

From: Margo Waring [<mailto:margowaring@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:10 PM

To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov;
Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.com; Rep.Robert.Herron@akleg.gov; Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.com; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 247

To: Members of the House Resources Committee:

It is imperative that we balance our budget by enacting a wide variety of personal and business taxes. I strongly support elimination of all oil credits, an increase in oil production taxes (which will still not adversely impact the profitability of the oil companies in the long term), a three fold increase in mining fees which have not been raised for decades and which are far lower than elsewhere).

Most importantly, I support continuation of the PFD, perhaps capped at \$1000, and its continuation as part of the earnings reserve of the PF.

I strongly support an income tax as a percent of income that exempts all low earners who do not pay federal tax.

Margo Waring
11380 N. Douglas Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Marian Elliott [<mailto:dmelliott@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:06 PM
To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>
Cc: LHSCRES@akleg.gov
Subject: HB 247

Dear Rep. Nageak,

I sincerely appreciate the difficulty you are facing in trying to address the current fiscal situation in a fair and honest and just manner. Thank you for your efforts. Please accept my remarks as public testimony on HB 247.

Marian Elliott
376-5196

Honorable Mr. Nageak and committee members,

The state is heading for a major recession if we are not already there and our bond rating is more than threatened, its downgraded. The future is here. We need to begin to fix this by stopping the give away of free oil that the legislature wants to fund with the permanent fund, what amounts to a tax on every elderly, sick, poor, rural and, more and more, unemployed Alaskan, so the oil industry can get a free ride with outrageous credits. They got away with this in SB21 because it was suppose to provide JOBS. Well the last reporting period the oil industry had hired over 700 employees, of which over 500 were non-residents. That's over 70%. Along with taking permanent dividend funds which contribute to the economy statewide certain legislators propose funding this tax cut to the oil industry by cutting the University, an important ingredient to a somewhat stable state economy. The University provides jobs all around the state where University employees live and spend their income. The university generates \$5 for every \$1 invested.

Legislators need to ask "how can we sustain our future?" The answer clearly isn't diminishing permanent fund dividends and decimating the University both of which help sustain the economy. You need to first fix the oil industry give-away. Please.

Marian Elliott

From: Kendra Zamzow [<mailto:kzamzow@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:01 PM
To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 247

Dear Congressman Nageak:

I understand that testimony is being taken on HB 247 today. I have not had the opportunity to read the bill, but I do agree that oil and gas subsidies should be reduced.

I have used the Rasmussen interactive model to try to understand how we as Alaskans can pull together to balance the state budget. It seems there is so little we can do that meaningfully changes the budget situation -- through giving up our (non?) Permanent Fund dividends to cutting police and education.

Yet I think most of us are willing to cut our own dividends and cut some government.

Reducing subsidies to the oil industry could help tremendously. While subsidies do play a role in attracting investment, we all know this is a global game -- and Alaska is one of the safest places (stable citizenry, stable regulatory system, good infrastructure, etc) for companies to drill.

Additionally, we have only been an oil state since the mid-1970s, less than 40 years. We will eventually need to transition to a more diverse economy. Possibly one that includes more ports and shipping, more agriculture as vast parts of Alaska experience less freezing, more ship building and manufacturing. I don't know what the future looks like, but no government is stable when it relies almost entirely on a single resource. Reducing subsidies could be another step to looking at diversification.

Thank you,

Kendra
Zamzow

From: Ann and Ron Keffer [<mailto:annronkeffer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 247 - Testimony

Representative Nageak,

I am sending this e-mail as my testimony on HB 247. Would you please include the e-mail in public testimony.

My message is short and to the point. The approximately \$700 million of annual payments to oil and gas companies as tax credits and for reimbursable losses must be stopped immediately. We truly are paying them now to take our oil, and this is an intolerable situation at any time. In a time of budget crisis these payments are totally inappropriate and cannot continue. Retaining this money can allow the state to support more fully our system of education, both at the K - 12 level and at the university level.

Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Keffer

Ann and Ron Keffer
189 Island View Court
Homer, Alaska 99603
H: 907-235-8293, Ann's Cell: 907-299-0812
Ron's Cell: 907-299-0821
annronkeffer@gmail.com

Dear Chairman Nageak & Talerico,

Unfortunately I am not able to participate in today's hearings on HB 247. Please accept my brief comments here. I concur with Representative Paul Seaton's view that credits are not needed to support Cook Inlet gas development and that we should stop paying them. As Paul says, the current \$5-7 per mcf price range assures that gas projects are economical absent credits, particularly in light of Enstar's and Hilcorp's recent gas deals starting at \$7.56 in 2018 and increasing to \$8.19 by 2023. In a time of budget deficit, where government is looking at measures to impose austerity on Alaskan citizens, we should not be subsidizing the oil and gas industry. The final version of HB 247 or some alternative bill should contain clear language ending the subsidy.

Thank you for considering my input.

Mike O'Meara
Homer, Alaska

From: Cristian Nunez [<mailto:cris.nunez@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:49 PM

To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Gary Zepp <Gary.Zepp@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 247

House Resources Committee,

I'm writing in support of Governor Bill Walker's proposed HB247, instituting necessary changes to the O&G tax and tax credit system. Alaska is at risk of becoming a failed petro state because, like Venezuela and Iran, we have been addicted to oil tax revenue. It is imperative that we shift our state's focus away from oil and invest (via tax credits) in the industries of the future.

We have an opportunity to establish an equitable tax regime that is firm with O&G and fair to every other industry worthy of investment. We need to raise taxes on all extractive industries (including commercial fishing) and invest tax credits in industries that show long-term potential, such as telecom, healthcare, retail, education, and services. Please stop working on behalf of the O&G industry and start thinking strategically about what Alaska needs to prosper in a world without significant future O&G investment.

Thanks,
Cris Nunez

5459 Cape Seville Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Heather Brook Adams [<mailto:heather.brook@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Gary Zepp <Gary.Zepp@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB247 thoughts

House Resources Committee,

I'm writing in **support** of Governor Bill Walker's proposed HB247, which would institute necessary changes to the O&G tax and tax credit system. Alaska has been addicted to oil tax revenue, and I am a concerned resident who fears for the long-term fiscal viability of the state. It is past the time when we should have already shifted our state's focus away from oil and invest (via tax credits) in the industries of the future.

Oil and Gas producers are named incorrectly. These companies don't *produce* these natural resources; rather, they *extract* resources that belong to Alaska. **It is high time to establish a fair but firm tax plan that enables this industry to contribute back to the state from which they gain so much wealth.** Along with raising taxes on this and other extractive industries (such as commercial fishing), our state government should heed the long-term needs of the state and reallocate tax credits to other industries (such as telecommunication) that would improve the quality of life in Alaska. (I can't believe the poor state of digital communication in Alaska, which surely is a drag to our economy.) I trust that the legislature will take the time to think about what it can and should do for Alaskans instead of for the O&G industry.

I urge you and the rest of the legislature to stop working on behalf of the O&G industry and start working FOR the people of Alaska. Think strategically about what Alaska needs to prosper in a world without significant future O&G investment.

Cordially,
Heather Adams
heather.brook@gmail.com

5459 Cape Seville Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516