

From: [Patrick Dalton](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: budget cuts
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Finance Committee,

Thank you in advance for reading and considering my testimony. I have been testifying on the budget but I am unable to come in the daytime. I am appalled at many of the testimonies I heard from across the state. I am appalled at the selfish behavior of the Alaska residents that are whining to keep their special project. They are only thinking of themselves and not the long term effects on Alaska.

When any of us has a budget crisis for whatever reason we have to make some tough choices and cut our spending, change our habits and make responsible, mature choices. We have to live within our means unless we expect the government to bail us out. That is irresponsible, immature, and part of the reason we are in the budget crisis we are in.

I look over the bills that are in the committees and am shocked at the intrusive bills that will cost this state even more money. When there is a crisis a triage should occur and all the bills that are going to cost even more money and intrusion should be trashed before they even go to the next committee. The legislature is over half finished and very little has been accomplished. Please set your priorities.

A plan has been given to all the legislators that would balance the budget without a tax. It is the uflalaska.com plan. Have you read it? It is 96 pages of sound plans that would balance the budget. There is no excuse not to balance the budget when you have a plan that could be implemented, a solution to the crisis.

Governor Walker has inherited a budget crisis and is handling the crisis in an irresponsible way. You cannot introduce legislation that will cost even more money, cuts have to be made. Vetoes need to be made if it is not a cut in the budget.

Most of us enjoy our freedoms and lives in Alaska. That is why we are here putting up with the long winters. The legislature has a responsibility to preserve this state and stop modeling us after the other states. The 2016 legislature needs to leave a legacy of the one that cut the budget, stopped the taxes, did not raid the reserve fund, and held strong against the irresponsible whining of all the special interest groups. Take your position seriously and responsibly. Set an example to the residents of Alaska and do what it takes to stop the freight train of this budget crisis. At the end of the day and the end of your life you will be accountable for your decisions to Alaska residents and to God. What kind of legacy will you leave?

Thank you for your service and attention.

Sharon Dalton
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