

Written testimony for HB256 hearing March 1, 2016

Cut the budget, real cuts and substantial cuts. Reduce the state budget to about \$3 billion. Tax the oil companies. Eliminate all tax credits. Repeal SB21 and impose a production tax on all oil. Stop pitting Alaskans against each other. Hands off the permanent fund. No income tax.

Thanks so much.

Jimmy Rice  
PO Box 4063 Soldotna 99669  
9072621540

**From:** [Rebecca Lambourn](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts and the University/KPC  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:40:11 AM

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Please do not vote for the extreme budget cuts that are currently proposed. I support the Kenai Peninsula College as a unique asset for the peninsula students from high school seniors to senior adults and especially veterans returning home to a safe place to recover and pursue an education. The wide breadth of classes offered and personal attention are rare in the academic world. This is a school uniquely about "place" and serving the specific needs of peninsula students. It would be a crying shame to lose it.

I have been an adjunct and student at KPC which includes the Kenai River Campus and the Kachemak Bay Campus over the years and have seen generations receive the advantages of an education near their support network. There is not another college like it and I have attended several in different parts of the world including UAA and Rice University in Texas. Please don't gut this very Alaskan school. Thank you, Rebecca Lambourn

**From:** [Richard Ranft](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** UA budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:15:16 AM

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Representative,

The University of Alaska Fairbanks was established with a goal of research in 1917. Since then this university has become an international, national and state wide center for research in many areas of science. I work for the School of Natural Resources and Extension as a Researcher II alongside several Scientists. Much of my work involves studying the effects of climate change on forest, soils and agriculture. Our research along with the research of others around the world will help us understand the changes to come and prepare for the future. The School of Natural Resources is mainly funded through state matching grants. We would not have these grants if other universities and investors thought our research was not creditable.

At the University of Alaska Fairbanks I have earned my Bachelor and Master degree in science. In doing so, I was able to do research in several areas of forestry, agriculture, and climate change. I believe that had I not been able to do the research I was interested in I would have gone to another university, and so will a lot of other students if there is no research. My children have shown interest in science and getting a degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I don't want to tell them they have to move away from family and friends to accomplish their dreams.

I understand that Alaska is going through a hard time here with a great budget gap. As an Alaskan I would be willing to give up some of my dividend and/or a sales tax to help pay for this budget gap. The idea of removing research from the University of Alaska Fairbanks will hurt this states national and international future, not help it.

Richard Ranft

1901 Puffin Pl, Fairbanks AK 99709

**From:** [cheryl keepers](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:44:43 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I can't be there in person today.

I remember how bad things were in 1986 when oil prices tanked. This time we can't cut our way out of the problem or wait for oil to rebound.

We need to increase revenue. The budget is not overblown or full of fat.

Cuts such as those proposed for the university may provide short term savings but will be hugely detrimental to us over the long term. Future growth depends on an educated citizenry.

In addition to instituting taxes we need to be smarter in how we use our rainy day fund. Giving people free money doesn't provide essential services, which is an obligation of government.

Thank you,

Cheryl Keepers  
P.O. Box 74898  
Fairbanks, AK 99707  
907.750.4918

**From:** [Cindy Shults](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** KBRW Radio  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:49:52 AM

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KBRW is a lifeline to ALL North Slope citizens. They count on the radio as the main communication link between villages and camps. Cutting this service will cost lives of hunters and campers who can't get valuable info about weather and ice conditions. Surely, somebody could sacrifice one "fact finding trip" or a conference in Hawaii to fund our vital station.

Mike Shults

Board of Directors

KBRW

907-852-3972

**From:** [LIO Mat-Su](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Forwarding for a constituent  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:00:37 AM

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**From:** Gil Colley [mailto:gcolley85@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 4:27 PM  
**To:** LIO Mat-Su <LIO.Mat-Su@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget cuts and pfd

No additional revenue from citizens until budget cut to 2006 levels. Keep hands off dividend.

Gil Colley

**From:** [Cindy Shults](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** DO NOT DESTROY OUR RADIO STATION  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:03:26 AM

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It is vital that there not be a 100% budget cut to Public Radio. We understand needing to be a part of the process and doing our fair share to help the state budget by taking a cut, but it is totally unfair that certain entities budgets are going to be wiped out completely. We do our best to raise money to support the station, but we are already operating on a shoe string budget as it is.

This station covers 88,000 square miles and is a vital link between the villages, hunters and community members alike and it is a vital component for emergencies and weather warnings and other important information, and the radio station is the only way to get the word out to the citizens across the North Slope.

Please do not wipe out our budget.

Cindy Shults

North Slope Resident

**From:** [michael druce](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Honorable members:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:19:25 AM

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I will not presume there is an easy way to make deep cuts to state programs. I am sure that every argument for is easily counterbalanced with an argument against.

No doubt every constituent has a narrow view of what should be preserved. My interest is in programs that can assist in generating additional revenues for the state: cooperative extension, the film production incentive program, lottery.

Cooperative Extension is an invaluable tool for helping the agricultural industry flourish and helping

the fledgling commercial peony production industry get off the ground.

The film production incentive program will seem completely frivolous to many, but a film production company generates huge business when it goes on location. Incentives are a hard pill to swallow for a cash strapped state, but local economies and businesses benefit. A film production company that has a positive experience, will return and spread the word.

A lottery is problematic for many, often being seen as an ethical issue rather than economic. A prevailing argument is that those who can least afford to play the lottery will squander what little they have. Realistically, is spending money on the lottery any less responsible than spending it on any other nonessential?

Senator Micciche is correct in that no single proposal is a magic bullet. What I believe is little is better than none. We all hope oil will rebound, but I would also like to think we have a state that recognizes that income can be generated by other means as well.

Sincerely,

Mike Druce

Sterling



**From:** [John Kiernan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:41:31 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$3.5Billion.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Alternatively issue 10% tax exempt state

Bonds to the People's fund, which it can pay to all who qualify for a dividend.

Thank you,

John J Kiernan

Goldbeard84@Gmail.com

Thank you,

John Kiernan

4032 W 89th Ct

Anchorage, AK 99502

**From:** [Mara Lutomski](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [rep.david.guttenburg@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.david.guttenburg@akleg.gov); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Dept of Corrections Vs Dept of Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 12:31:37 AM

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Correction: students make up about 20% of our population, my math was off, sorry.

On Feb 29, 2016 11:33 PM, "Mara Lutomski" <[maralutomski@gmail.com](mailto:maralutomski@gmail.com)> wrote:

Just so I am clear. When I look at ALL the appropriations for the Dept of Education and the Dept of Corrections, this is what I see.

Dept of Corrections allocated total 2017 funds: 308.5 Million dollars  
Approx population: 5082 ppl .6% (point 6 percent) of our total AK population  
Seeing only a 9% decrease over the 2 years 2015-2017 (one of the lowest decreases)  
average spending per inmate, per year \$60,606

Dept of Education allocated total 2017 funds: 377.5 Million  
Approx population: 128,580 ppl 6% (six percent) of our total AK population  
Seeing a 36% decrease over the 2 years 2015-2017 (one of the highest decreases)  
average spending per student, per year \$2932

How do (or will) you logically explain or defend this?

It is atrocious that we are spending so much money on a program that has a 60% recidivism rate and yet we still throw money at the dept. How much is spent feeding an inmate a day vs how much we barely fund the food program in our schools? How many career and tech programs (a 21 page document!) do we offer inmates and yet we are having to cut these out of our school's budget? Teach a student to do something and they will have something to do later in life - perhaps if these programs were funded for students in K12 they wouldn't end up in the corrections system. Are our inmates, .6% of our population, those who have chosen to deviate from society, getting the biggest benefits from our state? Are we rewarding residents for bad behavior and punishing them for being a child in our schools?

Where are our priorities? With Prisoners?!?!

What if we flipped the switch? - could we lower the amount of inmates, and therefore the amount of spending by the dept of corrections by prioritizing more funds in the dept of education and on our students?

Your cutting is not hitting the "fluff, or pork" it is on the backs of seniors, students, veterans, and to the detriment of those that go out and get to work. The departments that are seeing the biggest 2 year decreases are Commerce 43.8%, Education 36%, Military/Vets 34%, and Labor 32% (transportation's % decrease was conveniently left out of the subcommittee report) Smallest decreases are

going to Corrections 9%, Public Safety 9% and Judiciary 4.8% - so again our budget sides with those who break our laws! How with these varying percentage are ALL Alaskans feeling the cut, some will definitely feel it more. You can do better, and you must.

\* I 100% understand that my figures are just generic and include all funding for each of the entire depts and then divide by the population number - But that is, in truth, the amount you spend on that total population - no matter how/where you spend it. The Dept of corrections doesn't even include the cost of our troopers or other programs that help prisoners outside of the dept.

Mara Lutomski Alaskan, Registered Republican (but after this and last session, that may change)

**From:** [Lisa Schwarzburg](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. less.gara@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#)  
**Subject:** Urging to Vote to restore all FY17 state grant funding for public broadcasting: the RIGHT thing to do.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:01:43 AM

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**Dear Alaska State House Finance Committee members & Representatives:**

I am writing as a voter and supporter of funding for Alaska public radio, television and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. I am urging you to secure and preserve emergency response and local voices in our state on this valuable community resource.

We understand the tough choices that the Governor and legislature face due to the financial crisis of the State of Alaska. The Governor has included in the FY17 budget, a 27% cut to public broadcasting.

KNBA is the official 'Local Primary 2' station in Anchorage and Mat-Su area. In emergency situations and in the event the first station is unable to broadcast emergency alert communications, KNBA will be relied upon to do this. This is out of the nearly 30 radio stations in our market. KNBA and other public stations have the technical infrastructure to disseminate emergency information. While internet and cell service maybe available, these can be unreliable in times of emergency and unaffordable to economically disadvantaged and elderly. The KNBA emergency alert system is key to the welfare and safety to Alaska largest city and local vicinity.

An 100% cut will cause serious financial instability for KNBA, their network of stations and the daily Native news service. Stations airing their National Native News programming will no longer be able to provide this to their communities. The loss of state funding will severely impact KNBA's ability to administer and attract an additional 25% of federal matching dollars. The daily Native news service and the Native Voice 1 distribution service could lose additional tens of thousands federal matching dollars.

Broadcast of Yup'ik, Inupiaq and Tlingit language programming would not be available in the Anchorage area and throughout the state, where young Alaskan's are striving to find connection with their identity. ..a huge step in the WRONG direction, as far as I am concerned. Commercial broadcasters and other media do not invest the resources to produce daily productions with local Alaska Native voices as only KNBA does.

KNBA will not be able to recoup the loss of \$108,000 State of Alaska grant with local resources or federal grants and more remote villages with no cash economy would not have a public safety outlet.

I'd like to urge you, House Finance Committee members, and the other House Majority Members to please vote Against this proposed measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Lisa Schwarzburg  
UAA's Mat-Su Campus Faculty Advisor for the Alaska Native Cultures Club

[lisa@schwarzburg.org](mailto:lisa@schwarzburg.org)  
907-373-5503

**From:** [MBMcAfeeSaaSReport@mcafee.com](mailto:MBMcAfeeSaaSReport@mcafee.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** My Spam Report (lhscfin@akleg.gov)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:06:36 AM

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## Spam Report - Tuesday - 2016-03-01

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Monday - 2016-02-29

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**From:** [Charles Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:36:40 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,  
Charles Lindsey  
North Point Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**From:** [Susheila Khera](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Cuts to the University  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 7:32:31 PM

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Dear Representatives Thompson, Neuman, Saddler, Edgmon, Gattis, Munoz, Pruitt, Wilson, Gara, Guttenberg, Kawasaki, and Hawker:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the proposed cuts to the University of Alaska, particularly cuts to research and the arts.

Research is a fundamental component of any good university, and I believe that the University of Alaska system is excellent. For Alaskans, having such a high caliber and affordable university is invaluable. 30 years ago, I was living somewhere else and going to school. I came to Fairbanks to take care of a sick parent and therefore had to interrupt my studies. I have been forever grateful that I could finish my B.A. and MFA here in Fairbanks. It has made a tremendous difference in my life.

We attract students from all over Alaska, the United States, and the rest of the world who come here to study petroleum engineering, biology, physics, art, creative writing, education, and many other areas. Opportunities for research also help bring millions of dollars to the university system, bring in good professors, subject matter experts and high profile scholars, and make the university a contributor to the growing body of knowledge worldwide. And while some research is funded by private industry, I believe it is critical for the State of Alaska to also fund research to ensure a wide range of what is studied, beyond the parameters of what a funding industry might specify.

Research is a long process, and one project builds on the next. It is not always possible to see immediate results or benefits, nor is it always possible to pinpoint who exactly benefits from it. However, when seen as a cumulative body of work, the research results benefit and are applicable to many different aspects of our daily life and areas such as medicine, energy development, greater efficiency in manufacturing or construction techniques, etc. To cut research from a university brings stagnation and demotes it to the status of a slightly more advanced high school.

The arts also do not always produce quantifiable results, but they are a critical element of a good education and learning to view the world from different vantage points. Art pervades all aspects of our life, from such things as problem solving to designing a house or a web site, to what our clothes look like. And in Fairbanks, the arts contribute significantly to the economy through festivals, galleries and other events and businesses.

I lived here in the 1980s, and I remember those days well. Like so many others, I could have walked away from my house, which was worth less than the mortgage. However, one reason I stayed, and am still here as a productive resident of this state, was because I did have a job and also because I could continue my studies right here in town. I also remember how hard many people worked to diversify the economy and turn things around. I participated in numerous Chamber of Commerce and other meetings to this end, and the university was always an important element of what was positive about Fairbanks and what Fairbanks could build upon. The university has always been an integral part of this community and this state.



Many people live here because of it, whether they work there or because its presence has brought about other economic activities and attracted people.

I hope you will reconsider any cuts to research and the arts and any deep cuts to the university in general. I realize we have a serious budget shortfall, but we are not a poor state, just as the United States is not a poor country. However, if we begin dismantling our system of higher education, we will start to become such. We will, in effect, live off the principal of our skills, knowledge and capabilities, and once that is gone, current and future generations of Alaskans will be less well off because of it. The quality of what we have to offer in this state and beyond will diminish, our ability to attract not only funding but also people who bring production and innovation, will diminish, and our ability to compete here and elsewhere will likewise diminish. I realize you are faced with difficult fiscal decisions, but I believe that cutting a broad swath through our vital system of higher education will be very harmful and destructive for the future.

Thank you all for your hard work in Juneau and for reading this email.

Sincerely,

Susheila Khera

**From:** [Barry Santana](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Input on Budget  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 7:36:55 PM

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I am sorry that I cannot attend a session at one of the LIOs for public testimony. I have itemized below my suggestions for budget cuts:

- Move from ANC LIO to Atwood Bldg - save ~\$3 million/ year.
- Immediately cancel KABATA work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Susitna-Watana Dam work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Juneau Access road work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Kensington Mine road work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel ANC UMED road extension work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Ambler road work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel KABATA work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Wasilla Seldon Road Phase II work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Immediately cancel Port Mac railroad spur work of any sort and retrieve unspent money for insertion in FY17 budget.
- Cancel all other similar capital projects, studies, designs ...anything that uses money we don't have, and insert the money into FY17 budget.
- Reduce the Legislative budget by 20% (or 5% more than all other state agency cuts). This reduction for FY 17 would be from actual expenses in 2015, not inflated budgetary values. No games here please.
- Claw back the \$25 million gifted to the Nikiski fertilizer company for FY2016.
- Throttle ADF&G by eliminating funding for Intense Predator Management. Fund only aerial game surveys, not aerial predator control.
- Immediately stop spending money on consultants and lawyers to study everything and lawyers to bring law suits against the administration and other agencies. I'd venture a guess this would provide ~ \$1 million in savings.
- Cut University administration funding, not research or professors.

Items I recommend **NOT** cutting:

- University research funding. Research provides a portion of staff salaries. We need a viable research program to attract Federal Science funding.
- ADF&G fisheries program management.

Please consider my comments as if I was in attendance at a community LIO.

Thank you,

Barry Santana

**From:** [Michael Hawfield](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Paul Seaton](#)  
**Subject:** Support Governor's budget  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 7:42:51 PM

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Dear Representative Neuman,

As a retiring instructor from the university, I implore you to embrace the governor's version of the budget for the University of Alaska. While all understand the need to reduce spending, the massive cuts demanded in the version by the House Finance Subcommittee is unconscionable. To gut the university in order to deal with the decline in revenue is short-sighted and sends a powerful message to investors both within and outside Alaska this is no place to do business. Any state that so severely reduces the opportunities of its rising generations clearly has other priorities than growth and future prosperity. If this assessment stings lawmakers, I make no apology, for these hurts pale in comparison to the immense damage such a budget as this does to the students of Alaska who seek to improve themselves and to improve Alaska through their work.

For years I have taught Alaska history and in all those classes over many years my students and I have witnessed and been inspired by amazing Alaska leaders as well as everyday people who wrestled with seemingly insurmountable challenges but found effective solutions that served the state and its citizens well. The subcommittee's budget proposal does neither. I have completed two surveys from legislators about the budget challenges and in both cases results overwhelmingly favored developing new revenues, not simply cuts. This is the creative path to a better future.

Please support the governor's budget and thank you for your service.

Michael Hawfield

Anchor Point, AK

**From:** [Erick Yarnes](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 7:46:56 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,  
Erick Yarnes  
310 Cindy Cir  
Kenai, AK 99611

**From:** [Heidi Hargraves](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education funding  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 8:21:47 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I understand that funding for early childhood education is being discussed and I just wanted to take a moment to express my thoughts and feelings toward Parents as Teachers. I've benefited from Parents as Teachers now for 6 years (4 in Kodiak). I have 3 children and they've all been active participants. The relationships that my children and I have developed with the coordinators has been invaluable. The activities, games, crafts, music, etc. that we did with our coordinators were all things that I would probably not have known to do on my own. They've helped me understand developmental stages, next steps and activities to work on with my children. What I love most about PAT though, is simply that my children have another adult in their lives that they know truly cares about them and enjoys spending time with them. What a gift PAT has been for our whole family.

-Heidi Hargraves

**From:** [wpfloyd@alaska.net](mailto:wpfloyd@alaska.net)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Agriculture in Alaska  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 8:40:40 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to ask you to consider protecting the agriculture department, including the Cooperative Extension Service. With Alaska only growing 3% of our food locally, we are in a very precarious position for food security. It once was at around 60% prior to statehood and the discovery of oil. As we know, oil is on the decline, and yet people still need to eat.

In a study conducted in Fairbanks, it was discovered that a dollar spent on local food circulates approximately 9 times through the local and state economy. Everytime it generates jobs, and revenues to local governments. A dollar spent at Fred meyers for the most part, leaves the state, never to be seen again.

Economies that have a sound agricultural base, avoid boom bust cycles, because of the influence of the recycling of the money spent there.

In my opinion, we in Alaska are just beginning to realize the serious problems that we have caused by ignoring our food sources, under the assumption that nothing will ever happen to it. I hope that it will never become an issue. But even if that never comes into play, the fact that we can create an internal money pump that keeps money in our state, by simply developing our local agriculture, requires that we adopt a long-term approach that will not be forestalled by the short term issues of our state budget. Supporting Agriculture will increase our state's ability to support itself in a manner that is more independent.

Please be a part of a visionary group of legislators that can see beyond this current budget's issues, and find away to promote our state's agriculture by keeping crucial serves place!

Ways to do this:

-Protect Cooperative Extension Service--

They have made the difference for us as farmers, by providing invaluable support services as we have become involved in starting and maintaining a farm. After last year's reductions, they are already understaffed. This has made getting support such as 4-H, Farm visitation, pest control, and other services harder to get. Now a 71% reduction of a budget that is 75% salaries will make it next to impossible to receive the support we need.

-Restore the seed potato certification program, which has made Alaska the state with the lowest occurrence of potato diseases! The possible catastrophe of seed potato infection by the destructive diseases that exist, could wipe out one of our main agricultural products.

-Provide funding for 4H and FFA programs.

The current average age of Alaska's farmers is 61 years of age. We need younger farmers, and to have younger farmers will take training of our up-coming high school graduates. FFA and 4H provide both the technical skills and the leadership training that will allow Alaska's next generation to become leaders in the field.

-fund vocational agriculture programs at UAF and in local community colleges so that these high school students can pursue further training.

-put into place a land grant program that provides 40 acres of land to any graduate that fulfills the training requirements to become proficient in farming in Alaska through a quality Vocation Agriculture program, either through UAF, or other cutting edge programs that we can put into place.

Now, I know that I may be just another voice that is crying, "Don't cut, spend more!" But truly, by doing this you will, keep alive Alaska's best chance to develop our food sources, and stimulate our economy with one of our least tapped resources. That resource is Agriculture.

Your friend,  
Wayne Floyd  
Cool Cache Farms

Nikiski Alaska



**From:** [Lynette Clark](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 8:58:10 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee General,

This request is for this session and I realize the difficult work you have to accomplish. The deficit must be reduced and it can be but on in one session. Initiate the start of it now and more next session. Do not even begin with taxes or plunder the Permanent Fund Corporation, that belongs to the shareholders, we the citizens of the State. Look deeper, cut more. I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

Do not raise taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead continue to cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

Lynette Clark

Thank you,  
Lynette Clark  
2521 Old Steese Hwy  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

**From:** [amhjgd@alaska.net](mailto:amhjgd@alaska.net)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Subject:** House Funding Commitment to the University of Alaska and State Revenue Enhancements  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:13:59 PM

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Dear Hon. Representative Neuman,

Please accept this as my testimony in relation to the House Finance Committee's deliberations on the FY 17 budget.

I am writing in support of a balanced approach to Alaska's fiscal challenges, meaning that I hope you will both embrace fiscal prudence as well as enhanced state revenues. I should note that I work for the University of Alaska Statewide and have also worked in the research wings of UAF. So too have I worked extensively in social and economic development endeavors throughout the world. These experiences have given me firsthand exposure to the development value of tertiary education institutions, particularly the University of Alaska.

In brief, I urge that the House propose to fund the University of Alaska---a premier Alaska agent of social and economic development---at or near the level proposed by Hon. Governor Bill Walker. Alaska needs to take its place in the integrated and increasingly complex national and world economy. To do so, we need talented and skilled researchers and laborers. Note that defunding the University of Alaska may well lead to decreased economic viability of the State and of increased reliance on researchers from the Lower 48. Do we really want Alaska's problems and challenges to be researched by grad students and their advisers from Universities in the Lower 48? That may well increasingly be the case if the University of Alaska is subject to draconian and precipitous budget cuts as proposed to date---researchers will be less likely to accept University of Alaska appointments and graduate students will find the University of Alaska a less desirable locus for the studies.

UA President Johnsen is leading an impressive, multi-year effort designed to make the UA system as efficient as possible. It is critical that this measured and balanced approach proceed without calamitous funding cutbacks.

To this end, I am cognizant of the revenue shortfalls the State faces and appreciate the difficult job you face. Nonetheless, I support the balanced approach to raising revenues proposed by the Governor. I am sorry but I believe the days of cutting our way out of the budget challenges are past. I therefore look forward to hearing of your perspectives on enhanced revenue opportunities for the State as well as enhanced funding for the University of Alaska.

I thank you for your time. If you have any questions about this testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank you for your time.

Arthur Hussey  
3875 Geist Road Suite E-113  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**From:** [Janet Daley](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)  
**Subject:** University of Alaska and State budget issues  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:17:08 PM

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Dear Mr. Neuman,

I am a 16 year resident of Fairbanks, Alaska and worked for 6 of those years as Business Manager of one of the major research institutes at UAF. As someone who has worked in the research engine and who has experienced the benefits the University provides to the State of Alaska, I wish to express my grave concern at the proposed additional cuts to the University of Alaska budget beyond the cuts proposed by Governor Walker.

It is a fact that every dollar invested in research by the State has a multiplier effect of \$4-\$6 in federal and other sponsored research. These funds attract and help retain world renowned researchers in Alaska. Many of them have made discoveries of importance both to the State and to the country and to the world's body of scientific knowledge. This money brings Masters and PhD students to study under these faculty members and carry out research of their own. It helps to pay the salaries of support staff. Good research attracts additional money and helps to improve instruction to students. Retaining researchers and students in Alaska means that money is spent beyond the confines of the universities. Rents and mortgages are paid, groceries are purchased, property taxes are paid, restaurants are patronized, events are attended and children are put in school, sports and other community programs. All of these activities support the local economies of the various campuses of the University. If money is no longer invested in research, these faculty, staff and students will be forced to leave Alaska. The effect on the local and state economies will be catastrophic.

In the calculation of each research budget, fringe benefits and indirect overhead rates are applied. As such, a portion of each grant dollar brought in to the university goes back to support the services and support provided by Statewide and the campuses and helps to support student instruction. It is impossible to separate instruction dollars from research dollars. They are closely intertwined and the more research that is carried out at the university, the more dollars will be made available for students.

President Johnsen is working with the campuses on a transformation process that will result in more streamlined programs and support throughout the campuses. This process needs to take place in a thoughtful, planned manner in order to capitalize on the strengths of the different campuses and ensure that resources are allocated appropriately. Painful decisions have already been made and real people have already lost jobs and will lose jobs as the plans are implemented. Giving the president the time and resources needed to continue with the process is essential to maintain the integrity of the University system.

I beg the committee to think carefully and not cut the University below the level proposed by Governor Walker. It is time to think beyond cuts and look at a balanced approach to fiscal management by raising new revenues through taxation that can then be reinvested in the State. Alaska is one of only three states that do not have taxes. We need to collect money from the many people who work in Alaska but spend their Alaska-earned dollars elsewhere. We need to pay for the services required to maintain and build our state. I WANT to continue to live here and enjoy my life in Alaska. I am willing to pay to do so and hope that others agree with me.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Janet Daley

3875 Geist Rd. # E113, Fairbanks, AK, 99709

907-347-4152

**From:** [Robin Wittrock](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** State Budget  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:24:39 PM

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Dear honorable legislators.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the current fiscal crisis facing our State of Alaska budget.

**Budget expenses:**

Many budget cuts have already occurred. Further cutting of the budget will need to carefully be done.

Any cutting should be especially careful to protect the needs of children, schools, health care, and our citizens who are very poor.

Budget cuts should not be made where we would lose matching funds appropriated from Federal or other sources. These type of cuts do not make sense economically. Cutting 1 dollar in State funds results in more than 1 dollar cut (loss of matching funds) to the State economy.

**Budget revenue (Taxes):**

We need to do a very broad and comprehensive overhaul of our revenue structure.

Non-renewable resources:

We must reevaluate all of our resources to ensure that we are obtaining the maximum revenue (taxes) that we can from them. While we need businesses to be able to make a reasonable profit from our resources, at the same time, we must mandate that the State obtain the maximum revenue possible. This is so important for our non-renewable resources such as minerals, oil, and gas. Once they are extracted, they are gone forever! It is imperative that our current generation of citizens and legislators accept the inherent responsibility for all future generations of Alaskans when negotiating for revenue from these resources. Whatever revenue we get today from these resources is all that we will ever get. Therefore, we should be getting the very best deal for the State of Alaska that we can get. For ourselves and as our

responsibility for all future generations.

#### Renewable resources:

Our revenue from our renewable resources, such as commercial fishing, should be reevaluated. We need to ensure maximum sustainability and maximum revenue. We must protect, preserve, and responsibly use these resources. We must also obtain the maximum revenue. It is very unfortunate that the majority of commercial fishermen in Alaska are not Alaska residents and spend the money, made from our resources, outside of Alaska. We should try to improve this.

#### Other industries:

Other industries, such as tourism, utilize a tremendous amount of State and local maintained infrastructure and services. We should ensure that these industries adequately pay their fair share to build and maintain the infrastructure and services they use (highways, pathways, trails, airports, ports, rest areas, emergency services, police, etc.) Revenue from industries such as tourism should not just cover the cost of all the services they use but must also provide a positive revenue source for the State.

#### Special taxes:

We must reevaluate all of our existing special taxes to ensure they are adequate. A glaring example is our state fuel tax. My understanding is that our current state fuel tax is 8 cents a gallon, it was established at statehood in 1959, and is the lowest fuel tax of any state in our country! This is absolutely irresponsible as we face an upcoming fiscal bankruptcy!! We should have a fuel tax on par with all the other states in our great country (arguments about the price at the gas pumps or constitutional issues about dedicated versus general funds are just distractions. This tax must be brought up to 2016 dollars and not 1959 dollars).

#### Other taxes:

We all need to chip in and pay our fair share of taxes. This includes all businesses and also all individuals. So we must implement some form of state sales and/or income tax. A seasonal sales tax may help capture revenue from some of our summer visitors. An income tax may capture revenue from all of us Alaska citizens and may be less regressive than a sales tax. An income tax may also help capture revenue from the many workers in Alaska that live out of

our state.

Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD):

The PFD must also be considered. We should look at other ways that the dividend could be calculated and if some revenue could be used for other purposes. Eliminating the PFD, however, results in an extremely regressive tax on our citizens who are the poorest. Taking a \$2,000 dividend from someone who earns \$20,000 a year is a 10% tax. That same \$2,000 from someone who earns \$200,000 is only a 1% tax. This is exacerbated even further for struggling families with children who would experience an even greater financial loss. Eliminating the PFD would essentially have the effect of taxing families with children and lower incomes considerably more than families without children and higher incomes.

It would be far less regressive to continue the PFD and instead incorporate a higher income tax.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, any further budget cuts need to be very carefully evaluated. Revenue (taxes) must be increased in all areas and new taxes instituted where there currently are none. And, most important, this must be done now!! Postponing these revenue changes until later will still require all of these changes. Postponing, will in the end however, result in much greater cuts and much greater taxes and will be much more painful for all businesses and citizens. Balance the budget now!!

Thank you very much for providing me this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Patrick Wittrock

**From:** [Phyllis A Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep.Gara@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#)  
**Cc:** [Governor@alaska.gov](#); [Lt.Governor@alaska.gov](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Public Education  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:42:00 PM

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Honorable Finance Committee;

I am writing to thank you for your service to the State of Alaska. I am a multi-generational Alaskan and the mother and grandmother to two more generations of Alaskans that are making this great land their home.

I am well aware of the economic challenges facing our state at this moment in time and trust as leaders you will thoughtfully ponder the best options and direction to take to secure a sustainable future. In your contemplation I ask that you think ahead and consider that the decisions you make, particularly around the opportunity for the youth to secure an outstanding education, must prioritize public education funding. I believe education is the key to building a work force, breaking negative cycles, advancing our society, and securing healthy families/communities by creating thinking and informed citizens that support a strong democracy.

My first grandchild just started kindergarten this year, he represents the class of 2028 and his little brother the class of 2031! Let's do for them and their peers what our former statesmen did for our generation, not compromise resources for their futures. I also encourage you to not try to cut your way through this challenge, there are other routes proposed that are more constructive. Thanks for reading this and considering the real future of this state, its youth, and help to prepare them to meet a very challenging world. My thoughts are with all of you as you navigate a rocky shoreline.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Carlson,

Juneau, Alaska



**From:** [Ronald Johnson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** HB 256  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:55:08 PM

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My testimony re the operating budget.

- 1) We need to have both enhanced revenue plus cuts to the state general fund.
- 2) If revenue enhancements are adopted, I vote for one underlying principle to be **[all Alaskans should have "skin in the game"]**

Hence, if we implement an income tax [I will willingly pay if it is a simple calculation], we should also take actions that effect the PF dividend and/or a sales tax -I prefer the former. I guess > 30 % of Alaskan families pay no federal income tax and hence wouldn't pay a state income tax if it is a flat % of the federal tax.

I realize each of the below ideas has very vocal constituencies in opposition but that doesn't mean we shouldn't consider them.

3)

H S sports travel is expensive [Fbks to Anch, Barrow to anywhere, etc]. State funding for such activities should be scrutinized.

- 4) The Alaska Energy Authority has funded hundreds of energy projects/studies spanning the last several decades. I would like to see an independent benefit cost ratio for this before funding further studies.

- 5) I'm not happy with the work AIEDA has done re the Interior Energy Project. Maybe their staff could be reduced.

- 6) Regarding the University of Alaska, we need a 5 - yr plan to reduce its dependence on state general fund support. We can't wisely do the below in one year.

University of Alaska item 1: I think the number of associate vice chancellors at the statewide level is excessive.

UA item 2: We can save a lot of money if we just had one university wide team for each sport. For example hockey and swimming could be home-based in Fairbanks, and basketball and skiing in Anchorage. The hockey team could play some games in Anchorage, and the basketball team some games in Fairbanks, etc. I'm bothered with the millions we spend

subsidizing travel for teams to come to Alaska.

UA item 3: Close down some of the > 1 dozen campuses/sites spread around the state. Obviously a political hot potato but prudent. We could have more distance delivery in cooperation with local H Schools to lessen the impact.

UA item 4: **To have a sustainable state in the long run we cannot rely so much on funding government by taxing industries that export raw materials. We must diversity our economy.** Engineering is a key part in adding value to our products. To help accomplish this, we need to finish the Fairbanks engineering building. How about providing five million dollars a year from the state to be matched by five million dollars from UA [thru private sources] to finish one floor per year?

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Ron Johnson  
2113 Jack St  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**From:** [Anikyanna Moth](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akle.gov](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akle.gov](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akle.gov](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Funding MSPSD  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:57:26 PM

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Dear Representative,

I am writing to you today because I have heard that there have been suggestions for the ASD budgets cuts to get rid of The MSPDP. We should not be cutting the Seawolf Debate Team for many reasons. For one, this middle school debate program has helped me a lot in the past two years, many student debaters would be impacted and there would eventually be NO debate in the state of Alaska at all.

First of all, this debate program has helped me a lot with my public speaking and has inspired me to continue the art of debate into adulthood. Not only have I attended more than five Saturday Debate Competitions, but I also volunteer in class to help my mentor, Julie Page, keep the class on task and I enjoy that very much. I have seen myself gain more confidence in my speaking skills and I know this will benefit me in the future. This program has inspired me to continue my passion into high school and hopefully into my college years. Not only would this crush me physically, mentally and emotionally, it would also affect how I look upon my future. After being awarded 1st speaker out of 67 students, and placing 2nd place out of 25 talented teams, it has really encouraged me to carry on with debate. I want to continue studying the arts of argumentation and if this program ends now, I don't know what I would do.

Secondly, abolishing this program would upset many of the students in Alaska. It wouldn't just affect the students attending UAA, but also the many students in middle school and high school debate programs. Throughout all the competitions I've been to, I have connected and interacted with many students who share the same interests as me and it's an amazing feeling to know students as young as 12 care about our environment and community. It shows they care so much that they are willing to take the time to conduct research on it and speak about it for 3-5 minutes. This debate program gives us students a chance, and there are many skilled and talented speakers who deserve to be awarded for that, without this program they wouldn't be able to preform or get any recognition for their hard work and dedication.

Lastly, this action could put all future or present students who want to study the arts of argumentation at a disadvantage. If we get rid of this program, debate in all of Alaska could no longer exist for us students. If we wanted to attend UAA and they no longer provided this luxury, the students who actually cared would

be crushed. As a young teen, I'm always told to do what makes me happy, and debate makes me happy. I enjoy practicing, and researching and most of all DEBATING... If this program was gone, what would I be left with to do in high school or even college?

This program that UAA has provided for us has impacted the lives of only a few, but it has been a big impact. The judges at our competitions have continuously reminded and told us that we should all continue debate in our high school and college years, and I believe they say this because the students in this programs hold such great potential within themselves. Cutting this program could be cutting the dreams of many debate students in the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Anikyanna  
Moth

Clark  
Middle  
School  
Debater

From: [Carol & Ray](#)  
To: [House Finance](#)  
Subject: FY17 operating budget  
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 10:46:07 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee members,

We have been residents of Alaska for 30 and 28 years, respectively. We both graduated from UAF with degrees in Wildlife Management and Fisheries, respectively. Our training at UAF went far beyond the classroom and included research components that prepared us to serve as productive scientists, and engaged local and state community members.

One of the primary reasons that we decided to stay in Fairbanks, Alaska, is UAF. We are proud to be associated, as alumni, with UAF – one of the leading research institutes of the North. The diversity of research topics at UAF is truly amazing. While we understand the extremely difficult budgetary situation currently facing Alaska, we urge you to consider all the options for bridging the budget gap. Simply slashing budgets for essential State services including education is simply not acceptable. For instance, we urge you to carefully consider any budgetary actions that would essentially cripple the UAF.

Tammi Wilson's implication that research at UA is not important is so far off base. Apparently, Ms. Wilson is not aware that UAF is one of the nation's leading research institutions and one of the World's leading research institutions for northern studies. Perhaps she is not aware of UAF's long history of outstanding research activities that have benefited Alaska and Alaskans in many different ways. For instance, in May 2015, Senator Lisa Murkowski congratulated the University of Alaska Fairbanks for being selected as a partner in the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence – a national coalition of universities pioneering unmanned aerial systems (UAS's). At a ceremony held in on Capitol Hill, Murkowski spoke of the "game changing" opportunities that UAS's present for Arctic research and development. Murkowski was also quoted that she was proud that UAF is being recognized as a national leader in the field of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Similarly, the late Senator Stevens, along with Senator Murkowski and Congressman Young strongly supported the construction of UAF's new research vessel, the Sikuliaq. Representative Young said that the Sikuliaq is *"an extremely important vessel for Alaska, not only because of the jobs it will create, but because of the opportunity that will come from it. The United States is an arctic nation because of Alaska and Alaska will provide the gateway to our nation's future. We have the opportunity now to address the prospects of industry years down the road and how we can use changing arctic conditions to our advantage, and the Alaska Region Research Vessel is*

***going to help put us at the forefront of those changes." Senator Murkowski said "I have been working on the Alaska Region Research Vessel project for quite a while and am pleased to see it advance to the next phase with the shipyard contract. This world-class ice-capable research ship will support critical science in the Arctic as well as the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, where the marine ecosystems support the nation's most productive fisheries. I commend the National Science Foundation and the University of Alaska Fairbanks for their efforts to make this project a reality."***

Budget actions that will reduce the research capacity at UAF would not provide for future opportunities for similar research opportunities and job growth in Alaska. Reducing funding would cost millions in lost revenue. We believe that more gradual cuts over several years, as proposed by the governor, will enable UA system to continue contributing in a meaningful way to what will help lead the state out of its current fiscal situation. UA cannot absorb a cut of this magnitude in a single year without the risk of serious, long-term impairment of the system and of Alaska's economy.

The June 2015 issue of the *Alaska Journal of Commerce* ran a feature article "UA Fairbanks leading way on Arctic research". The article highlights what may be the world's biggest conference on Arctic science that will be held at UAF in March 2016 – nearly about the same time that you will be deciding the fate of UAF's research program and the eventual fate of UAF. How ironic will it be to announce the demise of our leading research institute while 800 to 1,000 scientists and government officials from around the world will be gathered on UAF's campus to discuss research opportunities in Alaska and at UAF?

We know that Alaska is going through one of its most difficult times. We know that you are charged with making very difficult decisions regarding Alaska's budget. But, we encourage you to think about other opportunities for solving the budget crisis. We would gladly give up our entire Permanent Fund Dividend if we knew it that it would support UA and other educational organizations in Alaska.

We simply cannot imagine living in Fairbanks without UAF or in Alaska without UA. Not only are we extremely proud that UAF is one of the leading research institutions in the north, it also enhances our community in more ways that we can count. We would not live in Fairbanks if UAF did not exist.

Thank you for your time and we sure appreciate your continued support of UAF, one of the finest research institutes in North America, and of UA – the keys to Alaska's future!

Sincerely,

Carol McIntyre, PhD – UAF Alumni, 1995

Ray Hander, MS – UAF Alumni, 1997

6315 Abraham Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

**From:** [Nelson Spindler](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony on proposed operating budget  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 10:49:11 PM

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## Written testimony on proposed operating budget

Dear Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony, and I thank you for your public service to the people of Alaska.

I am a 42-year resident of Alaska, residing at 1761 Chena Ridge Road, Fairbanks, Alaska. I have been gainfully employed my whole time in Alaska, in a full-time job and as a supporter and co-owner of a private business.

I oppose your budget as currently drafted. Here are my main points:

1. You have already cut enough from the State agencies down to the bare bones. Nearly everything that is left is essential, and I believe you have already started cutting into the essential. If you cut any more, the critical functions like education, highways, and law enforcement will suffer more. They have already suffered. Roads were not plowed safely enough last winter, and it was a mild winter. Highway maintenance stations are being closed. Schools are being stressed to the max. Class sizes are starting to creep up. Recognize that we must invest in the future and that future is the education in schools and the University. Troopers are being cut. There are Troopers in the bush trying to live in their airplane hangars because they can't afford to operate their remote housing residences. Ask yourselves - Would you live in a hangar with an airplane? That is an insult, and it is dangerous to the Troopers that we rely upon for our safety, and dangerous to the public, because these Troopers do not even have a decent home, so they cannot operate at their best.
2. Don't cut any more from the programs that have federal matching dollars, such as Fish and Game, University of Alaska Research, Highways and Transportation, to name a few. The few State tax dollars you spend will bring in several times the federal dollars. Any funding that provides a federal match should be guarded and kept.
3. University. You have proposed to cut too much in one year from the University. They need time to transition to a new organization. Cutting so suddenly causes disarray; it creates confusion and inefficiency. The cuts you are proposing will cause loss of 1000 jobs. Add to that the losses from less capital spending, and agency cuts; it just cannot be made up in the private sector this year.
4. It is time to implement new tax revenue, particularly income tax. You need to have all of the transient people who work in Alaska but don't reside here, start to pay their fair share for the benefits they receive (workplace safety, security, police, workers comp, etc). I support Governor Walker's tax proposals: income tax, and increased corporate taxes on mining and commercial fisheries. The latter two do not pay their fair share either. Increase permit application fees so that people applying for permits from the state, like DNR land-use, mining, logging, etc, pay for the work it takes to issue the permits. Sales tax is less preferable



because it costs more to administer, but if you have to do it, go for it. Better to do that than cause another 1000 jobs lost in the state. At least the tourists will help contribute to a sales tax.

5. Use the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve and the Corpus of the fund to provide stable funding for essential State government operations. I was here when Jay Hammond proposed it. I had the honor to shake his hand. He intended it to help pay for essential operations, and that time has come. Again, I support Governor Walker's proposal to create a new endowment from all of the oil, gas, and mineral income to provide a continued, albeit, reduced, dividend to state residents. It is time for the people's dividend to start winding down, and the Governor has proposed the most realistic way to do so.

6. Our home-based business related to health care is declining. Less expendable income in the economy, fewer, clients, less private business, less private income opportunities, which are a direct result of all the cutting of State and University budget that has already occurred. That is our experience.

I know you have a difficult job and there are hard choices. However, I do not think you have given the Governor's proposal enough consideration. I think there is more public support out there than you realize. We all know we cannot just cut our way out of this problem. If you only do that you will initiate a vigorous downward spiral. You must also increase revenues so the spiral is not as steep. Please think of all the job losses you will cause if the spiral continues as you propose.

Again, I thank you for your service.

Mike Spindler, 1761 Chena Ridge, Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709, phone 907-452-0530

**From:** [Heidi Kristenson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Adam Wool](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 10:53:20 PM

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Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I will be unable to attend the Public Testimony session in Fairbanks due to work commitments, but I want to share my thoughts about the tough decisions that you will be facing as you formulate a budget.

I strongly support new revenue sources to pay for the programs and services that keep our state and its citizens strong and healthy. It's time for us to step up and pay our share, and I fully support sustainable use of the PFD along with a State Income Tax in order to pass a viable budget. While I think a Sales Tax is a less appealing option, I would support that as well if that's what it takes to maintain our education and public welfare services along with the fundamental government services that we all rely on.

I am a graduate of UAF, and have very high esteem for the excellent university system that Alaska offers. A university is not merely a place to attend classes, but to get hands-on experience in a particular field of study as well as exposure to a broad range of perspectives, preparing students to become well-rounded citizens as well as qualified professionals. Our university boasts world-class professors who have chosen to pursue their research here in Alaska, and share that expertise with students at all levels. The Museum of the North hosts interesting educational programs and exhibits, but more importantly it houses Alaska's heritage, with 1.4 million artifacts representing the cultural and natural history of our state. These collections are maintained for use by citizens, students and professionals to the benefit of the entire population.

Choosing to fund the university at a level that supports only instruction and not research activities would effectively turn our world-class university into a community college. Quality professors will not be able to stay at an institution that does not allow them to maintain their professional standing through research and publication. We will lose our community of subject-matter experts, and this is particularly alarming as the Arctic and Subarctic are increasingly becoming test grounds for resilience and adaptation as our climate changes. There is no other high-latitude university of its calibre in North America, and UAF in particular is a global resource for high-latitude research. While community colleges and technical institutes are also valuable for preparing people for the workforce, they are limited in their scope. The loss of a viable university system in the state would force students to go elsewhere to further their education, which would be extremely damaging in the long term, not to mention the immediate effects of a reduced population as professors and support staff leave for other states.

The viability of our K-12 education system is also a concern. While I do not have children myself, I believe that supporting schools is in the best interest of the entire state. Alaskan youth and children deserve a well-rounded education, including arts, sciences and sport, taught by well-qualified and well-treated teachers, to prepare them for whatever path they choose. They are the future of the state, and we do ourselves an extreme disservice by short-

changing education funding.

There has been discussion of cutting a variety of public welfare services, from Head Start to addiction treatment programs. Cutting these programs only kicks the costs down the road. Keeping the most vulnerable members of our society safe and healthy benefits us all.

There are many other government programs upon which we all rely. We often take our roads and transportation infrastructure for granted. As a former resident of Southeast Alaska, I can't begin to express how important the Alaska Marine Highway is, and it's alarming to hear of the continued cuts planned for that vital service.

It's time we stop looking to current oil revenue to support all of our state's expenditures. It's time to share in the responsibility of maintaining a healthy and vibrant state.

Thank you for your time and for your service on this committee.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Kristenson  
Fairbanks

**From:** [Krista James](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Alaska Funding  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 11:01:55 PM

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Also, can we please consider a state sales tax so that we can make some of this money from tourists instead of taking Alaskan's PFDs?

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From: kjames150@hotmail.com  
To: representative.mark.neuman@akleg.gov; representative.steve.thompson@akleg.gov; representative.dan.saddler@akleg.gov; representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov; representative.lynn.gattis@akleg.gov; representative.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov; representative.lance.pruitt@akleg.gov; representative.tammie.wilson@akleg.gov; representative.les.gara@akleg.gov; representative.david.guttenberg@akleg.gov; representative.scott.kawasaki@akleg.gov; representative.mike.hawker@akleg.gov; senator.pete.kelly@akleg.gov; senator.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov; senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov; senator.johnny.ellis@akleg.gov  
Subject: University of Alaska Funding  
Date: Fri, 26 Feb 2016 12:15:21 -0900

Hello,

I appreciate you taking the time to read this. Thank you for your past support of the University of Alaska. I am writing to you today, not only as UAA faculty but also as the parent of seven children being educated in the Anchorage School District and hopefully moving on to college within the UA system. I am faculty in the Special Education department. Our department is producing teachers for some of the most underserved children in the state. Three of these children are my daughters whom I adopted from the Alaska foster care system and who are diagnosed with FASD.

As you probably already know, Alaska has a shortage of special education teachers statewide. It is largely due to this shortage that our children are not receiving adequate educational services. There are two faculty in my department. The two of us teach the classes, supervise the internships, recruit students, complete research, provide service to the university, complete all administrative tasks, apply for accreditation, advise students, grade comprehensive exams, and much more. This is an enormous load for two people, but we do it because our program is vital to the educational system in Alaska.

The teacher turnover rate in Alaska is at 12% statewide and 24% in the rural school districts (Hirshberg & Hill, 2006), as compared to 15% nationwide (Goldring, Taie, & Riddles, 2014). The turnover rate in the rural areas is often due to the teachers being recruited from other states, but not having any personal roots in the village. According to Hashberg and Hill, teacher turnover is a real problem for rural schools; struggling school districts are forever filling open positions with new teachers who have not yet developed the skills necessary to support a struggling student population. School districts and state agencies often put an extensive amount of time into training these professionals to work with children with disabilities, only to have them leave the village, or the state, after one to two years in the classroom. This is where our program at UAA needs to be a priority.

We are utilizing technology to train special education teachers statewide. It is vital that we grow our program so that we can reduce the turnover rate in our state. We know that teachers are more likely to stay in the community if they have roots there. We should be focused on building our programs through statewide recruitment efforts so that we can have Alaskan teachers teaching Alaskan students. Alaskan teachers are going to be the ones that understand the diversity and culture of the state. They are the ones who are going to be able to provide culturally relevant education to our students. They are the ones who will be able to connect with Alaskan families. All of these things are what constitutes best practice and should be the focus of the entire UA educational system. The three educational programs in the state should not be in competition with each other, but should be working together in order to produce high quality teachers to educate Alaskan students with exceptional learning needs.

Sincerely,  
Krista James  
907-444-4527  
kjames150@hotmail.com  
3431 Amber Bay Loop  
Anchorage, AK 99515

**From:** [Krista James](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Alaska Funding  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 11:02:57 PM

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Also, can we please consider a state sales tax so that we can make some of this money from tourists instead of taking Alaskan's PFDs?

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From: kjames150@hotmail.com  
To: lhscfin@akleg.gov  
Subject: University of Alaska Funding  
Date: Fri, 26 Feb 2016 12:01:50 -0900

Hello,

I appreciate you taking the time to read this. I am writing to you today, not only as UAA faculty but also as the parent of seven children being educated in the Anchorage School District and hopefully moving on to college within the UA system. I am faculty in the Special Education department. Our department is producing teachers for some of the most underserved children in the state. Three of these children are my daughters whom I adopted from the Alaska foster care system and who are diagnosed with FASD.

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Sincerely,

Krista James

907-444-4527

kjames150@hotmail.com

3431 Amber Bay Loop

Anchorage, AK 99515

**From:** [Walter H Partridge](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed University of Alaska Budget Cut  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 11:12:58 PM

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February 29, 2016

P.O. Box 1171

Homer, AK 99603

Dear Legislators,

My name is Walter H Partridge. I am a retired telecommunications manager. After retirement, my wife and I voluntarily moved to Alaska to be near our grandchildren.

It is because of my love of those grandchildren that I became involved in volunteering in the community in areas that impact their future in very real and positive ways. Among others, one of those areas was on the local hospital board of directors, another is in local Scouting, and another is with the Kenai Peninsula College Advisory Council.

The news I am reading from the University House Finance Subcommittee report is alarming and the extent of the recommended cut is a direct threat to the future of my grandchildren's future. My dream of them receiving a first class University education within the State of Alaska will no longer be a certainty. That will be a tragedy, not only to them, but also for this State as well as its residents with implications far into the future.

With the fiscal issues facing our great State, I am not saying that reductions are not needed in many areas of the State budget. The Governor's recommended budget reduction of \$15.8 million was received as a challenge which would cause changes, but would not gut the universities ability to aid in meeting our State's workforce needs and reinforcing a thriving economy. The Subcommittee recommendation of \$50.8 million is just such an evisceration.

Please consider carefully and invest in the education of the workforce that will lead this great State's future.

Sincerely,

Walter H Partridge



**From:** [Mara Lutomski](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [rep.david.guttenburg@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.david.guttenburg@akleg.gov); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** Dept of Corrections Vs Dept of Education  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 11:33:14 PM

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Just so I am clear. When I look at ALL the appropriations for the Dept of Education and the Dept of Corrections, this is what I see.

Dept of Corrections allocated total 2017 funds: 308.5 Million dollars  
Approx population: 5082 ppl .6% (point 6 percent) of our total AK population  
Seeing only a 9% decrease over the 2 years 2015-2017 (one of the lowest decreases)  
average spending per inmate, per year \$60,606

Dept of Education allocated total 2017 funds: 377.5 Million  
Approx population: 128,580 ppl 6% (six percent) of our total AK population  
Seeing a 36% decrease over the 2 years 2015-2017 (one of the highest decreases)  
average spending per student, per year \$2932

How do (or will) you logically explain or defend this?

It is atrocious that we are spending so much money on a program that has a 60% recidivism rate and yet we still throw money at the dept. How much is spent feeding an inmate a day vs how much we barely fund the food program in our schools? How many career and tech programs (a 21 page document!) do we offer inmates and yet we are having to cut these out of our school's budget? Teach a student to do something and they will have something to do later in life - perhaps if these programs were funded for students in K12 they wouldn't end up in the corrections system. Are our inmates, .6% of our population, those who have chosen to deviate from society, getting the biggest benefits from our state? Are we rewarding residents for bad behavior and punishing them for being a child in our schools?

Where are our priorities? With Prisoners?!?!

What if we flipped the switch? - could we lower the amount of inmates, and therefore the amount of spending by the dept of corrections by prioritizing more funds in the dept of education and on our students?

Your cutting is not hitting the "fluff, or pork" it is on the backs of seniors, students, veterans, and to the detriment of those that go out and get to work. The departments that are seeing the biggest 2 year decreases are Commerce 43.8%, Education 36%, Military/Vets 34%, and Labor 32% (transportation's % decrease was conveniently left out of the subcommittee report) Smallest decreases are going to Corrections 9%, Public Safety 9% and Judiciary 4.8% - so again our budget sides with those who break our laws! How with these varying percentage are ALL Alaskans feeling the cut, some will definitely feel it more. You can do better, and you must.

\* I 100% understand that my figures are just generic and include all funding for each of the entire depts and then divide by the population number - But that is, in truth, the amount you spend on that total population - no matter how/where you spend it. The Dept of corrections doesn't even include the cost of our troopers or other programs that help prisoners outside of

the dept.

Mara Lutomski Alaskan, Registered Republican (but after this and last session, that may change)

**From:** [Corrie Black](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Responding to call for public testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:55:52 AM

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Dear Co-Chair Neuman, Co-Chair Thompson, and the Alaska House Finance Committee:

As the price of oil has dropped and the state's budget has become more difficult to balance, I first would like to thank you for your efforts in planning and finding ways to reduce the state's spending. I would also like to draw your attention to a new professional health program coming to Alaska. This fall, the first ever in the state, doctorate of Pharmacy program will begin classes in Anchorage as a collaboration between UAA and Idaho State University's School of Pharmacy. Last month, myself and six other highly motivated, competent young adults interviewed for this inaugural class. We all shared a similar love for the state and a desire to stay here to practice.

The doctorate of pharmacy (PharmD) is a four year program, however before the first class even graduates, the state of Alaska is going to benefit from having this program in state. One benefit is going to be through the various community outreach events that the students will hold. These will include things like immunization clinics and events that are tailored to Alaska's specific health needs. Additionally, each PharmD student will spend hundreds of hours doing volunteer work in pharmacies throughout the state which will both aid in their education and provide assistance in these various facilities. Once graduated, the cohort of highly skilled and trained pharmacists will be valuable to Alaska. A pharmacist's role in health care is expanding. They are becoming a more integral part of the professional healthcare team, improving quality of care, and able to play a role in reducing medical costs. Like any professional health program, the educational costs are high. Because of the unique situation where this new program is an offshoot of Idaho State University, Alaska residents will be required to pay out-of-state tuition. This is nearly double the cost of in-state tuition. If this tuition cost disparity isn't reduced, Alaska's most talented, ambitious students are going to seriously look at other programs and potentially leave.

My situation is perhaps more unique than other applicants, as my husband and I are invested in commercial fishing both in Chignik and Kodiak. Like oil, salmon prices are really low and it is hard to make a living as salmon fishermen. This has contributed to my desire to go to pharmacy school. Unfortunately, with fishing down and the cost of the program projected to be high in Anchorage, we are seriously considering the long term viability of staying in the state. I understand there is not money for funding new programs. I also want to be respectful of cuts that need to be made. I would ask that you do consider this program. Consider the immediate and long term benefits of having in-state trained healthcare professionals. Also, please consider the implications of potential students (and their families) leaving because it was too costly.

Again, I want to thank you for your service. I pray regularly for wisdom and discernment as you make challenging decisions that ultimately effect the course of this great state.

Sincerely,

Corrie Black



**From:** [Matthew Putnam](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)  
**Subject:** UA Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:56:10 AM

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To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing to you to advocate for an appropriate and sustainable budget allocation for the University of Alaska. In a time of economic uncertainty it is critical that we support the university's role in preparing our workforce, understanding the Arctic, and diversifying our economy.

As a secondary consideration, I would also like to see funding near to the \$16 million cut proposed by Governor Walker, rather than the current \$50 million cuts passed out of the House UA Budget Subcommittee. Furthermore, I'd like to ask you to consider providing funding to complete the UAF engineering building to support the training of qualified in-state engineering hires.

The university is one of the economic engines of our state's economy, and generates far more value than it receives from the Legislature. A 2012 study by The McDowell Group found that every \$1 the state invested in the in the university in FY2011 generated \$3.25 of spending in the state economy.

Beyond the explicit economic benefits, the university supports our economy by training our workforce. The majority of UA students are Alaskans and most of them stay and work in Alaska after graduation. According to the same report, 63 percent of those who graduated between 1989 and 2010 remained in Alaska. The value we get from using state money to support student instruction is undeniable.

But the value of the university goes far beyond student instruction. The university is engaged in research that benefits Alaskan industries and communities. We need this research now more than ever and, according to recent statements by UA President Johnsen, every \$1 the State of Alaska invests in research attracts more than \$4 in matching funds.

This is money that UA brings into our state to support research that will be used to maximize our current resources, meet the demands of a changing climate, and spark the innovations and entrepreneurial businesses that will diversify our economy. Plus, research supports the classroom experience by providing hands-on experiences and fostering the development of

soft skills critical to workplace success, making UA graduates more prepared for the workforce. Furthermore, the University of Alaska is a key institution as the Arctic increasingly becomes a focus of geopolitics and security calculations, in large part due to the world-class research conducted on its campuses.

The University of Alaska is clearly aware of the fiscal challenge we're facing, as evidenced by the creation of contingency budgets to address further reductions in state funding, as well as the restructuring of the UA system outlined in the Strategic Pathways document. President Johnsen and the Board of Regents are committed to building a strong institution that serves the needs of our state now and into the future. We should support these efforts. It is imperative they be allowed to complete this transition for long-term savings and efficiencies, rather than force them into drastic, immediate, and unsustainable cuts that will take years if not decades to reverse.

Driving the university into a funding crisis will shortchange us all.

Respectfully,

Matthew Putnam, UAF Alumnus, '98

7 Marietta Ave Apt 7

Fairbanks, AK 99701

[matthew.putnam@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.putnam@gmail.com)

[907-457-1168](tel:907-457-1168) (home)

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*"Whatever you're meant to do, do it now. The conditions are always impossible."* --Doris Lessing

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**From:** [Nancy Bryan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cut the State Operating Budget!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:56:44 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,  
Nancy Bryan  
22479 E Clare Way  
Palmer, AK 99645

**From:** [Heather Foxworthy](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Early Childhood Education funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:13:33 AM

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From: Heidi Hargraves <heidionia@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 8:21 PM  
To: Heather Foxworthy  
Subject: Early Childhood Education funding

To Whom it May Concern:

I understand that funding for early childhood education is being discussed and I just wanted to take a moment to express my thoughts and feelings toward Parents as Teachers. I've benefited from Parents as Teachers now for 6 years (4 in Kodiak). I have 3 children and they've all been active participants. The relationships that my children and I have developed with the coordinators has been invaluable. The activities, games, crafts, music, etc. that we did with our coordinators were all things that I would probably not have known to do on my own. They've helped me understand developmental stages, next steps and activities to work on with my children. What I love most about PAT though, is simply that my children have another adult in their lives that they know truly cares about them and enjoys spending time with them. What a gift PAT has been for our whole family.

-Heidi Hargraves



March 1, 2016

RE HB256/HB257

I realize that Alaska has a fiscal problem; however, the budget reduction for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery grants will devastate Alaska's substance abuse treatment programs. Alaskan's will be waiting longer to enter residential treatment, some program may close as Treatment and Recovery grants funds have been reduced for the past several years. I am aware that the Department of Health and Social services is expanding Medicaid, to cover substance abuse programs. However, this expansion will not cover several residential programs, and these programs operate on grants. This reduction will directly affect these programs. The number one health and social problem in the State of Alaska is Substance Abuse, the proposed cuts will increase other areas of the budget due to lack of substance abuse programs.

Please restore the 3 million reduction to Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery grants, Alaskan's lives depend on these funds.

As a family member of a resident in the Pioneer homes I would request that the proposed cut of \$741,000, be restored. The Pioneer Homes assist in keeping families together and keeping a very important generation in Alaska.

One suggestion to helping with the budget is to look at state employees contract and at the salary increase they receive every year.

It is time to look at an income tax, Alaska were far-sighted when they voted to eliminate our state's income tax, I was one who voted not to eliminate the tax knowing that it would be hard to reinstate if needed. The PFD was not designed to be a social program; it was designed to put funds aside that would be needed in the future due to decline of oil. With the current price of oil, the state should exam using the PFD to help balance the state budget.

Karen Nugen-Logan  
P. O. Box 875273  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
907 232-4356

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

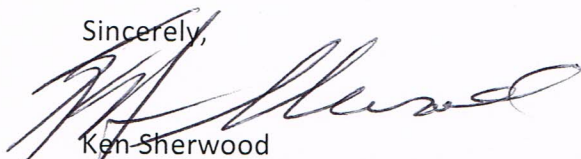
I recently learned of proposed cuts to the Plant Materials Center. I'm a big fan of the Plant Material Center. The PMC is a good example of a government entity that actually does what it was intended to do and does it well. The PMC really does promote the agricultural industry in Alaska through the work and research of the staff. The Staff at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer is providing practical, useful expertise and services in areas that will benefit local farmers.

The potato program at the PMC is critical to Alaska potato growers and local citizens who rely on a local seed potato source. With the loss of the program commercial farmers will have to import seed potatoes from the Lower 48. Our retail store sells exclusively certified, disease free, locally grown seed potatoes to our customers. Our customers do not want to buy seed potatoes grown elsewhere.

Our commercial operation also supplies locally grown native grass seed developed and promoted by the Plant Materials Center. We've been involved in that business for almost twenty years. Local farmers produce native seed for construction and highway projects throughout the State. The PMC makes the seeding recommendations and promotes the use of seed grown in Alaska. The program has been very successful.

Cutting successful programs is short sighted. Raise some revenue. There are some very good proposals in Juneau to raise revenue and solve the budget crisis without destroying valuable programs and productive State agencies.

Sincerely,



Ken Sherwood  
CEO

**From:** [Corrie Black](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Responding to call for public testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:55:52 AM

---

Dear Co-Chair Neuman, Co-Chair Thompson, and the Alaska House Finance Committee:

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Again, I want to thank you for your service. I pray regularly for wisdom and discernment as you make challenging decisions that ultimately effect the course of this great state.

Sincerely,

Corrie Black



**From:** [Erin Harrington](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public Media and Other Cuts--Strongly Advise New Revenues Instead  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:58:29 AM

---

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

As you weigh dozens upon dozens of budget cuts this year, including those to public media, I'd like to encourage you to instead implement aggressive new revenue measures.

As a board member of Alaska Public Media I can share lots of detail into the way that zeroing funding for public broadcasting would gut the statewide news and public services that are provided by the coalition of public media stations around the state.

However, every Alaskan can share similar stories about the public services or grants they are part of and from which they benefit.

We have constructed the Alaska we want to live in by building these programs slowly, year after year. Rather than slash funding and chase our quality of life out the door, I strongly encourage you to implement new revenue measures, including an income tax and restructuring of the permanent fund, to create the opportunity for a bright future in Alaska.

Today's budget problem is structural. By cutting public media funding (and early childhood education funding, university research support, programs for seniors, treatment programs, and dozens upon dozens more) you significantly harm our quality of life in Alaska. I encourage you to brace yourselves, be brave, and implement broad-based new revenue measures immediately.

Erin

**From:** [jerry@glrepellets.com](mailto:jerry@glrepellets.com)  
**To:** [Glen Holt](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Fred Schlutt Jr.](#); [Bernie Karl](#); [Cole Phil H \(DOC\)](#); [Bob Weerts](#); [Herb Seeger](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Forestry Extension through UAF-CES  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:58:33 AM

---

To all Legislatures in Alaska!

The forest industry plays a major role in the US economy so much so that some states rank it #1 and most high on the agenda of necessary stable revenue. In recent years the combination of wood fiber cellulose has been a major study in most Universities and large chemical research efforts in the private sector. The one single contributor to following important strides in the explosive technology of cellulose is the State forestry departments "the future of Alaska's resources" We are working things such as Biochar and microbial charger organic chemicals that actually feed on e coli and other livestock bedding along with saving the orange groves in FL to fast growing vegetables in Alaska's greenhouses (Chena greenhouse research-Bernie Karl) along with many other efforts. Alaska needs to become self sufficient in food production and things from cellulose extraction to biochar is helping in those efforts. We are looking at salvaging the many burned forest acres in Alaska to use these materials to benefit other agricultural industries. There are so many wasteful programs in Government today due to private greed and lobby efforts-this is not one of them -this is self sustaining to the peoples of Alaska, please don't throw your state away and go backwards and the potential to help yourselves. The Cooperative Extension Service and School of Natural Resources and Extension must be increased for your future not decreased.

**Gerald W Brown | Great Lakes Renewable Energy, Inc. | *Lumber Jack Brand***

715-866-8535 (o) | 715-934-4573 (f) | [jerry@glrepellets.com](mailto:jerry@glrepellets.com)

16592 W US Hwy 63 So | Hayward, WI 54843 | [www.bbqlumberjack.com](http://www.bbqlumberjack.com)

" America the land of opportunity depending on how long your parents decide to work"!

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**From:** [Connie Moore](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Budget 2016  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:05:14 AM

---

Dear Alaskan Representatives,

The Moore family has been a part of the Alaskan scene for over 37 years. We raised 3 children here and have several grandchildren residing in Fairbanks. Our family of 5 have all earned degrees through the University of Alaska, including mechanical engineering, nursing x 2, fine arts, and economics. Our entire family has been involved in total upgrades of 2 older homes and developing a virgin piece of property, all of which increased property tax monies to their respective communities. We all have contributed to our community through some work of volunteer service to make things a little better than before.

Your efforts to manage the budget impacts all Alaskans; democrats, republicans and independents. I support Governor Walker's proposals as the most reasoned of submitted budget proposals thus far. He has attempted to represent all of us in Alaska, not just one view point.

The budget that Alaska adopts this year and in future years reflects the vision we have for our families living here. I want a hopeful future for my grandchildren, not a fearful one.

Sincerely,

Connie Moore