

From: [Betsy Brennan and Mike Wade](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Education funding
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 11:09:11 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I am writing one last time to point out a few items that are concerning to me. I have read in newspaper articles and online blogs that legislators are not happy at only hearing from school board members and educators about opposition to cutting school funding. I am curious with many other topics you take up, specifically oil and gas legislation, if you object to oil industry personnel representing their point of views? Educators, superintendents and school board members know what they speak of when it comes to education funding, just as oil and gas experts know what they are speaking about when they talk about their own industry.

One other fact I would like to point out is that many school board members are unpaid, volunteers who ran for a public office. In Nome, school board members do not get a stipend, or a salary, or retirement or health benefits (or even dinner or lunch during our 2+ hour meetings several times a month). We do it because we care about educating the youth in our communities.

One member of the finance committee compared the proposed education cuts to households tightening their budgets by stopping the practice of going out to dinner and stopping cable TV for their home and getting a second job. I will let you know, in Nome, we have made those type of costs cuts long ago. We fundraise and apply for grants and enter into partnerships. **We are at the bare minimum now at providing education to just over 700 students. Cutting more at this point means a tip over the edge of not being effective at teaching our children.**

Start talking about generating revenue. That is the elephant in the room no one is talking about.

Thank you for your time.

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