
From: Shawn McGrew
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:44 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fuel tax

Rep. Shelly Hughes,

Thanks for the heads up, and thank you for your service to the state.

I am saying NO to any increase in fuel tax. Alaskans already pay way to much for goods and services. Our gas prices are high enough. Until the state shows that it is really serious about cutting spending I say NO to any tax increase.

If our income is cut by 75% then our spending needs to be cut by 75%. I know as Politicians that is really hard to comprehend, But IF We Don't have the Money Don't Write the Check.

Thanks

Shawn McGrew
9501 Puffin Cir
Eagle River, AK

PS. MY income is shrinking this year due to lower oil prices TOO!!! I work on the North Slope I Feel The Pain.

From: Carol Carman
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:12 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Gasoline Tax

Read my lips: NO NEW TAXES!

Really, it is disheartening to learn that our Governor is attempting to transfer the legislature's responsibility of reducing government size onto our backs by taxing us instead of charging you to do your due diligence. Really. So, my question to legislators is this: Are you going to pass the buck to 'we the people' or are you going to do your job this legislative session and drastically reduce the size of government instead?

Read my lips: NO NEW TAXES!

Carol Carman

<>< <>< <><

God grant me...

Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.

From:

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:35 AM

To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>

Subject: RE: HB249

Dear Rep. Hughes,

I am not able to testify on phone today, but would like to have input.

Until deep cuts are made in the budget, I do not support any new taxes, nor do I support touching any part of the Permanent Fund or Dividend program. We must bring the budget down considerably before asking residents to make up the difference.

I do not support raising the fuel tax. While the amount doesn't seem to be very much, this will increase the costs of anything that has to be transported. This will mean that our grocery prices will once again go up, and grocery prices are already high enough. This will also impact those of us who live outside of the cities, and have to commute for jobs.

Please stand strong and fight this for us. HB249 seems benign, but we will all feel it, especially if gas prices go up. It is expensive to live up here and we don't need to compound it through taxation.

Sincerely,
Shannon Connelly
District 11 Constituent

Sent from Windows Mail

From: chris & taryn

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:18 PM

To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>

Subject: Say NO to HB 249, the Governor's fuel tax hike

Good Afternoon Representatives,

We find it unfathomable that a bill such as HB 249 is under consideration. It would double the motor fuel tax, triple the aviation fuel tax, and double the marine fuel tax to the tune of \$49 million without going towards transportation infrastructure, but into the general fund pot to pay for the Governor's proposed budget of excess, increased, unsustainable spending. Reduce the size of government drastically instead of considering the Governor's revenue increases that will crush the private economy.

HB249 won't just impact travel costs, but also the cost of goods and services for all Alaskans. Businesses might pay part of the \$49 million at first, but it will get passed on to the consumers. Between this bill and the proposed PFD cuts/cap, it is estimated that the Governor's plan would cost a family of 4 -- that's the size of our family now that our oldest has married & left the nest -- about \$7,000 a year. If this passes, how long will it be before increased fuel costs force people out of rural areas such as the bush and villages, where fuel costs are already sky-high? How long will it be before people teetering on the edge are forced out of Alaska? Others that have finally managed to move up from that financial edge, our family included, will be pushed right back down. There are a lot of us in this position. This places the burden of the fiscal crisis unjustly upon the backs of the people. High cost of energy in the interior has been a major issue. Fuel costs have finally fallen somewhat, but where are the plans to drop these tax increases when the price of oil rises again?

We are against this bill. Please, cut state government spending first. Stop spending. Keep cutting the budget.

Sincerely,

Taryn Luskleet and Chris Luskleet

North Pole, AK

From: Mark & Melanie Glatt
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:20 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 249/Fuel tax increases

Dear Representative Hughes,

We are opposed to all fuel tax increases as proposed by the governor. New taxes would increase costs of good and services.

We are strongly opposed to any new taxes before any and all cuts have been made to the state government.

Thank you,
Melanie & Mark Glatt

From: Damon Blankenship
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 5:18 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fuel Tax

Stop over spending and quit punishing We The People. This is UN CONSTITUTIONAL. Balance the budget you Idiots.

"The strongest reason for the people to keep and bear arms is a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government." THOMAS JEFFERSON

I'd rather be tried by 12 than carried by 6

From: Norman Means [mailto:norman.means@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:25 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB249 testimony

Rep. Hughes:

A simple comment on HB249, a proposal for raising taxes:

The legislature cannot balance the state's budget without drastically cutting spending on education and Medicaid. Any glance at a pie chart of the budget makes that clear.

Governor Walker himself campaigned on avoiding an income tax, stating that AK would have to adopt an income tax of 39%(!) to pay for the bloated government we have. With the contraction of the state's economy that we currently see, more taxes will cripple our economy, and that will devastate the state's poor more than cutting their Medicaid, or reducing the Anchorage School District's #4 ranking in the nation in per/student spending.

Time for Republicans to start practicing what they preach at election time: cut spending.

Most Respectfully,
Norman D. Means, MD
Palmer, AK

Sent from somewhere in the wilds of Alaska.

From: Amanda Pagaran
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:44 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's HB 249

To Whom it May Concern:

We are against the Governor's HB 249, the motor fuel tax increase. It proposes to double the motor fuel tax, triple the aviation fuel tax, and double the marine fuel tax. The \$49 million collected will not go specifically for maintenance of transportation infrastructure but into the general fund to pay for state government. Has the financial need of our state government increased that much? If so, then as our representatives, their number one point of order should be to reduce the size and expenditures of our government. Heaven forbid that their answer is to take the money of their people, the ones they are supposed to be representing, standing up for, and looking out for. This is why the Revolutionary war was fought.

Sincerely,
William and Amanda Pagaran
1040 Beylund Loop
Palmer, AK. 99645

Note: Amanda is a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Alaska. William is an Alaskan Native (Tlingit). Both carry current State of Alaska teaching certificates.

From: "Ric Davidge"

Date: February 3, 2016 at 3:16:52 PM AKST

Cc: "Shelley Hughes, State House District 11

Subject: RE: Gasoline Tax Hike

The gas tax should be adjusted for inflation every two years.

The gas tax needs to be held under separate accounting so that the state can report on income to expenditures on public infrastructure. It cannot just fall into the general fund. If you want to raise the gas tax you MUST show it is being used for the purposes it was applied. Not just general revenue, but a direct return in the taxpayers investment into our roads, bridges, etc.

Ric Davidge, MPA

Chairman, Dist 20

AKRP

From: William Kurz
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 5:53 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 249

Hi Rep. Shelley Hughes;

There may be the need to raise the motor fuels tax but it should go toward transportation maintenance not the general fund. This way it will not go toward fancy new projects or totally unrelated funding.

Bill Kurz

Haines Port Development Council LLC. Board Member

<http://www.hainesalaskaport.com/>

haines_port_development_council@yahoo.com

Haines & Yukon Railway LLC. Board Member

<http://www.HainesYukonRail.com>

wkurz@hainesyukonrail.com

Publisher; Haines Happenings

<http://hainesalaskahappenings.com>

Haines Chamber of Commerce Board Member

<http://haineschamber.org/>

Bill Kurz

907-766-2324

Box 1363

Haines, Ak 99827

From: Clinton R Hodges II
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony, HB 249

Dear Co-Chair, Representative Shelly Hughes and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Please accept this email as our testimony relative to the above subject, House Bill 249.

We do not support HB 249 in its present form because it calls for the proceeds from the increased fuel taxes to be put into the general fund. This bill should be amended to replace “general fund,” to “Department of Transportation.” We do, however, support the raising of fuel taxes for the purpose of funding transportation projects, existing and new.

Raising gasoline and fuel taxes will affect my family; we use gasoline in the family car and fuel for our sailboat in Seward. We are retired, live on a fixed income and reside in Anchorage, all year round. I have lived in Anchorage for 36 years, my son is born and raised here and works in the private sector; he bought a new home in Anchorage, two years ago. He is a professional in the transportation and infrastructure field and works seasonally.

Maintaining and updating our existing transportation networks and associated infrastructure is vital to sustaining and growth in the private sector, tourism, mining and so on. Many private sector Alaskans, work seasonally and depend on transportation funded projects for their livelihood. We believe, that putting the proceeds from the taxes into the general fund will grow government and even worse doesn’t build or maintain any of our essential transportation needs.

In its present form we do not support passage of HB 249, because the proceeds from the increase in fuel taxes will be deposited in the general fund which will in turn be used to maintain a state government workforce that is way in excess of what our state needs and is not intended to be used on transportation projects within our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton and Geri Hodges

6930 East 11th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99504

From: kozeycabins@gci.net
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: re: HB 249 Alaska Kozey Cabins

I don't agree with this tax
Appreciate you making us aware
Virginia Marek
Alaska Kozey Cabins
351 E Spruce Ave
Wasilla Alaska 99654

Sent from my iPhone

From: Juli Wolter
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 9:33 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 249

Hello Representative Hughes,

I would like to testify that I am against the proposal for additional fuel taxes unless those taxes, as proposed, are NOT put into the general fund. I do not have issue with fair fuel taxes, so long as the revenue generated is used toward the improvement of services/infrastructure to the residents of the state.

Thank you
Juli Wolter
Palmer, Alaska

From: pamela goode
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB249 - Public Testimony

HB249 PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY Pamela Goode

Private Citizen from the Alaska Interior.
I oppose HB 249 for 2-major reasons:

#1 This bill is NOT NECESSARY & GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG.

The Alaska state government, by discussing this bill, is wasting precious time and resources it does not have. All Alaskans should be giving their full attention to cutting the size of government that has long exceeded its Constitutionally ethical and moral size, and little else.
For the Record: The budget Dept of Transportation has increase 109% in last 10 years.

#2 This is a time of ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FOR ALL ALASKANS.

This will affect Rural Alaskans far greater than the cities because of the vast distances needed to travel and their already higher than "Alaska normal" fuel prices.
A greater insult to rural Alaskans: This transfers money from the private personal lives of rural Alaskans, and all Alaskans for that matter, and concentrates those mandated funds into the government sectors which are located in the bigger cities.
If this is being done to capture tourist dollars during the summer, keep in mind, this is also a time when ALL Alaskans move around a lot more because they can; and because it's a lot safer.

I 'd like to add a comment on : Comparing Alaska to other states as though we need to be more like them with taxation....that offends me. Living in Alaska is expensive enough. I don't want Alaska to be like other states. This is the last bastion of the highest level of personal freedoms left in the world. Unfortunately, it won't be that way for long if we don't greatly reduce the size of government and remove a good deal of the politicians and bureaucrats still in charge that contributed greatly to this mess.

Let's not forget: At one time Alaska made a lot of money, and they also wasted a lot of money. The government was supposed to be good stewards of what the people entrusted them with, but they BLEW IT! Those days may be over but the wasteful spending continues today.

Therefore, I do not support HB249 as it does not address the root cause of the problem; which is spending.

Thank you.

From: j riden
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 6:28 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 249

A fuel tax will result in higher costs for everyone, and costs are ridiculously high as it is. This is a very bad idea that will cause more people to go hungry and go broke. I understand that the state government is in a rough spot, but Alaskans are too. Housing costs are over-inflated, heating and electric costs are on the rise, not to mention the high costs at the grocery store. All those things coincide with the rise in homelessness and hunger issues. So many people are barely scraping by as it is, and the state is just making it harder. They need to cut their own budget, their own salaries. Things are going downhill fast and this is just another way to make things worse. The state government has grown exponentially in the last decade and it cannot be sustained by the people, nor should it be. Legislators are there to serve, not take from citizens. Alaskan families have to live within a budget and the government needs to learn how to do that also. This tax will help destroy the Alaskan economy completely, not to mention the people that will starve because of it. Businesses are closing, jobs are disappearing, and the government wants more and more money. Shame on the state employees that support this. They need to be fired immediately because they are failing at their jobs. I have witnessed the slow economic death of a state before and Alaska is on that road. The state government should be doing all that they can to support new businesses and growth in the private sector while drastically reducing spending. I have not had a vacation in years, yet state officials travel the world and pass the bill to Alaskans. There is so much wasteful spending and it is beyond ridiculous. It has to stop. So does this bill to pass a new fuel tax.

J Riden

From: Tracie [mailto:natcoletrio@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Gas tax

ABSOLUTELY NO GAS TAX!!!! NO TO HB 249!!

Alaskans will be struggling as it is with our state spiraling down the fiscal rabbit hole.

We do not need any more TAXES!!!! Especially if the tax won't even go to fix our roads!! Stop spending Government!!!!

Alaskans deserve better than this.

Thank you for listening to my rant.

Sincerely
Tracie Rector

From: JASON ORTIZ
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 11:36 PM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Feedback on Motor Fuel Tax for Saturday

Representative Hughes,

As a State employee who is about to see their work scheduled slighted reduced (Alaska Court System), a small business owner, and also a father of five children, *I do not think* a motor fuel tax would be the best economic approach to solving our fiscal situation.

Thank you,

Jason Ortiz

From: Mike Coons

Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2016 9:55 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Daniel Ortiz

Subject: Oppose HB 249

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer and I am speaking out against HB 249.

The stated reasons by Governor Walker for all the taxes he is proposing is that we can't cut our way out to a sustainable budget. His piddling

100-200 million dollars in cuts does little to nothing in getting the budget to a sustainable level. The Governor instead taxes the PFD (even Chief Justice Roberts would agree). Then he wants a State Income Tax, but that only goes after those of us that work. Like all progressive tax schemes, the people who are low income and suck up the vast majority of HHS spending don't pay anything. Then he wants a sales tax, although that is somewhat more "fair" it taxes everyday consumable items, thus hurting the low income the most. Then of course is the sin taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, as if the stated goal of reducing that consumption has reduced the use of cigarettes and alcohol in any meaningful way (well, has given the option of e-cigarettes a boost but that is being taxed too).

So to add to all the above, we have HB 249. This is in addition to news this week, that President Obama wants to tax \$10 per barrel of oil to be used on "alternative energy"!

Section 3 of this bill raises many questions and I'm sure if enacted will create an accounting nightmare for the gas stations. Note, all increases are 100% to 175%. From Section 3: 16 cent for motor fuel except for: aviation gas 10 cents; motor fuel used in and on watercraft of all descriptions 10 cents; aviation fuel other than gasoline 10 cents then of course the less tax on ethanol which has not worked well here and part of the environmentalist "fix" that really has never been a fix! Although I not seeing it here, I'm betting that fuel oil for my home will be in this tax scheme since home heating fuel is diesel fuel. That increase will hit rentals and homes big time!

I'm totally confused on duplication of section 4 and then section 5 makes no sense. Whom would get a 12 cent per gallon refund? It states "person"

whereas this bill is about taxing fuel at the pump. Section 5a(3) so, if I'm going to use the gas for my ATV do I state that at the gas station to get a refund of 12 cents? That also raises the question on if I'm buying gas for my boat how does the gas station adjust from 16 cents to 10 cents, same holds true to aircraft. If I fill up Jerry cans for the plane or boat or ATV, how does that get adjusted and how does the gas station know I'm getting it for those things?

I'm sure other testimony will use the term: "This isn't a perfect bill, but needs to pass." I agree, this is not a perfect bill, it is a horrible bill that hurts all Alaskans while not doing anything to get a sustainable budget! Get a big back hoe and bury this bill 10 feet under poured concrete!

Mike Coons

5200 Dorothy Drive

Palmer, AK 99645

From: Marty Van Diest
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2016 7:51 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes
Subject: HB249

Before looking at any new tax or any new revenue raising methods the legislature needs to cut until they are all sure that no more cuts can be made. This means that they must all cut until they are pretty sure they will opposed in the next election by every union in Alaska. It may cost them their seats. But that's what must be done.

HB249 is a classic fund raising scheme that will go into the general fund and not into roads. If we had a system where roads were maintained by them it would be different

--

Marty Van Diest
Check out my real estate blog at
www.valleymarket.com
Valley Market Real Estate
907 232-7900 Cell
800 268-0124 Fax

From: Claudia
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2016 6:27 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes
Subject: House Bill 249

Good Morning Representative Hughes,
I vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,
Claudia Hopper

Sent from my iPhone

From: Greg Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Fuel tax vote

Rep. Hughes

We don't need a fuel tax to fund government. We need less government. Thank you for your diligence as a Representative.

I love the Pfd as much as any one. Use the reserve to get us out of this budget mess. I would forgo a dividend payment if need be.

Thank you for your time.

Greg H Thomas

Sent from my iPhone

From: julie nystrom
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 6:42 AM
To: Rep. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Fuel tax

Thank you Shelley for your hard work. You are exactly correct us valley people have to put slot of miles on for the same income. And as a person in tourism that will instantly take away from my income. So I would like to oppose this idea especially if it will not go to expanding the Glenn hwy or a crossing. Julie and John Nystrom

From: Linn McCabe
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 1:38 PM Rep.
To: Shelley Hughes
Subject: Gas tax

Representative Hughes,

Please stand for no new taxes until the budget is cut, redundancies removed, and pork reigned in! Stand up to ALL new taxes! Gas taxes hurt industry--truckers, fishermen, airlines, etc. You should do all that you can to help businesses succeed. They are the backbone of our country and provide employment for many. The fact that this tax goes into the general fund is irksome as well. Make cuts the priority and don't look for new revenue until you have cut the budget significantly--say 6% a year. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Linn McCabe
Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone