreshers, and initial fire training has been provided by McGrath fire techs (who are cut in this plan) Also, this cut will hamper their future development in the fire community. There are very few qualified EFF incident commanders in the southwest. In the last few years the McGrath camp has been training up EFF people to higher qualifications. The EFF program allows the local SW population the chance to put make money and develop themselves in the fire world without leaving home for 6 months at a time. It contributes to their way of life. This cut could push people out of the villages.

The snowpack the last two years has been extremely low. There are areas that could burn now, a dry summer with lightning could prove disastrous. We dodged a bullet last summer with it being very rainy. Via social media today I saw that SW area among others are asking for smokejumper help 3 weeks earlier than normal.

thank you for your time, Matthew Allen

This is the content of my call in, I heard I was hard to hear over the phone.

From: [Mary Burke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: DO NOT CLOSE
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:56:05 AM

It is very convenient to have this
office here please do not close

MaryB
Sent from my iPhone.

Youth Court is perhaps the most educational extracurricular activity available to our high school youth and certainly one of the most valuable. Our teenagers are given a firsthand look at our judicial system and how it works. They have the opportunity to serve in every aspect of that system from judge to juror and gain a firsthand knowledge and understanding of not only how it works, but also why it is done this way. In our society we find far too many citizens doing everything they can to get out of jury duty while youth court teaches our youth the value of being on a jury, real life experience at being on a jury, and the pride of doing your civic duty. It would be a great misfortune to see that opportunity go away. As for youth court being a value to our state, it is a primary diversion option to the Juvenile Justice Probation Officers (JPO). When the JPO gets a referral they have the option of having youth court handle some of the status offenses which takes a load off of their already busy schedule which ultimately saves money. Without youth court being a primary diversion option to the JPO it is possible that the youth ends up going through a formal court proceeding and therefore creating a backlog in an already overcrowded environment. I strongly urge funding of Alaska Youth Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Froehle", written in a cursive style.

Robert B. Froehle, Chair
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: petersburg.lio@akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
(Please Write Clearly and Legibly)

YOUR FULL NAME: Sally + Al Dwyer Circle one: Support Opposed
REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self
BILL #: ^{HB} 72 Subject: SOA - Adm. Public Comm. Cuts
COMMITTEE NAME: Finance HEARING DATE: _____

We sincerely encourage you to fund Public Radio to the fullest extent possible.

A 59% reduction would decimate our local radio station which would be devastating to the 30+ communities which rely on KFSK for news, weather, announcements & much more. Without KFSK, our community would be greatly diminished.

We are a small island with one source for local news - KFSK - not like the larger towns and cities with many competitive stations.

Our local radio station already runs lean and mean, utilizing volunteers for more than half the airtime now. This drastic cut would mean losing 2 of the 4 employees, Alaskans with families in our community, and change the tone and tenor of our beloved KFSK.

Again, please support Public Radio, especially in stand alone markets.

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

Sincerely,

Sally + Al Dwyer
Petersburg

thank you,

(Updated 4/9/2013)

From: [Jeanne Kitayama](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: early childhood education is a wise investment in our future!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:02:15 PM
Attachments: [jensen2009_fig2.7.png](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Heckman Equation handout.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Dear Legislators,

Economically, socially, scientifically, and for healthy communities -- investing in early childhood education is the wisest investment we can make for our future. Educating and supporting parents of children birth to age 5 is critical, as these are the years of rapid brain development. I urge legislators to use all their power to support all early childhood funding, for a healthy future for Alaskans.

From: [amy george](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Stop Early Childhood Education Cuts!!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:48:22 PM

My name is Amy George and I vote. My address is 3314 Woodland Park Dr, Anchorage AK 99517. I oppose the budget cuts proposed that will eliminate the Parents as Teachers Program in Anchorage. Parents as Teachers serves anyone in the Anchorage area. They are a parent education and support program. Parents learn to teach and prepare their children for school at home. By the time children in this program get to Kindergarten they are well prepared to succeed in school. This is a home visiting program that is voluntary and open to everyone who has a child or children prenatal to age 5. When started in this program prenatally or as soon as possible, children and families experience healthier births and less risk of child abuse and neglect, as well as better outcomes in public schools. Parents as Teachers uses parent education and child development information to make parents better prepared to discipline and teach their children. This means less OCS involvement and children who are prepared to succeed in school and beyond. Parents as Teachers also serves as a resource and referral agency to families in need in the Anchorage area.

Do not cut Parents as Teachers from the budget!! This is a vitally important resource to families and children in Anchorage.

Sincerely,
Amy George

From: [Christa Womack](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Reinstate Funds for Early Education Programs
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 12:41:37 AM

March 5, 2015

The Honorable House Finance Committee Members

Alaska State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable House Finance Committee Members:

As a parent, social work student and concerned citizen of Juneau, I am respectfully requesting that you reinstate the funds to support Parent's as Teachers, Pre-K and Best Beginnings. It is crucial that the state continues to invest in early childhood development programs.

Research clearly shows that the early years are critical in a child's development. In the early years of life, a child's brain growth and development is accelerating at a rapid pace. During these years, it is important that children are provided with nurturing and rich learning activities that stimulate the brain. When children have these experiences, they are more likely to succeed in school and other areas in life.

Prevention programs, such as Parents as Teachers educates parents on the developmental milestones of children. This program also provides an avenue for families to connect with each other which provides a network of support. Two important protective factors for reducing child abuse and neglect in our State is parental knowledge of child development and social connections in times of need. The Parents as Teachers program provides an avenue to build these protective factors in families.

I hope you will consider the long term costs of cutting Parents as Teachers, Pre-K and Best Beginnings programs out of the budget.

Please reinstate the funds to support these programs during difficult financial times. If you are looking for solutions to the budget, consider having State employees pay for their own unemployment insurance instead of it being a fringe benefit paid by the State.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christa Womack

From: dskilpat@acsalaska.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FY2014
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 7:15:51 AM

House Finance Committee
Mental Health Budget
Senior and Disabilities Services
FY2014

March 3, 2015

Realizing the state deficit is a big problem for those who have to decide what stays and what goes I sympathize with this process and those doing the deciding. I do however have to step in/up and say – yes we need cuts BUT not at the expense of the helpless and 33% (maybe 10%) My husband and I can testify to being the sister, sister in law, caregiver and POA. If we had not stepped in when my mother passed away in 2006 no one would have stepped up for my sister.

We have provided a safe home for my sister now 65 to live. But to stay home alone while we went to work was not going to be safe. My sister has a brain antaxia; no equilibrium, unable to soundly reason, memory loss, from the age of 7 and now the beginnings of dementia/Alzheimer. My parents cared for her until they passed away. Mom was 87 and they both lived with my husband and me. My sister is a very kind person but unable to be on her own.

When we discovered Serendipity Living Skills and this has allowed us to go to work during the day and know that not only is Peggy safe but she is enjoying wonderful opportunities at Serendipity with dignity. Opportunities such as being with others, being cared for kindly (you cannot imagine the fantastic staff), games, music, exercise, art, cooking class, gardening, local field trips-on an economical budget. All engineered to help her day to day mentally and yet in fun.

Peggy is fortunate in that my husband and I provide her needs – food, clothing, home, medical attention. Other Serendipity guests do not have this. Peggy receives only SSI (\$1020.00 a month for her needs). There are truly great needs and the helpless should not be the ones to take a 33% cut in budget. I understand that all have to tighten belts but we do not feel at that vast amount.

Sincerely
David and Susan Kilpatrick
6921 Cheryl Street
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-344-6737

From: [Deb Trowbridge](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Pre-K Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:38:16 PM

Hello I am Deb Trowbridge, Acting Head Start Director at Kawerak, Inc. in Nome, AK. I am writing to the proposed Pre-K cuts. Maintaining the Pre-K funds enables Kawerak Head Start to blend funding with the state to serve 40 children and their families. Without these funds, fewer children and families will benefit from greatly needed services. Please consider how the Pre-K funds can be maintained to offer more families and children the opportunity to succeed early in life. Thank you for your time.

From: [Debi Baldwin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Restore Early Childhood Education Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:56:39 PM

My name is Debi Baldwin and I serve as the Child Development Director at RurAL CAP. I am submitting testimony today regarding the drastic cuts approved by the House Budget Subcommittee eliminating Parents as Teachers, pre-k and Best Beginnings. I understand that all Alaskans need to help bring the state budget back in line with state resources. However zeroing out needed early childhood programs promoting school readiness is short sighted and will not result in short term or long term savings to the state. Without these vital programs, experience tells us we will see higher short term costs in remedial education and higher long term costs in health care and adult supportive services. Please restore funding to Parents as Teachers, pre-k and Best Beginnings.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Erika Etheridge](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Learning Funding
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:41:55 AM

Good Morning,

I am a parent, concerned citizen and a supporter of the Partnerships for Families and Children here in Juneau. I am hoping that you will continue to fund early learning programs.

These programs are vital for the future of our children and the future of our world. You might not see it now, but the children are our future. We need to look out for them and nurture them, we need to give them a head start and educate them to the best of our ability. Please don't think of this just as an expenditure that can be eliminated with the ink from a pen, instead think of it as thousands of candles that need tending so they can become the lights of our future. Please give early learning programs the funding that they deserve. Thank you so much, I know that you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Erika Etheridge

From: [Heidi Hilmes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72: State funded PreK testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:58:02 PM

Hello,

I am a teacher in the early childhood community in Anchorage, Alaska. As a community member, I want to testify my support of *State-funded Pre-K* programs.

Pre-K programs provide a learning environment for children, as well as families. Children coming into public schools with no prior experience are so unprepared for the academic rigors of Kindergarten, as well as the highly social environment. Pre-K programs give young children the opportunity to learn foundational academic skills and social skills through guided play. Families also learn how important their role is in their child's education through home visits and family gatherings. The goal of Pre-K is to set-up children and families for a successful educational career, not just to prepare for Kindergarten.

I hope enough voices are heard on this topic, and I hope enough people grow to see how important early childhood education is in every community.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Heidi Hilmes

From: [Iris Angaiak](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Help save preschool
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:26:40 PM

Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, for the record my name is Iris Angaiak. I am writing regarding HB36 and want to make the following points:

1. We need preschool for the young one's to learn early.
2. Without early preschool, they will have struggle in trying to learn later.
3. Without preschool they will not know what to expect of being in school, when they start.
4. The early they learn to write, the less struggle they can be in school.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear out our youngsters in learning.

Sincerely,

Iris Angaiak
Preschool Leader 1
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Paul T. Albert Memorial School
P.O. Box 49
Tununak, Ak. 99681-0049

From: [Patton, Jessica](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Early Learning
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:55:48 AM

My name is Jessica Patton, Juneau resident, and I am a single mother of an almost 3 year old. I am asking you to please reinstate full funding for the early learning programs, such as Parents As Teachers and Pre-K. Early learning is extremely important and it helps set our young ones up for success! Having my Parents As Teachers meetings has been beyond helpful on getting an idea of what is developmentally appropriate, what I can do to resolve issues if there were any, and age-appropriate activities I can do with my child to encourage her learning! Her development is assessed periodically and it's very good to know where she is at during this critical time in her development! She is just reaching her 3rd birthday and will soon be leaving the program, but I would love to know that this program is going to exist for future parents of young children and babies!

Do the right thing! Keep funding alive for these important, community-impacting programs! They are a positive thing for our community!

From: [Nome Preschool](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Testimony regarding the elimination of the Pre-K Grant
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:05:36 PM

“Committee Chair, Members of the committee, for the record my name is Jiorgia Clark, representing Nome Preschool Association. I am writing regarding the *Department of Education & Early Development FY 2016 House Finance Budget Subcommittee Narrative Report* and want to make the following points:

Nome Preschool has been included in the Pre-K Grant for many years. The Pre-K grant is on the list of items to be cut from the budget for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Education and Early Development.

I am sure you have reviewed data showing that students who leave preschool classrooms included in the Pre-K Grant outperform most children who have no preschool experience at all. I won't include our specific data regarding the students from Nome Preschool because it has been an intricate part of the checks and balances written into the grant each year of our participation. I will share with you that the Pre-K Grant fills a void that is impossible to replicate.

The most notable component of the grant is a certified teacher, hired by Nome Public Schools and funded by the Pre-K Grant, teaching the students at Nome Preschool. Nome Preschool is a small local institution which has served the young learners of Nome for nearly 45 years. As a small independent educational entity, Nome Preschool does not have the financial capacity to employ a certified teacher at a justifiable rate of pay. In fact, prior to the grant the job of teaching children and running the preschool business was the act of one employee who tirelessly managed all elements of the keeping the preschool functioning from planning and executing lessons to thawing frozen pipes in the dead of winter all for a very uncompetitive salary. Our current budget is partially supported by tuition, but relies heavily on donations and fundraising just to keep the doors open. The Nome Preschool simply cannot afford to replicate what the grant provides. What we are left with is an inferior model that breeds burn-out and inconsistency, two things that keep the preschool from meeting its inherent objective of readying students for kindergarten and beyond.

The Pre-K Grant frees the preschool teacher to focus singularly on the needs of her developing students separate from the business of running the preschool. Because the Pre-K Grant requires the teacher to be certified, this person is someone pedagogically prepared for the task, not just a person who feels they like working with small children. Having a person who is specifically trained to oversee the educational experience is an unparalleled advantage.

To remove the grant sends Nome Preschool back to era where the teacher is negotiating two worlds - academic and business. Having to manage all aspects of the preschool invariably limits the instructor's ability to attend to and nurture the academic progress of his/her students with the same attention. The outcome would most certainly be a less effective preschool climate sending children a little less prepared to kindergarten in the future. Over the long term Nome slips back into a pattern of failure notorious in rural Alaskan communities.

To winnow this grant to the threshing floor erodes what the State of Alaska has asked K-12 schools to accomplish - proficiency. Stripping a valuable asset like a certified teacher will

have negative repercussions for teachers and administrators in our local school system who are left to make up the difference in the year ahead.

Nome has begun to set a standard in rural Alaska for academic rigor. It is outpacing other hub communities which, I believe, starts with its attention to early education. I ask that each of you think of the 35 children of Nome Preschool who are growing and learning under the direction of Ms. Aisha Talburt, their certified teacher provided through the grant, and reconsider your choice to eliminate the Pre-K Grant. The 35 children currently under her care WILL arrive at kindergarten prepared to meet the demands set before them. I cannot say the same for the children who follow if, indeed, the grant is cut.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Jiorgia Clark
Nome Preschool Director
nomepreschool@yahoo.com
907-443-2943

From: [Judy Andree](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget Cuts to Early Education and Medicaid Expansion Adoption
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:59:34 AM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

You are holding hearings this week on the State Budget, and given the current budget difficulties, you have some difficult choices to make. I am urging you to vote in favor of reinstating funding for Early Childhood Education, particularly funding for Parents As Teachers, Best Beginning programs, and Pre-K Programs, as well as the funding that would allow Medicaid Expansion to proceed. I have bundled these two issues together because they both have something very important in common: they represent the needs of those in our society who are the most vulnerable and have the softest voices. Children are the basis for the future, and good programs that help to make them stronger learners and more confident citizens can only strengthen society and our democracy. But the children can't speak out for themselves, they can't yet vote; they can only hope that someone will speak for them.

In addition, those who would be eligible for health care assistance under an expanded Medicaid program are low-income citizens, many of whom work full-time and often over-time at a second job. A minor illness can send them into a financial crisis, and not seeking medical help immediately due to inability to pay can cause that minor problem to grow into a major medical crisis. We have a federal government eager to help with this expansion and pay for at least 90% of the cost. Right now the State of Alaska is paying 100%. If we need a piece of legislation to get this going (as I have read was mentioned by some committee members), then I suggest looking at HB 18. This bill addresses Medicaid Expansion, but to date it has not had any action after initial referral.

Funding these two areas--early childhood education and expansion of Medicaid--should be a priority for a society based on equality, life, and liberty.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Alaska.

--

Judy Andree
5985 Lund Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-780-6767 (home)
907-321-1559 (cell)

From: [Kara Winegar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early childhood education funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:59:08 PM

Please consider funding early childhood education. Our children are Alaska's future. Early childhood education and support gives families and our community tools to raise healthy, happy and capable individuals. I understand we need to make cuts, but let's hold support for our youngest citizens sacred.

Thank you,
Kara Hollatz
John Hollatz
Nina Hollatz (age 3)
Owen Hollatz (age 7 months)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karen Matthias](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Best Beginnings
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:32:38 PM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I know that Alaska is facing a serious budget deficit and that you have to make tough cuts and hard choices. I hope that you will consider the effectiveness of each program and the return on investment as you make your decisions.

Early childhood education and development is vital to the future of our state if we want children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and develop into productive members of our community. **Best Beginnings** provides tools and resources to parents to ensure that success at very low cost and with considerable support from community volunteers and matching grants from foundations and corporate sponsors.

The DEED funding to Best Beginnings is vital to its success.

This is a long term, worthwhile and cost effective investment in our state. And it can pay off with higher graduation rates and healthier communities.

I volunteer with Anchorage Imagination Library and Best Beginnings because I care about the many children in Alaska who need access to books and the parents who need help and encouragement to read to their children.

With funding mostly from Best Beginnings, dedicated volunteers with Imagination Libraries all over the state are providing books to more than 23,000 children in Alaska. Any Imagination Library family will tell you that when that book arrives in the mail, the child demands to read it, "right now". Not only do these books encourage print awareness and brain development, but the best thing is the time in the parent's lap, feeling safe and loved. That time is so important to the emotional development of the child.

Please reinstate the full funding of \$937,500 for Best Beginnings. Thousands of children all over the state are counting on you.

Thank you for considering this request.

Karen Matthias
Anchorage Imagination Library volunteer 2011-present

Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, my name is Kim Erikson, representing Nome Public Schools. I teach for Nome Public Schools but the children that I teach attend class in the Kawerak Head Start building. The public school collaborates with the Head Start through the Pre-K Grant.

I am writing regarding the restoration of the Pre-K Grant. First I would like to say that the teachers don't just educate the children but the teachers also educate many parents. The teachers help get the student and family ready for the transition into the "The Big School" which is the Nome Public School district. We have seen great improvements with the students and the families.

One example is about a little boy that started school when he was 3. He started our program with crying and screaming every morning. Mom was struggling with life issues. She had 4 children in the home and the fourth was a new baby. She is a single mom and she was trying to take college courses. We helped the family deal with all these new transitions. When this little boy started school the next year, the teacher explained how important it was for him to learn. He needed to learn so he could go to the big school. There were a few days when his mom couldn't get up and get him to school but he made his way to school on his own. He was so proud of his learning. His mom has now finished her classes and he is in 1st grade as a proud learner. I can't imagine him starting kindergarten without having certified teachers to give him and his family the proper guidance to be successful in "The Big School".

I truly believe the Pre-K grant is preparing many children and families to be successful when entering the school district.

Please help us support our children and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

From: [Loida Aniel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Preschool
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:19:59 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm one of the parents of preschool students at Lake Otis Elementary School. At first I was hesitant to enroll my 4years old daughter in Preschool, maybe she's not ready for school and if I leave her there she might cry or maybe shy at first because she never been in any daycare before. But I was wrong the first day she started everybody welcomed her, the students, Ms. Maribel and of course Mrs. Klein who has been very supportive, nice and dedicated to teach those young kids like my daughter. She learned the alphabet, rhyme, drawing, coloring and having friends. We seeing the amazing progress of my daughter in this program. So we are hoping to continue this and not taken away from future students.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Masha Sk](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Regarding Cuts to Early Childhood Education Funding
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 8:12:36 AM

Dear members of the committee,

I would humbly urge you to re-consider cutting funding to Early Childhood Education programs. While I fully support the cuts sustained by the state government bureaucracy I can not get behind reducing services to our children. Alaska is a unique and wonderful place to live and raise a family. However, it is also sparsely and unevenly populated, preventing private sector forces to create childcare and education opportunities as is the case in the lower 48s.

As a mother of two boys under 3 working full-time and a single parent 6-month out of the year, I have to deal with lack of early childhood services in Juneau on a daily basis. As such, I can also testify just how important Best Beginnings, Imagination Library, Family Nights are the families in Juneau. These programs are cornerstones of early childhood development in Juneau and there are no private sector substitutes for them. It is clear that due to falling oil revenues the state has few resources to pay for these programs, but please understand, if they are gone - there is nothing left, even for the parents, like myself, who are in a position to pay. The state of Alaska has the infrastructure in place to reach every community no matter how remote and give them access to those services. No private player can do that, not now, and now is when we need them, because those early years are so crucial, we can't afford to miss them.

As far as funding is concerned - if you don't have the revenues, then TAX US! It may be a strange position for a republican but when it comes to educating my children there are no sacred cows. Simply put government in the state of Alaska is best equipped and has the best reach to run these programs and at least this citizen is willing to pay for them through my taxes. So in summary - take my PFD, levy a special tax, but don't take away crucial programs and undermine the future of our children.

Respectfully,

Maria Skuratovskaya

--

*Help **Ikirwa School** fund the next classroom building. Support us at <http://www.ikirwa.org>*

From: [Melanie Wahl](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 6:06:48 AM

I am a concerned citizen about the future of Best Beginnings in Alaska and the funding that is about to be cut to this program.

We are recipients of the Anchorage Imagination Library books each month, attend AIL's children events around Anchorage and we want this to continue.

Early education is key! Please don't cut funding to this program and others of the like, especially Parents as Teachers and Pre-K programs. I am waiting and hoping that a preschool will get funded for Rogers Park Elementary so my daughter will have a neighborhood preschool to attend in the next couple of years.

Thank you,
Melanie Wahl

From: [Michelle Weaver](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Childhood is critical to Alaska's future
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:49:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am both a parent and an educator, and I am dismayed that early childhood programs are at risk of losing funding in the upcoming fiscal year. I have a BA in Elementary Education and an M Ed in Early Childhood Education. Throughout my years of study, I have read various research that explains the importance of early intervention in helping children reach expected grade-level goals. The longer we wait before implementing interventions, the more costly and time consuming they are to achieve the same results.

This is why programs such as Parents as Teachers are vital to Alaska's success in the future. The PAT program provides parents with the support they need to help their children begin high-quality learning from birth. Without these supports, many families would not have the tools they need to prepare their children for school. These children would then be more likely to enter kindergarten lacking essential skills in pre-reading, with poor vocabularies, and beginning math awareness. Once in kindergarten, extra assistance would be needed to help ensure all children are where they are expected to be by the high standards of our nation's education system. If these deficits are not immediately identified in kindergarten, then interventions would be required later on, and as I have said, this gets more and more expensive.

The Dolly Parton Imagination library is also an important tool in preparing Alaska's children for school. A child's early exposure to books is a strong indicator for their later reading skills. Many families do not have the resources, financial or cognitive, to select high quality books for their child and have a home library. By having books sent directly to the home, all families can have a chance to expose their children to books, and begin developing a lifelong love of reading.

I currently have a 7 month old daughter. I expected my degrees in education would adequately prepare me for being a parent, but I am extremely grateful to have the support of Melinda, my Parents as Teachers Parent Educator. Having a newborn is hard, and I struggled initially with how to help my daughter learn from the beginning. I knew I should have been doing more, but I felt clueless as to what that would be, particularly through my parent-of-a-newborn sleep deprivation. At our first visit with Melinda, my daughter was just 3 weeks old. Melinda explained the Parents as Teachers program to me, and explained that much of our visits would take place on the floor, where we could play and interact as parent and child. This blew my mind. At that point, it simply had never occurred to me to play with my daughter on the floor- I knew tummy time was important, but somehow never thought about placing her on her back to play. I'm sure I would have figured it out eventually, but my daughter would likely have missed out on valuable opportunities for learning and motor development.

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher, but parents need support in order to do their best. Waiting until elementary school is too late- teachers are busy and parenting styles are much more ingrained. If we want Alaska to have a future as a player on the national and world stage, we need to make sure our kids are prepared. High quality, early education is the

best, most effective, and most economical way to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Weaver

463-3832

From: [Sadie Stephenson](#)

To: [House Finance](#)

Subject: Hi my name Is Sadie and my premature daughter Is In the Parents and Teachers program. I have watch her motor skills and development grow so much from this program. She went from not having much motor skills to being able to do a lot. Don"t cut the program

Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:29:10 PM

From: [Sarah San Martin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: State Funded Pre-K
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:52:12 PM

Hello,

I am writing this on behalf of all early learning programs, but especially the state funded Pre-K classrooms.

I have been teaching Pre-K for 4 years now and have never felt such a pride as I do with this age group. Every single day, being able to work with children who need these early learning opportunities brings a fulfillment to my job. I know first hand how important these classes are to so many. Families itch to get their child into a Pre-K program and we always have families on our waiting lists.

It amazes me every year where these children start and where they end up ready and beyond for Kindergarten. We are giving these children the tools to succeed in their school years ahead. I have had families cry with tears of joy and amazement at what their child is able to accomplish. I feel that these programs are really a necessity for so many children to succeed. We are able to take children and work with them so that at the start of Kindergarten certain areas have already been targeted and skills have been learned where they will be far less likely to fall behind. It fills me with a satisfaction and joy to give parents tools on how to work with their child at home and offer any help I can. I have parents every year say how important this program was to their child and family. I have never worked any where else where I have felt the importance as I do with Pre-K. I fully believe that if there were more opportunities to give Early Education a priority, we would see far more success out of children in their years to come and throughout their K-12 grades and on through later years in life. Early Childhood Education is such an important job and I do not take lightly what I am doing on a daily basis. The children I work with may be at disadvantage if they didn't have the opportunity to come to our school. Each year, my class leaves Pre-K well equipped to take on elementary education at a level children just coming into school may not be at. It is important for me and for my families I work with, that Pre-K funding not be cut. This would be devastating to so many.

Thank you,

Sarah San Martin

From: [William Updegrove](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early Childhood Education funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:51:13 PM

You've heard from many others on the issue of funding for pre-school and other early childhood programs. I would like to add my support for maintaining and perhaps increasing funding for programs for the pre-school age children of Alaska.

As a member of the Lower Kuskokwim School Board, I am concerned with the fact that most of our students enter school with a deficit of one or more years below grade level. LKSD does its best to erase this deficit, but the money we are forced to spend on remedial programs would produce better results if it were spent on pre-school education. Effective pre-school education has the potential to bring most students up to school ready status, freeing up K-12 resources to advance students a year or more at grade level.

Money spent on early childhood education is an investment which pays large dividends in reducing the need for later K-12 funding and which pays immeasurable dividends in the lives of Alaska's children.

Please at the very least maintain the current level of funding for pre-school programs.

William Updegrove
PO Box 1872

From: [Kristeen Gress](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed Cuts to Early Childhood Education
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:03:13 PM

Honorable Legislators and Committee Members,

I am writing in response to proposed cuts by Alaskan lawmakers to our early education programs.

Yes it is time for tightening belts again, but please not in a short-sighted manner that comes at the expense of our youngest Alaskans.

We Alaskans need to remember our duty to protect and nurture the next generation of citizens. With this in mind, how can we think of cutting the very programs designed to educate the most vulnerable among us, our children, in particular the early education/preschool opportunities our state has offered to the very youngest and now threatens to take away. The programs that have been designated for cutting are the very programs that bolster our young citizens at the very beginning of their lives, when growth potential is greatest and opportunities to affect positive change yields the most reward. These programs set the youngsters on a more successful path for school and learning and eventually participatory citizenship.

I offer this plea as a concerned Alaskan citizen, a elementary and former middle school teacher and grandmother of a two-year-old who is benefitting from the current state-funded Early Childhood Education program.

Please reconsider the currently proposed legislation; do not pass a bill that strips the funding for these vital programs.

Respectfully,

Kristeen Gress

2563 Meadow Lane

Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Kaitee Perisich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Support Early Learning Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:39:21 PM

Hello,

I'm writing on behalf of my one year old daughter whom I want more than anything to succeed in life. So I can imagine you would understand that in order for her to have the best chance possible I want her to have the opportunity to start learning early.

Early childhood intervention programs have been shown to yield benefits in academic achievement, behavior, educational progression and attainment, delinquency and crime, and labor market success.

Please make the choice to keep early funding for Alaska's next generation.

Thank You for your Consideration,

--

Kaitee Perisich

From: [Bridgette Whitcomb](#)
To: [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Cc: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72 Feedback
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:13:44 PM
Attachments: [Chettyetal2010.pdf](#)

Co-Chairs Mr. Thompson and Mr. Neuman and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Bridgette Whitcomb and I am a constituent here in Sitka. I am calling regarding HB 72 and want to make the following point:

Cutting budgets to schools means cutting positions. If districts receive less funding, there will be less teachers in the classrooms and paraprofessionals supporting children that need it the most. Children are central concern of mine every day in the classroom. In Chetty et al 2010 (attached) data was analyzed from Project STAR, IRS income data, college attendance, and overall life skills to determine how students are effected by high quality classrooms and low class size. The following is an excerpt the study that will help explain my feelings and when you are thinking about long term financial planning for Alaska.

Smaller classes (which raised test scores by 4.8 percentiles) are predicted to raise

earnings by $4.8 \times \$76.7 = \368 (2.3%) at age 27. This calculation implies a present value earnings

gain from class size reduction of \$9,460 per student and \$189,000 for the classroom.

Calculations analogous to those in Krueger (1999) imply that the average cost per child of reducing class size by 33% for 2.14 years (the mean treatment duration for STAR students) is \$9,355 in 2009 dollars.⁴⁵ Our second calculation suggests that the benefit of reducing class size

might outweigh the costs.

.

Their studies found that reducing class size and increasing quality of instruction all directly relate to future earning power and overall life quality of students. But I do not need an academic study to know what I work in every day.

I spend at least 1500 a year on my classroom and work over 50 hours a week planning, grading, setting up, and teaching my classes during the school year. My textbook are from 2008 and outdated. I am constantly reading research and ordering college level textbooks to create meaningful, scientifically accurate lessons in my class. This is how a create a high quality environment for my students. If class sizes are increased due to budget cuts, which is an inevitability, then I will not be able to continue to create such a high quality for my students. The money and time I put forth is directly related to the number of students that I have. This is true of almost all the teachers that are employed in this state. We give

everything to our students and if the budget cuts are made to the places we should be investing in first, then everything will simply not be enough.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Bridgette Whitcomb

7th Grade Science Teacher

Blatchley Middle School

whitcombb@sitkaschools.org

From: [Cheryl Creek](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Education cuts
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:05:58 AM

We need you to keep your promise. We are looking eliminating reading positions we lost one last year it looks like another this year. Alaska needs kids who can read and sometime get jobs and be employed. We need help now. Please fund us.

Cherie creek

Sent from my iPhone

From: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: forward fund and fully fund public education
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:35:33 PM

Please enter into the record the testimony below to HFIN on HB72/HB72 dated 3/4/2015.

From: DAWN BRASHEAR <dbrashear@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 1:12 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: forward fund and fully fund public education

Dear Legislators,

Please work toward funding public education fully.

Fully funding public education means:

1. Attracting and keeping high quality educators with competitive salary and benefits package
2. Keeping class sizes under 25 students per teacher
3. Maintaining safe, modern school facilities
4. Providing current curriculum to prepare our students for employment

As a reminder, public education is THE backbone of a stable middle class and subsequently a stable democracy.

Sincerely,
Dawn Brashear
775 Merlin Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [dean gee](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:13:05 PM

I'm concerned that the deaf people who are currently enrolled in schools, elementary K-12 and college levels will not be allowed to have equal opportunity to succeed in life without this funding..It is VERY VITAL..to their futures and success, as well as maintaining good health through doctors visits and learning programs.

From: [Geri McLeod](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Representative.Tammi.Wilson@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Representative.Dave.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:25:49 PM

House Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter to first thank you for serving our amazing state of Alaska. It is a very difficult time to serve Alaska with drastic shortfalls in funds available and tough decisions to make.

I also served our state for 24 years as a teacher serving our children in Juneau. I taught children preschool through fifth grade in the classroom and spent time as an ESL teacher as well as an Extended Learning teacher (formerly Gifted and Talented).

As a teacher, I have experienced the fully funded education budget as well as the very lean budget and have seen the impact of both. I began my career during the very lean budget times. There were 29 kindergarten students in my classroom that first year I started teaching in Juneau School District. There were 29 students in my kindergarten classroom because there were drastic cuts in the education budget which resulted in VERY high teacher/pupil ratios. I believe I did the very best job possible with those twenty nine 5 year olds all crammed into one classroom. Five year olds are active and need space to move their bodies often during the day. A classroom with 29 children is not conducive to the movement necessary for large muscle development and the kinesthetic learners that 5 year olds are.

Those 29 students experienced unnecessary stress daily which negatively affected their body and mind development because they needed to learn by doing and moving and needed the emotional security having ready access to an adult.

Conversely, the other end of the primary school at the fifth grade level, I have experienced 30+ children in a classroom. For the most part these children spent a good portion of their day working at a desk not needing the large muscle movement that young children do.

However, these are children with developmental needs that include exchanging ideas and working in groups. There is very little space to group 30+ children with growing, prepubescent bodies in groups in a classroom without noise and space issues. Each individual child requires a certain amount of personal space in order to focus and learn at this age and a classroom of 30+ fifth graders not conducive to sharing that space. The level of curricular expectations on students calls for classrooms in which the pupil teacher ratio is reasonable enough for children have access to their teacher's individual attention so that the highest level of learning can occur.

Our children deserve no less than the highest funding guaranteeing the best possible education that our state can give them. Why? It is not just because it is unconscionable to do otherwise but ask any Alaskan employer if he or she wants to hire graduates that have received a mediocre education from overcrowded classrooms and from schools that have been stripped to the bare bone due to lean budgets. These children are our future Alaskan businessmen and women, health professionals and government workers. Please vote to fully fund education now and for the future.

Thank you for your time.

Gerianne McLeod
retired Juneau School District teacher
gerimcleod@hotmail.com

From: [Maggie MacCluskie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Maggie MacCluskie](#)
Subject: stop cutting education!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:25:48 PM

Dear House Finance Committee-

I am a resident of the Fairbanks area and a PhD graduate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I sought UAF as the place to pursue my Doctorate because of the high caliber research and education program here. I returned to live permanently in Fairbanks, in part, because of the quality and presence of the university. Crippling the UA system with the extreme cuts you propose is ludicrous. **BEFORE YOU CUT EDUCATION STOP FUNDING THE SUSITNA DAM PROJECT! GIVE THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MONEY TO THE UNIVERSITY AND WATCH WHAT THAT KIND OF INVESTMENT WILL DO FOR OUR STATE.**

THE UNIVERSITY IS THE ONLY STATE AGENCY WITH THE UNIQUE MISSION OF TRAINING TOMORROW'S ALASKANS.

Thank you for your service in our state government.

Sincerely-

Maggie MacCluskie
1995 Red Berry Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Joseph J. & Esther L. Hooper

1200W Dimond Blvd. Spc. 1124

Anchorage Alaska, 99515-1547

Our daughter Farrah B. Hooper have been in school programs since the year 2010. Farrah has had a birth defect. Doctors said she never talk or walk. Parent as teacher programs have been helping so much. Farrah can walk, talk and she is on top of her class.

Farrah is 4 years old. Parents as Teacher Program taught Farrah how to use sign language, count up to 100, write, how to do math and she know all her shapes and colors. I highly appreciate it if the programs do **not close**. The children need it.

From: [Elisabeth Brennan](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Education Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:59:48 PM

March 4, 2015

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Betsy Brennan and I am a parent, community member and school board member in Nome. I would like to strongly encourage you to reinstate the one time funding cuts in the FY16 budget. Nome Public School would specifically loose \$208,000 for next school year if the one time funding is not restored. That has grave implications for our school district. I would also encourage you to not cut early learning grants and funding. Early childhood education programs are an effective investment in our most precious resource: Our Children! Even in times of difficult fiscal matters, investment in education has deep implications for our future. Please keep the children of Alaska first in your mind as you do your important work.

Sincerely,

Betsy Brennan

PO Box 1623

Nome, AK 99762

9074435470

From: [Marie Loyd](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Education / Alaska Marine Highway
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:05:24 AM

To Whom It May Concern

I would Like to Add My Comment On The Cut Backs For Alaskans,
As being A True Alaskan For 51 years and Having Raised me Children and Grand Children
here in Alaska I am Strongly against The Budget Cuts For Our Education, I believe That The
Children Is Our Future And We Need to Prepare them With The Best Education Possible.
Not Taking Away Their Knowledge.
As A Mother /Grandmother I can Recall How Important Education is for Our Kids,
And I would Like To Add This

No Child Left Behind -

*The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is the most recent iteration of the Elementary
and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), the major federal law authorizing federal
spending on programs to support K-12 schooling. ESEA is the largest source of federal
spending on elementary and secondary education*

I Just Wanted to Ask That You Not Cut the Budget On our children's Education.

As For My Next Comment

This Would Be Your Plan To Cut The Budget Of Alaska Marine Highway.

I Believe This would Be A Huge Mistake!

Living In Southeast Alaska, As You Know This Is The Biggest State.

As For Transportation We Use The Alaska Marine Highway To get to One Place to Another,
And we use this Transportation for Many Reasons

Our Economy/Source of Food /Jobs / Families. School Travels, And Yes Visit Other
Communities.

Alaskans Relies on Our Ferry System.

The Alaska Marine Highway is A Way to Keep Alaskans Connected Other Communities And
To The Rest Of The Lower 48 States / Canada

Not to Mention, It gives Many Non Alaskans A Chance to Visit our Great State.

we Should Be Promoting Our State Not Taking It away.

I Wanted to Ask That You Find Another Way To Cut The Budget,

I Thank you For Giving me The opportunity to Voice My Opinion,

Sincerely Marie Annette Loyd

From: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: for public testimony for 3/4/15
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:02:00 PM

Please enter into the record the testimony below to HB 72: Operating Budget on 3/4/2015.

From: Lynne A. Krizek <lynne.krizek@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 7:36 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: for public testimony for 3/4/15

At last night's meeting of the FNSBSD School Board, member Sue Hull stated that perhaps we need to not focus on how cuts will cause us all to scrimp but how we can creatively use the resources we have to support programs that impact instruction for our students.

As a librarian at one of the largest high schools, I am not certain how creative I can be and still be able to fully support our students before school, during classes, during lunch and after school for a full nine hours a day. To date, our school libraries are not in danger of losing staffing. However, with the impending budget shortfall, current secondary school library staff are having their job descriptions updated to include more duties - duties that are outside the realm of library service to students.

If the 3.4 million or even 11 million shortfall in funding for our schools becomes reality, the following are likely to happen:

1. Library assistants are taken out of the library many times throughout the day to supply new students with textbooks and collecting textbooks from withdrawn students. In a large high school in which the transfer or drop out rate is high, textbook maintenance and distribution could be an hourly and daily task.
2. Library assistants assigned to supervise the distance delivery receiving classes. With some school days containing up to six periods a day, a library assistant could conceivably be taken away from library service to students and staff for the entire six periods. The school district goal appears to be to build up the distance delivery program. But with lack of funding to adequately maintain and supervise the program, the task becomes the responsibility of library staff.
3. With one library assistant concentrated on distance delivery and the other assigned to textbook distribution, the librarian is left in the library to supervise student library aides, provide technology troubleshooting to staff and students, assist students and staff in locating needed research and reading resources, answer phone and email queries, do paperwork (materials selection and purchasing, assist with testing assessments, serve on committees, act

as reader's adviser to students, etc.), provide research instruction to classes (in collaboration with a teacher's lesson plan). This could commonly be called Operation Blood From a Turnip.

4. When library assistants do return to their desks, there is materials processing to complete (print and non-print), iPad maintenance (this takes a large amount of time - installing apps, cleaning out thousands of photos the student leave on the devices, routine operating system maintenance, etc.), helping students with computer issues (anywhere from how to set margins, find a printer, create a pdf, etc.), and provide circulation assistance (especially in the event there are no student library aides), train student library aides. The list goes on. Again, call it Operation Blood From a Turnip.
5. Although not in writing, it is feared that deeper cuts may result in the loss of the library media director for the school district. I can't begin to think what library service and vision for quality library service would be like for our district if this position was eliminated. This position sets all things library in motion for us all.

If we want to provide our students a quality education, then support services such as those provided by the library, need to not be crippled. At our high school, we give quality service to students and staff for nine hours each day. Many students do not have computers at home or their extra-curricular lives are so full that they must complete their projects and assignments during the school day. If the work schedules and responsibilities of library staff in our secondary schools need to be restructured due to funding shortages, the end result will be less opportunity for students and staff to use their library and when there, fewer trained library staff to assist them.

This may be scrimping but definitely is not a creative use of library service to our students. The less attention libraries can give to students and greater the negative impact on our students.

I urge our legislature to re-consider funding options and do what is in its power to offer our students and staff the support that is needed and deserved. For me, scrimping on our students is not the philosophy I would want our great state to adopt.

Thank you for your attention. On behalf of my library colleagues, I cordially invite you to tour a local secondary school in your area at any time of the school day (including before school, during lunch and after school). Your school libraries are happening places where learning takes place and lives are enhanced.

Lynne Krizek

--

Lynne Krizek, Librarian
Austin E. Lathrop High School
901 Airport Way

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Tel (907) 456-7794, x17545

Email: lynne.krizek@k12northstar.org

You will never be alone with a poet in your pocket. - John Adams

You will never be alone with an e-book on your Nook. - Lynne Krizek



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HB 72 + 73

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee

Committee on HB 72 + 73

Committee Name

Dated 3-4-15

Bill / Subject

One area of concern I have is the proposal cut of 2 positions in in DNR's - Department of Geological & Geophysical Survey - Division of Operations Manager (famously called the Deputy Director) and the Publications Specialist.

DGGS's role is to identify those areas of high mineral and oil potential as well conduct geological & geophysical studies on hazardous areas that pose a threat to Alaskans from earthquakes & volcanic activity.

* The employees are highly skilled scientists in their fields of endeavor and have assisted the state in final land selections to be made under the statehood act. We can not afford to make personnel cuts in that area.

* The Division's Operations Manager is the central contact for Budget matters and is in a supervisory position over the Section Chiefs in DGGS. It is important that there be a person to supervise the overall functioning of the various sections of DGGS. The Director can not do it all.

* The elimination of the Publications Specialist would result in a disaster for DGGS being able to get reports published and out to the state and the public. This person's job is to coordinate the preparation & publication of reports prepared by the various sections in DGGS.

These reports that the state and industry along with the public can access are needed to evaluate data and insure the safety of individuals and others work work in hazardous areas in the state.

I understand the state's need to cut positions and try to reign in the Budget, but I feel it would be detrimental to the state to ~~lose~~ save a few dollars in this case.

SIGNED:

Roger C. Burggraf

Testifier

Self

Representing

830 Sheep Creek Rd, Fbks, AK 99709-6130 (907) 378-7335

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Comm.

Committee on

HB 72 / HB 73

Bill / Subject

Committee Name

Dated

3/4/2015

I am a parent urging you to
do everything to possible to prioritize
education. Especially, forward funding
and maintaining the base student allocation.
Cutting education is shortsighted. Education
is our future.

SIGNED:

David DeLong

Testifier

Parent

Representing

2401 Cordes Fsbks, AK 99708

Address / Phone Number

455-6368

March 4, 2015

House Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

You are charged with creating a spending plan that stays within our means but does not cripple our economy or short-change our future.

It concerns me greatly that many of the proposed budget cuts would in fact short-change our future, such as reductions to early learning programs like Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers. Education starts at birth, and too many of our children are simply not ready when they arrive at school. Effective early learning programs provide significant returns on investment over the life of the child.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the non-profits in our community, whose dedication to preventing or alleviating significant hardship to vulnerable populations provides benefits that far exceed the costs, and indeed save dollars in the long run. Reducing the funds that support their work, whether it be the human services community matching grant, grants for family preservation, youth court, legal services or adult day services, to name but a few, is not a smart economic move.

I recognize that reductions are necessary and belt-tightening must happen. We also face a revenue problem. We rely too heavily on oil & gas. In part of your effort to increase revenue, do not discount the financial responsibility of Alaskan citizens.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Keepers

PO Box 74898

Fairbanks AK 99707

markandcheryl@ak.net

Alaska Board of Game
Region IV
February 13, 2015

Dear Board Members:

I am asking the Alaska Board of Game to write a letter to Governor Walker and our state representatives requesting two changes in our State's policies regarding big game commercial operators (guides), and license fees for Alaska residents and nonresidents. The problem can be summed up with one word – ALLOCATION.

- 1.) The guide requirement for nonresidents needs to be eliminated. At one time this may have been a tool for the State to create more income but today it actually costs the State money. This is the only State with this requirement and it forces nonresidents to hire a guide for sheep, goats, and brown bears. Wyoming does have a requirement that nonresidents have a resident or an outfitter with them only in a Wilderness Areas, but this is not required in the rest of the State. The Alaska guide requirement borders on being a State subsidy for guides when nonresidents are being forced to hire them and the rest of the States don't require this.
- 2.) License fees for nonresidents need to be raised to align with what out-of-state hunters are being charged in other States. Resident Alaskans also need to contribute financially and pay for the tags they use. Most States charge their residents between 7 and 11% of nonresident tag fees. If a resident can't afford to contribute they should just be given a tag – that's what's happening now with no fees.

I will go into more detail below:

When the guide requirement is removed, the state can put all nonresidents on permits and give them the option to purchase "preference points." A preference point increases your chance of being drawn in subsequent years. This is how most of the western states manage their fees and their tags, which are generally much more expensive than Alaska. A nonresident moose tag in Alaska is \$400, and Montana charges \$812, for an elk tag and \$542, for a deer tag. This doesn't include the cost of their preference points or higher fees for trophy areas. Preference points are generally \$30 - \$50 per specie per year.

With lost oil revenues the State should look at common sense ways to fund different departments and look at what other states require. The Department of Fish and Game would get a tremendous spike in revenue with restructured tag fees and matching Pittman-Robertson funds. Maybe they could be self-sufficient.

With the guide requirement eliminated and restructured tag fees we could fund our wildlife management like other states. I am sure that parents seeing cuts in education would rally behind the idea of departments becoming more self-sufficient

so teacher/student ratios, and school programs don't take more severe cuts. We are all going to have to pitch-in but we need our representative in Juneau to lead the way.

Sincerely,
Tom Lamal

Tom Lamal
1734 Becker Ridge Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
tomlamal@yahoo.com
(907) 479-7544 home
(907) 388-5153 cell

Note:

This letter was previously sent to:
Governor Walker
The Board of Game
The Interior Delegation
The Commissioner of Fish and Game



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Committee on

HB 72 / HB 73

Bill / Subject

budget

Committee Name

Dated

3/4/15

HFIN

state legislature

I am here to testify to the need to continue funding the NAMI program. This program needs to be funded without cuts because of the need for more meetings/activities in support of those who live with mental illness. I suffer from mental illness myself, and it would be nice to have meetings with others

SIGNED:

Testifier

Gary Tangen

Representing

3052 Parks Hwy, Fairbanks, AK

Address / Phone Number

(907) 378-6875 99709

who suffer first hand.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

HFIN

Committee on

HB72/HR73

Bill / Subject

Committee Name

Dated

3/4/15

My name is Joanna Phillips. I would hope that budget cuts affecting WAMI be reconsidered. WAMI is important to assist mentally ill individuals & their families in our community (Fairbanks) & needs more funding, not less.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Joanna D. Phillips

WAMI

Representing

1019 5th Ave. Fbx., AK

452-4205

Address / Phone Number

Thank You for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Once again the State of Alaska Non-resident hire report is completed and we have set new records. Non-resident workers in Alaska, increased to 20.6%. Total wages throughout the state for those non-resident worker wages, grew from 14.8% to 15.2%. Growth in total non-resident wages outpaced that of residents. While resident's wages increased 2.3%, non-residents increased 5.7% to \$2.4 Billion dollars. \$2.4 Billion dollars...out the door....down the road.

The oil industry lost resident workers and added non-residents. While the oil industry grew by 2.5%, the number of resident workers only increased by ½%, yet the non-resident worker increased by 9.1 percent. Non-residents workers in the oil and gas industry now account for 33.6 of the workers.

What is being done to slow the Billions of dollars in non-resident wages leaving the State? What is being done to prepare Alaskan workers for decent paying jobs? We're cutting the budget, eliminating training funds that would help ensure that employers will be importing more non-resident that leave the State with a larger percentage of wages. We're cutting money to OSHA. Heck! If we don't care about the importation of non-resident workers, maybe we don't care about the potential for more injured workers with cuts to safety programs. We're cutting funding to Career and Technical centers ensuring that our young people graduating high school have to struggle harder to compete with non-resident workers.

I understand the economic balance that needs to be met in creating a budget. I don't understand however, how you stimulate the State and local economies when you slash the funding of DOL, Vocational center, and OSHA; the folks that in my mind is the most important for leading Alaska's workers forward.

Kevin Pomeroy

970 Goldmine Trail

Fairbanks, Alaska

Highlights

- **Alaska residents made up 79.4 percent of all workers in Alaska in 2013 and earned 84.8 percent of wages.**
- **The percentage of nonresident workers in Alaska increased by two-tenths of a percentage point in 2013.** The percentage in 2013 was 20.6, up from 20.4 percent in 2012. The total number of nonresident workers in 2013 was 86,291.
- **The percentage of wages earned by nonresidents increased by four-tenths of a percentage point in 2013.** Private-sector and state and local government wages totaled \$15.8 billion in 2013. Nonresidents earned 15.2 percent of total wages, up from 14.8 percent in 2012.
- **Alaska's workforce increased by 0.2 percent to 419,465.** The number of resident workers fell by 109, or 0.03 percent, to 333,174. Nonresident workers increased by 795, or 0.9 percent, to 86,291.
- **Residents' annual wages were higher on average than nonresidents' wages.** Total resident workers in Alaska typically earn more each year on average than nonresidents, and 2013 was no exception. Average resident wages grew 2.4 percent to \$40,105, while average nonresident wages increased 4.7 percent to \$27,760.
- **Growth in total nonresident wages outpaced that of residents.** Resident wages increased 2.3 percent to \$13.4 billion in 2013, while nonresident wages increased 5.7 percent to \$2.4 billion. For context, total wages paid to all oil and gas workers in 2013 equaled \$1.8 billion and total construction wages equaled \$1.2 billion.
- **The seafood processing industry still employs the most nonresidents.** Seafood processing had 17,631 nonresidents and 6,146 residents. Among all nonresident workers in 2013, 20.4 percent worked in the seafood processing industry, up from 19.7 in

Job counts vs. worker counts

The worker counts in this analysis differ from employment estimates — that is, job counts. Job counts are the number of filled positions, and worker counts are the cumulative number of people who worked in an occupation over the course of a year.

Because a single position can be filled by more than one person over a period of time due to turnover, worker counts are almost always higher than employment estimates. Worker counts are less useful for identifying trends in the broad economy than the job counts published by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, but useful for other purposes such as this report.

This analysis also makes no distinction between part-time and full-time workers. For more information on the methods used to create this report, see the appendix on page 24.

2012. Nonresident seafood processors earned 10.7 percent of all nonresident wages.

- **The oil industry lost resident workers and added nonresidents.** The oil industry added 441 workers in 2013, growing by 2.5 percent. The number of residents in the oil industry fell by 60, or half a percent, and the number of nonresident workers increased by 501, or 9.1 percent. Wages for resident and nonresident workers in the oil industry increased by 2.3 and 8.0 percent, respectively.
- **The percentage of nonresidents in the oil and gas industry increased in 2013.** The oil industry had 6,029 nonresident and 11,913 resident workers. Nonresidents accounted for 33.6 percent of oil industry workers, up from 31.6 percent in 2012. The oil industry employed 7.0 percent of all nonresident workers but paid 24.3 percent of total nonresident wages.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

HFIN

Committee on

HB72/HB73

Bill / Subject

Committee Name

Dated

3/4/15

1. Please support AK Public Broadcasting.
I disapprove of the disproportional funding reduction. I believe it is unfair.
2. Please support funding for Medicaid expansion in the budget.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Paul Sherry

Representing

Drake St. Fbx AK

Address / Phone Number

907-230-5572

Name: Madison Stiles
North Pole, Alaska
grade 8

Handwritten note: "Keep in touch" with a small drawing of a person and a date "10/10/10".

First I would like to say Thank you for your time. I would like you to know that the Youth Court program is a asset to our community. First it helps young youth be a part in helping our community in a positive direction. The program helps with guidance, training. I have been a part of the youth court for about 6 months. I have learned state laws, ~~how our government works~~ and have had several different trainings, such as drug and alchohol, mediation and more. This program offers peer mentoring! may it be the use of training I have received to help other youth not involved in the youth court or may it be my peers in the youth court mentoring me! I believe this program provides a alterate court system through which juvenile offenders will be judged by their peers and not put them through the adult court system delaying the court system even longer. I know that this program exist in Germany and has been effectue for years. This program helps both sides of the youth court and it would be a shame to loose ^{our} youth



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Budget
Committee on HB 72 / HB 73 Committee Name
Dated 03-04-2015
Bill / Subject

① NO CUTS TO GOVERNMENT. THE SIZE OF GOV.
IN ALASKA IS PROPER SIZE FOR THE SIZE OF THE
STATE. THE STATE NEEDS A STABLE REVENUE
SOURCE. RESTORE A MODEST INCOME TAX THAT ~~RED~~
STABILIZES REVENUE, WHICH ALSO TAXES THE INCOME
OF ~~THE~~ TRANSIENT WORKERS. THE PFD WOULD OFFSET
THE INCOME TAX TO ALASKANS. IN YEARS OF STRONG
OIL INCOME, THE TAX RATE COULD BE LOWERED OR A
STATE REFUND COULD BE ISSUED.

② ADDRESS A "NATURAL RESOURCES" TAX THAT
IS BALANCED BETWEEN OIL AND MINING AND TIMBER.
MINING NEEDS TO BE TAXED LIKE THE OIL INDUSTRY

SIGNED:

R. J. Thielmann
Testifier

RICHARD THEILMANN

SELF

Representing

658 FAIRBANKS ST - APT B-17
Address / Phone Number

718-753-0078



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Budget

Committee on _____

Committee Name

Dated 03-04-2015

Bill / Subject

③ BUILD A LARGE ~~P~~ ELECTRIC POWER PLANT
AT THE NORTH SLOPE. BUILD A HIGH VOLTAGE
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (LESS EXPENSIVE THAN A PIPELINE)
~~DOWN~~ DOWN TO FAIRBANKS AND OUT TO THE
VILLAGES.

SIGNED:

Richard Theilmann
Testifier

RICHARD THEILMANN

SELF

Representing

658 FAIRBANKS ST - APT 3-17

Address / Phone Number

/ 718-753-0078

March 4, 2015

To: Alaska State House Finance Committee,

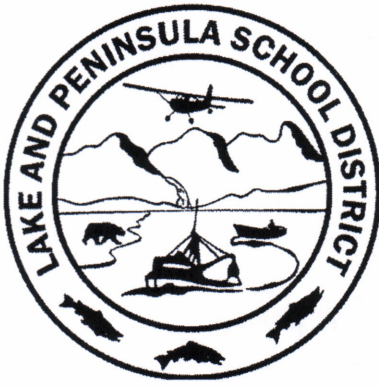
In these trying budget times, please don't forget about the investment that Best Beginnings is making in young people all across Alaska. Kids that arrive at school unprepared will cost the state more in the long run. Please continue to support the work of Best Beginnings and their partners as they support parents, teachers and caregivers by educating, supporting and inspiring.

I am a stay at home mom and I volunteer with both the Fairbanks Families Best Beginnings Partnership as well as Imagination Library. The funding, training, and support provided by Best Beginnings are having an impact in our community. Kids are able to stay active during the winter through activity scholarships, the community is becoming aware of child development through educational campaigns, and thousands of children are receiving books each month and developing a love of reading through Imagination Library. The work is not finished though, we still need a Parents as Teachers program and more opportunities for children and families to thrive. Please find a way to keep the momentum of early childhood supports going, don't let Best Beginnings remain unfunded!

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Vockereth
735 Moosewood Circle
Fairbanks



THE
LAKE AND PENINSULA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
P.O. Box 498
King Salmon, Alaska 99613
Phone (907) 246-4280 / Fax (907)
246-4473



March 4, 2015

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee:

The Lake and Peninsula School District encourages you to support the Broadband Assistance Grant and the proposed One Time Energy Funding for FY16.

We received the Broadband grant this school year, which enabled us to go from 3 Mbps to 10 Mbps and was much appreciated. As we look for innovative ways to better educate our children with less money, Broadband seems to be the answer. We are currently offering in-district online courses, out-of-district online courses, online college courses, online tutoring through university partnerships, online professional development, etc.

These and future online endeavors are enriched and made possible by the increased bandwidth that this grant offers. Without the ability to leverage federal E-Rate funding, the district will be looking at a deficit increase of **\$286,279.00** to maintain 10 Mbps at each of our 13 remote school sites.

In addition, the discontinuation of the one-time energy funds will mean a further loss of revenue for our school district in the amount of **\$217,445.00**.

We have continuously reduced our budget over the last five years and this year the cuts are running deep. With the loss of the two funding streams above we are projecting a **\$569,004.00** deficit. We understand the urgency of the State's budget situation but we are struggling to maintain a trend of increased student performance that has taken over a decade to achieve.

To end, we would like to thank the Legislature for your leadership during these difficult times and for allowing us this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ty Mase
Superintendent

From: thomas7@aptalaska.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:28:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

I hear they are talking about cutting the forestry department considerably here in southeast and doing away with timber sales! That would be extremely drastic and damaging. I have depended solely on timber sales here in Haines for 100% of my income. I run a small sawmill and build log homes in Haines which I started 12 years ago.

Our local foresters have done a very good job managing our timber and keeping the timber available for all of us here in Haines that depend on it.

If you were to take this away it would be devastating.

Please don't do anything rash,

Sage Thomas

Haines, AK

907-767-5449

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Rod Combellick](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed cuts to Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:11:19 PM

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance committee,

I would like to address reductions to the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) proposed by the Natural Resources subcommittee, prior to your operating budget hearings this week and closeout. I am a retired geologist in Fairbanks, having served 32 years in DGGS, the last 12 of which as Deputy Director, Division Operations Manager and, at various times totaling about three years, Acting Director and State Geologist.

Although DGGS is nonregulatory, the geologic information and services it provides to the public and the natural resources industries have proven effective in guiding resource exploration and mitigating risks from geologic hazards. Future diversification of Alaska's economy depends greatly on DGGS's work to guide the mineral and petroleum exploration needed to replace the dwindling production of resources on which our state's economy depends.

In addition to the Governor's proposed elimination of the airborne geophysics, geothermal and coal resources programs, totaling \$1 million and 4 positions, the subcommittee has proposed eliminating the Division Operations Manager and a Publications Specialist I position for an additional \$293K savings. In total, these cuts represent a reduction in the division's operating budget of approximately 22 percent from FY2015, which seems disproportionate to the administration-wide average.

The airborne geophysics program has been a highly successful, flagship enterprise of the division since the early 1990s, with numerous examples of mineral-resource discoveries resulting from exploration guided by these surveys. It has consistently been one of the programs recommended by the Alaska Minerals Commission to attract mineral-exploration investment, which has greatly exceeded the cost of the program over the years. Although I believe it would be reasonable to cut back on this program for a few years to help alleviate the revenue shortfall, it would be shortsighted to entirely eliminate the 'Geophysical' from the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys. DGGS still has a considerable volume of backlog geophysical data that it could continue to process and publish while not performing airborne field surveys, at significant cost savings.

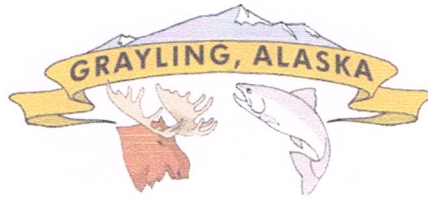
Elimination of the Publications Specialist and Division Operations Manager positions is ill advised, in my view. The main product of DGGS's work is geologic information, which is released to the public through many peer-reviewed publications. Although these publications are delivered primarily via the internet, the process of developing them is largely the same as for printed reports, but without the cost of printing. The work of the Publications Specialist I in DGGS is not that of simply producing promotional materials for the division; this position is required for organizing the publication process, acquiring and documenting the peer reviews, securing the required revisions, and laying out the final reports, which can be quite complicated. Eliminating these functions will seriously impact the publication rate and potentially degrade the quality of DGGS's published products.

The Division Operations Manager, as its name implies, has major administrative responsibility

for managing the day-to-day operations of DGGs under guidance from the director. This position manages development and implementation of the division's budget, supervises all the administrative staff and program chiefs, and tracks and reports the division's performance measures. The position oversees and monitors the division's technical programs on behalf of the director to ensure they are in line with the division's mission and technically sound. These are all necessary tasks that cannot reasonably be absorbed into the Director's position nor distributed among program chiefs because of their already full workloads and the division-wide nature of the Operations Manager's duties.

I encourage you to seriously consider restoring these two positions to the Geological & Geophysical Surveys operating budget.

Thank you for your time,
Rod Combellick
[907-378-4419](tel:907-378-4419)



**Grayling IRA Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
Grayling, Alaska 99590
Phone # (907) 453-5116**

February 26, 2015

To Senator Lyman Hoffman,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Grayling IRA Tribal Council.

We feel that the budget for the DNR camp in McGrath should not be cut.

Those crews and villages depend on the wages they make during fire season to survive. For many it is the only employment they have for the entire year. Much of that money is spent in the villages adding to the economy. Without this income, many villages will fall into even harder times than they are already in.

Cuts will eliminate 16 positions out of 22 in McGrath DNR camp. The jobs to be cut include cooks, maintenance staff and about a half-dozen frontline firefighters. By leaving only six positions to manage the seasonal facility. In a year when the wildfire danger is high because there's little snow to moisten the ground.

"Families have grown to depend on those positions."

A budget cut will leave their homes, camps, hunting grounds, Native allotments, berry picking grounds, woodcutting grounds, gold mines, and their lives at risk; it will be increasingly threatened because smokejumpers will have to fly in from other areas to fight fires, delaying responses.

Please take this letter in to consideration. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at the above number. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gabriel H. Nicholi".

Gabriel H. Nicholi
Grayling IRA Tribal Council
First Chief

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Mar 4, 15

I was just notified of the possible shut down of the State Forest to timber sales here in Southeast and the elimination of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry positions here in Haines. I would like to go on record and say I think this would be a bad decision.

Having access to timber off State land has been a big part of my way of making a living for my family. During my 40 plus years as a resident of Alaska (20 of these years here in Haines) I have built several natural log homes, developed a log plainer to manufacture 3-sided logs, helped build several of these kind of homes and worked with small saw mill operations. The majority of this timber came off State land.

Responsible management of these lands and the timber can only be possible if you keep the system in place as it is. I have worked with our Haines Forestry people many times on State land and they do a very good job.

What is happening to our State? Have we forgotten how important natural resources like timber are to our history and to those of us who depend on them are? Just last season a TV outfit filmed us building a cabin here in the Haines area using timber logged off State land. The program was and is being shown in the lower 48 States.

Please don't stop a way of life for me and several other small operators in Southeast. Thank you for your time.



ROBERT L. JENSEN
Top Hat Logging
Box 477 (441 Small Tracts Road)
Haines, Alaska 99827

907-766-2514

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed cuts to Public Radio. Certainly, I understand the state's current financial situation with the low oil prices and recognize that cuts have to be made. However, it is important that we make them in the right places and in a way that is as fair and as equitable as possible.

With that said, I think that a 59% cut to public radio funding is extreme and would be crippling to their operation, particularly our local/regional public radio station KIYU which serves a broad swath of Interior Alaska with critical services and information. I can't speak to the importance of public radio in the more urban areas of Alaska, but I can tell you that public radio in rural Alaska still plays a vital role in our communities. We rely heavily on our local radio station to provide important and up to date information regarding weather and local travel conditions throughout the year. If ever there is an important emergency message that needs to get out, the local radio station is the first place to call to get the word out. Indeed, if there is any message that needs to get out to the community/region, whether it be for school, tribal, municipal or personal needs, the radio station is THE way to disseminate that information in our area. Not only would such a large budget cut have a negative impact on the way critical information is distributed in our region, it would have negative cultural ramifications as well. As we in "the bush" are not connected by the road system, we are connected by the vital link that is provided by public radio. We use public radio to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles and substance abuse programs, to promote native language programs, as well as important cultural events such as potlatches and carnivals. We use public radio to support each other up and down the river, and we all rely on it heavily each and every day.

Again, I certainly understand that these are unique times for our state and that some cuts are necessary, but I feel that the proposed 59% cut would be catastrophic to public radio in our region. Please take these points into consideration as you continue to discuss any potential budget cuts.

Respectfully,

Jon Korta
Galena, AK.

From the desk of:
Kim and LaRee Ueeck
PO Box 116
Galena, Alaska 99741

March 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in regards to the recent proposal to decrease public radio funding by 59%. We feel this will do a grave disservice to our Alaskan bush communities. In larger communities, there are many forms of communication available, i.e., multiple radio stations, daily newspapers, etc. In the bush, many communities have just one source for information both local and national via their radio station. Our local radio station, K1YU, brings us important, and sometimes lifesaving, news. For example, this year has been extremely warm, and K1YU, in conjunction with our search and rescue department, has been able to keep us apprised of open leads on the river causing dangerous trail conditions, which has undoubtedly saved many lives. The station also brings us local weather which is used for those traveling along the trails between communities. People with needs are able to put ads on the local wireless to obtain things, and in other cases, sell things, that might be unattainable otherwise, to those in need. The entertainment value is also beneficial to all ages and demographics. There are classes in the local school who write, practice, and produce public service announcements as well. This is an invaluable lesson for kids to learn, to produce materials that are helpful to those around them. With that being said, we doubt you'll find larger communities supporting their radio stations with as much dedication as you'll find out in the bush when fundraisers for the stations are held. But, there is only so much money that a small community can raise, thus the need for public funding for our truly rural/bush communities.

Our radio station is a part of the glue that holds our community together. Please reconsider your plan to cut funding for our local radio stations.

Sincerely,

Kim and LaRee Ueeck

Teacher
John

Kate -
Why we need the ferry... Kindergarten
Class -

To be able to take our vehicles to
town to shop. High cost of living here.

To visit family & friends. Good to have the

ferry when planes don't fly. High cost of flying.
Travel for medical with all the cut backs.

TAKU

Why we need a Ferry.

To
Shop, to see
family!

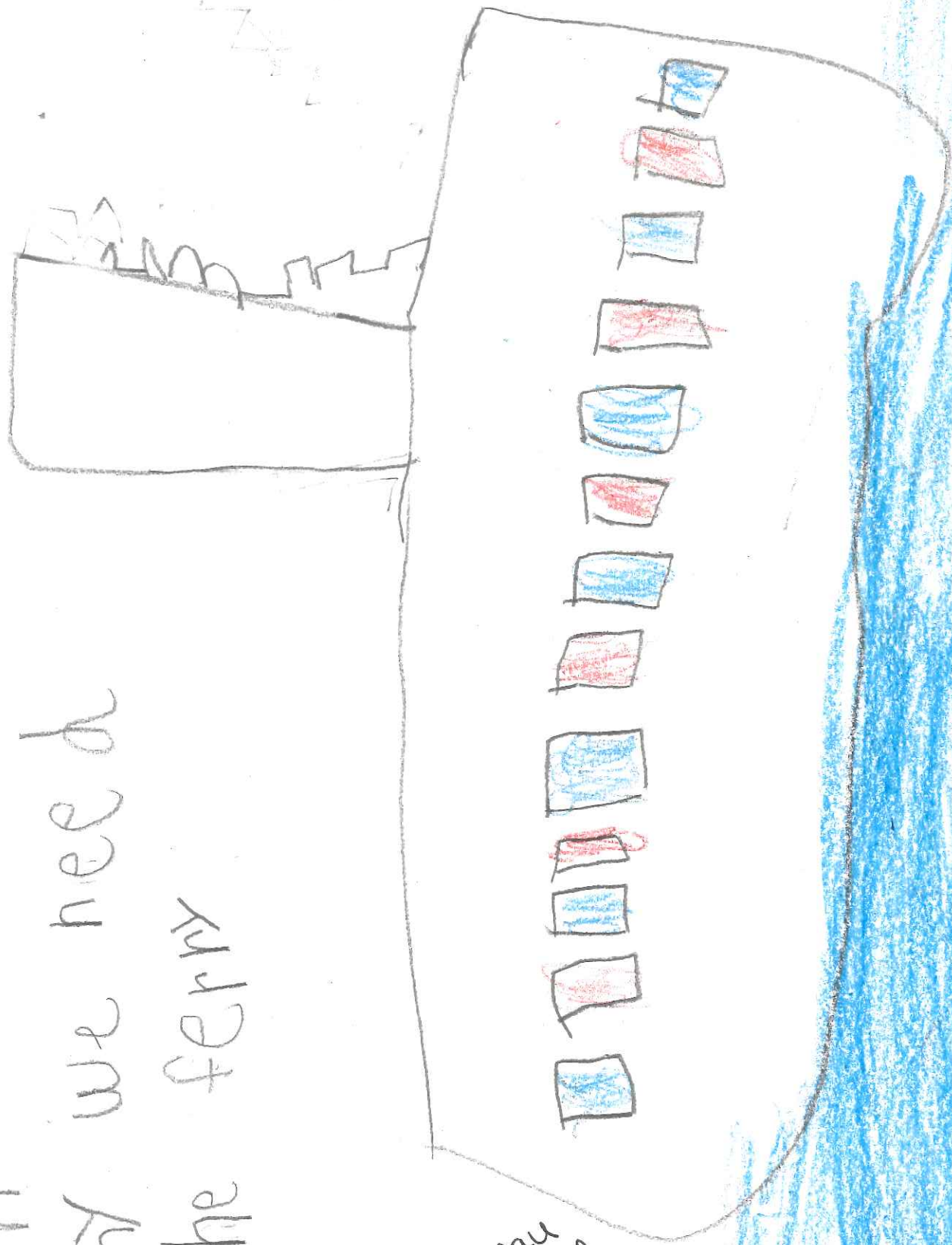


TAKU

Sylvia

Ede n - Kake Kindergartener - 2015 -

why we need
the ferry

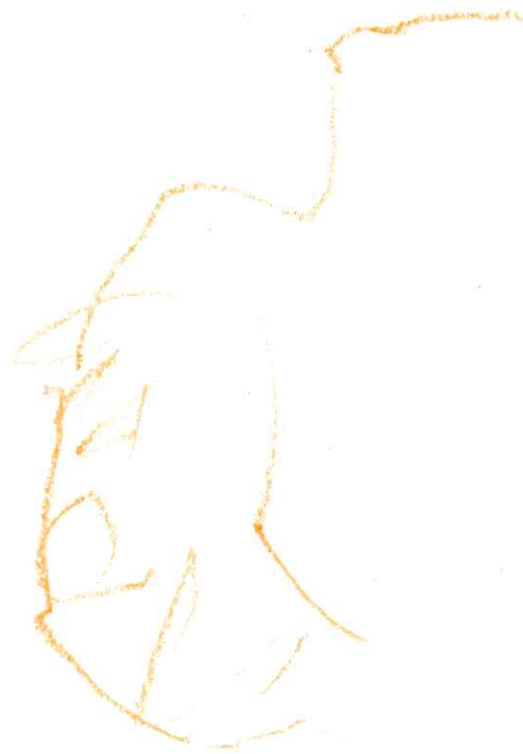


If going to Juneau
or Metlakatla and
planes are full.

Kake Kindergarten - 2015 -

Debra

Mom takes her to
Juneau.

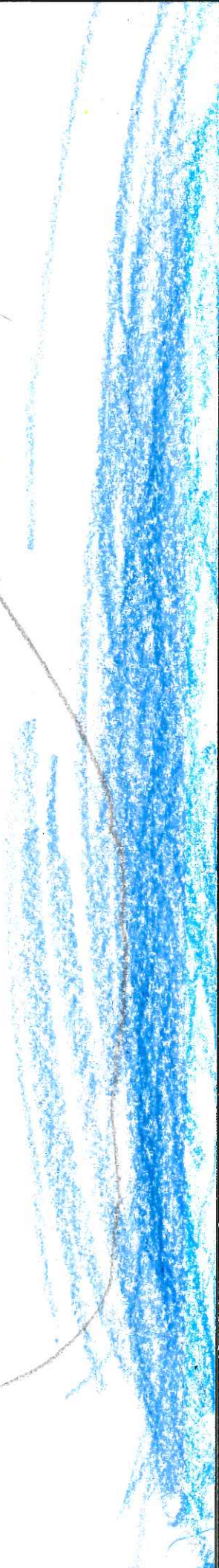


Kake Kindergarten - 2015-2016
Dad, Wh Julie

need



To go to Juneau



Why we
need
ferry.
If planes don't
fly we can take
the ferry.



Piper Kate Kindergartner-2015-

Why we need
the ferry

If we are
moving we need
the ferry.



Why we need the ferry.
Ayia
We need the ferry to visit someone.



waves

wxy We heard
the ferry

If you are going to visit
someone and planes don't
come we can take
the ferry.

Word +

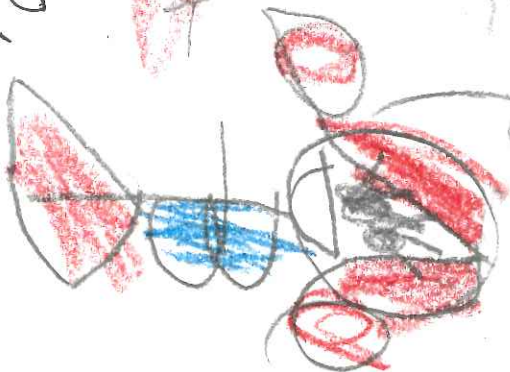
Kate Kindergarten - 2015-



Kake Kindur Gordenner - 2015

When we need
+ reporty
Meditation

So we can take
the stores and go to



Kake Kindergarten - 2015 -

Why we need
the ferry.

It
full
the
Planes are
we can
ferry.
take



Save Money



Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

1700 E Bogard Road Suite 203A, Wasilla, Alaska 99654

aacd@mtaonline.net

907-373-7923

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF – GOVERNMENT

Providing Value for Alaska Resource Management

Background

The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) is an organization formed in 1965 to help all Alaska's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) function efficiently. AACD is a grassroots organization that leverages federal, state, local and private dollars towards helping SWCD's conserve and promote natural resources.

There are 12 state-formed SWCD's in Alaska: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Kenai, Kenny Lake, Kodiak, Mid-Yukon Kuskokwim, Palmer, Salcha-Delta, Upper Susitna, Southeast and Wasilla. Districts are legal subdivisions of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, authorized under AS 41.10, Soil and Water Conservation Law.

Local districts help landowners develop and improve their land responsibly, and provide technical assistance on issues including air and water quality, soil degradation, erosion and forestry management. Thousands of personal contacts with landowners help them work with numerous state agencies, organizations, local government and private citizens.

SWCDs provide technical assistance for land and nutrient management to farmers, stream restoration and removal of fish migration barriers, forestry management, conservation planning, development of community gardens, farmers markets and promotion of Alaska Grown products. Some other examples of services and projects are:

- Control of invasive plant species and development of weed-free gravel.
- Youth Conservation Corps programs and resource education for local schools where students focus on positive work ethics, leadership, team skills and community responsibility.
- Construction, restoration and maintenance of trails.
- Land capability surveys and investigations of soil conservation, erosion control and potential agricultural areas.

Districts provide an annual report to DNR's Natural Resources Conservation & Development Board. This is included in a report to the Governor, the Commissioner of DNR and the Alaska State Legislature. AACD maintains a web page that includes information about each district:

<http://www.alaskaconservationdistricts.org/>

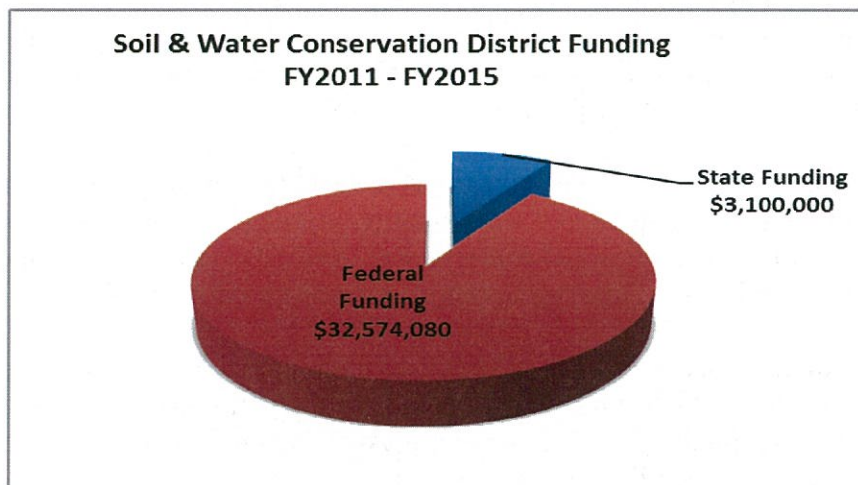
Funding History

Since FY2008, the Alaska Legislature has provided funding to AACD through appropriations in the Capital Budget. These appropriations have been used to match federal grants that may not have been available otherwise.

Over the past five years, a total of \$3.1 million in state appropriations has matched over \$32.5 million in federal grants.

	<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>
FY2011	300,000	10,439,783
FY2012	500,000	7,932,815
FY2013	1,000,000	6,507,151
FY2014	1,000,000	7,694,331
FY2015	300,000	N/A
TOTAL	3,100,000	32,574,080

This level of funding amounted to a 10:1 ratio of capturing federal dollars and bringing them to the State of Alaska.



Invasive Species Mitigation

SWCDs are Alaska's front line of defense for invasive plants and weed species. This includes Elodea, which is a plant that can replace native plant species, alter aquatic habitat, impede recreation and even reduce property values.

Conclusion

The funding from the state impacts farmers and ranchers in Alaska where the local SWCDs eliminate invasive weed species and support responsible development of our natural resources such as agricultural land, watersheds, forests and fisheries. Where federal contracts are awarded, NRCS relies on the SWCD staff to provide needed assistance. The districts truly need state funds to keep their doors open.



Kodiak Soil & Water Conservation District

518 West Marine Way, Suite 206, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone: (907) 486-5574

The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD) was able to use \$51,712 of State funds to support projects which brought in an additional \$110,341 to the Kodiak community during Fiscal Year 14. These projects advanced our mission ***“to provide education and leadership by coordinating and implementing programs for the conservation, use, and sustainable development of soil, water and related resources.”***

Our programs which the state funding allowed us to participate in include: Fish Passages, Forage Growth Assessment, Mercury Deposition Monitoring Network and Agricultural Education. One specific example of how state funds are essential to the KSWCD is how they support our Invasive Species Program. This program alone brought in \$62,252 of federal funds matched to more than \$61,242 equivalent in-kind funds and services.

Without the State funds to keep our staff employed and support our basic office functions, we would not have been able to control infestations of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). This species is on the State of Alaska Prohibited Noxious Weeds list (11 AAC 34.020). With fewer than twenty-five infestations, Kodiak has the opportunity to eradicate this highly invasive species and protect our natural resources from the impact of this plant.

A project we are especially proud of is the development of the Kodiak Community Gardens. Our goal is to provide participants who have no suitable land of their own with an opportunity to grow fresh produce within the city of Kodiak.

Approximately \$873 of state funds has been matched by an estimated \$7,250 through grants from Walmart and Healthy Tomorrows and donations of labor, equipment and supplies from private individuals and businesses of the Kodiak community. The garden is being built on land donated by the City of Kodiak and the Kodiak Island Borough. KSWCD board members, staff and the community hope to be able to fully develop and expand this project; we are excited to move forward despite tight budgets.



Left: *Cirsium arvense*, Alaska State listed prohibited noxious weed, 9/19/2014. Right: Kodiak Community Garden volunteers fill the beds with soil, 9/27/2014.

Lean Government for Alaska
Patrick M. Anderson
Patrickmanderson907@gmail.com

March 4, 2015

My testimony today does not advocate for saving a specific program or programs. Instead, I encourage the legislature to consider enacting a resolution to embrace a management system generically referred to as “Lean Government.” (I refer to Lean Thinking as including all of its derivatives—Lean Manufacturing, Lean Accounting, Lean Healthcare and Lean Government) When refer to Lean Government, many believe that the purpose of the management system is to cut budgets and services. Nothing could be further from the truth. Lean is a management system dedicated to 2 philosophical pillars: Respect for People and Continuous Improvement. Developed by Toyota over the course of 70+ years, this management system has been embraced by a variety of industries, starting with manufacturing, then moving to health care, to administrative processes and ultimately to government.

Lean Government produces great results through a methodology of “eliminating waste.” The concept is well known among Lean Practitioners, but is not common knowledge outside of Lean Thinking. We know that Lean Thinking is not “common sense” thinking. But it works in a very structured way that applies to government very effectively.

Many other states have embraced the Lean Government management philosophy. Governor Hickenlooper of Colorado, this years Chairman of the National Governor’s Association (NGA), has made Lean Government his NGA primary initiative. Titled “[Delivering Results](#),” Governor Hickenlooper is building upon the successes experienced by [Colorado](#) through its Lean Government implementation. Lean Government is not only embraced at the state level on Colorado. Mayor Michael Hancock of Denver announced on his first day in office a Lean Government initiative he called [Peak Results](#). In the past 4 years, the initiative has produced many positive results.

Our neighbor and partner to the south, Washington State, embraced Lean Government during Governor Christina Gregoire’s tenure. In 2011, Governor Gregoire issued an [Executive Proclamation](#) to begin an implementation of Lean Government. Current governor Jay Inslee campaigned on a platform of continuing Lean Government and has done so aggressively after his election in 2012. Referred to as [Results Washington](#), the Lean Government initiative is slowly transforming Washington State government, although as in any Lean Transformation, there are detractors.

King County, WA has been engaged in Lean Government for quite some time, and I am very impressed by [Dow Constantine](#), their County Executive, as he implemented Lean Government in 2009.

[Iowa](#) has been aggressively implementing Lean Government for over a decade, and their legislature enacted a law to support that effort. [Lean Ohio](#) started in 2013. [Wisconsin](#)

started in 2012. [Oregon](#) started in 2013. The [Connecticut Legislature](#) proposed a Lean Government statute in 2010, although [Lean Government](#) services had been initiated in 2004. [New Hampshire](#) and [Minnesota](#). Many state Environmental Protection programs have adopted Lean Government under the guidance and leadership of the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). The trend is solid and growing Lean Government is proving itself in state after state.

The United States [Department of Defense](#) has been operating a Lean Government program collectively since 2008.

In Alaska, the [Division of Public Assistance](#) engaged in a Lean Improvement project in their application for assistance programs, with considerable success. The last I heard, this Lean methodology was spreading to other state of Alaska programs. I have been unable to find any indication of the success for those programs. I am aware that the legislature has budgeted funds for DPA's Lean projects and for follow up projects.

I propose the drafting of a law that would create at least a pilot program with one administrative department to implement Lean Government. This law should encourage the Governor to study implementation of Lean Government and the benefits it would bring to Alaska. With the record of success across the country, the report should be able to verify the benefits of adopting a statewide Lean Government approach. I only propose this tepid approach because of the huge resistance I have felt as I attempted to explain the concepts of Lean Government to elected and appointed officials. I have been advocating for the adoption of Lean Government for over the past 6 years. My preference would be for an engaged Governor and Legislature to adopt an aggressive approach to the implementation, but as a realist, I have to accept the existence of resistance to change we all seem to have.

BENEFITS:

State provided services that go through Lean Government process improvement events will generally emerge with greatly improved quality and output. The greatest improvement I have come across is from the [Red River Army Depot](#) in Texas. Their output improved from .5 rehabilitated vehicles per day (10 hour shift) to 32 rehabilitated vehicles per day (a 6,400% improvement). The Division of Public Assistance improvement from the story I wrote above was about a 500% output improvement. I am confident enough in the methodology to state unequivocally that failure to achieve results in a Lean Government Improvement event can only be attributed to inexperience or incompetence.

State improvement should encourage state partners to examine and implement lean improvement systems. In Washington State, the [University of Washington](#) has embraced Lean Education with diligence, and the reported improvements are widespread. The University of Alaska does not currently teach or use Lean Management. They could benefit immensely from application of Lean Principles to all of their processes. No municipalities or School Districts currently use lean principles. By doing so, they could improve their delivery of services and reduce their funding dependence on the state.

With the exception of Alaska Communication Systems, the Alaska business sector does not, to my knowledge, use Lean Management principles. A number of Washington based businesses operating in Alaska have implemented Lean Thinking. Four of those businesses that I am aware of are active in Alaska: [Starbucks](#), [Alaska Airlines](#), Providence Health Services and [Premera Blue Cross](#). There may be others.

State success with Lean Government could help the business sector become more competitive through adoption of Lean Thinking. In Washington State, many private sector businesses worked with the State to develop their Lean Government program.

Healthcare could also benefit from Lean Healthcare in Alaska and reduce financial pressure on a couple of budget categories. Health Insurance is a major expense for businesses. Health care providers who have adopted Lean Healthcare as their management system are safer and more affordable. Medical providers in Washington State have flocked to Lean Healthcare, and include, in addition to Providence, [Virginia Mason Medical Center](#), Seattle Children's Hospital, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Group Health Cooperative. Government improved services can also benefit Alaska business and healthcare by delivering higher quality services faster and at a reduced cost. Less time a business has to spend complying with rules and regulations (not avoiding but complying) means they have more resources to use improving their products and services. And as businesses improve, they require less state oversight or audit coverage.

I encourage the legislature to consider requiring the University of Alaska to adopt Lean Thinking as well. The University of Washington has been very aggressive in its lean implementation and has given them savings in excess of [\\$70 million in value annually](#). I would also suggest that they start offering courses and degrees in Lean Thinking.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony. Please do the right thing for our state and not just look at cutting budgets and services. We can preserve many of those services by becoming more efficient using Lean Government management principles.

Dark Horse Custom Woodworking Inc.

P.O Box 1144, Haines AK 99827

(907) 314-0049

dhcw@aptalaska.net

To whom it may concern;

I am a Contractor in the Chilkat valley and have been a resident of Alaska since 2000, my company supports 7 families and numerous other small business in my area. I learned this morning that the Legislature will be voting on the closure of the state forest and elimination of two Forestry positions held by Roy Josephson and Greg Palmieri. Both of the for mentioned men have worked tirelessly to promote the sustainable natural resources that myself and others Rely on to support our family's in Haines.

As you read this Dark Horse and its crew are being featured on Building Alaska and have been given a second contract for this year to air in the fall of 2015. It shows our use and NEED of the timber in our area and that we as ALASKINS are Natural resource based in our lifestyle By Choice so we Do Not have to be at the Mercy of others as our friends in the lower 48. My Saw Mill, Log Home Construction and Timber Frame business relies 100% on the timber that is bought and harvested locally. A closer of the state forest would leave me little choice but to close my business and lay off 9 Employees, one a local Pastor with a large family. I would have to leave Haines and most likely the state witch would further impact our small town due to my wife being a Nurse RN, PA at the clinic here, Haines would also loose an Emergency Responder and a Marine Mechanic due to my sons leaving as well. I moved to ALASKA to live my dream and be part of the last FREE LAND in our country, to raise my Sons to be men and teach them how to live off the land as it is and respect it!!

I CAN NOT BELIEVE that I have made the wrong choice!! I TRUST that you will consider the impact a closer will have on my home! OUR state has been built by REAL MEN with sweat and blood and I expect you will honor that. We hunt, fish, trap and log in the last frontier, THE LAST GOOD PLACE, MY HOME, YOUR HOME!!

Please consider how deeply you will affect my community and DO NOT ALLOW those who DO NOT UNDER STAND our way of life to end it!!! Management are facts we all can live with but closure cannot be the answer!!!

Thank You,

Ronald Malone

Owner;

Dark Horse Custom Woodworking Inc.

Dark Horse Lumber

From: [Ann James](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 72 and 73
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:09:04 AM

Good morning,

I am writing in reference to HB 72 and 73. I am a patron of the Craig Public Library on Prince of Wales Island.

I am concerned about the proposed reduction in funding and what it would mean for our communities as well as our visitors and seasonal workers. I personally have used the OWL system to "attend" classes in publication designs. Most recently I attended the Elizebeth Peratrovich evening film and discussion event. The array of classes and programs offered is simply amazing and enriches our lives here on POW Island. Perhaps, though, enriches is the wrong term; our library programs keep us current, in touch with the world, and prompt us to be informed citizens.

As a retired teacher, I can attest to the importance of the homework help component as well as the reading programs available. These are our future leaders and voting citizens - a valuable investment.

I know also that visitors and our seasonal workers take full advantage of the library and its broadband capabilities. It is not unusual to have to wait for access to a computer, etc.

Finally, I do not have an answer to our state's financial situation - or at least an answer that would be acceptable to most citizens. I do know that what our libraries here are able to offer offsets our lack of other resources.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

GLENNALLEN LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Glennallen_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-822-5588/ phone, 907-822-5591/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Gloria Stickwan

REPRESENTING: Self

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB 72 Operating Budget

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: House Finance Committee, March 5, 2015

Glennallen Legislative Office branch is the only way that local people in the Copper Basin can be informed on legislative bills that affect our region.

It is imperative that rural legislative offices be kept open. I have provided public comments on legislative bills in the past. I was able to do that through the Glennallen legislative office. Staff helps me when I go there to listen to bills and give public testimony.

Please do not close legislative offices

Gloria Stickwan
P O Box 264
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

From: [andra Doll](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)
Subject: Cordova Ferry
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:09:10 AM

Hello, my name is Andra Doll. I live in Cordova year round. I am very concerned about cuts to our ferry and it will affect me greatly. I own, one of, very few restaurants in Cordova. My husband is a fishermen. He seines, as well as, gillnets. We have 2 school age kids. What happens with the ferry affects all of us.

As a very busy restaurant we go through a lot of freight on a weekly bases. Although, I'm only open 6 months out of the year, we use the ferry to get supplies over about 9 months. Without the ferry to ship supplies, we would have to either use the barge or the plane. The ferry is at least 50% cheaper. All of my supplies I buy for the restaurant, have gone up in the last year (some increases as high as 33%). I've had to raise my prices which will probably bring down the amount of business I get, which will then affect the income of my household. Also, in the summer time months, tourist use the ferry. Cordova is not a big tourist destination, but we do get some. They are responsible for about 40% of my business. Without the ferry, they won't be coming and it'll hurt my business.

My husband fishes primarily for Copper River Seafoods. This company and all canneries in Cordova, use the ferry to get supplies in and out, frequently. Cordova's primary economy is fishing.

We have 2 school age kids who are affected by the ferry. One because of how it effects our business. The other in their learning. Cordova is completely isolated. If the kids want to be in any extra circular activity that involves competing with kids from other schools, they need the ferry. We travel several times a school year so my kids can compete. Every time we go it cost us \$500-\$600 on the ferry tickets alone. The only way to make this affordable is by filling our truck up with supplies to bring back to Cordova. Without the ferry, we would either not go or take the more expensive plane (and not be able to bring much back).

The ferry effects everything in this thriving, isolated community. Our biggest struggle here is the price of living. The frequent ferry gives us a little relief. Please consider our economy and children when making your decision about our ferry (and our livelihood).

Thanks,
Andra Doll

From: [Anna Jurgeleit](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Ferry budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:44:59 PM

I encourage you not to make such drastic cuts to the AMHS. The ferries bring many tourists to the communities they serve. If we lose the ferries we lose the tourists and the income they bring to our communities.

Have you thought of making any of our other road highways toll roads? The ferries are "our roads" in Southeast Alaska, and we need them. Please don't cut them!

Sincerely,
Anna Jurgeleit
Haines

Sent from my iPad

From: [alaskablueheron](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Imperative to have a Gustavus ferry
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:04:52 PM

Dear Legislators:

I am a small business owner of Blue Heron B&B at Glacier Bay and it is absolutely essential that we have ferry service to the community of Gustavus in order to survive. With harsh economic times, no road system to our town, limited work options and being located by a World Heritage site, it is imperative that tourists and supplies can reach us locally.

Over half of my guests travel by ferry due to expenses and this would curtail our number of visitors and therefore negatively impact others in the community grossly as well.

All businesses would feel the impact from inns and lodges to cafes and restaurants, tour guides, gas stations, artists, mechanics, etc. and we need a critical mass in numbers to make running a business even viable. IF WE LOSE OUR FERRY, WE RISK LOSING IT ALL.

We have lost a couple of major commercial fisheries over the years and we cannot afford to lose tourism, a mainstay activity as well. The town also has enough issues with contract negotiations in the national park, that we are under duress for our businesses already.

Local residents have worked hard to follow their dreams and be as self reliant as possible. The ferry has allowed a boost in the economy by getting supplies to town more efficiently and at lesser costs than ever before.

With forty years in the community, I have seen us all benefit by having a ferry to get into Juneau for medical treatments and essential services. Air transportation is often unreliable in inclement weather conditions and the ferry is a godsend and necessity.

Now, there is a more level playing field for travel since rates are far lower by ferry than by air transportation, and bulky items can come on the ferry as freight.

Southeast is unique in that we do not have a road system to count on and must use and preserve our waterways at all costs. We want to survive and thrive as a community and the ferry, which took a long time to actualize, has helped in making this possible.

We are not asking you to sustain popular hiking trails or recreational extras but to provide us with a bottomline means of staying safe and connected with the outside world and economies. Thank you for your time and consideration on keeping funds solid for our communities and Southeast transportation system--- the all important State ferries that benefit locals and tourists alike.

Sincerely,

Deb Woodruff

Owner, Blue Heron B&B at Glacier Bay

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: m95brian@aol.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AMHS Budget Cuts
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:50:42 AM

To Whom it may concern:

I feel that the money saving's with the cuts is pretty close to the amount the ferries will generate in revenue. While at the same time we will be losing service to the Ports/Villages that is vital to their economy. I know there are tough choices to be made, but this does not seem fair to the poorest and disenfranchised of our population who already struggle for their existence striving to keep their culture in tact.

Thank you for your considerations!
Brian E McCarthy
C/M M/V Fairweather

From: [Carolyn Elder](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Marine Highway funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:17:57 AM

Please Please Please don't cut our ferry service. The marine highway is the lifeline for small communities such as mine, bringing groceries and other necessities as well as allowing us an affordable way to get to town for medical, dental and other services. We need our ferry!
Thank you. Carolyn Elder, long-time resident of Gustavus, Alaska



City of Gustavus
P.O. Box 1
Gustavus, AK 99826
Phone: (907) 697-2451

March 4, 2015

From: Mayor—City of Gustavus

To: Governor Walker
Alaska House Finance Committee, Alaska Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Alaska Marine Highway Budget for FY 2016

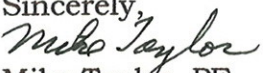
I write you today on behalf of our community, but also in support of so many others who share our dependence on the Alaska Marine Highway System. We urge you to fund the Ferry System at a level that will sustain the vital service it provides to our communities. Juneau Rep. Cathy Munoz correctly termed the Alaska Marine Highway System *the lifeblood of Southeast Alaska*.

Ferries here move more than just cars. *They move our economy.* They carry Gustavus residents to Juneau for shopping and home with purchases efficiently and economically. A resident here can buy a car or a washing machine or a load of building materials in Juneau because it can be shipped home by the ferry. Our local stores stock fresh produce and other goods that arrive reliably by ferry. Residents plan frequent multiday trips by ferry to Juneau and beyond for medical appointments, cultural and sporting events, to visit friends and family, for work opportunities regionally or Statewide, and even to visit our Legislature. We all count on the ferry to get us where we are going, and back home, safely, economically, and on time when weather keeps planes on the ground.

Like many Alaskan communities, ours is a visitor economy. The ferry enables a second travel channel for visitors throughout Southeast Alaska. They arrive in Gustavus with motor vehicles, bicycles, boats on trailers, kayaks, fishing and hunting equipment. They hire our guides, stay at our lodges, and visit our galleries and shops. Each trip generates business at both ends—business that supports employment and contributes vital local sales and bed tax income. *A trip not taken generates no business.*

The Gustavus City Council joins me in urging you to fund the Marine Highway System to maintain the service and schedule so vital to our regional economy. It is particularly important to sustain the committed ferry schedule for this summer, drawing from the budget reserve if necessary, while the State adjusts its operating and capital budgets to reflect reduced future oil production taxes. We do understand and appreciate the difficult decisions you all face with this year's budget process.

Thank you for your service to our State, and for understanding the vital role the Alaska Marine Highway System plays for communities such as ours.

Sincerely,

Mike Taylor, PE
Mayor, City of Gustavus

From: [Cory Bricker](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FERRY SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:58:48 PM

Dear Members of the Alaska State House Finance Committee,

Please take into consideration the effects of what decreasing the main transportation corridor for SE Alaska would do. It will be devastating to small communities throughout. AMHS is vital to the families who reside here and with a reduction of service makes it a difficult place to live. A decision to reduce sailings will have a serious negative effect on local communities for tourism, freight delivery and local resident travel requirements. Thanks in advance for considering other alternatives for budget cuts.

Cory Bricker

Alaska Marine Trucking

Skagway, AK 99840

March 4, 2015

Sent via e-mail to lhscfin@akleg.gov

Dear Esteemed Members of the Alaska State House Finance Committee~

My name is Jaime Bricker. I am a born and raised Alaskan Aleut and I've lived in Skagway my whole life. I work full-time, year-round and I have two young children in our public school.

I'm desperately urging this esteemed Committee to reconsider the proposed budget cuts that would eliminate many scheduled AMHS sailings to Skagway and Haines this summer. Doing so would eliminate a large percentage of travel demands necessary to service this region. The AMHS is the life blood of these communities for regular travel for business, pleasure, medical reasons and tourism. It's also an important vessel for freight delivery. In addition, the ferry services many of our work forces commuting to and from summer jobs. A decision to reduce sailings will seriously cripple our local economy and have a severe negative effect on tourism, freight delivery, resident travel options and work force availability, not just for our local region, but also for Alaskan towns and villages further north.

For our future as healthy, stable Alaskan communities, please do not cancel these sailings! Thank you for taking testimony and for considering alternatives to this decision.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaime Bricker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Jaime Bricker
PO Box 619
Skagway, AK 99840
(907) 612-0120
jaime.bricker@yahoo.com

From: [Jan Hill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:31:32 PM

Comments sent via e-mail due to call-in number not being recognized

Good Afternoon, my name is Jan Hill and I am the Mayor of Haines Borough

The Haines Borough recognizes that the current fiscal situation is dire and that further cuts are necessary but urges that the Legislature restore partial funding to the Alaska Marine Highway System - at least enough for the 100 days of summer when the most revenue is collected and the service is most depended upon for Alaska business.

-The proposed cuts for this year are significant and we do not believe that AMHS can absorb this level of cuts without long term impact to the entire system. Adjustments need to be made in a thoughtful manner that seeks to mitigate the effects.

-It is important that the state honor the published schedule for this summer. Many businesses, families, tourists, military members, and local residents travelers depend on the ferry system not just for travel but for their livelihood.

-Local Haines businesses have contractual obligations which will be impacted with a change to the summer schedule. This will disrupt the movement of goods and services and threaten the livelihood of many residents who rely on the ferry.

-The Borough's ability to provide essential programs and services to residents is heavily dependent on the sales tax revenue generated during the 4 crucial busy summer months. A significant portion of the sales tax collected is targeted to Capital Infrastructure Improvements that ensure the constructions of safe roads, fund water and sewer improvements, and provide for public health and safety. With state projects already threatened the loss of a portion of this revenue will contribute to the further degradation of critical infrastructure.

-The Haines Borough thanks you for your consideration of this request. We pledge our support and participation to the strategic planning process that the ferry system and MTAB will undertake to plan toward the necessary budget cuts for the coming year.

That concludes my remarks - I am available for any questions the committee may have and can be reached at jhill@haines.ak.us or at the Haines Borough offices 907-766-2231

From: [Bear Track Inn](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Ferry Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:43:41 PM

I am very concerned how the budget cut is going to affect service to Gustavus. The numbers should show that visitors and residents have come to rely on ferry service to our community and any cuts in service would be very detrimental to both Gustavus and our visitors. We have been battling a sluggish economy the way it is, and this could be a serious blow to our seasonal economy. Please weigh carefully before cutting our service.
Respectfully submitted, Jane Sheahan, owner bear Track Inn

Glacier Bay's Bear Track Inn
PO Box 255
Gustavus, AK 99826
888-697-2284/907-697-3017

www.beartrackinn.com

From: [Janet McManus](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AMHS : Cordova's Ferry Service
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:16:01 PM

State of Alaska

RE: Alaska Marine Highway System

To whom it may concern:

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter. I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I, My family, and every other resident I've spoken to are very upset to hear the possibility of a reduced ferry schedule

AMHS is vital lifeline to our community. It carries grocery trucks, construction crews, traveling high school and club teams, seasonal fishermen, locals stocking up on food and house hold needs, locals seeking medical care, vacationers, and so many more that strongly effect Cordova's economics.

Life in Cordova is expensive as it is. Imagining the impact a decrease in ferry availability would have brings devastation to the forefront of our minds.

I would love to see a continued reliable and affordable mode of transportation. One change I WOULD like to see is increased security especially in the areas concerning drugs. It seems like a quick drug dog sweep would be appropriate & effective.

I love our community and would love to see positive change. A step in the right direction would be supporting the local economics and wellbeing of our community while also reducing drug traffic.

Thank you for your time & efforts to provide a way to and from Cordova. Please continue to consider our needs.

From: [Karen Platt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed AMHS Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:54:16 PM

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I realize that budget cuts are difficult no matter how you dice it. But cutting the ferry budget by this magnitude will have devastating effects to our community and the livelihood of many. My family depends on the ferry system for employment. Gainful employment in a small rural community such as is difficult. My husband has worked for the ferry system for six years. This is his first year that he has been employed (mostly) the entire year. Due to the seniority point system my husband has been unable to take a second job. He never knew when he would be called to work on the ferry so there was no way to hold down a second job. We have struggled for 6 years for him to gain seniority only to find out it might not be enough to keep him going in 2016. If he is to lose his job on the ferry we may not be able to live in Gustavus for lack of work.

Gustavus is our home, our everything. Please consider individuals, families, students and communities along with tourism, Alaska history and culture before making such a dramatic cut. The ferry is an inexpensive way to travel. Alaskans and tourists alike love the ferry. Most people would be willing to pay a higher price to travel on the ferry. Use state reserve funds to research how to run the ferries more efficiently. The employee scheduling system is costly and there is so much waste in other areas of the operation. These ideas are just a start and won't compensate for the entire budget cut amount but it's a start and a place where any good business owner would go before calling it quits.

Sincerely,

Karen Platt
Gustavus, Alaska
907-697-2877

From: [Karl Klupar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Opposition to cuts in Alaska Marine Highway funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:27:16 PM

Please accept this message as my testimony **OPPOSING** the proposal of decreasing funding to the Alaska Marine Highway system

- **Please honor the published schedule.** Any confusion created by not honoring the published schedule would induce a lack of confidence in Alaska Marine Highway by users and it would take many years to repair the adverse effects. Many people and business' have set their schedules based on the published ferry schedule.
- Should ferry service (Juneau-Skagway route) be cut beginning July 1st, The Historic Skagway Inn would lose most of the 101 summer bookings we have received so far this year. An announcement of reduced service would further reduce our bookings. We depend on the steady flow of advance reservations to maintain our business. We would have to consider a reduction in employees to survive economically.
- About half of our food vendor supplies arrive on the Friday ferry. A reduction in service would complicate our ability to serve what remaining customers we might have.
- With a downturn in business our Sales Tax and Bed Tax revenue to the Municipality of Skagway would be greatly reduced
- Our ability to employ staff especially for food service would be greatly reduced. Our ability to be open for dinner could be compromised.
- AMHS is vital to our businesses we have contractual obligations based on the summer schedule.
- Cuts of this magnitude could trigger a region-wide recession, through economic reductions causing reduced employment.
- The Juneau-Haines corridor is vital for access to Anchorage, Fairbanks and the Interior of Alaska. The Juneau-Skagway corridor is a vital connection to the Alaska Highway (the continental road system) and the Yukon Territory of Canada. Many businesses along the road system and in the Interior will suffer economic losses from reduced traffic as well.
- A stable and reliable transportation network is vital component to the successful long term development of Alaska.

Respectfully Submitted,

--

Karl Klupar
Historic Skagway Inn
Lynch & Kennedy
phone:907-983-2289

From: [kelly calver](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FY2016 Operating Budget - Public Testimony from Jaime Bricker in Skagway RE AMHS sailings
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:47:13 PM

Hello,

My name is Kelly Calver and I am a life long Alaskan Native and Native Alaskan. I have lived in Skagway for 35 years and frequently travel to Juneau via Alaska Marine Highway. It is extremely important to my family that we keep the current ferries traveling to and from SGY, HNS and JUN. Most of Skagway frequently uses the Alaska marine Highway system to transport vehicles, families and other goods to and from. Cutting back on our ferry voyages **WOULD NOT ONLY** impact personal travel for these communities but would also be detrimental to our seasonal economy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kelly Calver

From: [Karen Platt](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AMHS Proposed budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:12:08 PM

Dear members of the Budget Finance Commitee,

As a citizen of a small bush community and a crewmember for the Alaska Marine Highway I am concerned with AMHS proposed budget cuts. Following is a list of my concerns.

* Our community (Gustavus) needs at least 2 ferries per week. Residents can therefore put a car on the boat, spend a day or two shopping and loading up supplies, then return to town all in a span of a couple days.

* Our community is the gateway to Glacier Bay National Park. The Le Conte over the past few years has transported thousands of Park visiters to our special area. The Gustavus run is the bread and butter for the Le Conte during the summer months. Passenger loads are regularly over 100 people with a full car deck. The boat needs to run at least twice a week to work for the typical Glacier Bay traveler.

* Rework AMHS seniority system. As a crewmember I am regularly bumped out of a job by more senior employees. AMHS will fly a crewmember up to Juneau from Ketchikan, buy them dinner and a room, then do it all over again when their shift is over for the trip back to Ketchikan. I on the other hand would have not cost AMHS a cent to go to work.

* Time for a State income tax. This would solve a whole bunch of problems. How many people and businesses come up every year from down south to capitalize only for their own benefit and don't pay our state a penny? I'm tired of them.

* Close down large sections of Alaskas Highway system. Yes, roads that you drive on. That would cut maintence costs, law enforcement costs etc. In essence this is exactly what you are proposing with AMHS budget cuts. The ferry system is our road and should be treated like one.

Sincerely
Larry Platt
P.O. Box 277
Gustavus, AK.
99826

From: [lynette hart](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Ferry Service
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:02:08 AM

Dear Legislators,

I would like to take a moment to let you know how important the ferry is to living in Southeast Alaska. As I'm sure you hear from many people about the ferry service, I will make it short and to the point.

I live in a community that is only accessible by airplane or boat. If we do to have access via one of those methods it makes it increasingly more difficult and more expensive to live here. Please do not underestimate the importance of the ferry system in our state. It is vital not only to families, but to school children and local businesses as well.

Thank you for your careful consideration regarding this matter. I sincerely hope you do not take away funding for this important service.

Sincerely,
Lynette Hart
Gustavus, AK

Sent from my iPad

From: [Marie Loyd](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:02:48 AM

To Whom It May Concern

I would Like to Add My Comment On The Cut Backs For Alaskans,
As being A True Alaskan For 51 years and Having Raised me Children and Grand Children
here in Alaska I am Strongly against The Budget Cuts For Our Education, I believe That The
Children Is Our Future And We Need to Prepare them With The Best Education Possible.
Not Taking Away Their Knowledge.
As A Mother /Grandmother I can Recall How Important Education is for Our Kids,
And I would Like To Add This

No Child Left Behind -

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is the most recent iteration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), the major federal law authorizing federal spending on programs to support K-12 schooling. ESEA is the largest source of federal spending on elementary and secondary education

I Just Wanted to Ask That You Not Cut the Budget On our children's Education.

As For My Next Comment

This Would Be Your Plan To Cut The Budget Of Alaska Marine Highway.

I Believe This would Be A Huge Mistake!

Living In Southeast Alaska, As You Know This Is The Biggest State.

As For Transportation We Use The Alaska Marine Highway To get to One Place to Another,
And we use this Transportation for Many Reasons

Our Economy/Source of Food /Jobs / Families. School Travels, And Yes Visit Other
Communities.

Alaskans Relies on Our Ferry System.

The Alaska Marine Highway is A Way to Keep Alaskans Connected Other Communities And
To The Rest Of The Lower 48 States / Canada

Not to Mention, It gives Many Non Alaskans A Chance to Visit our Great State.

we Should Be Promoting Our State Not Taking It away.

I Wanted to Ask That You Find Another Way To Cut The Budget,

I Thank you For Giving me The opportunity to Voice My Opinion,

Sincerely Marie Annette Loyd

From: [Max Stanley](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Keep AMHS Funded
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:55:53 AM

House Finance Committee,

As we come into these difficult financial times, tough decisions are going to have to be made. Sure, budget cuts will be necessary but the relative impact of each cut should be considered. I am specifically referring to the Alaska Marine Highway; the \$10 million to be cut from AMHS will do almost nothing to reduce Alaska's \$3 billion+ deficit, but it will cripple the ferry system.

I agree that the ferry system is currently not financially sustainable, however don't just shut the program down, work to improve efficiencies. Have AMHS revamp their program to be more similar to the Washington or Norwegian ferries. Get more tourist dollars, keep this resource.

The ferry system is an amazing asset that should be cherished and displayed, not slowly whittled down to an ineffective transportation system.

Thank you,

Max Stanley

From: randaszymanski@gmail.com on behalf of [Reservations by Randa](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: opposed to cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 6:11:30 AM

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the deep cuts proposed to the Alaska Marine Highway.

This is the life blood for Southeast Alaska not only as a means of transportation for locals but as a conduit for tourists to access our communities. Cutting service would have a major impact on the economy of Southeast Alaska.

IF cuts must be done I strongly suggest that you look at cutting the administration side FIRST. Leave the ferries and the schedule alone for now until you pare down the administration side to the absolute minimum.

IF cuts must be done to the ferry schedule please consider waiting until the fall season to implement this. The summer season is well under way as far as booking from tourists. These bookings translate into hotel nights, sightseeing tours, etc that have also already been booked. Cutting this summer's ferry schedule would affect ALL of Southeast Alaska businesses.

Thank you.
Randa Szymanski
Haines, Alaska

--

Reservations By Randa

Randa Szymanski

800 572-8006 ~ 907 766-2681 ~ fax 866 447-8244

PO Box 645, Haines, Alaska 99827

<http://www.reservationsbyranda.com>

Like me on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/ReservationsByRanda?ref=hl>

Serving Haines, and beyond, since 1986

"Without a travel agent, you're on your own"

From: [Rosemary Libert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:50:23 PM

I strongly oppose the proposal of decreasing funding to the Alaska Marine Highway system

- **Please honor the published schedule.** Any confusion created by not honoring the published schedule would induce a lack of confidence in Alaska Marine Highway by users and it would take many years to repair the adverse effects. Many people and business' have set their schedules based on the published ferry schedule.
- Should ferry service (Juneau-Skagway route) be cut beginning July 1st, Lynch and Kennedy would lose income from many of the independant traveller. We would have to consider a reduction in employees to survive economically.
- With a downturn in business our Sales Tax revenue to the Municipality of Skagway would be greatly reduced.
- AMHS is vital to our businesses we have contractual obligations based on the summer schedule.
- Cuts of this magnitude could trigger a region-wide recession, through economic reductions causing reduced employment.
- The Juneau-Haines corridor is vital for access to Anchorage, Fairbanks and the Interior of Alaska. The Juneau-Skagway corridor is a vital connection to the Alaska Highway (the continental road system) and the Yukon Territory of Canada. Many businesses along the road system and in the Interior will suffer economic losses from reduced traffic as well.
- A stable and reliable transportation network is vital component to the successful long term development of Alaska.

Again, I strongly urge the legislature to find alternative budget cuts that do not have the serious negative economic consequences that the AMHS budget cuts would have on our small community. We are dependant on a viable AMHS sustem.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Libert
Owner
Lynch + Kennedy
Skagway, Alaska



From: [Sandi Marchbanks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Marine Highway Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:14:26 PM

Honorable Committee Members,

I respectfully urge our legislators to generously fund the AMHS operating budget.

Gustavus is one of the newest communities to receive a ferry and I don't know if you are aware of how grateful we are to now have this service. While we have chosen to live a lifestyle that includes few amenities, it is great comfort to know we are able to get in and out of Juneau during those times when air travel is unavailable, or in some instances, downright frightening.

Being able to go grocery shopping, have vehicles maintained, and seek medical care are just a few of the "luxuries" other communities in Alaska take for granted, and now, we are "basking in sunshine" with the ability to go into Juneau for these basic needs. As I have also stated in the past, S.E. Alaska is one of the few places left in the United States with an archipelago of communities that exist based near water. From the number of tourists we see disembarking in the summer, the ferry is a mode of transportation people seek out and the excellent service provided by the AMHS crews further enhance the experience. In my opinion, you would be lax in your responsibility to help promote tourism in S.E. Alaska if these ferries were curtailed.

Had it been allowed to continue, apparently money would have been found...somewhere...to fund "The Road" out of Juneau. I applaud the decision to discontinue that boondoggle, and would ask that a closer look be taken to find other areas to cut spending in order to continue funding, and upgrading, AMHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sandi Marchbanks, Gustavus

From: [Sylvia Lange](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#)
Subject: Cordova's Highway aka FF Chenega/ HB 72: Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:27:23 PM

Hello,

My name is Sylvia Lange. I am a lifetime resident of Cordova, as were my parents before me, and my three children are now. My husband and I own and operate a year-round business called the Reluctant Fisherman Inn. We were commercial fisherman prior to purchasing the hotel, bar and restaurant 11 years ago. Cordova at the time, post Exxon Valdez and collapse of our fish prices, was in a severe depression and our town was pretty bleak. We know we are luckier than many small Alaska coastal communities in having a good economic base and strong community cohesion, and had seen many ups and downs before. The past 8-10 years has been a rebuilding process, and once again, Cordova has a steady and greater diversified economy. The resurgence in our economy has been aided, in a large part, by the improved service provided by the Fast Ferry Chenega. As a result of the service provided by this vessel, we now have the road we've been promised all these years! It is our Copper River Highway. We have expanded businesses and local infrastructure based on this wonderful basic transportation system. Our combined business purchases from Cordova must be in the millions for the vendors in Anchorage. The trade we do in Anchorage from my small business alone is significant. I know you want to see a vibrant economy in Alaska. We have built such an economy here in Cordova. We stand to lose too much of it should we be stripped of our one and only highway.

Thank you,
Sylvia Lange
Owner/operator, The Reluctant Fisherman Inn
Cordova, Alaska

907-903-3480

From: [Bonnie Cler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); "[Senator Charlie](#)"
Subject: Operating Budget Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:01:31 AM

Dear Committee Chairs Neuman and Thompson,

I am a Wasilla resident (for 30 years), a wife, a parent, a grandparent and a Pastoral Associate in a local Catholic Church. All four of our children have college degrees and in positions of importance in our communities. As a child, I had a life of tremendous obstacles that would have, as a rule, prevented me from ever becoming who I am today. My mother was a single mother who never received a high school education, never had a driver's license and having spent her early years in an orphanage, never knew how to care for the children she birthed. If it weren't for Medicaid, and Federal programs to help children who lived on welfare, I would have never been able to have healthcare and never been able to stop the cycle of dysfunction.

Expanding Medicaid makes good sense for the health and lives of Alaskans, the state budget, and the cost of health care in our hospitals. Families shouldn't have to forego getting medical care. Emergency care is far more expensive than preventative care. Having a healthy community is the foundation for having all other opportunities for success.

Taking care of the health of our families is one of the best things we can do to build healthy communities in our state.

Sincerely,

Bonita J. Cler

From: [Jane Reilly](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: medicaid expansion and STDs in AK
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:58:15 AM

I am an non-traditional student at UAF and spend a lot of time with young people. I see the ignorance and misinformation about sexual health on a first name basis and I can only urge our legislators to broaden the funding for STDs diagnosis, treatment and education. We should broaden our sex ed in the schools to include contraception education as well. Aren't we ashamed of our STD rates?

I also see so many part-time students struggling to go to school and support themselves and/or their families. Medical insurance is unaffordable...and good health shouldn't be a privilege in the greatest country in the world. Please expand medicaid benefits and share the federal taxes I am paying among the citizens of Alaska!

I am paying among the citizens of Alaska!

Thank you for the time to review my comments,

Jane Reilly

From: [Kathrin W McCarthy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: cuts to early childhood and medicaid expansion
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:20:12 PM

Dear House Finance Committee members:

I attended the hearing yesterday in Rm 515 and listened to many heart-felt petitions from Alaskan citizens to the committee on the proposed cuts to Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings, and PreK programs to name a few. Head Start was not specifically mentioned.

The testimony by a few young parents on how the Parents As teachers program helped them through difficult times is relevant to Alaska on two points. 1) young families who recently moved to our state do not have the benefits of extended family support and teaching from their own family's to care and cope with a young child. 2) Many Alaskan families have been decimated by intergenerational trauma and grief. Alaskan Preschool age children have the highest rate of diagnosed PTSD of any group in the US. Thus, trauma continues in many families. The long range harms to children from abuse, neglect, child sexual abuse and abuse of women who are their mothers are serious public health issues that our state must address. The Adverse Childhood Affects Study (ACES) was obliquely referenced yesterday in testimony concerning the long range harm that early trauma and abuse cause. Negative physical and mental health outcomes occur well into adulthood and are linked to a wide range of ill health and early death. Thus doing everything you can to provide the funding to support programs that have a track record is for supporting families is a good financial investment.

I also urge the committee to accept Medicaid expansion and make medicaid available to Alaskans who will not have health insurance without it.

Thank you for your attention to this message.

Sincerely,
Kathrin McCarthy

From: [Ann McCann](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicare Expansion
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:14:40 AM

Please support the expansion of Medicare in our state. Health care is important to us all, and access should be available to all eligible persons in Alaska. This is a win-win for citizens, hospitals, communities.

Ann McCann
Fairbanks

From: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: Music Program Budget Cuts.....
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:38:18 PM

Please enter into the record the testimony below to HFIN on HB72/HB72 dated 3/4/2015.

From: Jennifer Knudson <JKnudson@spinecareak.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 3:36 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Music Program Budget Cuts.....

To Whom It May Concern,

I was informed last night at the Music In Our Schools Concert at NPHS that the music program might be cut from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Budget. As a parent of 2 Orchestra Students at Badger Road Elementary School and North Pole Middle School, I am saddened with this news, and very concerned for my children who were heartbroken over this. My oldest has been playing cello for the past couple years and has thrived thanks to such programs provided by the school. Our children have very little extracurricular activities offered to them for grades K-6, and music programs are the only ones offered at a young age that they can pursue through high school and even to college. Instruments and private lessons can cost close to thousands of dollars that many parents, including myself cannot afford. I whole heartedly believe that cutting such amazing programs would deprive many children of opportunities based on their economic class and it's not fair to punish the children for something they have no control over. These programs give ALL students the same equal chance at achieving their goals. I ask as a parent, that you do not cut these children's dreams short. Thank You.

Jennifer Knudson
3199 Snowshoe Ave
North Pole, Alaska 99705
907-490-2602 home
907-378-8755 cell
907-456-3876 work
Email: jennieknudson@ymail.com or jknudson@spinecareak.com



Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

Douglas J. Walrath, PhD
P.O. Box 131
Nome, AK 99762
Tel: 907-443-3507
Fax: 907-443-7076
<http://www.nacteonline.org>

March 4, 2015

Subject: House Finance Committee Testimony

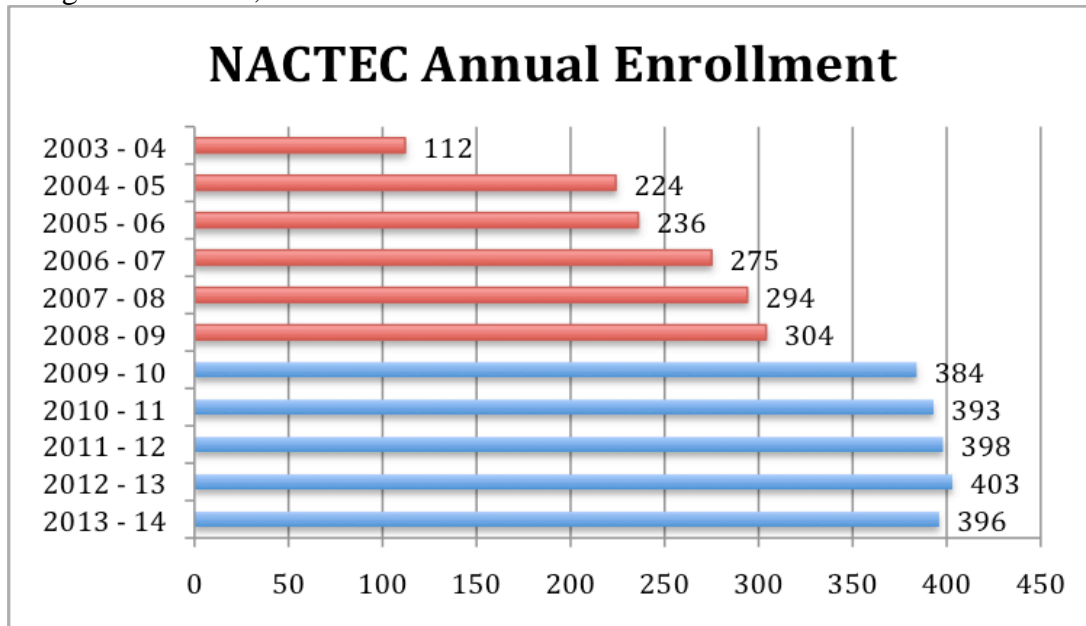
The Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center is a Regional Training Center in Nome with beginnings dating back to Rep. Richard Foster's efforts to bring a training center to the Seward Peninsula. Since 2003 over 3500 trainees, from 50 rural villages, across ten school districts have completed training at NACTEC. At the core of NACTEC training is a mission of workforce development. NACTEC prepares students for the world of work by assisting in the development of life skills, work readiness skills, academic skills, and career awareness. Vocational training programs are aligned with Alaska's priority industries.

NACTEC has experienced remarkable growth throughout its short history. Student enrollment has increased 64% between the start-up years with 241 students/year (*FY04-FY09*), to current years with 395 students/year (*FY10-FY15*), an increase of 150 students/annually. Research data indicates a direct correlation between NACTEC training experience and student engagement. Local graduation rates have increased from a low of 32% in FY08 to 69% in FY14. Whereas 7 out of 10 students were formerly dropping out of school, now 7 out of 10 are graduating. Coinciding with this increase, the Nome Census Area experienced the largest drop in unemployment rates across regional hubs during this same time frame.

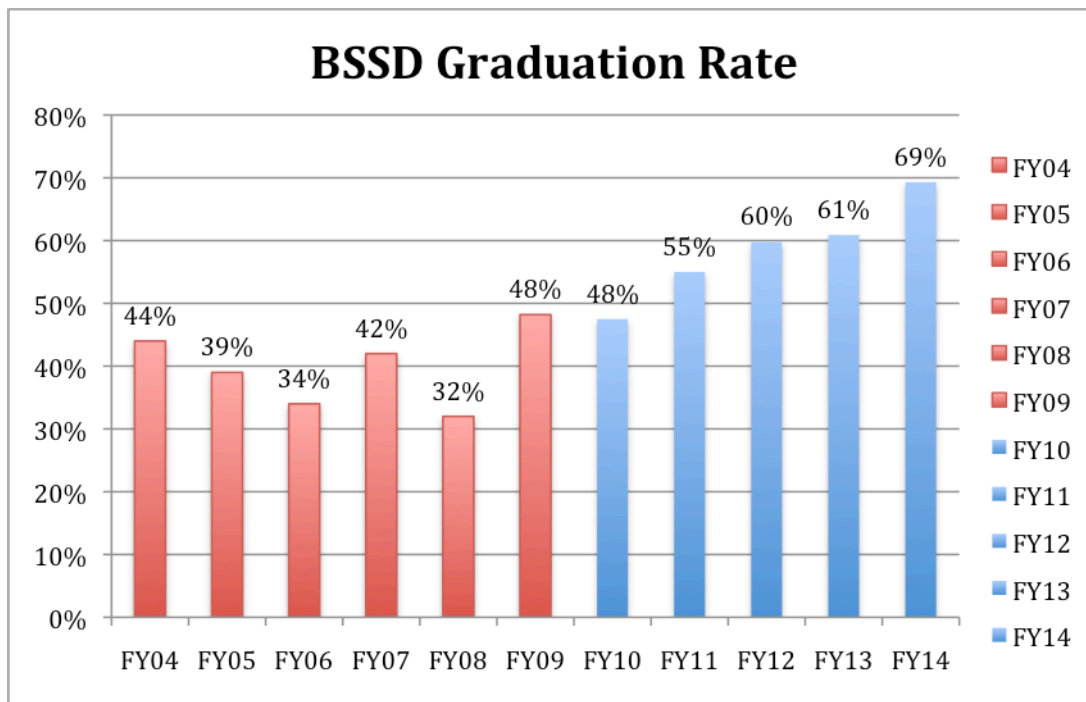
The blueprint for engaging rural students, keeping them in school, and connecting on career pathways to jobs has been developed at NACTEC due to industry support, school district support and state support with two primary funding sources (General Fund and TVEP). Complete elimination of General Fund support removes the multi-year funding support most responsible for building a successful Regional Training Center in Nome. As the legislature grapples with where to make cuts, we simply ask for reductions to occur over multiple years so that we have time to secure replacement funds and continue with workforce development training in the Nome Census Area.

In closing I'd like to note that in addition to the House Finance subcommittee recommendation for a 100% General Fund cut to the Nome Regional Training Center, an additional 12% funding reduction to NACTEC occurred with the elimination of CTE Implementation Grants and the Alaska Construction Academies. Current grants utilized for workforce development training are being eliminated, while recommendations have been made for the Nome Regional Training Center to apply for a STEP grant. STEP grant eligibility is "for persons who have paid into unemployment insurance over the past five years". Such an eligibility requirement does not provide a practical alternative to supplant losses from current subcommittee cuts. We appreciate the legislative support to assist our regional with cuts that need to be made, but can be made in such a way to provide ample time to secure alternate funding to supplant necessary cuts.

Respectfully,

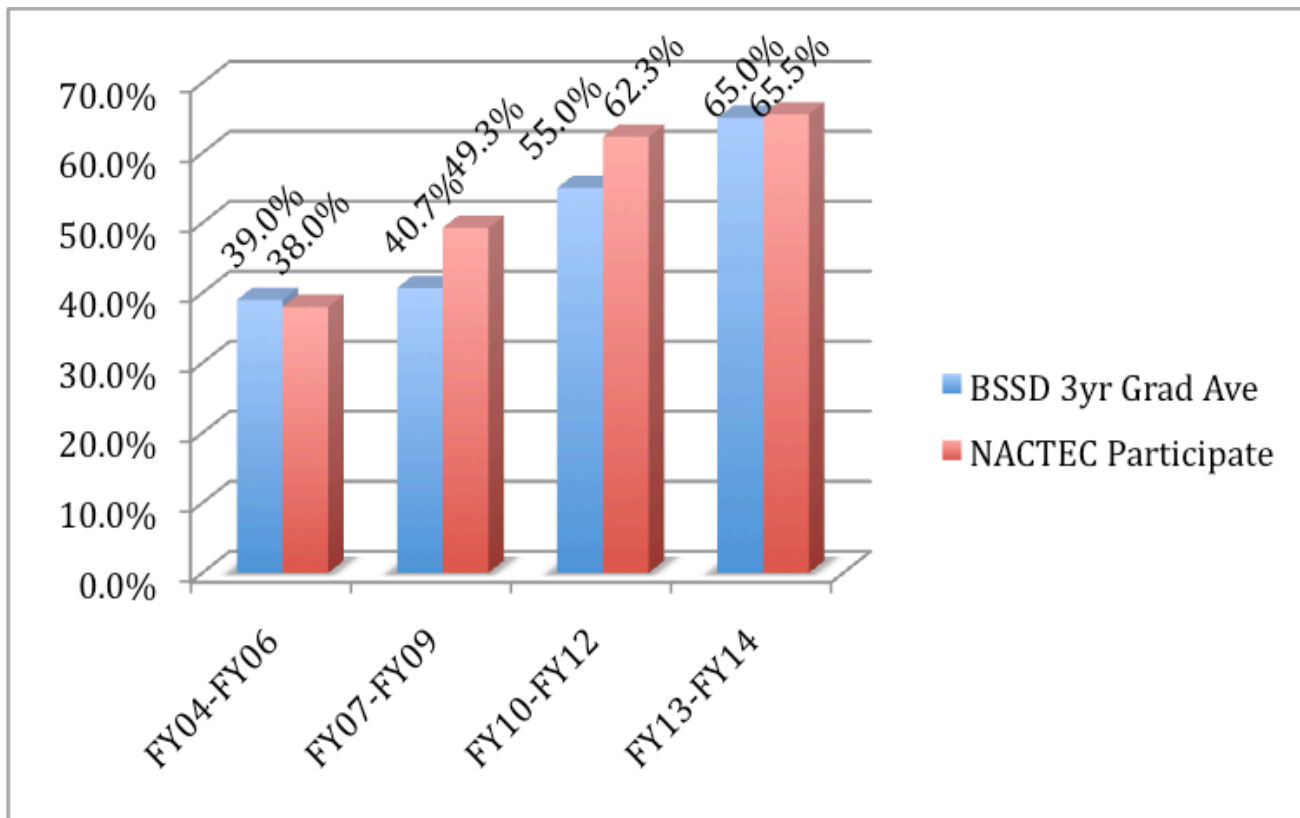


Graph 1. Depicts growth between NACTEC start-up years (red) and 64% increase in NACTEC enrollment in most recent years displayed in blue (FY10-FY15).



Graph 2. Bering Strait School District (BSSD) graduation rates during NACTEC operational years.

BSSD comprises 89% of historical NACTEC trainee population, which provides a rich population for data review, analysis and interpretation. Prior to NACTEC's existence, and during start-up years, graduation rates fluctuated without a pattern of growth or decline (observed in red). More students dropped out than graduated every year. Then, as more students were exposed to NACTEC training graduation rates began to steadily climb. BSSD is currently the only rural school district, of like populations, displaying a trend of continual growth with graduation rates over the past five years. More students are being prepared to enter work with the first pre-requisite, a high school diploma, for the majority of entry-level jobs.



Graph 3. Correlation between NACTEC participation and (increased) graduation rates.

Graph 3 condenses the data of Graph 2 (graduation rates) into compact three-year trends, and combines a NACTEC exposure rate to determine a correlation between NACTEC participation and graduation rates. Department of Education and Early Development data indicates that students in Career and Technical Education concentrators have a graduation rate 28% higher than peers not enrolled in similar training (FY11-FY13 data).

Bering Strait School District's graduates between FY04-FY14 were reviewed and cross-referenced with NACTEC trainee records to determine a like impact from the DEED research as to the impact of CTE training on graduation rates. The results show (in red) the percentage of BSSD graduates displayed in blue with NACTEC high school participation. As the percentage of students exposed to NACTEC training increases, so too do graduation rates at a comparable rate.

<i>Unemployment Rates:</i>	<i>Revised 12/09</i>	<i>Prelim 12/13</i>	<i>Change</i>
Nome Census Area	13.10%	10.10%	-3.00%
Bristol Bay Borough	11.20%	8.50%	-2.70%
North Slope Borough	4.80%	3.90%	-0.90%
Dillingham Census Area	11.90%	11.20%	-0.70%
Bethel Census Area	14.40%	14.80%	0.40%
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.70%	15.00%	1.30%

Source: *Trends Magazine Feb. 2011 and Feb. 2014*

Chart 1. Regional Unemployment Rates Across Western Alaska

Northland Wood Products, Inc.

4000 South Cushman Street - Fairbanks, AK 99701

1510 East 68th Avenue – Anchorage, AK 99507

1-800-478-4001

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Mark Neuman
The Honorable Steve Thompson
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Delivered by email

Re: Operating Budget for Alaska State Forestry

Dear Representatives Neuman and Thompson,

We ask for your consideration as to the impact on our business, businesses like ours, and to our communities regarding the proposed budget cutbacks to the State Timber Sale Program.

Northland Wood Products is celebrating 50 years of sawing Alaska's resources into lumber and timbers. These products have helped to grow and build our communities all across this state. Our Fairbanks and Anchorage locations provide our businesses, builders, home owners, oil and mining companies, tourism industry, military, villages, and government with an Alaskan alternative to products otherwise manufactured in the lower 48. Even our bi-products are 100% utilized and relied on by our farmers, dog mushers, equestrians, for sewage treatment, playground surfacing, heating, insulating, and landscaping.

Through our many years of manufacturing we have infused millions of dollars back in our state. Additionally, we contribute to charities, support non-profits, donate to disaster victims and give jobs to people with disabilities. The only way we can continue to provide these great products and support to our State, is to have a steady supply of accessible timber and for those timber lands to be regenerated for future use. Our Division of Forestry does a remarkable job (with their already limited resources), meeting the needs of our businesses and community. With that being said, we have significant concern about the reduction of timber being cruised and put out to bid. It has been increasingly difficult to build an inventory of timber sales required for company security and planning. We are currently hand to mouth for "All Season" sales. If we fail to purchase an "All Season" this spring, it may force a summer shutdown. Further budget cuts would only exacerbate this already tenuous situation.

"Your Local Lumber Industry"

Northland Wood Products, Inc.

4000 South Cushman Street - Fairbanks, AK 99701

1510 East 68th Avenue – Anchorage, AK 99507

1-800-478-4001

Please support our companies' symbiotic relationship with the State of Alaska, by adequately funding our Forestry Division. We need timber to continue employing Alaskans, supporting our economy, and helping our citizens. If our state budget does not allow for a healthy timber industry it will be Washington's and Oregon's gain and Alaska's loss.

Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony and consider the needs of our company.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jason Knoles

Jason Knoles
President
Northland Wood Products, Inc.

“Your Local Lumber Industry”

From: [Erik Stevens](#)
To: [House Finance](#); Sam.Kito@akleg.gov
Subject: Comments in support of the OWL program
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:04:40 PM

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I work for the Haines Borough Public Library and am writing to urge your support for the funding of Alaska OWL. The House's rationale behind cutting these programs from the governor's budget states there are no measurable outcomes from either one.

Considering Alaska OWL: I don't know how you can say the funding has generated no measurable results. Clearly no staff in the libraries funded through this valuable program was consulted. We, in Haines, can state unequivocally our patrons have benefited greatly from this program. We are the only public hub for internet in this community of 2,600 people, and are used heavily. **We have measured an additional 15,245 user-days of internet use (increases over pre-OWL numbers) in FY14 alone. And, FY15 monthly totals are up an additional 50-100% over FY14. There are indeed measurable outcomes of the OWL program, and they are staggering for such a small town.**

Because of Alaska OWL subsidies we were able to increase our bandwidth from less than 1 mbps to 3 mbps. This speed increase has greatly reduced bottlenecks during times of high use, and is the vehicle through which public use has increased. It is a valuable service in a community where many people can't afford to pay for an internet connection. If Alaska OWL loses its funding we will have to return to our old provider at the lower internet speed.

The videoconferencing equipment and the support offered from the OWL office connects 97 libraries. We use the setup for library to library communication and training, which we could not afford otherwise, and patrons use the Alaska OWL equipment to take classes and share programs with other cities (**total number of uses last fiscal year was 35, with 253 people benefiting from same**).

Many of the libraries who are subsidized by OWL will be forced to return to dial-up service or to forgo internet connectivity altogether if this program is cut.

Please put the funding for Alaska OWL back into the state's budget, and help keep our remote, far flung communities connected.

Thank you,

--

Erik Stevens, Haines, AK

From: [Matthew Davis](#)
To: [House Finance](#); Sam.Kito@akleg.gov
Subject: Please fund OWL (Online With Libraries).
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:16:36 PM

This letter is in support of the OWL program.

My name is Holly Davis, and I am the children's librarian at Haines Borough Public Library. I am writing to ask you to please continue funding the OWL (Online With Libraries) program. So many people count on the WiFi the library offers, and we couldn't do it before OWL.

Here are some numbers for you.

Before OWL, our library was forced to use the only internet provider in town, which charged prohibitive overage fees for internet use, upwards of \$500 per month. These fees made it impossible for our library to open up free public WiFi, a service that was conspicuously absent in our bustling town for years.

The OWL program joined our library into a consortium of libraries to bring a different internet company to Haines, one that would not charge us overage fees. As a result we were able to immediately open up free WiFi service, and the community quickly came to rely on it for access to state websites, education, job applications, and general access to information from our remote corner of the world.

In FY14 alone, our free WiFi had public use of 15,245 user-days. These are numbers for our small town of 2,600 people.

Monthly totals for FY15 so far, are nearly double the FY14 numbers. Clearly this is a crucial service for our community, and demand for it is skyrocketing.

If the OWL program is cut, our library will have no choice but to stop offering free public WiFi, and this crucial service will be lost to the literally thousands of people who use it.

These numbers come straight from our technology coordinator, Erik Stevens. He knows the behind-the-scenes. I know the real people at the front counter and the families of the children who come for story time.

Please fund OWL.

Sincerely,

Holly Davis

Children's Librarian

Haines Borough Public Library

907-766-2545

From: [Rebecca Heaton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: Sam.Kito@akleg.gov
Subject: Public testimony OWL Live Homework Help
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:37:25 PM

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I work for the Haines Borough Public Library and am writing to urge your support for the funding of Alaska OWL and Live Homework Help. The House's rationale behind cutting these programs from the governor's budget states there are no measurable outcomes from either one.

It can be argued that Live Homework Help will best show results that can be measured after students have experienced its effects over a course of years. The kind of aid it offers doesn't necessarily have immediate outcomes – but they are important, and 'immeasurable', to use *your word, but with the opposite connotation*.

As to Alaska OWL: I don't know how you can say the funding has generated no measurable results. Clearly no staff in the libraries funded through this valuable program was consulted. We, in Haines, can state unequivocally our patrons have benefited greatly from this program. We are the only public hub for internet in this community of 2,600 people, and are used heavily. Because of Alaska OWL subsidies we were able to increase our bandwidth from less than 1 mbps to 3 mbps. This is a valuable service in a community where many people can't afford to pay for an internet connection. If Alaska OWL loses its funding we will have to return to our old provider at the lower internet speed.

The videoconferencing equipment and the support offered from the OWL office connects 97 libraries. We use the setup for library to library communication and training, which we could not afford otherwise, and patrons use the Alaska OWL equipment to take classes and share programs with other cities (total number of uses last fiscal year was 35, with 253 people benefiting from same).

Many of the libraries who are subsidized by OWL will be forced to return to dial-up service or to forgo internet connectivity altogether.

Please put the funding for Alaska OWL and Live Homework Help back into the state's budget, and help keep our remote, far flung communities connected.

Thank you,

Reba Heaton

Assistant Director

Operations Manager

Haines Borough Public Library

P.O. Box 1089

Haines, AK 99827-1089

907-766-2545

FAX 907-766-2551

operations@haineslibrary.org

Chairman Steve Thompson, House Finance Committee
David Talerico, Representative
Interior Delegation

I don't envy your task this year. I see your charge as to combine cutting wisely with spending smartly. In the spirit of smart spending, I urge the funding for OWL Online With Libraries be restored.

The OWL broadband subsidies for 67 rural and remote public libraries and their communities combines with local funds to leverage over \$2 million of federal e-rate funding. These smaller and remote libraries operate on modest budgets often less than \$50,000 year. With budgets like these the extraordinarily high Alaska bandwidth costs for a mere 1.5 Megabits per second (the OWL standard, and the lowest amount that can be considered broadband) are unaffordable without state and federal assistance. This modest bandwidth is minimal compared to what is available in the lower 48 and even many places in the rest of the world, but it has allowed citizens of remote and rural Alaska to connect to the Internet in useful and interactive ways.

The support of this basic infrastructure goes hand in hand with the subsidy for bandwidth in remote schools that began this year. Without the ability to leverage state assistance in the face of staggering broadband charges, our public libraries and rural schools cannot afford to apply for sufficient E-Rate allocations. Even though most of these institutions qualify for 80-90% E-Rate payments for their bandwidth, reduction of the OWL subsidy will put most, if not all, of these public libraries back to dial-up levels. The standard elsewhere has moved past 1.5 Mbps, but for our Alaska communities this has been their first experience on the other side of the digital divide and allowed them to participate in the OWL videoconference network as well.

The state OWL funds have supported a secure and confidential videoconference network for all 97 public libraries in the state. This videoconference network is contracted with an existing service, the University of Alaska Video Conference Service. It provides medium-grade (not commercial grade) videoconferencing to all areas of the state and can connect Alaska citizens to other parts of the state and the world. Because it is a secure and private network, it offers privacy and secure connections, something not available through Skype or Google Groups so it is suitable for meetings, business training, legal depositions, job interviews, classes and state meetings like the ones of Office of Child Services and other state agencies, all of which have been carried on over the OWL network.

I'd like to give you just three examples of what the OWL broadband and videoconferencing have meant.

- In Hyder, when the Ketchikan Search and Rescue unit arrived to carry out a missing persons search, the bandwidth at the library was the only place in Hyder that they could use to support their dispatch operations.
- In Lake Minchumina when wildfires threatened to burn the community to the lake, the firefighters found that the only available bandwidth in order to dispatch and recruit more firefighters was in the community library.
- More recently in Sitka, a young foster child arrived there with Type 1 diabetes and an insulin pump that no one in the community, including their health care services, knew how to operate. The public library quickly arranged a secure and confidential OWL videoconference with the manufacturer and the foster parents for an intensive lesson in the use of this life-saving device.

These and other uses that we in cities take for granted like filing for the PFD and federal income taxes, banking, creating online businesses, taking online high school and college classes, sitting for the food handlers certification, and many others are now possible because of this investment.

It is possible for the state to achieve great savings in its departmental and legislative travel budgets by utilizing the OWL videoconferencing network in place of high cost air travel, lodgings, and per diem. I do not have the tools to do the analysis, but perhaps Legislative Finance could make analysis based on the location of the public libraries.

Look more closely and I think you will agree that the OWL expenditure provides great return on investment and is indeed an example of smart spending while cutting wisely.

As you know, cutting alone will not solve our fiscal dilemma. I hope that there will be more discussion of how we can diversify our revenue stream as well as how we can cut expenditures. Although nothing can totally protect us from the cycles of world oil prices, we can try to establish a state fiscal policy by giving thoughtful consideration of taxes, reconsideration of exemptions, and a plan to utilize our savings funds and Permanent Fund earnings to provide guidelines for their use in a fiscally sustainable, rather than a reactive manner.

Thank you for your work to put our state on more fiscally responsible course.

Sue Sherif
PO Box 82668
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Represented by Representative Dave Talerico and Senator Click Bishop

Sue.inletview@gmail.com

March 4, 2015

From: [Aldean Kilbourn](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: testimony for FY2016 Budget bill
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:10:49 PM

I am not currently where I can come testify, so I am writing this instead.

I am very concerned to hear that the House Finance Committee has recommended elimination of Alaska OWL (Online With Libraries) and Live Homework Help from the State Library's budget.

Basically what you are saying when you eliminate these items is that you are not interested in those in the state who don't have access to good broadband width to access the Internet. As a legislator, you have a responsibility to represent your constituents locally, but also the state as a whole. It is reprehensible for you to cast off those who don't live in cities like Anchorage, Fairbanks, & Juneau, where there is a tax base and good access to wide broadband. Three quarters of the public libraries in Alaska can't afford the bill to have good broadband in their communities. Many of these library patrons do not have Internet service at home and depend solely on the library for technical resources. Technology is so important in these communities where there is no cell phone service and communication is dependent on landlines. Think about this when you decide what to do: 2013 figures show the mean download speed for Alaska libraries was 5.8 Mbps while the national mean download speed was 57.4 Mbps. Current state funds leverage about \$2 million in federal E-Rate funds for broadband to Alaska public libraries.

We all recognize that budget cuts are going to have to come, but your job is to see that ways to bring all Alaskans together are supported and funded.

In 2014, Homework Help funding provided tutoring sessions to 29,279 Alaskans. I recommend Homework Help to all of my friends with children, and without exception, they have commented back what a big help it was since they couldn't provide their children with how to answer their questions. I challenge each of you to go sign up and try Homework help - it is a very positive experience. To go from a mere 5073 tutoring experiences in 2008 to the almost 30,000 tutoring experiences in 2014 says the program works. Something you also don't seem to know is that after every tutoring session there is a survey that wants to know how well the tutoring served a patron. These are the responses:

98% Helps them complete homework

96% More confident about their studies

96% Helps improve their grades

98% Would recommend to a friend

Gov. Walker's FY2016 budget includes \$719,800 for Online With Libraries (OWL). Many local libraries in smaller and remote communities are located within the school and OWL offers much needed additional resources to students. When you can provide for both educational needs and community needs of Internet bandwidth, you're using the same dollars twice, an economically smart move. Even if a public library could afford the high cost of Internet bandwidth necessary to do video conferencing, then there's no money for tech help or equipment to get the conferencing going. The state's funding means that OWL can provide for a connection to the bigger population centers with those smaller, Bush communities.

As you work on the FY2016 Budget bill, please keep funding for OWL, Homework Help and the additional early childhood literacy initiatives within the State Library's budget.

Sincerely,

Aldean Kilbourn
3217 Riverview Drive

Fairbanks, AK 99709

If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research, would it? - Albert Einstein

From: [Miriam Dunbar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
Subject: OWL funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:47:44 AM

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I understand that OWL funding was completely cut out of the Governor's budget. I understand that cuts have to be made with the declining revenues, but a complete removal of all funding for OWL seems unwise. Our library received \$3300 from OWL this year to help pay for high speed internet. Many of our patrons do not have internet access at home and therefor depend on the library for this service. Since IRS forms, most job applications, and many other government services are only available via internet, this service is critical. The OWL program has also assisted us in receiving \$22867 from the E-Rate program for this year. Since the cost of high speed internet is about \$2000 per month, the E-Rate program allows us to purchase it. Please restore as much funding as possible to the OWL program so that libraries across Alaska can continue to provide high speed internet to their patrons. Thank you for your time.

Miriam Dunbar

Library Director

Cordova Public Library

Cordova, AK 99574

(907)424-6667

From: [Paul Adasiak](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Civil rights and OWL funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:17:24 AM

Dear Representatives on the House Finance Committee:

Governor Walker's budget includes \$719,800 for the OWL (Online With Libraries) program. For the civil rights of rural and remote communities, please do not cut OWL from the budget.

The money we spend on OWL is leveraged into roughly \$2 million in federal E-Rate funds -- with which 67 communities are brought up to the minimum speed to qualify as broadband. In many of these communities, the library is the only place where people can have access to the online materials they need to get jobs, educate themselves, and communicate with their government.

Broadband Internet is a necessity for civic participation in today's world, and cutting OWL funding will impoverish and disenfranchise much of our rural population. Please leave OWL funding in the budget.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Adasiak
519 Bonnifield St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(House Dist. 1)
907-452-5411
pfadasiak@gmail.com

From: [Stacia McGourty](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SLED, Homework Help, and OWL Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:52:36 AM

I'm writing today to show my support for continued funding of Online with Libraries (OWL) and Homework Help.

As a librarian, I use these resources constantly. Most people think that Homework Help is only for K-12 students, but that is just not the case. Homework Help is invaluable to job seekers, adult students, and to those seeking US citizenship.

Homework Help will review resumes, help job seekers craft a cover letter, and help prepare users for interviews. Returning and non-traditional students will find assistance in writing, high school equivalency, and introductory college courses. This is all done in a personal, one-on-one basis on the student's schedule. Cutting this program would impact thousands of people and would make it harder for learners and job seekers to succeed.

OWL is also a priority for me. As I live in Anchorage, I have a variety of educational resources at my fingertips. I use OWL to make those resources available to others. We've broadcast information about Medicare, Alzheimer's, and the Landlord/Tenant Act. Area non-profits are able to use OWL to connect with clients and committee members; without the vagaries and expense of travel.

Citizens use OWL to connect with others, and discuss issues that are important to them. This February we celebrated Elizabeth Peratrovich Day with a discussion of Native Rights in Alaska. Thanks to OWL, we were able to connect with users in Craig, Nome, Kenai, and more. This March it will be Anchorage's turn to host a discussion on Homelessness in Alaska. With OWL, we'll be able to get speakers from all over Alaska.

Beyond the educational, we also use OWL to bring presenters to Alaska. Without OWL we would never be able to bring authors from the lower 48 – the expense would be prohibitive. With OWL we've been able to speak with a fashion designer in England, past Eisner award nominee Dave Kellett, and New York Times Bestselling Author Laurie Notaro. Later this year, we'll be hosting authors Susan Jane Gilman and Zoe Ferraris. Zoe Ferraris will be joining us from San Francisco, and Susan Jane Gilman will be joining us from Geneva, Switzerland. Without OWL we would never be able to get speakers of this caliber.

I hope this information causes you to reconsider cutting both programs. They are valuable to the people of Anchorage and the people of Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Stacia McGourty

[605-280-7244](tel:605-280-7244)



City of Coffman Cove

PO Box 18135

102 NW Denali Alley

Coffman Cove, AK. 99918

Phone: (907) 329-2233 Fax: (907) 329-2212

Email: coffmancove@ccalaska.com

March 2, 2015

RE: OWL Program Funding

Alaska State Legislators:

Our Coffman Cove Community Library relies on E-rate and OWL funding to provide Internet access to our patrons. Loss of OWL funding, and the high-speed bandwidth it provides, would make our Internet so slow it would not be viable.

Many of our Library users depend on the Library for technical resources. Technology is extremely important in an area of the state where there is no cell phone service and available home Internet connection levels are inadequate to provide for interactive connections.

Our Library attendance has exponentially grown since OWL has been providing us with expanded computing capabilities. On any given day patrons use our library services to fill out job applications, tax forms, perform employment searches and take online courses. This past year a high school senior used our OWL high speed Internet and Interactive Video Conferencing Equipment to complete a high school course needed for college admission into his chosen field of study. A local Emergency Medical Technician completed his continuing education requirements to maintain his EMT Certification. A local Contractor also used our OWL computers and broadband support to complete his needed continuing education requirements to maintain his Contractor License.

The OWL Broadband subsidy is very important to our small and remote public library. The video conferencing network, computers, I-pads and high speed bandwidth provided by OWL provides our library many opportunities unavailable to our community members in any other format at this time.

I am asking you, our elected officials, to please put the OWL Funding back in our State of Alaska Budget so our Library Patrons may continue to be a part of the world's 21st century technology revolution.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Bateman, Library Director
PO Box 18135
Coffman Cove, Alaska 99918
907-329-2233*

From: [Bendersky, Judith F. \(HSS\)](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: OWL
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:58:02 PM

We utilize the OWL system at the Anchorage Loussac Library to communicate with Medicare beneficiaries in rural communities about what they need to do in order to prepare and enroll in Medicare. This is an important part of our outreach. There is no substitute for this videoconferencing. There is no way that we could possibly “meet” with people without OWL.

Thank you for preserving this system.

Judith Bendersky, MPH Gerontologist
Medicare Information Office
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
400 Gambell Street, Suite 303
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-3669

Jeremy Gieser
1122 Timberline Court
Juneau, AK 99801

March 3, 2015

Representative Neuman, Co-Chair
Representative Thompson, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in support of the Parents as Teachers program. I realize that our state is in a challenging fiscal situation, which requires many difficult budgetary decisions to be made. However, I would be remiss if I did not write to advocate for a program that has been extremely important to my family this past year.

In January 2014 I became a father. My son's entrance into the world was both exhilarating and terrifying. As my wife and I began navigating parenthood, we were full of questions regarding our infant son's health and development. In an effort to hedge up any support we could, we were put on the waiting list for the Parents as Teachers program. After a few months wait, we became enrolled in the program.

This monthly visit from an early childhood educator provided an immense support to us as parents. Our educator, Melinda, monitored our son's development, physically and cognitively, and answered any questions we had (there were many!) as new parents. Among the exhaustion and isolation of being a new parent, these home visits were much anticipated and appreciated.

In addition to helping us ensure our young sons basic needs and developmental milestones were being met, the Parents as Teachers program is teaching us how to meaningfully interact with our son in ways that interest and challenge him. In all of the literature we have read, we are reminded that these interactions in the early years of a child's life are paving the way for his future and increasing his chances of social, emotional, physical, and educational success.

The Parents as Teachers program's focus on fostering families to develop a pattern of involvement in their children's educational future is creative, efficient, and proven to be effective. Please do not be remiss about our state's future generations as we navigate our way through these challenging times. I hope you will consider continuing the funding for this valuable educational program. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Gieser

Pioneer Homes

H13 72

THANK YOU FOR OUR SERVICE

ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES IS UNREASONABLE.

THE PIONEER HOMES PROVIDE CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATION OF SENIORS IN ALASKA; THOSE WITH ALZHEIMERS AND RELATED DEMENTIAS. THE HOMES HOUSE THE SINGLE LARGEST POPULATION OF AD/DRD IN THE STATE.

THE HOMES HAVE **499 LICENSED BEDS**; THERE ARE **4,990 APPLICANTS** ON THE WAIT LIST. OF THOSE **289 ARE ACTIVELY AWAITING** A ROOM AT THIS TIME. A NUMBER OF THESE APPLICANTS WILL DIE BEFORE GETTING ACCESS TO THE PIONEER HOMES LEVEL OF CARE AT **EXISTING CAPACITY LEVELS**.

THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF CARE PROVIDED IN THE HOMES, **LEVEL 3** BEING THE MOST SEVER. PRESENTLY THERE ARE **256 LEVEL 3 RESIDENTS - 141 LEVEL 2 RESIDENTS, AND 55 LEVEL 1**.

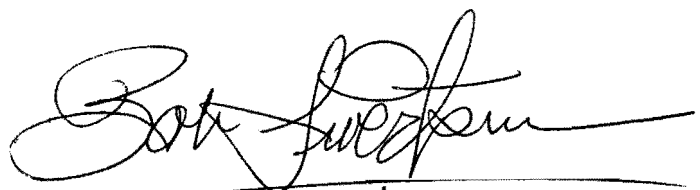
AS RESIDENTS AGE – THERE IS A DECREASE IN **ACUITY AND PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES** RESULTING IN CHANGES TO THEIR LEVEL OF CARE. THE PLAN IS TO AGE IN PLACE AND PASS WITH DIGNITY.

FURTHER CUTS WILL REDUCE OCCUPANCY AND ADMISSIONS **IN A STATE THAT HAS THE FASTEST GROWING POPULATION OF SENIORS IN THE U.S...** BY REDUCING OCCUPANCY, WE MAY JUST DEFLECT THE COST - TO OTHER STATE SERVICES AT **ARGUABLY** A GREATER COST AND REDUCED CARE.

THE PIONEER HOME ADMINISTRATORS DID A GREAT JOB MEETING THE FIVE PERCENT **REQUESTED BUDGET REDUCTION** WITH THE LEAST IMPACT TO THE RESIDENTS POSSIBLE. **ANOTHER FIVE PERCENT** WILL REDUCE STAFFING AND RESULT IN LESS ALASKAN SENIORS BEING CARED FOR.

KNEE JERK BUDGETING WILL CREATE MORE HARM THEN GOOD, TAKE TIME AND GET A PLAN IN PLACE FIRST.

THE RESIDENTS DID NOT CHOOSE TO GET OLD OR HAVE MEMORY CARE ISSUES HOWEVER; THE STATE DID CHOOSE TO PROVIDE CARE AND SHOULD CONTINUE.



Bob Sivertson

From: [williams_sara](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Preschool
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:47:55 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing you to urge you not to cut our preschool program. Early childhood is so important to students. As a teacher I see the benefits first hand. I have taught Preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade and can tell the difference between a child who attended a school preschool program or did not. Coming to school is a big change for many of our students, getting in routines, staying awake, and learning or just a few of the hurdles that they face. Those who attend preschool seem to get a jump on learning and understanding how a school works. Preschool and Early Childhood classrooms are a great experiences for students especially for students with families that cannot afford to send them to a private preschool. Please do not cut the program, there are so many students benefitting from this and it will only continue to show and as a community we will reap the benefits.

Sincerely,

Sara Williams

From: [Curtis Covert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Preschool grant
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:40:46 PM

Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, for the record my name is Curtis Covert. I am writing regarding HB36 and want to make the following points:

First, I would like to introduce myself further. I am a preschool teacher currently under the grant that you are supporting and I heard about the plans to cut the funding. This is my first year teaching and there is much that I do not know, but I do know that the kindergarteners who came in with no prior school experience are at the same level as my preschool class. In some areas, kindergarten is ahead to be sure; but when our school hasn't graduated a student in almost 8 years, I have to wonder what more can be done to prepare these students for life after school. If the money in question is being used for a district more in need than LKSD, then I understand the situation and digress from my argument. Since I am unaware of the situation however, I feel it my duty to advocate for my district, my school and most importantly my community.

It is my belief that all people are life long learners and the more we retain in our youth, the more we will understand later in life. I see my job as a service to prepare the "next generation" to take over and better their community, environment and nation in the future. I carry a large responsibility.

This year I have taught my four year old class to find joy in learning. My students are learning behaviors as well as academics. In a remote village there is seldom a need to dress nicely or use manners when you know everyone you meet. However, they will travel outside the village as they get older and they need to learn social behaviors as well as academics to be better prepared. Many of my students can count to 20, read 10 words, write their name and the list goes on... They also know when to say excuse me, sorry, thank you and other necessary social cues. If the grant is not retained the students will be the ones who suffer. Job security is not my intentions because I plan on teaching at a higher level next year; I am merely looking out for the future of this neglected village.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Signed respectfully,
Curtis Covert

From: [KZPA Radio 900 AM](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: written testimony
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:54:29 AM

Good Morning,
Here is a few public written testimony objecting the proposed 59% cut to public broadcasting.
Thank You,
Vicky Thomas Gwandak Public Broadcasting Fort Yukon, Alaska

From: [Alysha Richardson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please don't cut funding for public radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:37:22 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a constituent in Unalaska and a public radio supporter. I am concerned about the potential 59% reduction to public radio funding. I understand that cuts are essential, but a 59% decrease to public radio is disproportionate and destructive. Here in Unalaska it represents an \$80,000 cut. There is no way that Unalaska's public radio station, KUCB, could maintain their current level of service with a cut of that magnitude.

Unalaska depends on local radio for so many things. Here are some things that I appreciate about public radio in Unalaska [pick a few, or make some up yourself!]

- The opportunities that KUCB gives to community members to produce content for local broadcast. Staff provides all the training that interested volunteers need, and keep the studio equipment up and running.
- KUCB provides the only daily news content in our entire region, from the Alaska Peninsula, across the length of the Aleutian Chain.
- KUCB staff works with radio stations all across Alaska to broadcast live coverage of our sports teams playing in other communities. In a town that's off the road system, and where plane tickets can cost upwards of \$1,000, this is an important service.

Our listeners value LOCAL content, not syndicated programming. A 59% decrease to public radio funding will absolutely reduce the amount of local programming that KUCB can provide to Unalaska. Please think about the value of public radio in the state of Alaska, and consider maintaining funding in this area.

Sincerely,

Alysha Richardson

From: [Angie Eldred](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please support public radio in Alaska
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:14:11 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my concern and request your support for continued funding of public radio in Alaska. While I understand the economic challenge that our state currently faces and the difficult decisions that must be made regarding allocation of available funds, I urge you to carefully consider the wisest use of the limited funds at the State's disposal.

Public radio is a critical service for rural Alaska communities. As a resident of the community of Wrangell I rely on our community radio station to stay abreast of national, local and regional news and keep informed of issues that impact my community, family, and livelihood. I rely on our community public radio station for important emergency information including weather alerts, power outages, and community safety information. I rely on our community public radio station to keep connected with and engaged in community events. In a uniquely rural and isolating landscape such as Southeast Alaska, it is vitally important to maintain the services provided by community public radio to keep community members informed and connected.

If the current proposed budget cut of 59% becomes a reality, our rural public radio stations will be effectively shut down. In small towns such as Wrangell and Petersburg, membership support alone does not provide enough funding to maintain the functioning level of service currently provided by our community public radio stations. A 59% cut in funding for public radio in Wrangell would mean the loss of KSTK, the loss of jobs, and the loss of all the vital services public radio provides in our small rural community. While I understand the need for fiscal conservancy at this time, a 59% cut across the board for public radio in Alaska is disproportionate, and could not be sustained by many community public radio stations.

I urge you to please consider the importance of public radio and the critical services it provides to our state's unique rural communities as you make decisions regarding our state budget. I recognize you do not face an easy task, and thank you for your time and consideration of supporting public radio in Alaska

Sincerely,

Angie Eldred

PO Box 707

Wrangell, AK 99929

From: [Ben Kuntz](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: proposed cuts to public radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:15:35 PM

Legislators,

I am a Bethel resident urging you to vote against the proposed deep cuts to public radio. If my wife and I are home and awake, we are most likely listening to KYUK radio. We rely on KYUK for news, music, local events coverage, weather, emergency notification, and just a general sense of connectedness.

Like small-engine aviation, public broadcast radio remains useful in rural Alaska to an extent unimaginable in most of the country. Radio is a daily, practical tool in fish camps, trucks, boats, workplaces, and kitchens across the bush. As proof of that utility, regional residents supported our station with \$30,000 in donations last year.

Please support public radio by voting against the proposed cuts.

Thanks for your service and time.

Ben Kuntz
Bethel, AK

From: [Bill Tremblay](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:48:40 PM

I do NOT support the drastic cuts to public broadcasting.

The proposed cuts would be devastating to local public radio stations and may cripple the State's ability to share information in rural areas and across the state. I live in Petersburg, AK and depend on this station for local alerts, announcements from my local government, news that stretches from my home to around the world.

These cuts ignore efforts made by our regional radio stations to consolidate costs in accounting, engineering support, and management through Coast Alaska. These connections and sharing of resources is being shared nation-wide as a model for a way to save costs and improve service.

These cuts jeopardize our Federal matching funds and our ability to reach for other grants.

I understand there is a budget problem but it is the wrong time to silence the best method for sharing information across the state at a time when we should be sharing this information instead of silencing the airways.

From: [Brian C. Paust](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72 - Radio Station KFSK
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:45:26 PM

To: Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee

Concerning: HB72

Mighty Radio Station KFSK is an integral part of our community. Since KFSK is the only radio station here, just about everyone listens to this station. Everything and anything important to our part of Southeast Alaska is part of our station's output. The operation of Alaska's governmental apparatus is a significant part of the information distributed, including the actions of your committee.

KFSK is not a large operation...just a few people...truly just a modest operation. Some years ago the station's power output was compared to that of a kitchen toaster. Petersburg and our much appreciated radio station are not BIG, but we are productive – we are a major fisheries center... KFSK contributes to our success.

So, our station is small, but important to our region. From a bang-for-your-buck point of view, it is a bargain! Why then slash our budget to the degree being considered by members of your committee? How is this to be justified? All over rural Alaska, small communities are dependent upon the services provided by these tiny stations.

You are anxious about the financial decline facing our beautiful State of Alaska. You are well advised to preserve and strengthen our societal basics – our schools, hospitals, emergency services, and our community radio stations including KFSK.

Sincerely,

Brian Paust
Prof of Fisheries Emeritus
University of Alaska
Petersburg

From: [Litzi B](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:46:15 AM

Public testimony for NO cuts to Public Radio! I live in a remote area of Southeast Alaska and my local radio station KFSK out of Petersburg is a vital part of our lives. We get weather, news, directions what to do when a natural disaster occurs and much, much more. Please vote to keep our Public Radio up and running.
Thank you.

Cecilia Botello
Port Protection, Prince of Wales Island Alaska.
Sent from my ASUS

From: [Eric Nelson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: proposed cut to public broadcasting
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:07:24 PM

Hello, my name is Eric Nelson. I'm writing on behalf of KBBI in Homer, where I'm a member of its Community Advisory Board, and for public broadcasting in all of Alaska. Please don't make a 59% cut to these stations - that would do permanent damage to these organizations. The return for every dollar just for emergency information is tremendous (especially for guys like me who don't have a smart phone yet) These outfits scratch hard for every cent, and in my view, far more than pay it back. Thanks for your time and consideration.

From: [Genie Hambrick](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please protect Alaska public radio! It's essential!
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 6:39:39 AM

I'm a member of KBBI AM890, Homer, AK, and as much as I enjoy public radio for education and entertainment, I am keenly aware of its essential role as the reliable, prepared, responsible provider of emergency information in our community. In addition, KBBI is the heart of communication for every other service organization here. We all depend on it.

As you make decisions during Alaska's budget crisis, please consider carefully the vital role public radio plays in our state, especially in more remote areas.

Thank you for your leadership in our government.

Sincerely,
Eugenia C. Hambrick
Homer, AK

From: [Evan Rose](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for Public Broadcasting
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:10:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I can appreciate the position the legislature is in regarding the budget. Cuts are necessary. I would hope the cut to PB will not be drastic for a number of reasons, but here is my main point:

Rural broadcasters may not be able to cover any local news or may shut down. The problem is how do local folks get any local news? No local papers in many areas. Not knowing what is going on in your local area hampers the economy, safety and general community cohesiveness.

Please consider a less drastic reduction. Thank you.

Evan D. Rose

Chief Executive Officer

900 West 5th Avenue, Suite 601

Anchorage, AK 99501

Direct: 907.646.3512

Cell: 907.830.1386

www.apcm.net  [View my profile](#)



This e-mail and its attachments may contain confidential information that is intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute or

deliver to anyone this message (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify APCM immediately by e-mail or telephone and delete the e-mail from all computers under your control.

From: [Sterling/Nichols](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:31:34 PM

please support funding for Public Radio. It is the only station we get in Port Protection Alaska and it is our lifeline to what is going on around us. Plus lots of good music and entertainment. We all donate money to it ourselves. thank you.
Gail Sterling Box PPV, Port Protection

From: [Kenley Jackson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget cut for Public Radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:22:16 PM

To House Finance Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts, especially in this time of difficult financial circumstances and hard decisions facing the legislature. I can appreciate that across the state there are difficult times ahead and that all Alaskans will need to pitch in and tighten our belts to accept our new fiscal reality.

That said, I believe that the 59% cuts to public radio are disproportionate and excessive. A cut of that magnitude will mean significant loss of local service and major workforce reductions. Many communities have no other access to services except through public radio, including essential services like tsunami and disaster warnings. A cut of 59% would save the state \$2.5 million, but the cut would have even larger implications because individual radio stations will also see a decrease in matching funding from federal and local sources which would further limit services.

Please consider a smaller percentage cut for public radio.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kenley Jackson
KCAW-Raven Radio Board Member
Sitka

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 5, 2015

House of Finance Committee

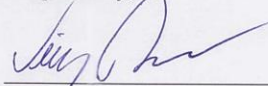
Written Testimony objecting proposed 59% cut to public broadcasting

Email: lhscfin@akleg.gov

Dear House of Finance Committee,

We appreciate the difficult circumstances and decisions facing the legislature. But the 59% cuts are disproportionate/excessive and will cause serious financial harm to our radio station. Need to preserve system funding. Stations have become increasingly more reliant upon each other for services and support over the years. It is clear that more integration will be required going forward. The urban service providers need to be strong too. The proposed cut of 59% will mean cut back of staff or workforce reductions and reduction of local service. Our local radio station is very critical and important to our community and the listening audience in the surrounding villages for emergency alert system, individuals missing while traveling, flood watches and warning, weather warnings, etc.

Respectfully,



Signature

Vicky Thomas, KZPA office manager

Print name and title

c.c. file
KZPA Board of Directors

From: [Maryellen Tuttell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Public Broadcasting
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:46:01 AM

Dear Legislators:

I am a big believer in the need for public broadcasting - particularly in Alaska. I contribute a major amount of money and volunteer time to Alaska Public Media. So I am concerned to learn that public broadcasting at last report is slated for a 59% cut in state funding. I know that hard decisions need to be made to address the budget deficit, and I support a thoughtful and realistic assessment of the budget priorities and the roll of government spending.

Alaska Public Media is a collaborative statewide organization. Tremendous strides have been made over the last several years to build an efficient and integrated network; more of this integration is slated for the future to make every dollar count. Even in the age of the Internet as a source of national and international news, Alaska Public Media is becoming more and more a critical source of statewide and local news.

Consider the service that is provided by the show RUNNING - which allows us all to get to know Legislative candidates during the election season. Another example is Talk of Alaska, which allows residents from throughout Alaska to talk together about issues facing the State.

As Alaskans we NEED the public to be engaged in the process of evaluating how we move forward financially and thrive as a State.

Alaska Public Media plays a key role in HOW the public will get the information to stay informed on the hard work you are doing in Juneau.

The proposed 59% cut to public broadcasting is disproportionate to cuts faced by other organizations and projects, so I ask you to consider the impact of Alaska Public Media on the lives of all Alaskans as the budget conversation continues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maryellen Tuttell
6425 Switzerland Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Maureen Knutsen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public broadcasting budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:35:22 PM

I am a resident of Naknek and listener/member of KDLG which serves an area the size of Wisconsin.

Please reconsider the excessive and crippling proposed cuts to public broadcasting.

In Dillingham, this will result in workforce reductions and reductions to local services.

Since stations share services statewide, these cuts will cripple the whole system.

KDLG provides important local news, weather, fishing announcements and other information.

Please keep budget cuts to 10-14% to preserve the station's ability to provide these services.

Thank you,

Maureen Knutsen

PO Box 134

Naknek, AK 99633

907-246-6675

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

From: [Thanny Bean](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Community Radio, a valuable resource.
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:57:56 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nathaniel Bean. I am on the Board of Directors for Kcaw Raven Radio. Thank you for taking my testimony, I appreciate the difficult work that the finance committee does for our wonderful state. Taking into consideration the fact that everyone is asking you for more, I would like to ask you to consider the following:

59% cuts to public radio are disproportionate and excessive and will mean workforce reductions and significant cutbacks in local service. In many cases, service that isn't available elsewhere in our communities. While that 59% would save the state \$2.5 million dollars, the effect would be devastating on individual stations and likely decrease matching dollars from federal and local sources, further eroding local service.

KCAW has been a part of the community of Sitka since I was an infant. I am honored to be able to be a representative for what is considered the "Heartbeat" of our community. Again, thank you for allowing me a moment of your time.

Sincerely

Nathaniel E. Bean

From: [Pita Benz](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written testimony for House Finance Sub committee
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:40:02 PM

I would like to submit this written testimony for your thoughtful consideration.

I contribute a major amount of money and volunteer time to Alaska Public Media. So I am concerned to learn that public broadcasting at last report is slated for a 59% cut in state funding. I know that hard decisions need to be made to address the budget deficit, and I support a thoughtful and realistic assessment of the budget priorities and the roll of government spending.

Alaska Public Media is a collaborative statewide organization. Tremendous strides have been made over the last several years to build an efficient and integrated network; more of this integration is slated for the future to make every dollar count. Even in the age of the Internet as a source of national and international news, Alaska Public Media is becoming more and more a critical source of statewide and local news.

As Alaskans we NEED the public to be engaged in the process of evaluating how we move forward financially and thrive as a State.

Alaska Public Media plays a key role in HOW the public will get the information to stay informed on the hard work you are doing in Juneau.

The proposed 59% cut to public broadcasting is disproportionate to cuts faced by other organizations and projects, so I ask you to consider the impact of Alaska Public Media on the lives of all Alaskans as the budget conversation continues.

Many thanks,

Patricia Benz
9767 Atelier Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Rachel Muir](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Amanda Frank](#); [Timothy Clark](#)
Subject: Legislative hearing on public radio funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:10:34 PM

Dear Committee,

I appreciate the difficult economic situation of Alaska and the decisions you are obligated to make.

However, life in rural Alaska is connected by public radio. Frequently it is the only means of communication to keep people connected in Bristol Bay. Internet availability and 3G/4G networks are limited to the school, clinic and city offices in rural villages. Most people don't have internet access. Radio is the communicative link. A 59% cut to public radio is disproportionate and excessive when you think of the public good connecting people with information distributed by radio in rural Alaska.

If KDLG is cut 59% it will not be able to staff a full service station which supports the region the size of Ohio or collect the regional news and inform the region and state. The public radio system of Alaska needs to be maintained to keep people informed and connected. Please preserve public radio system funding.

Rachel Muir
PO Box 1395
Dillingham, AK 99576
(907)842-2116
jrmuir@nushtel.net

From: [Suzanne B](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: KBBI
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:12:03 PM

Dear Committee,

I'm a teacher and member of the Board of Directors for KBBI, but, even more importantly than those roles, I am listener of KBBI. I rely on KBBI to keep me informed on local, state and national issues. It is THE source for information.

The proposed 59% cut is disproportionate and excessive and will cause serious financial harm to Alaska public broadcasting system. I've recently learned that this cut would significantly impact KBBI's local service, perhaps cutting an already small staff, reducing community engagement, programs and information.

I urge you to support KBBI - just like the radio station supports our community with services such as emergency and disaster notifications. Public radio is essential to our Alaskan lifestyles.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bishop
PO Box 15237
Fritz Creek, AK 99603
907-299-3861

From: wkarmun@otz.org on behalf of [Wilbur Karmun](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Clara Henry](#)
Subject: KOTZ Public Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:27:13 PM

March 04, 2015

State of Alaska

House Finance Committee

Juneau, Alaska

Salutation

Honorable Members,

I am a resident of Kotzebue, Alaska and I am employed by OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc., since June of 1981. I am currently on the Board for KOTZ Broadcasting, Inc. and a Board Member for the Native Village of Kotzebue.

I as a Board Member understands the decisions you make for making tough financial expenditure's especially for Public Broadcasting. I believe 59% cuts are truly disproportionately excessive and will cause financial harm to KOTZ Broadcasting and all other Public Radio Stations in Alaska so I am asking that you continue to support funding for KOTZ Radio at Kotzebue, Alaska.

KOTZ Radio is the "Voice of the Arctic" and Funding KOTZ Radio is vital to the Northwest, Alaska which covers over 36,000 squares miles of this region which includes: Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik, Point Hope, Red Dog, Selawik, Shishmaref, Shungnak and many permanent/seasonal camps and private entities in Northwest Alaska.

KOTZ Radio provides vital services to Northwest Alaska like Weather for both marine advisory's, warnings especially during times of Search and Rescue, Messages and Announcements, News (local, state-wide, national and international), Music and entertainment to say the least.

In closing I thank you for your consideration for our request to continue funding for KOTZ

Radio in Kotzebue, Alaska and that you will continue to support funding for Public Broadcasting.

Respectfully,

Wilbur E. Karmun Jr.

P.O. Box 824

Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-0824

Ph: 907-995-2217

**Wilbur E. Karmun Jr.
OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
346 Tundra Way
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-0324**

Voice: 907-442-1002

Mobile: 907-995-2725

Fax: 907-442-1235

Email: wkarmun@otz.net

"The true vocation of the awakened human is not acquiring personal power. It is helping others to find theirs." Jeff Salz PhD, in "The Way of Adventure".

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 5, 2015

House of Finance Committee

Written Testimony objecting proposed 59% cut to public broadcasting

Email: lhscfin@akleg.gov

Dear House of Finance Committee,

We appreciate the difficult circumstances and decisions facing the legislature. But the 59% cuts are disproportionate/excessive and will cause serious financial harm to our radio station. Need to preserve system funding. Stations have become increasingly more reliant upon each other for services and support over the years. It is clear that more integration will be required going forward. The urban service providers need to be strong too. The proposed cut of 59% will mean cut back of staff or workforce reductions and reduction of local service. Our local radio station is very critical and important to our community and the listening audience in the surrounding villages for emergency alert system, individuals missing while traveling, flood watches and warning, weather warnings, etc.

Respectfully,



Signature

Hans Fred James, Program Manager

Print name and title

c.c. file
KZPA Board of Directors

From: [tom collopy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: funding for public radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:14:18 PM

ladies and gentlemen:

here on the southern peninsula we rely on KBBI for weather information that is critical to our businesses and our survival

please find the funds to make sure we do not lose these services

thanks

tom collopy
homer
235 9115

From: [Maria Byford](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Statement re: Proposed 59% Cut to Public Radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:53:51 AM

Dear Legislators,

This is a difficult financial year for Alaska and I appreciate the hard work involved with creating a workable budget in a time of many necessary cuts.

Today I am writing concerning the proposed 59% funding cut to Public Radio in Alaska.

If this goes through, our local Wrangell radio station and other small rural stations throughout Alaska could not continue to provide the vital functions they perform.

Unlike public radio in most parts of the country, **in Alaska it is an important and major life line of communication for those of us living in remote areas without cell phone coverage, VHS, or satellite coverage. Even living in the town of Wrangell, it is the major communication source for all emergency messages, utility breakdowns, outages, etc., local and state news.**

It is also the way that those living in town can get messages to people in the outlying areas. It is a crucial communication aspect of life in rural Alaska.

Since Alaska Public Radio stations work together with presenting the local and state news, the urban service providers need to be kept strong, too.

I understand that there is hard work this year to achieve a balanced budget.

My request is that if cuts be made to Public Radio, that they be at a percentage that will allow those very important rural and urban stations to continue the critical role that they provide. A 59% cut would not allow that.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Byford
Wrangell

From: [john bean](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB72
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:04:32 AM

Please continue to fund public radio. It is our only source of outside news, and a valuable means of communication.

From: [Walter Moorhead](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cuts to funding for public radio
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:32:18 PM

I am writing to express my concern over a proposed 59% cut in funding for public radio in our state. I certainly can appreciate that the state is in a financial crisis, but suggest that during a crisis we need to work even harder to make reasoned and careful choices. This is no time to lose our perspective. A cut this deep in public radio will more than cripple the system; some stations will cease to exist, losing decades of hard work to establish the system. In small towns like mine, public radio is the only local daily news source, a critical communication link for many in outlying areas, and a vital part of an emergency response system. All of these functions are at risk to disappear.

But wait, there's more!

The effect of a cut this deep in state funding is also a trigger for a loss in Federal funds as well. Let me explain: In our local station in Wrangell, KSTK, this cut will amount to a loss of \$81,000 from the state. The only way to cut this much out of the budget is by reducing personnel, which is already a bare minimum at 3 1/2 full time positions. Annual application to the Federal CPB requires 4 employees for the current level of funding, but KSTK has successfully argued for a waiver each year by citing their participation in Coast Alaska, and some mitigating credit for the employees of that consortium of stations. Each year this must be explained, appealed, and extended. You can see the scenario. The loss of this much state funds will lead to the loss of an employee. This puts KSTK well below the current threshold for CPB. The loss of an employee thus will very likely lead to the loss of some CPB funds.

Which leads to more cuts; where does it end?

Please consider this cascade effect as you deliberate on where and how much to cut. I appreciate your hard work in a difficult task, and hope this message helps to see more in depth on the issue of public radio funding.

Sincerely,
Walter Moorhead
Wrangell, Alaska

From: [nancy fresco](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: School Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:05:34 AM

Dear members of the House Finance Budget DEED Subcommittee,

I know that the state budget is tighter than ever, and that many programs face cuts, but in some cases, pinching a penny now will cost all of us a dollar later. I am writing to ask you to consider the long-term social and economic repercussions of cutting crucial school funding.

As the mother of twin third-graders in the public school system, I can attest that our teachers are incredibly hard-working, under-paid, and under-valued individuals. Teachers are already struggling to meet the diverse needs of students who come from many different backgrounds and have many different needs. At the elementary level, classes already exceed 25 students. Trying to effectively teach this number of kids puts all the kids at a disadvantage. Now I hear that class sizes may be increased yet again. This puts educational quality at grave risk, for the brightest kids, those who are struggling, and all the children in between -- who will one day be the backbone of our society.

Furthermore, key programs are on the chopping block. As a state and as a nation, we are already falling behind in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and everyone agrees that building a strong foundation in these subjects is crucial for our economic future. And yet programs to support these "STEM" subject are being cut. Likewise, early intervention and strong literacy programs for the youngest children can set them on a path toward success -- and yet the K-3 literacy project is under threat, as are Best Beginnings and pre-K grants. Mentoring, homework help, broadband for schools -- all these programs are of particular help to students from poorer families who may not have access to these resources at home. Cutting such resources means not offering a chance to a child who might have been the first in their family to attend college.

I beg you to fund our schools to the highest degree possible -- for now, and for the future. Thank you for your service to our state, and for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Nancy Fresco

93 Roxie Road
Fairbanks AK 99709
907-479-3777



Municipality of Skagway

Gateway to the Klondike

P.O. Box 415

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: (907) 983-2297 Fax: (907) 983-2151

www.skagway.org

Honorable Legislators:

The following are my comments concerning the Alaska Marine Highway System at the House Finance Committee hearing of March 4, 2015. Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

"The oil economy caved in. What's left, Tourism, Commercial fishing, Mining? Want those to cave in as well?

Comparing the cost of moving a person down a highway to what the ferry system does for Alaska is a false use of statistics. There is more to a dollar statistic than how many people get moved a mile.

In Skagway, the ferry moves goods, employees and tourists to and from our community. Further, for Skagway, cutting services off that you already booked and promised people through reservations is not good ethics and given the decision may have been made without knowing how many more reservations and revenue will be produced on those same trips is a mistake and should be reconsidered.

In Petersburg reports were developed that show Prince of Wales residents would like to have their seniors live in the Assisted Living and others use the Hospital if they could have some certainty to get there and back. What is the cost to the Alaska Health and Social Services if the hospitals get less use and the cost to care for elderly and medical patients goes up? How are similar services in Ketchikan & Sitka affected? In all of Alaska what is the benefit that sport fishermen and tourists can get to locations in our state.

There is Cordova, similar to Southeast. What's the Commercial Fishery mean for Alaska? Blow an engine and you can't wait weeks for a barge to get a replacement sitting in Anchorage so on the ferry you go. It's a matter of staying in business or out of business for yourself and for Alaska. Fish products are moved out by all means including the ferry and goods in to support Cordova.

South Central, Anchorage, similar to other urban areas, survives as a hub of supply to these significant economies that you're proposing to cut off. Ok so the rural people just have to do without, but you're cutting your nose off in spike of your face because a mile on a ferry is not merely driving to work. The work urban people are driving to rely heavily on these rural based economies. So significant Alaskan economies will falter and your budgets for other state services might actually increase.

Government investment in roads and rural electrification for farmers during the New Deal was a big expense, but it also was a good investment because it created capital for everyone not simply a hand out for no return. If we can't see the difference of a good investment that creates capital for all of Alaska then we're heading down the wrong road, at exactly the wrong time. Save the remaining economy! Thank you!"

Sincerely,

Scott A. Hahn, Skagway Borough Manager

From: [Barbara Mulford](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Impacts from SE Alaska Timber Industry Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:37:26 AM

Good Day,

I am writing in regards to the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division. The proposed cuts will be devastating to Southeast Alaska. The Haines State Forest is 286,000 acres within the Haines Borough. The state has a responsibility to the community to actively manage this resource. Closing timber sales in the Haines State Forest will result in the layoff of two foresters, with combined years of experience as Foresters for the Haines State Forest of 50 years. The impacts to the community are much larger than this. Below are additional bullet points detailing the negative impacts of this budget reduction:

Economic and Employment Impacts:

- Southeast timber industry will cease to exist without the state timber supply since the U.S.F.S. is not providing Tongass timber essential to the mills. The last remaining medium sized sawmills in SE will surely close and several small mills will follow thereafter. Estimated private sector FTEs is 135.
- The Alaskan businesses that purchased state timber sales over the past five years will no longer have a wood supply or will have a severely constrained supply.
- Timber sale revenue averaging \$698.5 thousand per year, over the past ten years, will not be generated resulting in further reductions to the general fund. The remaining timber management staff will also be at risk as revenue drops, since they are funded from timber sale receipts.
- DOF personnel also complete timber sale work on behalf of the Mental Health and University Trust Land Programs which generates revenue for their respective trust programs and is an efficient use of staff to meet forest management needs for different state agencies.
- Many small businesses that undertake high value added processing of Alaskan wood for products such as: cedar shakes, music wood, wooden bowls, downhill skis, log cabins and log homes will not have a wood supply and the associated jobs and commerce will be lost.

Energy for Commercial and Residential Use Impacts:

- Schools, greenhouses, swimming pools and community buildings throughout the state that have converted to woody biomass fuel sources (wood chips, pellets) will run out of supply and switch back to higher cost fuels.
- Timber theft, which affects private and public property owners, will increase without

firewood sales.

Public/Community Safety and Wildfire Risk Impacts:

- Closed forest roads will make access for initial attack of wildfire starts more difficult and will result in higher risk of escaped wildfire near communities.

Access for Multiple Use Activities on State Lands Impacts:

- Hundreds of miles of roads in the three state forests will need to be closed in compliance with 11 AAC 95.320 of the state forest practices regulations. It will be expensive to remove the culverts, bridges and water bar the roads. Timber sale revenue and timber purchasers have provided road maintenance as part of their ongoing operations and this will cease.
- Recreational activities of all types, both motorized and human powered will be more difficult to undertake on state lands due to closed road systems.
- Development of new access to state lands will slow dramatically since most new roads constructed are for timber sale or other resource development.

I realize that we are in a dismal situation in regards to our state budget and the lower oil prices. However, making cuts to the budget for items that will in turn create tremendous negative economic impacts is not a responsible route to take in order to fill budget gaps. Items being removed should not be those that have a return on the monies being invested. Please do not cut from an industry that is already struggling.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Mulford

907-766-3179; 907-209-5153

PO Box 1122

Haines, AK 99827

3-4-2015

To the Finance Committee,
I would like to thank you for your support of the Seniors in Alaska. My mother Delores is one of them that receives services from Serendipity Adult Day Services.

Before she became ill, she was always very active in the community, in her home and volunteered her time to help others: Foster Grandparents program and her church.

After she got diagnosed w/ dementia, her quality of life and the things she loved started to decline. Not only did she lose the ability to do those things, she was losing her identity as well. My father and I did the best we could to provide her w/ opportunities to stay connected, but it was more than we could afford out of pocket. My mother has been with Serendipity since Oct. 2013. The level of care and the quality of life Serendipity

3-4-15

provides for their clients is a huge blessing for all.

It is my hope, like so many others that you reconsider the proposal to cut funding that is needed to continue these services for our Alaskan Seniors.

Thank You

Angela N. Anderson

From: [Patt Ward](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB73
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:16:23 PM

Hello, My name is Rose Attatayukr. I live in Nome, AK. I feel the need for the Adult Day Services, Senior Lunch program, and Arctic Access in Nome. They provide healthy meals and visiting. Many play puzzles and some do Arts and Crafts, knitting, crocheting, and beading. This is a very healthful environment for us to be in. Due to the amount of rent and our income, sometimes it is very difficult to make ends meet. Even eating one meal a day helps us. The Adult Day Services and the Senior Center provides transportation to the Post Office and the Grocery stores in town. As Elders, we do not drive and using a cab is out of our budgets. Please continue to fund the Adult Day Services here in Nome. It is less expense than us having to go to a nursing home. This way I can stay in my own apartment and be as independent as I am able. Thank you for listening to my request. Sincerely, Rosalind M. Attatayuk Munaqsri Senior Apartments #4 Nome Alaska 99762 907-434-1003

From: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: Independent Living
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:03:06 PM

Please enter into the record the testimony below to HB 72: Operating Budget/HB73: Mental Health Budget in HFIN on 3/4/2015.

From: Webb & Joanna Phillips <webbrobert.phillips@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 1:33 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Independent Living

Hello, my name is Webb Phillips. I live in Fairbanks.

I am writing to express my concern about the cuts to the Independent Living budget. This budget cut could negatively impact each of us who reside in the state but especially people with disabilities. The independent living programs help thousands of Alaskans like me who need a little assistance to live independently. These programs are cheap and save the State money by helping people stay out of expensive institutions. I know the State has less money to work with but it is important not to cut these programs that help Alaskans to help themselves. **Please restore the Independent Living funding in the Dept. of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation budget.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Webb Phillips

ON August 8TH 1989 I was vacationing in New Zealand and had a Head on car crash, and became a Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor. I recovered in a Hospital, Hospital Hospice and at my TCU Head Nurses Sheep Ranch. During this time a Nurse wrote her Masters Thesis using my minds injury and recovery as her subject. My head Surgeon read it, interviewed me and told me I'd be back in College in a years time. In January 1990 After returning to Fairbanks Alaska, I joined Access Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Group and gained an Independent Living specialist to help me reenter UAF's Down Town Center to learn Speed Reading.

That Sumer, against the warnings of David Jacobson, the CEO of Access Alaska I left Fairbanks and the aid of Access Alaska and my Independent Living specialist aid worker to help at a Christian Bible Camp at Woody Island, 14 Miles off Kodiak Island. I was able to

further recover Physically running after the Children and helping the camp and Woody Island Mission function. However the stress of being away from home and the Independent Living specialist aid of Access Alaska. Caused me to become Mentality Ill. I was able to recover first with Fairbanks Mental Health, then my Family Doctor Gianni and his Phycologist&Neurologist Student PA. Finally I was able to gain the treatment of Dr Martino since 1993. I was also able to start Tutoring my first student for the Literacy Council of Alaska, Fairbanks. I taught my student and fellow Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor and Access Alaska Consumer and TBI Group Member.

I had asked the Literacy Council to test my loss at Literacy Skills. They agreed, telling me they would reteach me to the 12 Grade Level of Literacy and Scholastics in General. I graded at the Sophomore level having lost only the Junior Level of my Education. They then, in conduction with Access Alaska found me my first Student to teach in the Winter of 1991. We were able to regain everything from the 1ST through 8TH Grades. I then turned my Student over to another Literacy Council Tutor.

With the recovery spawned by the aid of Access Alaska and Studying for one hour for every hour I Tutored my Student. Then Tutoring my First Student for three hours a week for one year. With the aid of the Literacy Council of Alaska and both our Access Alaska Independent Living specialists I was then able to reenter UAF. Then with my Access Alaska Independent Living specialist's help I was able to use the American Disability Act to gain Full Time Student Status; Dorm Housing, Commissary Use, Books, Tuition and proper GYM and other class Scheduling.

I finished my Senior year, I'd already regained my Junior Year by teaching my fellow TBI Survivor for a year, in three none stop years in Fall 1994. With the exception of one drive to Manhattan New York yo visit my Jazz Musician Uncle, my cousins and there families. Also my Best Friend and College Professor in Edison New Jersey. I then volunteered in rebuilding 24 homes in Hul Illinois which had been flooded out with one of the first 100 year Dike Failures in the Summer of 1993. I include this Solo Sumer trip and Successful Volunteer recovery of Hul Illinois to prove my own recovery and ability to venture forth from my Home in Fairbanks. I give thanks and indeed claim the aid of both Independent Living Aid Organizations for helping me do so!

Both Access Alaska and The Literacy Council of Fairbanks Alaska provided me with the Independent Living Instruction Programs to both use for my on benifit but also for my fellow TBI Survivor, Access Alaska Consumer and Lathrop High School Graduate. Who the Literacy Council of Alaska, in Fairbanks Helped be to find my Educational Level and use it to both educate a fellow TBI Survivor and by doing so regain a full lost UAF Junior Year. Which in turn enabled me to earn my History Degree and Philosophy Minor as well as rebuild 24 homes in Hull Illinois Independently.

I then worked for FRA for two years, Sears Warehouse for six before working for my present dual job of hat tossing Crossing Guard at 10TH and North Lathrop Street. For First Student Management and Recess Teacher Duty Aid for Denali Elementary. I'm still a Alaska Literacy Tutor, with my last Student Tutored to successful completion of the Junior Level at UAF. The Independent Living Services of Access Alaska and the Literacy Council have enabled the recovery of many Literacy Students, all of which suffered and Survived Traumatic Brain Injury. I can also brag of passing my independent living skills on to my 1ST through 6TH Grade Denali Elementary Students. I judge this by the number of real fights that I've been unable to stop on our Play Ground. For the Last Five years I've witnessed only Five per year. I've also been able to influence my Drivers to not crash and to wake up all the Students who walk or ride by me as I keep warm and thoroughly enjoy tossing my Fedora to clearly indicate the next oncoming vehicle!

I still need to have Access Alaska to both attend the 1ST Monday and 3RD Monday's Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Meetings from 5:30PM to 7PM, the Wall Busters Meetings on the 2ND and 4TH Mondays at 12:30PM to 2:30PM. My Literacy Tutoring and other Volunteering aid. I now also help a fellow Disabled and Elderly, don't tell her I used that last term, get around town to pay her bills and do her shopping. Independent Living, Pass It On!

Sincerely,

Webb Phillips

From: [Fox Statistical](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Re Budget testimony for March 4th
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:01:05 PM

I cannot make it to the public hearing at the LIO in Fairbanks today, but I would like to submit my concerns. The legislative committee has chosen, as usual, to cut the programs that serve the people of this state and who are most likely to be embarrassed to testify that they need the service. Frankly, in looking at the 2014 budget documents, it is clear that a problem exists with the attitude in the committee. Since many of the programs that are on the list to cut or cancel, involve matching federal funds, it is only reasonable that the committee present a clear picture on what their options are and just how much restricted matching funds from the Federal government will be lost with each program. Also, I see nothing of the funds and credits designated to corporations and business entities being cut. Perhaps the legislature needs to be reminded that they are elected by the people of this state to serve the people of this state, not outside mega corporations. For example the 100% tax credit given to mining corporations for up to 15 years for starting a major mine. So I ask the committee to justify or clarify its cuts, but showing what could be on the table, how much matching funds will be lost by cutting that program and or eliminating it and to balance the budget cutting measures between individuals and businesses. At this time there is a major increase in elderly in this state. Cutting and removing programs that are needed for the public health, and that serve families with needs, will only increase the funds having to be spent in other parts of the budget. Perhaps one cut would be the outrageous difference in salaries between the executive positions, legislative perks, and other state workers for example.

In all, since the forecasts are for oil prices to increase by fall time, I question whether the republican majority is just using this situation to cut services to the people of this state without consideration of the repercussions they will cause.

Patricia M. Fox

From: [Penny Goodstein](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Susitna Dam project AND our State budget
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:54:43 PM

Dear Legislators,

I understand that this week is the big budget week, when you will decide what services and projects receive money, and what will be cut. The cuts I have read about can be devastating - education, spill response, and many other important areas to Alaskan life and health. I also understand that sitting in an account for a huge dam, on the Susitna river, is \$30,000,000 dollars. That is not a minor amount of money, easily shrugged off as not helpful. The dam is a project that will forever change our Susitna River system. Salmon, our pride, will be affected. It will affect tourists and residents who love our state for the beauty and the recreation. To say that destroying our river system is "progress" is to use trite and tired descriptions to justify what will be a travesty.

Please vote to use the \$30,000,000 for a more useful purpose than the dam.

Penny Goodstein
9200 Buddy Werner Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Karen Perry](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: State spending
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:47:26 PM
Importance: High

Dear Finance Committee...

PAY ATTENTION!

if you do NOT get this Budget down to \$4.5 Billion or LESS...we WILL FIRE YOU!!!

Alaskans all over the State are contacting you, you either listen and GET THE JOB DONE or we FIRE YOU!!

PLAIN and SIMPLE!

Stop spending us into slavery!

We CANNOT afford an income tax...many Alaskans, especially those on fixed income, desperately NEED their PFDs in order to pay utility bills (which are also increasing)

You were elected to do a job, that includes upholding the Constitution!
That means, doing the HARD WORK!

If you are too weak to do a hard job, we will find someone this s willing to GET IT DONE!!!

CUT THE BUDGET!!

GET IT DONE!!!

NO EXCUSES!!!

Yes this might come across as rude to some, guess what, I DO NOT CARE....what is more rude and more asinine is any of you that refuse to LISTEN to the PEOPLE!
NEVER THINK THAT YOU ARE NOT REPLACEABLE!
what is rude is bankrupting the State and the citizens.

DO YOUR JOB!!!!

~Karen Perry

From: [John Lewis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [John Lewis](#)
Subject: State Budget Concerns - Anchorage
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:25:27 PM

House Finance Committee,

I completely understand the need to trim the states budget but with that said, I do not agree at all the removal of State Troopers is going to be a good idea. Our roads are dangerous enough with the patrols and will be a blood bath in the summer time especially if the State Troopers are removed from the highways.

If anything the Troopers should be increased. Implement a sales tax, state tax, something but don't leave us to those that believe the laws don't apply to them. No patrols on the highways will be a blood bath.

Thank you,

John Lewis
6020 E. 43rd Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504

From: [Aaron Sandone](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:19:19 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am a live long Alaskan and I was born and raised in the Valley. I have spent years fishing and hunting on the many rivers that drain into the Susitna and believe that the proposed dam is a horrible idea and huge waste of money, especially considering the current picture of the states finances and the negative environmental impact on the fishing and hunting opportunities that this dam will create.

The House Finance committee should withdraw all funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Sandone

Aaron Sandone
641 Cedar Park
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: [Andrew Homan](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:24:31 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Andrew Homan
23132 Cohoe King loop
PO Box 849
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: [Anne Fuller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Susitna dam is a boondoggle
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:15:56 AM

Dear Committee Members,

AEA should not be continuing to spend our money on a huge project.

Please act as leaders and devise a budget that puts people ahead of concrete. Alaskan traditions of being on the land, having fresh water, swamps for moose, and open trails are part of our lives.

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project.

Find responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely.

Sincerely,

Anne Fuller
7943 N Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Arlene Reber](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:41:10 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Arlene Reber
2311 W 48th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Ashley Wise](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:14:20 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely, Ashley Wise

Ashley Wise
5805 n farm loop rd
palmer, AK 99645

From: [Barb Churchill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:21:47 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Barb Churchill
11537 Discovery View Dr
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: [Brenda Besece](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:59:28 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Brenda Besece
29081 S. Talkeetna Spur
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Cari Sayre](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:18:49 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the budget process. It is so important for us, as citizens, to feel that your decisions are based on what we, your constituents, care deeply about.

I understand the enormous challenges of our state's budget deficit, and in that light, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds from the Alaska Energy Authority for the proposed Susitna dam, and to reassign the \$33.5 million that remains in AEA's accounts to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

Education, health care, public radio, oil spill response -- these are all much more crucial to the well-being of Alaskans than an outdated, salmon-run-spoiling mega-dam which would produce so little power (300 MW annual average).

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Cari Sayre
P.O. Box 711
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Cecilia Lamp-Elliott](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:13:20 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Lamp-Elliott
99th ave
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Charlotte Sartor](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:25:59 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam. It is the wrong dam in the wrong place. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S. Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Chase Berenson](#)
To: [Chase Berenson](#)
Subject: Please Stop the Susitna Dam
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 8:46:15 AM

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,
Chase Berenson

From: [Cheryl](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: STOP funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:29:25 AM

To: House Finance Committee

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our **budget deficit**, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite **widespread opposition**. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is **absurd** to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we **lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway**. There are **far more responsible ways** for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will **never be built**.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and **shut it down completely**. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,
Cher Ward 99688

From: [Christine Anderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:45:55 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Christine Anderson
PO Box 754206
Fairbanks, AK 99775

From: [Christopher Mannix](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:27:00 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mannix
PO Box 401
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [CJ Glasser](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:14:18 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

CJ Glasser
6731 E. Squadron
Wasilla, AK 99654

From: [darlene maryman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:38:24 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

darlene maryman
po box 569
talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [darlene maryman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:39:42 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,
Darlene Maryman

darlene maryman
po box 569
talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Darlene Rich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:16:51 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Darlene Rich
25021 S. Wagner Rd.
Trapper Creek, AK 99683

From: [Darrin Kelly](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:00:10 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Darrin Kelly
8070 Mendenhall Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Dave Fish](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:07:46 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Dave Fish
PO Box 541
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [David R Dodge](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:29:08 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

David R Dodge
3640 Dotterel Circle
Big Lake, AK 99654

From: [Debra Wessler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:40:22 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Debra Wessler

Debra Wessler
14734 E Woodpecker Ave
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Diane Calamar Okonek](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:19:57 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Dear Governors Walker and Mallott and Legislators,

Please use the 30 million dollars that AEA has in the bank to fund other projects that help more Alaskans or give much needed money to our State Parks and special use areas. You could give 1 million to 30 projects that will help our State in a variety of ways. Funding the Cold Climate Housing Research Center is a great idea. They are helping people in the villages find ways to build more affordable and energy efficient Housing. That is fantastic and lowers our energy needs. Round Island only needs \$100,000.00 to staff the island and protect a species that is having a difficult time due to climate change. The State should fund protection of these Sanctuaries for future generations. Denali State Park needs funding to pay 2 seasonal workers so they can open a brand new campground that recently cost the State millions of dollars to build and is closed because of lack of funding.

I really appreciate your stop work order for these mega projects that are sapping the State dry. Susitna hydro is one of them. Please use the money AEA has for something worthy like teachers, the Marine Highway and the items I mentioned above.

Thank you for all your work and for thinking this through clearly.

Sincerely,

Diane Calamar Okonek

Diane Calamar Okonek
P.O. Box 583
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Diane Ziegner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:06:25 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Diane Ziegner
Pow Wow Trail
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Doug Smith](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:01:30 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Doug Smith
MI6 2 S Talkeetna Spur
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Ellen Wolf](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: NO Su Dam!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:11:01 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for working to solve this year's incredibly challenging budget crisis.

Here is something that will make your job a bit easier: \$33.5 million.

The Alaska Energy Authority has \$33,500,000. sitting in a bank account. The money was allocated for AEA to pursue a license for a big dam on the Susitna River. This dam is a bad idea and Alaskans don't want this dam. If you take this money back from AEA, you will not hear from hundreds of angry Alaskans. To the contrary, thousands of Alaskans will smile and thank you.

There are far better ways to meet Alaska's electricity needs than building a huge dam on a river full of wild salmon.

I urge you to stop wasting money on a Susitna dam starting now. I urge you take the \$33.5 million back from AEA and use it to support programs and projects that deserve our support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Wolf
PO Box 371
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Gary Wilken](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Strong support for the Susitna Watana Dam please
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:49:06 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee provide **STRONG SUPPORT** for the Susitna - Watana project.

This project will provide clean, low cost energy to the Railbelt. It will have minimal, if any impact on the river system.

It is a multi-generational project that starts with your support.

Thank you for your consideration and SUPPPORT.

Gary Wilken
Fairbanks
AEA Public board member

Gary Wilken
2829 Chief William Drive
#6
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Gene Cornelius](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:23:12 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Gene Cornelius
PO BOX 297
1/2 Mile Inlet Drive
Haines, AK 99603

From: [George Menard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:23:43 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Seems like the \$33.5 million being held by AEA could be put to far better use in these times of tight budgets. Pre-school programs with proven fiscal and social benefits spring to mind or how about 10 MEGAwatts of solar and wind or other renewable power projects distributed throughout the state where they are urgently needed?

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

George Menard
Trapper Creek, AK
geom73@juno.com

George Menard
1/4 Mile Petersville Road
Trapper Creek, AK 99683

From: [Greg Campbell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:53:45 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Greg Campbell
P.O. Box 354
Talkeetna, AK 99676
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Harry Roehris](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:14:05 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Harry Roehris
PO Box 200286
Anchorage, AK 99520

From: [Ian Ryerson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:53:27 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Ian Ryerson
11000 Zelma Cir.
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Jack West](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:29:16 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be throwing away good money after bad. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Jack D West

Jack West
15270 E Pow Wow Trail
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Jaelene Boyce](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:23:04 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Jaelene Boyce
box 744
talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [James Castro](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:02:13 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

James Castro
17851 West Willow Fishhook rd.
Willow, AK 99688

From: [James Graupmann](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:39:30 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

James Graupmann
PO Box 672
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Jamie Saraduke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:23:44 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Jamie Saraduke
35257 S. Susitna River Rd. Talkeetna AK. 99676
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Joshua Deal](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:41:14 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As a concerned resident, I am suprised that the Susitna Dam is still an issue that is discussed. It's clear that many true Alaskan residents do not want this dam built. The money should be spent on public works. Schools are being upgraded, the cost of living increases and public transportation needs to be properly funded. Teachers are always underpaid and under appreciated. State employees, not directly involved in government, such as the police, firefighters, and transportation workers, are also underpaid. Roads and the railroad need to be properly maintained. So where is this money going to come from? Cut the Susitna Dam project at once! This will help fund things we actually need!

Respectfully,
J Deal

Joshua Deal
8116 Cranberry
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Judy Heilman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:06:17 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Judy Heilman
P.O.Box BLG
Beluga, AK 99695

From: [Karen Brown](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Return of unspent funds for the Susitna dam project
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:26:32 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I would ask that you consider removing the over \$30 million from AEA control for the Susitna dam project. AEA is planning to spend the remainder of their budget on the ill conceived Susitna Dam project. Financially, the project does not make economic sense when cost vs return on investment is considered. AEA has spent over \$190 million on studies, and permitting cannot be accomplished with the remaining \$30K.

The dam will never be constructed, so I urge you to put a stop to the waste, withdraw the funds from AEA, and consider spending the funds elsewhere to make up for budget shortfalls.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Karen Brown

Karen Brown
4120 Edinburgh Dr
Anchorage, AK 99502
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Kat Haber](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:30:29 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Kat Haber
PO Box 2429
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Kathleen Jones](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:25:11 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Jones
POB 1237
Palmer, ak
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Kristian Erickson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:10:07 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Kristian Erickson
15261 Snow Flake Dr
Anchorage
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Kym Swift](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: NEW FUNDING SOURCE at AEA
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:33:55 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Tough times, calls for tough decision. There is 33.5 million dollars, set aside to pursue a license for the proposed Susitna dam at AEA. From Governor Walkers words and the media, I thought the Susitna dam was dead. Why is this money still set aside for this project? Too me, it looks like we're pursue a license, for a non-project. Alaska has a very long history of spending money on non-projects...grain elevator, dairy farms, long term storage of ferries?

Then there's dedicating funding, I will call on the words of Alaska first Constitution Convention in 1956..Delegate Hermann "I can recall one occasion in our Territorial history during the war when the road fund had been built up to quite a considerable amount and it was impossible to build roads. There was no material available and no help available and that sum pyramided to a very considerable amount while at the same time the Territory was borrowing money to meet its monthly obligations."

I know your all making hard choices. This just seems to be an easy \$33.5 million.

Respectfully,
Kym Swift
Former Director Common Sense for Alaska

Kym Swift
HC 89 Box 8021 Talkeetna, AK
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Laura Lehtola](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:13:49 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Laura Lehtola
3508 W 82nd Ave
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Lloyd Clements](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:10:04 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Clements
7720 josephine circle
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Maggie MacCluskie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:55:13 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Maggie MacCluskie
1995 Red Berry Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Marcia Colson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:38:48 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Marcia Colson
1561 Nelchina St. C6
Anchorage, AK 99501

From: [Marie Pedoraza](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:46:19 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

Have you been advised that dam building is not necessarily the best path to follow. Many countries, including the U.S. are beginning to research that building dams is more dangerous than once thought. Take time to research this line of thought.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have. Why not a billion? What a ridiculous waste of time and funds. We can do so much more, and we can improve our state in so many other ways.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State. Who is gaining financially from the dam? How much have you increased your financial standing? Do you care at all about the future? If you don't, then get off the panel and give your job to someone who has the veracity to conduct business properly, without hoping to gain anything financially, but gaining integrity.

Sincerely,

Marie Pedoraza
658 N. Angus Loop
Palmer, AK 99654

From: [Marilyn Wick](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:05:28 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wick
16294 E Sunshine Lake W Dr
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Mary McCrum](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:50:34 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Mary McCrum
HC 89 Box 8407
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Mary McGraw](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:49:30 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Mary McGraw
400 E. 24th Ave #26
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Matt Kaso](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:29:29 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Matt Kaso
PO Box 747
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Micheal Whalen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:26:53 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Micheal Whalen
1214 Miller Hill Ext.
Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: [Michele Cornelius](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:25:09 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Michele Cornelius
P.O. Box 297
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Nancy Holland](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:25:19 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely, Nancy Holland, Fairbanks,

Nancy Holland
455 Marshall Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: [NJ Gates](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:40:10 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built. If it were a good idea and a well-founded idea, there would not be a need for all these studies!!!!

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska or for Alaskans and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

NJ Gates
PO Box 43
Denali Park, AK 99755

From: [Peggy Peterson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:36:52 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Peggy Peterson
P.O. Box 970
Sterling, AK 99672

From: [Rachel Day](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:13:15 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Rachel Day
Po box 921
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Ray Bulson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:37:24 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Ray Bulson
26034 Wildflower Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

From: [ricardo ernst](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:26:42 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

ricardo ernst
1/2mile saunders road
pob 13172
trapper creek, AK 99683

From: [Rick Herron](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:38:12 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Rick Herron
3705 Arctic Blvd. #531
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Rick E. James](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:44:40 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Rick E. James
po box 870521
Wasilla, AK 99687

From: [Ron Stavek](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:13:49 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Ron Stavek
3623 Lynn Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Sarah Hitchcock](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:44:53 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hitchcock
950 W Edinborough Dr
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Shawn Knudeson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:47:58 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Shawn Knudeson
1310 W. 31st Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Stephen Tack](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:04:52 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Stephen Tack
304 Noyes St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: [Susan C Klein](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:18:49 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Susan C Klein
5090 Sillary Circle
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Thomas Klein](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:11:38 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Thomas Klein
Po box 791
Talkeetna, AK 99676

From: [Tina Brown](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:30:39 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Tina Brown
5526 Sugarloaf Street
Juneau, AK 98221

From: [Tony Salazar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:00:20 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Tony Salazar
3311 Beamreach
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Tracy Larson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:33:55 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Tracy Larson
PO box 882
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Vickie Talbot](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 2:06:16 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely, Vickie Talbott

Vickie Talbot
11675 E. Soapstone
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Vicky Watson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:51:49 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Vicky Watson
1222 E. Jurasek Drive
Trapper Creek, AK 99683

From: [Werner Rhein](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:28:01 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Werner Rhein
Thomson Trail
Box 10034
Whitehorse, AK Y1A 7A1

From: [Blake Schauoamed](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:45:59 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am appalled by the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. To date Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has spent over \$190 million on studies pursuing a dam license, yet they have noted that they need at least \$100 million more to get this project to permitting. Despite this need, AEA also told Senate Finance that they have over \$30 million in the bank. They noted that they did not need additional state funds this year and could continue studies with the funds they have.

I believe it is absurd to even consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project as we lay off teachers, cut oil spill response, and cut service to the Alaska Marine Highway. There are far more responsible ways for the State of Alaska to spend \$33.5 million than studying a dam that will never be built.

The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Blake Schauoamed
5501 N Windsong Cir
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Kathi Baldwin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please stop funding the Susitna dam
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:55:31 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As you tackle the enormous challenges of our budget deficit, I would urge the House Finance committee to withdraw any remaining state funds for the Susitna dam project, and reassign them to one of many other programs that need and deserve support in our state.

As an Alaskan I am disappointed with the continued investment in the proposed Susitna dam, despite widespread opposition. It is time to stop this dam project.

Particularly in these budgetary restricted times it is wrong to consider spending tens of millions more on a mega dam project.

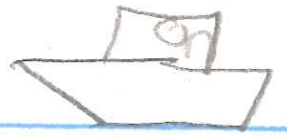
The House Finance committee should withdraw those funds from AEA for the Susitna dam project and shut it down completely. The Susitna dam does not make sense for Alaska and further spending on this project would be a waste. Please stop the spending now and refocus funds on higher priority funding issues facing the State.

Sincerely,

Kathi Baldwin

Kathi Baldwin
8630 E Cottrell-Campus Drive
Palmer, AK 99645

The Taku



The Taku is very important to Kake. It is fun for kids. We can play video games and play with toys. We can buy shoes and clothes. We can charge our electronics.

The Taku is also important to the Community. The teams need to travel. People need to go to the doctor to get a checkup. They have to go to the dentist to check on their teeth. We have to shop to get more stuff.

They have to get more food to eat.

That's why the ferry schedule should stay the same.

Mamie
Fourth grade
Kake, Alaska

Dannell

2-27-15

same good de data

The TAKU is very important to the people.

The Team's Need to Travel ON
the ferry, Kake needs the
ferry to Travel for surgery
or shopping or lots of
other things I hope you keep
the ferry schedule the same
it is.

Dannell Alexander
Fourth grade
Kake, Alaska



Please Keep the ferry schedule the same as it is.

It is fun for kids: There is a playroom
We have food to eat. There is room so you
can go to sleep and we need to shower.

When we get on there is a basket ball
hoop we can play basket Ball. Please
don't take the ferry from us for two weeks.

It is important for community: The teams
need to travel. Some people need to go to
the doctor the dentist are shopping. We
need space and the price is smaller.
And on the plane ears will hurt. People
Don't take the ferry for two weeks.

Jessica

name: Jessica

The ferry is very important to Kake. The ferry is important to the team so they can go play their game. The ferry is important to all Kake people so they don't have to spend their money. I hope they will keep the ferry schedule the same.

ferry schedule the same

CONCLUSION

The Taku is very important to Kake. The Team has to travel Places. We have to go shopping. We have to get school stuff. I wish the Ferry schedule was the same as last time.

KALEENA
FOURTH GRADE
KAKE, ALASKA

The Taku is important to people of Kake because.
Our Teams need to travel. People need to travel.
We need to go to the hospital. We need to go shopping.
~~We~~ need to get to the dentist.

I hope the ferry schedule stays the same.

Elham Kadake

Fourth Grade

Kake Alaska.

Nick

The Taku is very
important to Kake Alaska

The ferry is important to Kake
Alaska.

- Our teams need to travel. Some
people need to go to the doctor.

Some need to go shopping. Some need
to bring big large stuff.

The ferry is fun for kids.
We can run around. We can use
the bathroom all the time and
we can use electronics. We can
watch movies. We can meet new
friends. We can eat pizza.

I hope you can keep the
ferry schedule the same as it is.

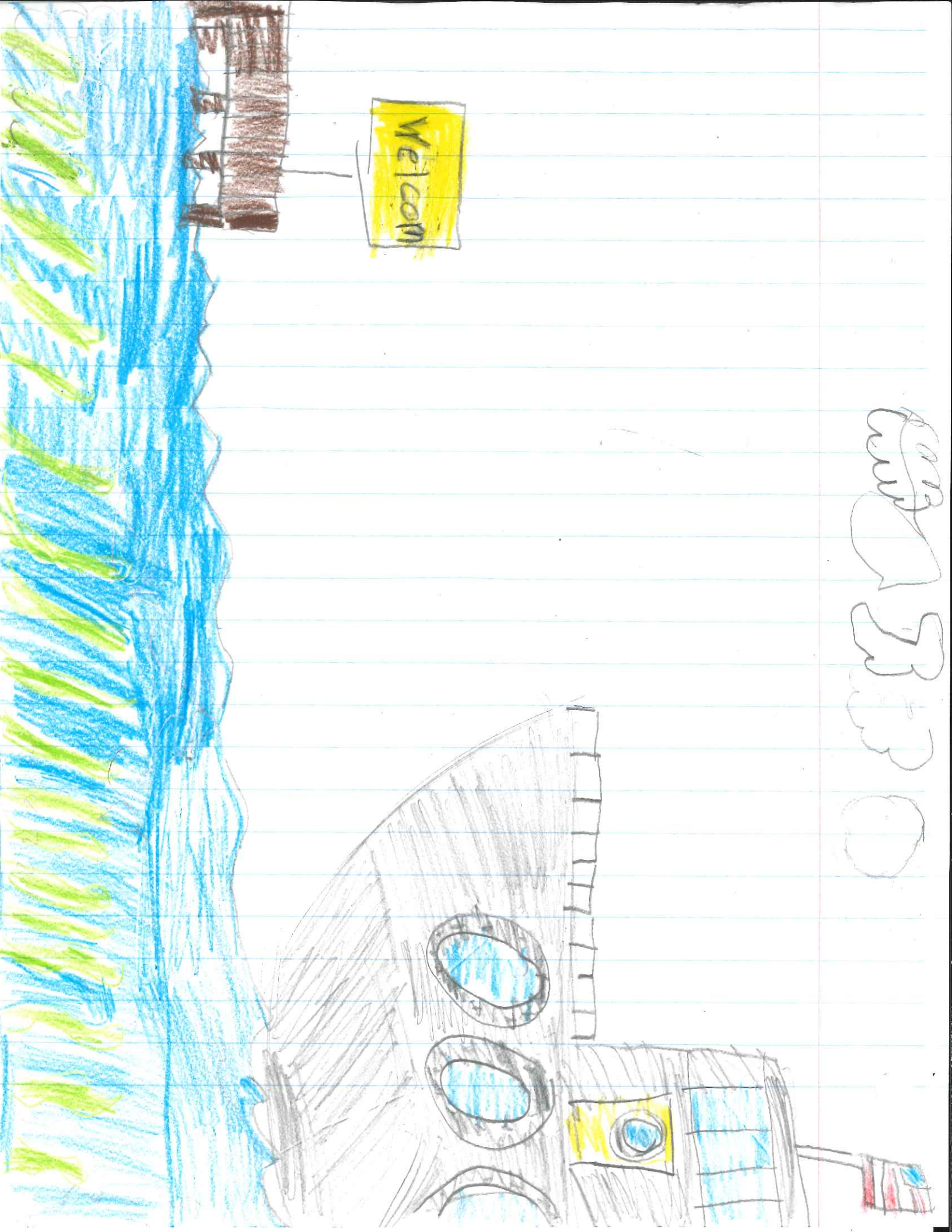
from Nicholas Davis
Grade 4.

The Taku is important to the people of Kake. We need the ferry the same so the T-birds can go on their trip. I hope you keep the ferry schedule the same. We love the Taku. People in Kake love the Taku. We need the Taku. Please keep the ferry schedule the same.

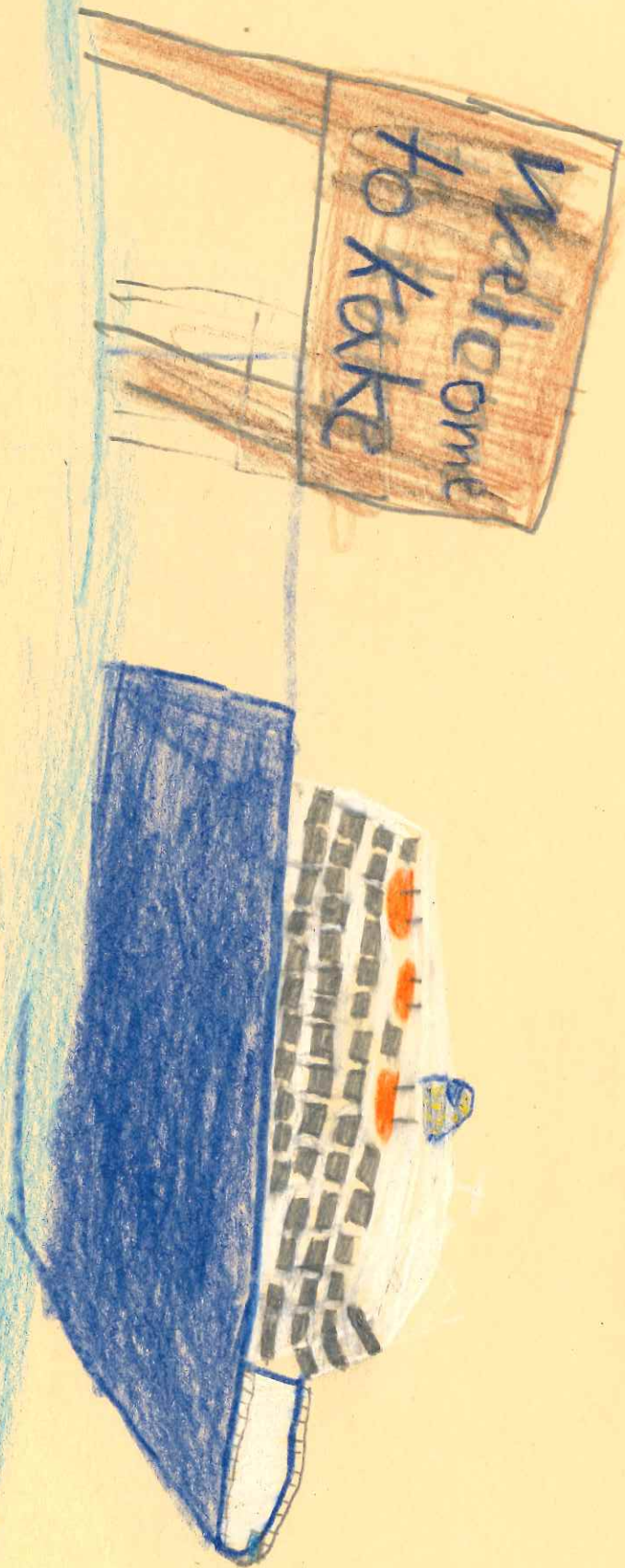
Brandon Ward
9 years old
4th grade

Kake Alaska

WELCOME



from Nicholas



March 3, 2015

Dear Finance Co-Chairs & Finance Committee Members:

I am currently working at the SW Alaska Vocational and Education Center (SAVEC) in King Salmon, Alaska as the Instructional Operations Manager and Fisheries Program Manager. SAVEC is the regional training center servicing mainly the Bristol Bay Area. We were formed in 2002 but I had been involved in the formation of SAVEC prior to that. The area wanted to have a training center that would allow our people to stay at home and still receive high quality training. This effort pulled together a partnership of all the organizations in Bristol Bay including several local governments.

Over the past 13 years we have had many success stories including providing training to those that upgraded their skills for employment, were able to enter the workforce, and have the ability to receive training in the fishing, seafood processing, maritime trades and industry support sectors. This has been quite an accomplishment for a small non-profit organization with 5 staff members. We have been building capacity amongst the 5 staff members and now have 3 USCG approved Marine Safety Instructors and one Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) instructor, 2 CPR/First Aid Instructors, and 2 Adjunct Professors. As you can imagine, the workload for all staff is at times overwhelming.

SAVEC receives TVEP funds to operate and we receive monies from our partners to help offset some of our costs. We count on the Governor's General Fund or UGF to provide services for basic operations and maintenance of SAVEC. In rural Alaska services such as utilities, telephone, and supplies are astronomically high. Cutting SAVEC's funds will cause our services to the region to diminish or go away since any organization needs basic maintenance and operating funds for their building and administrative assistance in offering classes.

We have received some grants in the past but the grants are short-term and we need to keep our base budget of TVEP funding and the Governor's General fund or UGF to continue providing the workforce development and training to the residents of Bristol Bay and the State of Alaska in the long term. One of your guiding principles is to have an 'Increased Emphasis on Vocational Education and Educational Relevance' and in order for SAVEC to do that we need to keep our base funding so we can continue to grow in order to provide training and workforce development services. Our residents need jobs to survive and in order to get jobs they need to be trained. Please allow SAVEC to continue receiving the UGF monies to operate.

Sincerely,



Adelheid Herrmann, Former Alaska State Representative

SAVEC Instructional Operations Manager

PO Box 615

King Salmon, Alaska 99613

e-mail: adelheid@savec.org

Phone: (907) 246-4600

March 5, 2015

My name is Royal Kiehl. I have been a practicing physician in the State of Alaska for over 40 years.

I am commenting on a number of programs, for the same major reason.

Budget decisions for our citizens should be based upon compassion as well as fiscal responsibility, not just on fiscal responsibility alone.

Such programs (to which I will make further reference below) can be supplemented by taxes levied on our citizens, getting us off the "teat" of the PFD upon which we have become so dependent for all these years.

If we are religious, we are commanded to be compassionate by God in both the Old and New Testaments.

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him... there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'
" (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)

In the New Testament: "But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17)

We can get by very well without "mega-projects" such as new roads, new bridges, new dams, etc. We can get by with bumpy roads although no one is very happy with that, but we cannot get by with those in poverty also being ill, and lacking enough education to be able to "raise themselves up by their bootstraps."

Funding social support and educational programs is not supporting a Marxist/socialist/atheist conspiracy of "wealth redistribution."

Medical expenses are the single most common factor causing bankruptcies.

The medically uninsured cost the state and federal systems more money because delayed care results in unnecessary and expensive emergencies and hospitalizations, as well as unnecessary physical and mental disabilities.

The uninsured cost us private payers more money because we have to bear the extra costs of their care. Money spent by low income people for medical expenses leaves less money left over for healthful food, housing, and education for their children.

People with inadequate health care suffer physically and mentally.

Expanding Medicaid eligibility as well as supporting education to allow people to better their lives is doing the compassionate thing as well as the fiscally responsible thing.

Royal Kiehl, M.D.
Anchorage, AK 99516



CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 1330 * 675 Second Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3265 * FAX (907) 424-3271

Cordova Jr./Sr. High School
(907) 424-3266
FAX (907) 424-5215

Mt. Eccles Elementary
(907) 424-3236
FAX (907) 424-3117

Testimony for HB 72

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Richard E. Carlson, Interim Superintendent, representing the Cordova School District. I am writing regarding HB 72, specifically funding in regard to education. I would like to make the following points, first regarding the proposed elimination of the one-time funding promised last year under H.B. 278. The Cordova School District will lose \$102,837 in FY16 and \$63,482 in FY17 totaling \$166, 319. These funds would have been used to hire an ELL teacher to address the growing needs of students that are coming to Cordova without English language skills. This population has grown to over 15% of our student population in recent years and we are without qualified staff to address these student's needs. In addition, the elimination of one time funding will mean delaying purchasing materials needed to implement the new Alaska Standards.

The Second issue I would like to speak to is the cut of \$12,704,000 from the Department of Education and Early Development Budget. The Department provides vital services to the districts of the State, including Cordova. The cuts in such things as the State Mentoring Program will impact our ability to guide, develop and monitor our youngest staff members during a critical time in their career.

The final issue that I would like to address speaks to reducing the funding for broadband expansion. Cuts to broadband will impact our districts ability to provide distance delivery courses and to implement state mandates such as the online state-testing program.

I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to testify.

From: [Christine Brown](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Timber
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:20:04 PM

You can't take away the timber! It's a way of life for many! What is wrong with you people? People need timber to survive! Get it straight, People are counting on timber for their life's income! There's plenty of timber! What is your problem????
I bet if your household depended on timber it would be an entirely different story now wouldn't be?

Christine

--

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance at love, grab it with both hands. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.

From: [Charles Fedullo](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: UA Support
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:18:43 PM

Dear Honorable House Finance Committee Members,

As a UAF alum, a former professor at the institution and a member of the UAF Alumni association. I implore you to, at a minimum, go back to the Governor's proposed decrement to the UA operating budget.

UA is an economic engine in Alaska and these budget cuts will begin to seize it up in a time of low oil prices and reduced revenue. I encourage you to invest in areas that can help create jobs and GROW the economy. That is the University of Alaska

My wife is a UAF grad, her Dad helped build the Rasmuson Library and UAF is the rock that helps steady Fairbanks economy. These cuts would be too much too fast. UA leadership accepts it will be a different place in the coming years, but help make the landing a smooth one.

Also many of the questions that led Rep Wilson to cut the budget I know will be answered. here are some lines from something Chancellor Rogers wrote for the Fairbanks Daily News Miner earlier today.

Our university educates Alaskans. Each year, more than three-quarters of our admitted students come from Alaska. In the fall of 2014, about 83 percent of our enrolled students were from Alaska. It's imperative that we keep the best and the brightest students in our state. Our graduates fuel Alaska's economy. More than 29,000 UAF alumni live and work in Alaska. Tens of thousands more alumni from UA campuses throughout the state do the same. They are the engineers and bankers, the teachers and biologists, the health care.

Please protect our university and our economy be restoring finds to the UA system,

--

All the best,
Charles

From: [Gary J Turner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Tom Wright](#)
Subject: FW: Budget Reductions and Potential Impact on KPC/UA
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:56:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Members of the House Finance Committee,

Rep. Paul Seaton has asked that I share the email below that I sent to Kenai Peninsula House members with your committee.

Gary J. Turner

Director

Kenai Peninsula College

University of Alaska Anchorage

From: Gary J Turner
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 1:13 PM
To: Mike Chenault (Representative.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov); Paul Seaton (Representative.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov); Kurt Olson (Representative.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov)
Cc: 'tom.wright@akleg.gov'
Subject: Budget Reductions and Potential Impact on KPC

Dear Speaker Chenault, Rep. Seaton & Rep. Olson,

I cannot imagine the challenging environment you and your colleagues are facing this session and likely for the next session as well. Like the legislature and state agencies, KPC is planning for how we will deal with a greatly decreased budget in the future years.


While the pain of having less operating funds will be felt by all I wanted to share a little of how the UA budget reduction that is currently being heard in House Finance would impact KPC. Our preliminary plan is to not fill up to four faculty positions and reduce staff, as well as reducing and avoiding costs, and attempting to generate new revenue. Thus far we have

identified \$364,000 in these areas, which is not close to covering the shortfall based on the draft budget before the House when combined with the unfunded fixed cost increases for salaries and utilities.

KPC is a flat organization and we are skinny. We manage our funds carefully and take pride in being as efficient as possible. Many of our departments are departments of one. When we reduce faculty that professor's position may be the only one we have in that department and when we don't fill it students will suffer. Reducing staff can have the same effect. Trust that we are exploring many creative ways to live with budget reductions and we will continue to work at this very hard through the year and next year. Like you, my days have become almost completely focused on budget issues.

I ask that as the House Finance committee reviews the UA cuts that a reduction closer to what has been proposed by Governor Walker versus what was proposed by the UA House Budget Subcommittee be considered. The university builds the product (graduates) that become our workforce that drives our great state. Reducing our budget so drastically means we cannot create the product that will ensure a bright future for all our citizens. I trust that your leadership will bring Alaska out of this challenging fiscal environment and ask that you keep in mind all that the university contributes to our state.

Respectfully,



Gary J. Turner

Director

Kenai Peninsula College

From: [Janice Troyer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: testimony on operating budget-UA and Medicaid
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:24:20 PM

To: House Finance Committee Members

I am concerned about the very deep cuts being proposed for the University of Alaska. While I understand that the legislature obviously needs to cut the budget significantly, please think about the long term impacts for some of the cuts. I would like to make a special plea for the expansion of Medicaid and University of Alaska health programs. Health impacts each and every Alaskan and is central to the quality of life.

I strongly support the expansion of Medicaid! Individuals should not have to go bankrupt or choose between food and medication if they cannot afford the cost of dealing with a major illness. While I am grateful to have health insurance through my employer, I know many Alaskans who do not have that benefit and cannot afford the current insurance market.

UAA has made great strides in recent years in growing the health programs to increase the number of student graduates. Studies have shown if you can train people locally, a much larger percentage of these students will stay and work locally, saving a substantial number of dollars in recruiting healthcare workers from outside of Alaska. With Alaska's aging population, the need for healthcare workers is not going away anytime soon.

If you have to make cuts to the university, consider making the more substantial cuts to the University of Alaska's statewide program, rather than to the campuses who are responsible for training our students.

Janice Troyer

House District 17

From: [Mathew Mund](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#)
Subject: UA Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:51:15 PM

Good Afternoon House Finance Sub-Committee Members, Rep Guttenberg, Rep Kawasaki, Rep Thompson, Rep Wool, Sen Bishop, and Sen Kelly,

I went to testify during today's in person session to the House Finance Sub-Committee at the legislative information office in Fairbanks but there was an hour wait, which I do not have time for today, so I am emailing you instead.

My name is Mathew Mund and I am an employee of UAF. I was born and raised in Alaska and have always called it my home.

The cuts that have been proposed to the UA Operating Budget keeps growing a growing every time I hear about them. I understand that cuts will need to be made due to the crash of oil prices but the cuts that are being proposed for the UA system will require the individual campus to stop services and layoff staff that will stop the Universities ability to remain competitive and make advances in the Higher Education world. It is also putting the university system in a place where it is making drastic changes to how it treats its staff by reducing the layoff notification period from six months to three and eliminating the layoff employee grievance process all together. The layoff grievance policy has been changed to a review process that allows the supervisor who is requesting the layoff to serve as the layoff reviewer. It also allows all layoffs due to "budget reallocation" no review or grievance process to those employees that it affects. None of these changes are fair to the hard working UA employees.

These changes are all being made due to the "emergency" nature of the the budget cuts being considered by the state legislature. I personally do not understand why the state is not tapping into the Permanent Fund to help reduce the severity of the budget cuts. The Permanent Fund was set up originally as a "rainy day fund" for the state. I would consider this a rainy day for the state. I am not suggesting taking our the full budget deficit out of the permanent fund but perhaps half the amount to alleviate the severity of the budget cuts the state is going to have to perform. This would eliminate the need for emergency changes to staff rights and allow the University System time to make cuts.

I know I am eager to work together as a team to help the UA system get through this hard budget time and come out a stronger organization. I fear that at the proposed budget cut levels, will result in a weaker and less competitive University System that will hurt us much more then the temporary pain that the permanent fund will experience. I feel that the budget cuts suggested in the Governors budget will be productive challenge for us that will result in the best University System possible for Alaska.

Thank You,

Mathew Mund

Cell: 907-888-2934

From: [Brennan Cain](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for the University of Alaska
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:40:15 AM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your efforts to reduce the state's budget in light of the current financial situation. You are taking on a very challenging task.

One area of funding that I believe is critical for our families and our state is the University of Alaska. Alaska's universities provide our children with the opportunity to get a great education at a reasonable price. Upon graduation, those young adults enter the workforce and help fuel Alaska's economy. They also look after their parents and, eventually, raise children of their own.

When times are tight, it remains important to continue to make wise investments. The University of Alaska is a very wise investment for the state of Alaska. I encourage you to keep the budget at the level set by the governor.

Respectfully,

Brennan Cain

Proud father of a five year old child

From: [Char&Andy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fairbanks vital statistics office
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:21:06 PM

I'm sending you an email to ask that you keep the vital statistics office here in Fairbanks open. It's very important to have this location available to the Fairbanks residents.

Thank you!!
Charlene Broome

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Geier](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fairbanks Vital Statistics Office
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:53:23 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Fairbanksans do not understand why the State is cutting our vital statics office. Aren't we a big enough community to justify it's already small office? Why don't you create room for this office in an already owned State property, such as the DMV? Wouldn't this save money, while not cutting services to the State's people? We live in a community that doesn't always follow mainstream. Asking are citizens to mail or email or call Juneau seems ridiculous. I understand cutting the fat. . . but it seems to me, and several Fairbanksans, that this small office just doesn't make sense. It is an important part of the community, that everyone must use at some point. I'd urge you to look into relocating the business or even modifying the hours.

Please consider Fairbanks worth it.

Thank you,
Jennifer Lindsoe

From: [kathy frizzera](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Vital stats Fairbanks
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 12:44:08 PM

The Fairbanks office not only provides time sensitive documents for Fairbanks , surrounding ares, and people coming in from the bush; but for two military installations which we are working very hard at trying to retain. Why should spend all that money and effort just to turn around and shoot ourselves in the foot by closing out a service which they depend on? I work down the hall from the office and I see the constant flow of fatigues thru that door.

Please, do not close this office.

Sincerely,

Kathy Frizzera

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laurie Sakkinen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Closing of Fairbanks Vital Statistics
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:37:32 PM

This office is so important to the interior and for the area. Both Ft. Wainwright and Eielson AFB are located in this area and they rely heavily on the vital statistics office. When we say we want to give the military a high standard of living we need to be able to give them services so that will happen. We need this office to stay open to help the interior with their many emergencies that need immediate results, sick children, people traveling, death benefits, families in need who need immediate paperwork. The Fairbanks Vital Statistics office is not a big budget costing office. The costs that this office has spent for items in the last five years has been so inefficient, if those items would not have happened maybe this office would not be on the chopping block. I also noticed that openings in the Juneau office are being filled when those positions could be deleted. The interior of Alaska needs this office for the people in the villages that come to town for appointments and for their daily lives. We cannot afford to lose this service for the people of the interior. Don't let Fairbanks lose another important office,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mom G Mail](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fairbanks Vital Statistic Office
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:17:01 AM

Please don't close this very "Vital" no pun intended office to our life in Fairbanks. Taking just one more hit for the budget would not be acceptable to me. Think about the uses of this office and I'm sure you will see the necessity to the interior. The interior takes the most hits for cuts because your base is on population yet Fairbanks population encompasses all the outlying communities that depend on its proximity to them. It serves communities where travel to Anchorage or Juneau would not only be exorbitantly expensive and require extensive travel. Bottom line is please reconsider this cut the money saved will not be enough to make the difference you are looking for.

Sent from my iPhone



Yukon Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent

Telephone: (907) 374-9400
Fax: (907) 374-9444

To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to start by thanking the legislature for funding the broadband assistance grant in 2015. Our remote schools in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District benefit tremendously from the increase in bandwidth capacity. YKSD has a strong tradition of providing as much bandwidth as our budget allows. In the last two years we've improved our capacity from 3Mbps to 6Mbps in our smallest schools, and from 3Mbps to 8Mbps in our larger schools. This commitment comes at a large cost for our small REAA school district. One month of Internet services prior to USAC's subsidy is \$140,610. The district commits over \$168,00 out of its operating budget to fund broadband in our schools. Unfortunately this sacrifice does not provide adequate bandwidth capacity to our schools.

The bandwidth assistance grant supports our goal of providing educational opportunities on par with urban districts by utilizing distance education resources. As you walk into our schools you see students engaged in their learning while interacting with highly qualified educational professionals from all over the country. We have a variety of core classes taught through video conferencing and online platforms, including AKLN & Odesseyware courses. In recent years we've also been able to extend our Career and Technical Education offerings to include everything from nursing classes offered through UAF to nautical science courses through AVTEC. Cultural heritage is also very important to our district, and we facilitate daily native language classes over video conferencing to each of our nine remote schools. Our school's Internet capacity is the lifeblood of providing quality educational programs to our students that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

In addition, we use our video conferencing network on a weekly basis to provide professional development and collaboration opportunities for our educators. Work on the new evaluation system has been conducted virtually, and monthly principal Saturday work sessions are all video based.

As you can see, continued funding for the bandwidth assistance grant is critical to the academic offerings we're able to provide our students. Taking a step backwards and reducing our current levels of capacity is not acceptable. Now that the funding cycle is aligned with the ERATE program the state's cost for our district dropped 62%. Please support our students and provide funding for the bandwidth assistance grant in 2016.

We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Luke Meinert
Director of Technology

From: [Adrienne](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Funding for Juneau Youth Court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:39:23 PM

Dear Finance Committee members:

My name is Adrienne Audet and I am a Juneau Youth Court volunteer. I want you to restore full funding to the Youth Court programs. These programs are very important and beneficial to the teens who volunteer and to the teens who must go through the the programs when they have broken the law. Youth Courts not only save money by working with teen volunteers, but also provide a more appropriate and restorative option for teens who have gotten into trouble with the law for the first time. Youth Courts give teen volunteers valuable experience with the legal system, and give teens a second chance and the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.
Sincerely,

Adrienne Audet

From: [S BRANDT](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Reinstate Youth Court!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:40:21 PM

To lhscfin@akleg.gov

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

This has been a wonderful learning experience for our son and we wish all of our children could have this opportunity.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Brandt

From: [JSD, Juneau Youth Court](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court funding - DJJ Information Sheet
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 6:42:40 PM
Attachments: [YC FINAL Bulleted List 2015-0302.pdf](#)

House Finance Committee members:

Thank you again for taking testimony regarding Youth Court funding. Attached is a one-page summary and overview of the cost-saving benefits of Youth Court programs as outlined by the SOA's Department of Juvenile Justice.

In Alaska, Youth Courts have been in existence for over 20 years. They are an important part of the Juvenile Justice system as an alternative or diversion program. These programs act as an adjunct to District Court and Juvenile Probation. Without state funding most, if not all, of these programs will cease to exist.

Please reconsider and restore funding to Youth Courts statewide.
Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Beth Leban
Justina Starzynski

--

Beth Leban
Director - Juneau Youth Court
Justina Starzynski
Training Coordinator
juneauyouthcourt@juneauschools.org
907-523-1594

*** This email, including attachments, is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain CONFIDENTIAL or privileged information that is protected by federal and state regulations. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email or the information it contains is prohibited. If you think you have received this email in error, please advise the sender by reply and delete this email immediately.*

From: [carol cross](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: In support of restoring Youth Court Funding
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 8:37:40 AM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask that the legislature fully restore funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the State money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, and law enforcement investigations. Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the State and private sector.

Another economic benefit is the value to the young offender of not having a criminal adjudication if he completes his Youth Court sentence. Per the 2014 McDowell Report, the net present value of the additional income over a working lifetime is approximately \$116,000 for each youth defendant who avoids the stigma of a criminal record, as a result of his or her Youth Court experience.

A value cannot be assigned to the reality that both the offenders and the Youth Court members have a better understanding of citizenship and the role of law in society. Youth Court improves their communication and problem solving skills. These youths become better citizens and leaders in our community.

Restoring the Youth Court funding will be a step in the right direction when addressing savings in the current budget. Thank you for your support of the Youth Court program.

Sincerely,

Carol Cross, co-director
Mat-Su Youth Court

From: [S BRANDT](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Restore Youth Court Funding!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:42:48 PM

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I have personally learned so much through my short time volunteering with youth court. I hope my younger sisters and brothers will have this same experience.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heath Newland

for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

My name is Josh Hartman, I'm a senior at Mat-Su Career and Technical High School and I've been a member of the Mat-Su Youth Court for almost three and a half years. Since May of 2014 I've been serving as the president of the Mat-Su Youth Court Bar Association. This has provided many opportunities for myself as well as many of the other youth court members.

While Youth Court has many benefits for youth court members like me it also has many benefits to the people who go through youth court (the defendants) and the community as a whole. The program provides an alternative for people who have made a mistake because everyone makes mistakes throughout their life and it's just a part of growing as a person. Youth Court helps ensure that those mistakes are not repeated and that the defendant can continue on to be a very productive citizen.

Personally I've worked on cases with some defendants where I see them afterward and see how great they're doing. One example of this is a person whose case I judged then afterward realized he went to my school. That year he graduated and now he's working toward his welding career and without a program like Youth Court it may have been much more difficult for him to work toward that goal.

It is in this way that Youth Court benefits the defendants but it greatly impacts the community as people like this defendant go out to do great work for the community. Conversely Youth Court has been shown to have a lower recidivism rate than other juvenile justice programs so it also works to prevent any further harm from coming to the community from juvenile offenders. Thank you.

Josh Hartman
Presiding Judge, President
213 N Meadow Lakes Loop, Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Written Testimony for Funding Youth Court Programs

Hello, my name is Monica Heintzman, and I am an 11th grader at Colony High School. Almost three years ago, I found an interest in the justice system, and decided to become involved in it through Mat-Su Youth Court. I instantly fell in love with the program. My rapid ascent within my first year has brought me to the highest position of presiding judge. However, I've found that I love to defend. For most teens, youth court is the most nerve-racking process they have ever been through, and I help them through it. I've defended people I know personally, and they have shared insight with me about their experience with youth court. For them, it was a relief to have the opportunity. About six months ago, Carol suggested I apply to be on the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. They were looking to fill their juvenile seats and had contacted her for suggestions of youth court members. I applied, interviewed, was appointed, and attended my first in-person meeting last month. I brought with me my knowledge and experience regarding the juvenile justice system that I have acquired through youth court, and used it to contribute in the conference. We visited the Mat-Su Youth Facility detention center during that conference. I was able to talk with some of the teens there in a focus group. It opened my eyes to the more serious aspects of the juvenile justice system. I believe that Mat-Su Youth Court gives kids who made a mistake a second chance, and that they learn from the experience. Not only does it benefit them, but being a part of youth court is beneficial to us members as well. It is the reason I am on that advisory committee, and has helped me decide what I want to do in my future. I plan on attending law school and either becoming a lawyer or having some type of job in the justice system.

To take away our youth courts would be a serious mistake. The educational and life experiences I have acquired as a member are some that I believe are important to my future. I feel that to disallow others this opportunity is depriving the entire state and its residents of a fully beneficial program. The funds that you provide us with are more than overpaid back to you with the saving of money when volunteers close cases that paid employees would otherwise handle, with the priceless growth the members experience and use to be productive members of society, and with the recidivism rates that come when juveniles learn a lesson from their peers.



Monica Heintzman

Proud Mat-Su Youth Court Member

Presiding Judge and Defense Attorney

3230 N Longspur Dr

Wasilla, AK 99654

To: House Finance Committee

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth.

Speaking specifically about the Mat-Su Youth Court (MSYC) the amount of money we save the state Division of Juvenile Justice Office in Palmer is significant: In FY11, MSYC received 33% of the total juvenile referrals sent to the DJJ Palmer Youth Corrections Office. In FY12 it was 24% of total referrals that came to MSYC and in FY13 it was 41% of total referrals. Mat-Su Youth Court handles these cases as a Juvenile Probation Officer would, starting with an Intake interview with the teen offender and their parents, through the court hearing in front of MSYC trained student judges and attorneys, and then keeping contact with the teen as they find and complete their sentence they received in court. This intervention is something that the teens do not forget. The ones who like the program often join up in the next class and participate as members themselves.

My personal experience with the youth court program is coming from directing the Mat-Su Youth Court program for almost 19 years. Before that, I worked with juveniles at McLaughlin Youth Center for 7 plus years. My career started by working with the toughest kids first, and then was lucky enough to be able to work with kids the first time they get in trouble with the law.

Restoring the youth court funding makes sense for the state of Alaska. Youth Courts already save the state thousands of dollars every year by diverting juvenile cases from the formal state system to a diversion program that is tailored to work in each community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Albert-Konecky

1210 S. Felton Street

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Hello, my name is Cassidy Jeffers. I am a junior at Palmer High School and I have been a member of Youth Court for almost three years now. In Youth Court I am a first chair attorney and with a little more practice will soon be a judge, in addition to the fact that I serve as the public relations officer on the Youth Court's executive board. Throughout the years I've been with youth court I have learned a variety of things from people skills to personal skills. One of the skills that I have grown greatly in, and is one of the most important, is public speaking. Before Youth Court I would have had a hard time standing in front of a little high school class let alone even imagining to stand here and speak to all of you here today. I'm sure that this has happened not only for the benefit of me but as for our other youth court members as well. Seeing new members come and start as shadows and grow to be attorneys, everyone can see them grow in knowledge of our system and come to find what they are truly capable and learning and mastering within themselves. It is truly amazing to see how fast one's confidence can grow and flourish. This blossoming confidence doesn't just benefit our members in court but outside of court as well. Once I had become comfortable in what I do in court, I saw how this confidence stayed with me outside of court and I hope to see that this same thing happens for our other members. I hope to see them grow to achieve even greater things.

Cassidy Jeffers
Associate Judge, Public Relations Officer
2020 Kentucky Derby Drive, Palmer

From: [LIAM CARNAHAN](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court Funding
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:13:06 AM

Hi-

I am a supporter of Youth Court and hope you can restore funding for it in these tough budgeting times. My son was a judge and defense attorney in the program while he was at JDHS and the program sparked his interest in legal and political matters and allowed him to become a more engaged and active citizen. More importantly, he was able to use restorative justice to help minor offenders to minimize their contact with the adult criminal system and get their lives back on track.

Contact me with any questions or comments

Liam Carnahan
360 815-6091

From: [Michael Gallagher](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth court funding
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:31:35 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I have personally been a part of the anchorage youth court for five years now and I have had the most rewarding experience of my life. The people are so friendly and the lessons I have learned will last a lifetime. Without this funding all those experiences and lessons will be gone for the future youth of Alaska. I ask you to please reconsider this decision and fund the youth courts of Alaska. We are an invaluable asset to the community and alaska as a whole. Thank you and have a good day.

Michael Gallagher
AYC Bar Association President

From: [Hartman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Put Youth Court back on the Budget please
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:19:53 PM

My son was in youth court for all 4 years he was in high school. He benefited so much from this experience, he learned so much, and became comfortable speaking in front of a group. This will help him get into a good college, it looks good on his resume. My daughter already shows an interest in youth court. She is looking forward to being in it in high school too, right now she is in 7th grade in middle school, but she already shows an interest in law and wants to be in youth court for the experience and the knowledge you get from it. Please do not cut it from the budget, she is really looking forward to it. And it benefits all children in it and that are tried in it. Please give them a chance.

Thanks,

Mike & Angie Hartman

Hartman Contracting

PO Box 298834

Wasilla, AK 99629

(907) 351-5311

From: [Moriah Sallaffie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 4:15:23 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Moriah Sallaffie
Nome, AK

From: [Neal Alcina](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:14:54 PM

I recently began the youthcourt program and find it enriching, and fun. I feel like I better my community and in the process have also made new friends. I would be highly disappointed to see the program go after joining so recently so please keep this funded

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Peyton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:24:56 PM

Hi,

I am currently an active member in youth court, and I believe it's an important part of our community. Without youth court juveniles wouldn't be able to fully understand their actions, and students wouldn't be able to further understand the court system. The program has given me another perspective on the inner workings of the Judicial system and I hope the program will be able to the same for students years from now.

Sincerely,
Peyton Farrar

Youth Court is perhaps the most educational extracurricular activity available to our high school youth and certainly one of the most valuable. Our teenagers are given a firsthand look at our judicial system and how it works. They have the opportunity to serve in every aspect of that system from judge to juror and gain a firsthand knowledge and understanding of not only how it works, but also why it is done this way. In our society we find far too many citizens doing everything they can to get out of jury duty while youth court teaches our youth the value of being on a jury, real life experience at being on a jury, and the pride of doing your civic duty. It would be a great misfortune to see that opportunity go away. As for youth court being a value to our state, it is a primary diversion option to the Juvenile Justice Probation Officers (JPO). When the JPO gets a referral they have the option of having youth court handle some of the status offenses which takes a load off of their already busy schedule which ultimately saves money. Without youth court being a primary diversion option to the JPO it is possible that the youth ends up going through a formal court proceeding and therefore creating a backlog in an already overcrowded environment. I strongly urge funding of Alaska Youth Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Froehle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent.

Robert B. Froehle, Chair
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

From: [Rylee](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Full funding for youth court
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:41:50 PM

Dear Finance Committee members:

I am a Juneau Youth Court volunteer and I want you to restore full funding to the Youth Court programs. These programs are important to the teens who volunteer and to the teens who must go through the the programs when they have broken the law. Youth Courts not only save money by working with teen volunteers, but also provide a more appropriate and meaningful option for teens who have gotten into trouble with the law for the first time. Youth Courts give these teens a second chance and the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Rylee Landen

Jackson Blackwell
PO Box 2126
Soldotna, AK

Hello Representatives and Senators of the State of Alaska,
My name is Jackson Blackwell and I am a 15 year old who lives in Soldotna (Senate District O, House District 30) and attends Soldotna High School. I am representing my fellow Youth Court Students and the United Youth Courts of Alaska board. I am writing today regarding HB72 to ask that you fully restore the funding's for Youth Court.

Youth Court is a program that saves the state money by performing crucial government functions that includes juvenile probation services, judicial services, civic education etc. When we take a case from a DJJ referral, we have the opportunity to turn these kids' lives around. It has been shown that Youth Court reoffending rates are half those of the youth that do not go through this program. All of the youth referrals that we see are youth that are being diverted from future crimes and in the long run save the state and private sectors money by reducing the need to investigate, prosecute, incarcerate, and pay for the rehabilitation of future offenders.

I am involved in various extracurricular activities that keep me busy including, being the Student Representative to the Soldotna City Council, Student Government Vice President, National Honor Society member, on various sports teams, a member of the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance (for which I was in Juneau last week), among various other activities including Youth Court. I am also the Elected Student Secretary on the United Youth Courts of Alaska board. Throughout all the activities I am involved in, Youth Court is the one I believe has the greatest impact on my community and the people who live here. I have been involved in Youth Court since 7th grade and have seen my involvement affect the offender's life first hand. Whether I am a judge, a prosecuting attorney, or defense attorney I feel as if I am affecting their life for the better. Many kids have approached me in school and in the community and are very appreciative of all that we have done for them.

With the reasons I have stated above, there are countless other reasons why I believe the Youth Court program should be fully restored to their previous funding. If you are serious about helping the youth of our great state and saving money, you should restore our funding. I appreciate your strong consideration of my testimony.

Best regards,

Jackson Blackwell

From: [S BRANDT](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please restore Youth Court Funding!
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:44:55 PM

To lhscfin@akleg.gov

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

As a retired sheriff, I personally see great value in this program and would hate to see it go away. We need to do all we can to promote good citizenship among our youth and this is a program that works.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Brandt

From: tannerpearce24@gmail.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth court should stay.
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:04:58 PM

Hello, I am Tanner Pearce. When I was younger I actually went through the youth court system. And at that point of me realizing I had a second chance, I was completely blown away by how much it really helped all kids. So I joined youth court.

I have completed 2nd chair and have done bailiff, and love the results. I love seeing that the kids have a second chance, because it was just one of the many mistakes in life we accidentally follow. I think that as well as doing it for helping troubled teens, there are people that like the education from what we learn in the youth court process.

Youth court also gives places that need community service a chance for some help. Because in the youth court process, we have the chance to discipline teens with community service. Leading them to see that what led them to youth court was something they don't like doing. In all youth court helps give back to the community and educate kids in law. And we as members love doing it, we would love for it to stay as a part of all communities.

Thank you for your time,
Tanner Pearce

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nancy Hardman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Anchorage Youth Court
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 7:30:33 AM

Hard to believe, with all the money spent on incarcerated criminals and dealing with serious crime after it has occurred, that you would even consider not funding a program that is directed at educating young people before they become habitual criminals. In addition, consider the \$\$ cost of diverting all these offenders to a regular court system.

The other part is the impact this program has on the kids who participate in the judiciary process. What great citizens and contributors they become. My daughter was in AYC for years. Where is she now? In her second year of law school.

I urge you not to cut the funding to this valuable program!!!

Nancy M Hardman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Betty Noreen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: In support of Youth Courts
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 10:38:47 AM

I am writing in support of continued funding for youth courts in Alaska. For the past 9+ years I have been mediation advisor for North Star Youth Court. As a mediator, I am passionate about restorative justice and conflict resolution. We train our youth not only as attorneys but also provide them the life skills of effective communication and negotiation. We give them opportunities to help other youth restore the harm of an offence through victim-offender mediation and resolve conflict in a productive way through peer and parent-teen mediation. It is hard to put a value on peace; it is indeed priceless. Some of the youth coming through our program as offenders become part of our organization as volunteer attorneys and mediators. Our executive director was once a youth mediator and attorney for NSYC. I urge you to consider youth court's unique contribution to our State and the lives of youth that would be negatively impacted without a fully funded youth court. I appreciate your time and attention to this request. You are welcome to call me at any time to discuss questions or concerns that you may have.
Sincerely,
Betty Noreen

Betty Noreen, Mediator
PO Box 70884, Fairbanks, AK 99707
Phone: (907) 378-2120
Fax: (907) 452-5598
bnoreen@alaska.net

From: [Jenny Rohler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written comment in support of Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:24:33 PM

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

My son has had the privilege of being a part of this vital program throughout his high school career. I am very grateful that he had the experience of volunteering with such a beneficial program. He had the opportunity to help his peers and influence them in a much fuller way than another juvenile court could. This program is unique in that regard, because teens who stumble are judged by their peers and hopefully will see that they can choose a better path, not from adults but rather teens like themselves. I am also grateful that my son learned so much about the legal process as well as developed a great respect for the law and serving his community. Losing this program would be a devastating loss to the youth of Alaska.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Rohler

Sent from my iPhone

From: [krisi512](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fund our future
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 3:58:52 AM

To whom it may concern:

This is an email to let you know how important it is to fund our future, our children, our schools. We need to continue to give children the education and opportunity to become bright and talented individuals. It is very important to fund our schools.

Proud parent of 2 very precious individuals who need continued education.

Krissy

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Seth Brickey](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Courts of Alaska
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:41:25 PM

To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

As the former President of Alaska Youth Courts and its continued supporter, I was concerned to hear that there was a recent defunding of Youth Court programs across the state that a result of the Finance Committee's action. Youth Courts of Alaska has been and should continue to be an outstanding champion of juvenile justice. Over its many years of existence the Alaska Youth Court system has effectively proven that it is superior to the traditional juvenile justice systems. The Youth Court model has produced lower recidivism rates, a better model of education, and exceptional follow-up, tailored to the needs of both the community and the offender; all with a lower financial burden to the community.

Youth Courts aid the community in educating offenders and using methods of restorative justice to right the injuries that had been done. The system also benefits offenders by providing them the opportunity to be held accountable by their peers, contrasting their destructive behaviors to that of their civic responsibilities. Countless individuals have been processed through the Alaska Youth Court system as offenders and have been positively effected having their behavioral trajectory altered to better facilitate their growth into productive community members.

Just as importantly, the peer-advocates that volunteer their time to operate the Youth Court system are immeasurably benefitted by their experience. Youth Courts provides a platform from which young people can serve their peers and their community, establishing a pattern of service that extends years and decades into the future. Those that have worked as youth advocates are exposed to the importance and benefits of an equitable legal system and are connected to a network of civil servants to help shape their aspirations. These Youth Court advocates are the City Assembly members, the jurists, the members of law enforcement, and the Legislators of the future. Please do not see the the juvenile offenders, peer-advocates, and Alaskan communities whose futures are positively shaped by Youth Courts of Alaska as less then worthy of funding.

I ask you to continue to fund Alaska Youth Courts and perpetuate the legacy of judicial excellence that has been established through this arm of the juvenile justice system through continued funding. May Alaska continue to be proud of its nationally recognized peer-advocacy system.

Respectfully,

Seth Brickey
seth.brickey@gmail.com
859.473.3787

From: [Zachary Hebert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Youth Court is a very beneficial program to our society
Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:11:09 PM

Dear Finance Committee members:

I am a Juneau Youth Court volunteer and I want you to restore full funding to the Youth Court programs. These programs are important to the teens who volunteer and to the teens who must go through the the programs when they have broken the law. Youth Courts not only saves money by working with teen volunteers, but also provides a more appropriate and meaningful option for teens who have gotten into trouble with the law for the first time. Youth Courts give these teens a second chance and the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Zach Hebert

From: [Iela Weaver](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Early education programs for alaska youth literacy
Date: Thursday, March 05, 2015 5:29:08 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am the mother of two young girls in the Matanuska valley educated with a bachelor's degree and currently pursuing a Masters of Education degree. As a parent, future educator, tax paying, home owning, outspoken registered voter here in the state of Alaska I am deeply disturbed by the choice of my elected officials to cut early literacy programs from the budget.

You hear the buzz phrase "children are our future" but all too often officials do not have the forthright to put their money where their mouth is. I cannot think of a better way to spend my tax dollars and hope that those I have chosen to speak for and uphold my rights and the rights of my daughters to an early education feel the same way. I recognize that our economy is in for some hard times with the falling price of oil and tensions with Russia and the middle east, but let's make the cuts in places that can afford it, not with the education of our children who already struggle with some of the lowest literacy and highest drop out rates per capita in the nation. Please consider the alaska families of young children when making decisions that affect us so greatly and how we are the up and coming generation of dedicated voters raising the future of this country. Let's keep America competitive by keeping tax dollars in education where it belongs.

Regards,

Lela Sieler
Voter and Mother of two

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)