

From: [Linda](#)  
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
Subject: Budget  
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Greetings Members of the Finance Committee:

I keep hearing so much about the budget and it is about time you start cutting. AND, I am not talking about cutting necessities, i.e., police, fire, roads.

The 2016 information I have seen is that SCHOOLS and HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES each take right at 30% each of the budget totaling about 60%. You need to cut the welfare handouts and the massive unnecessary school costs. The important items in school are reading, writing, math and science. Everything else is fluff right now when you consider the budget problem. But parents think it is their right to have their children in so many side lined programs. This does not teach them what they need to know to move forward in life. We have some good schools here in Alaska but then we should also recognize how low we fall in the line when it comes to how Alaska's children fare alongside every other state.

When it comes to the welfare, I really get upset. There are generations of families on welfare and the abuse of the welfare programs run rampant but nothing is done about it. (The news mentioned recently about the fraud in Obama care. Nothing is being done about that either.) I have worked for what I have and I get very tired when there is about 50% of the population in Alaska on welfare programs. Just who is to continue to always pay for these individuals when welfare numbers keep increasing. Everything is on the back of ones who have earned a living, are still working or who own a home.

You talk about an income tax. Just how much money will it take to implement an income tax? Where is that money going to come from for that bright idea. Then, remember, only about 50% or LESS of the population is going to be paying income tax. So think of it. The governor and maybe many of you are wanting to have an income tax but will it be worth it with the additional cost to implement the program let alone run it for years to come.

I say either take the PFD or implement a sales tax. This way EVERYONE will pay/help somewhat toward the budget problem. The PFD is not an entitlement but everyone seems to feel that way. It does help the economy when people grab it up each year and run out and buy a big screen TV. That really helps the welfare families. But then what do they have to worry about. They continue to get their welfare checks so they can eat, have a place to live, get free utilities and everything else they can. A real great deal for them!!!!!! Why should the welfare wagon bunch want to work when there are so many ways to cheat the system. Would any of you??

BUT before I would even agree with using the PFD, you must cut first just like I mentioned above. And again, not necessities as the police, fire, roads. It seems like these type cuts come as a torment to people to make them cave in to paying more. It has been that way in the past. Example: Threaten the people that the parks will be closed and watch them scream and yell and cave in.

There is something else that most likely needs to be trimmed down for sure. That is the

511.gov website for the traffic. I enrolled to have reports sent to my cell phone last year. After a while I was getting double information and information for the Parks Highway up nearer to Fairbanks that I did not want. When I tried to delete it off my cell phone and desk computer, nothing would work to delete the information. Last December, I called the Juneau number and got a recording that the employee I reached was out of the office until January. In January, I sent an email about my problem to try to delete the program. I sent a 'confirmation received' note on my email. I received at least 5 email acknowledgements back from employee at 511.gov that received my email. Where were they back in December. Where were they to try to fix my problem. I had to reach out several times for a fix. I was told my problem was sent on to the ones with the program for a fix. That didn't work. Then I was sent email instructing me on how to correct my problem. However, that did not work either. I reached out again and asked for a phone number to call in person and was told I could not talk to anyone as they were not state employees. They were contractors and I am sure they are paid quite well with State funds for this program which didn't seem to work or they didn't know how to fix. Finally, after many tries and contacts, I guess one of the contractors personally went into my account with 511.gov and fixed it. Really. Is this program – costing the state so much money – really worth it. Let me say that also here in the last week, I have received emails indicating their site was not working. On top of that, about 3 weeks ago, they actually put on the 511.gov website that one of our main highways was closed. That was not true. So my question to you is this: Is that website with a contractor being paid (I imagine huge amounts of money), really worth it? You need to look at this because as far as I am concerned, it should be trimmed back. What scares me is that is is only one example of waste.

**YOU NEED TO CUT SCHOOLS AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES** and the unnecessary programs. And please, don't just send me back a note that you agree. I want to see and hear what you plan to cut.

Ever since pipeline days, the unneeded spending has gone on. The fish plant, the bridge by the port, the grain elevators, the ferry, the ag farms, the fancy schools out in the bush just to name a few I remember. And now the rail spur. And just think of how much those ag farmers we paid. The ag farms were to be for ag rights only so what happened. Not only did those people get STATE land but now they got about 2.8 million for the rail spur to be on the ag land. Talk about total absurdity. And no one is responsible for their actions or they blame the ones before them. Legislators worry about getting re-elected or paying back a friend for something so our legislators allowed unnecessary spending. Those were the pork barrel projects. Will you or any other members of our legislature have the fortitude to do anything about the problem – other than argue with one another.

Thank you,  
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