
From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379 not a good idea to tie our wages to what OPEC does! Put managers to work that's what we pay them for!

From: Jerry Hannasch [mailto:jerryhannasch@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:53 PM
Subject: HB 379 not a good idea to tie our wages to what OPEC does! Put managers to work that's what we pay them for!

Please stop HB 379.

I understand that we are in a fiscal crisis but linking state employee pay increases and COLA to the price of a commodity is ridiculous. If you must stop merit increases for a year or two I get it but don't link it to something that may not happen for a decade or more. State employees will not be able to keep up with inflation, it's already too expensive to live in Alaska and it isn't getting cheaper.

How about we cut the budgets to departments and let the managers/commissioners/directors do their jobs and reduce costs by eliminating positions that may be wasteful. Smart reductions made by managers cutting positions/waste that hurt a few, not broad measures that will hurt us all. Broad measures like this will really effect the performance of all state employees. what would be the point of doing a good job if there is absolutely no incentive. It's bad enough the way it is now when everyone gets an increase if they don't get in trouble or only meet expectations. I have been told many times that my ability to work unsupervised is a blessing to my supervisors who are constantly having to work with other employees who are, shall we say, "less skilled". I also work in a division that is not part of the General Fund, Commerce, we are self funded through our fees. Why should we be effected?

Not only do we need to reduce spending but we must increase revenue, not through taxation but through the FREE MARKET! Bring industry back to Alaska.

Here's another idea, how about we sue the EPA and other Federal Agencies that are preventing Alaska from capitalizing on our available resources, mining, lumber and oil. Lets not kid ourselves the pipeline is empty because of our Federal Government. Fight them!

BTW - I believe that the only "land" that the Federal government has the right to is military bases and Washington D.C..

Just sayin'!

Jerry Hannasch

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please Oppose HB 379

From: Mary McConnell [mailto:marylemmer1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose HB 379

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a long time public servant, working for the Division of Public Assistance as a case worker for nearly 20 years. I love my job. It allows me daily contact with our communities elderly, a vulnerable population I hold near and dear.

Recent contract negotiations between my union, ASEA and Governor Walker resulted in a substantial concession by state employees and gave an equally substantial savings to the State. While I did not appreciate the negative impact to my personal bottom line, I understood the current financial situation and agreed to "tighten my belt" as Governor Walker requested. The impact of the contract negotiations and the concessions made meant that I personally would not be able to afford extras like sending my 8 year old to Girl Scout Camp. A disappointment, but a concession that I am willing to make during difficult fiscal times.

Then last nights announcement of HB 379 was made. The statement that "*HB 379 prevents the State from agreeing to any labor contract that provides for merit and pay increment increases. And that this moratorium would extend until after the price of a barrel of oil remains above \$90 for a fiscal year*" is concerning. This could quite possibly mean that I will never receive another increase to my wages while employed by the State. Would you stay in a job where you had no possibility of a raise ? What incentive is this to Alaska's brightest considering employment with the state?

Please think of the affects this bill has on Alaska's public servants. Rather than restructuring revenue to pay for government; this bill places the burden on the backs of Alaska's public servants, the heart and backbone of Alaska.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and do not allow this to pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Mary McConnell

District 12 - Wasilla

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Local 52 State Employee

From: Brittany Peger [mailto:peger_4@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Local 52 State Employee

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

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Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:22 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB359

From: Michael French [mailto:mwfrench@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:49 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB379

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Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Michael W. French
Anchorage, Alaska

Tier IV employee - DCCED

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: State of Alaska employee Meri Increases

From: Melissa Glorioso [mailto:melissam@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.go; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: State of Alaska employee Meri Increases

Dear Legislator,<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

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Melissa Glorioso

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:48 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Robert Burnett [mailto:rjb.747400@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 8:40 PM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jim Colver <Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Max Gruenberg <Rep.Max.Gruenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Dear Legislatures

My name is Robert Burnet and these are my opinions and are not from my position as a employee of the State of Alaska.

I just read HB 379 and I became physically sick to my stomach. We have given up our Cost of Living Increase, Furlough days and healthcare costs, yet you ask for more. When is enough, enough. Next year are you going to take a pay cut from us?

You find it fine to spend 32+ million on a LIO building that you don't need, and have a place to go to. You spend roughly \$750,000 on a lawsuit against the Governor even after the court ruled against you. On top of all that you are giving the oil companies more tax credits that we get in oil taxes. Then you say we are paying are employees to much, even after we gave you exactly what you ask for last year. Which is 0% COLA and furloughs. We gave you that in our current contracts that are awaiting for the budget to pass and finalize. All of

this is in the face that we don't negotiate with you, but with the administration. This is why we have checks and balances, so do your job and stop circumventing the administrations job.

All of these items are why the residents of Alaska are tired of the way the legislature is doing business. I foresee a large sift in legislatures in the next election. Remember, you are there to serve your constituents. So please listen to your constituents.

In closing, please kill this bill, as it will drive top notch employees to seek employment in the private sector and lower the quality of work at the state.

--

Robert Burnett
rjb.747400@gmail.com

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:40 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Cathy Duxbury [mailto:CDuxbury@Udelhoven.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:37 AM

To: Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 379

All I can say is "Are you kidding me" You can not possibly be considering raises for yourselves and the State workers. The private sector is being hurt repeatedly by your actions each and every day. Here are some facts from the company I work for alone

- Layoffs of over 300
- Overhead and Staff Reductions of 20%
- Pay Cuts for Over 150 Employees ranging from 9% to 20% and that includes our CEO and all Directors
- Cut overall office expense 50%
-
-

You tell me how you can justify this. The State workers already get health insurance cheaper, more paid time off, more holidays and better hours than people working in the private sector by far.

You guys say we all have to share in the pain here - WELL THAT INCLUDES THE STATE WORKERS AS WELL.

Our staff people have had no raise in 18 months.

Furthermore you legislators should not receive any pay whatsoever unless you get a long term sustainable budget. That does not mean pass our money left and right and then turn around and put your hand out to the Oil Industry for higher taxes to fix your mess. Access the PFD Earnings and act responsible - just get on with it.

PS - Who cares about license plates and such when real Alaskans are losing their jobs everyday?

Cathy Duxbury

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379 and Shenanigans

From: dean ash [mailto:dash729@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379 and Shenanigans

Greetings,

I received an email regarding HB 379 and it's upsetting. Not so much that it would cause me to not have a pay increase for the next 20 years (because its going to be a long time before oil gets to \$90 again) but because it's being considered before the budget is balanced.

As a citizen first and state employee second this is what I want. A budget that is fully funded by the previous year's income. No deficit spending! It is shameful that once again the legislature spent 6 months and didn't get the most important work done. Are you and your fellows going to go into overtime again this year? Spending more money that we don't have.

Its hugely tough to go to people and say "yes, I supported slashing the budget." You or others might not get reelected. In the end though with government spending under control (it's not now nor has it been) the state will be healthier and people will adapt.

Before HB 379 gets voted on balance the budget with no taxes and no pfd impact. Its simple no department is more equal than another so cut everything proportionally until the budget is balanced. Then go to the department heads and tell them to make it work.

Dean

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Lily Fawn White [mailto:lilyfawnwhite@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 1:46 PM
Subject: HB 379

Dear Representative,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please do not pass HB 379 out of committee and oppose other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Thank you for your time,
Fawn White

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Rawson [mailto:jbrawson@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Dear Legislator,

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Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees

Gerald Rawson

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: State Employee Contract and HB379

From: Peter Katsur [mailto:peterkatsur@outlook.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Employee Contract and HB379

Representative Thompson,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

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Thank you
Peter Katsur

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:05 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB379

From: Melinda Haley [mailto:ak.maquinn@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB379

Greetings,

I have been an employee of the State of Alaska for over five years. When I started with the Department of Public Safety in December 2009. I was working as an Office Assistant II as a single 20-year-old female who lived alone. At a Range 11, Step A I was taking home roughly \$2200 a month after taxes. I lived in a tiny apartment in one of the poorest neighborhoods in East Anchorage and I barely got by on my meager wage. After 18 months in that position, I moved to Fairbanks to accept a job as an Emergency Services Dispatcher I to follow my dream of helping people and honoring the DPS mission of public service. At the time I was hired, the position was classified as a Radio Dispatcher II and the wage was less than that of the clerks working the counter at the DMV. I was living with my sister as a roommate because I couldn't afford a place on my own. After a couple years, a few merit increases, and a job reclassification, I was able to live by myself, modestly, on my single income. I would not have been able to stay with DPS if it had not been for the merit increases that allowed me support myself financially.

Now I am married and living in a small village in Western Alaska. I am working as an Office Assistant III and I earn a fair wage with my geographic differential. On average, I work 1 hour of overtime per week that goes unreported because overtime is not authorized, yet the demands on my position are no less. My counterpart in Bethel and I are doing the work of 4 people and I know she works a lot more un-reported overtime than I do. In addition to the regular duties that I complete on my personal time, my husband and I do maintenance on our SOA housing and surrounding land on our personal time. He is also a State of Alaska employee.

Not only have I given the State of Alaska the gift of free work, I have purchased many of my own office supplies to save money. I am constantly trying to improve my daily work practices to save in any way I can think of, even re-using paper within the limitations of confidentiality and protecting classified information, keeping the lights off in my office during the summer time, turning the heat down/off in the office when it is unoccupied, and buying pen refills instead of new pens to save money and reduce waste. I don't even have a garbage can in my office - I use a taped up cardboard box.

The point I'm trying to make is that I am a dedicated employee of the State of Alaska who is willing to stick through tough times. I am willing to give more than I take from the State of Alaska as my employer and I am happy to serve the people of the State of Alaska, but I will not give up the merit increases that serve as my incentive to stay with the State of Alaska. If you get rid of the merit increases you get rid of another reason for good employees like me to stick around.

I respectfully request that you OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees. I personally would be supportive of revenue-generating measures such as capping the Permanent Fund Dividend and a statewide sales or income tax.

Sincerely,

Melinda Haley

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:05 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Oppose HB 379!

From: Kimberlee Beckmen [mailto:kbeckmen@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose HB 379!

I am a state employee, having worked very hard for this state for >15 years and given loads of my personal time and life blood/energy to this state. I read they negotiated contract closely before I signed it. Now I am appalled and dismayed to find out that the legislature, though HB 379, would violated this contract negotiated in good faith and already containing huge personal financial sacrifices of state employees. As you know, state employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

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Kimberlee Beckmen
2231 Cripple Creek Road
Fairbanks

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Merit Increases for State Workers

From: Kimberly Kolvig [mailto:kkolvig@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>
Subject: Merit Increases for State Workers

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

We all have families we need to support during these hard times. Being a single mom what little more I could get on my pay check each year really helps my family. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Kim Kolvig

A State of Alaska Employee

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB379

From: Kimberly Brakes [mailto:kimberly_brakes@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB379

Dear House Finance Committee,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees. Without our small merit increases, State Employees will see no increase in their wages for the next three years. I believe this is too much to ask, considering the sacrifices we have already made.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Merit Pay Increase Bill

HB 379

From: Moira Ingle [mailto:i_moira22@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 11:53 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen.Charlie.Huggins@ak.leg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>
Subject: Merit Pay Increase Bill

Regarding the recently introduced bill that would freeze merit pay increases for state workers, including particularly the ad showing a construction worker saying it isn't fair to give raises to state workers when his industry is cutting jobs:

How does it make sense to equate job losses in the private sector with state employee merit pay increases? The private sector losses are because of market conditions, despite more than generous tax credits to the industry. I'm sympathetic to anyone who has lost a job. But at the same time, those workers freely chose to throw their lot in with a potentially volatile industry - no doubt because of the high pay and benefits. I highly doubt they were waiting in line for a lower-pay state job. But now state workers are being used as pawns to pay for the fiscal irresponsibility of our legislative majority? Yes, obviously the oil market negatively impacts state workers - we're all in this quagmire together. But state workers signed a contract containing certain conditions, including merit pay increases, and we've already made substantial concessions to bail out the deficit. Private sector workers signed up for a considerably different contract with a higher level of risk, which they were fairly compensated for. Now that risk has come to pass. Isn't that how the free market is supposed to work?

Once again -- you cannot balance this budget on the backs of long-term state workers. We are the citizens who've earned these raises after years of service - based on merit, by definition: if it isn't merited, it doesn't happen. We have dedicated our careers to the state in exchange for relatively modest salaries but good benefits. WE are a big segment of your constituency, over the long haul -- not the slope workers and commercial fishermen who take their paychecks back to Seattle and pay nothing back to the state. This bill is window dressing, solely a political statement, and would not make a dent in the deficit. It seems pretty darn disingenuous to introduce this bill AFTER the 90-day session and AFTER the union contract was approved. That's dirty pool, and we aren't going to fall for it.

You need to GENERATE REVENUE -- a modest income tax would be my preference, because it would require a contribution from those out-of-state workers. FIRST AND FOREMOST, however -- you need to revise the oil tax scheme created by SB21 -- the most fiscally irresponsible bill imaginable. Yet the legislative majority is managing to multiply the negative aspects of the original bill, passed when oil prices were higher, by refusing to restructure it, now that oil prices have fallen, so that now we are paying out more than we receive in royalties. That is the height of fiscal insanity. It doesn't pass the red face test, and shouldn't pass muster under the Alaska Ethics Act, given the obvious conflicts of interest for some legislators who work for the oil industry.

Finally, it is unconscionable for you to consider a bill that would further reduce compensation for state workers, for you to publish our salary information to generate divisive feelings among Alaskans -- all without reducing your own pay and benefits, PARTICULARLY now that you are past the 90-day mark. It is unconscionable for you to expect the state to pay to pack up your personal effects and ship them back to Anchorage -- to a building that is unnecessary, that was renovated and leased illegally, and which is a black eye on your tenure in the legislature. And to claim per diem at the federal rate. Simply disgusting. DO YOUR JOBS, please -- or the citizens of Alaska will ensure that you don't have them anymore.

Moira Ingle

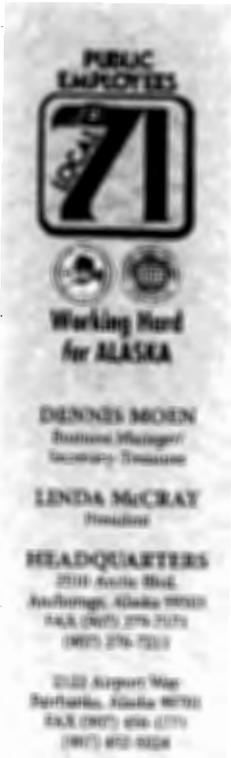
Chugiak, AK

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Michael Koskie [mailto:koskielaw@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Sir: Please pass a real fiscal plan and to oppose HB 379 which was introduced officially after the 90 day session ended.

**Michael E. Koskie
Fairbanks**



722 West 9th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
FAX (907) 586-5757
(907) 586-6993

April 21, 2016

House Finance Chair Representative Steve Thompson

Dear Representative Thompson:

For the record I'm Dennis Moen, Business Manager for Public Employees Local 71, Labor Trades and Crafts.

I strongly oppose HB 379.

Our membership understands the fiscal climate. Local 71 bargained in good faith for over a year, and took concessions on Health Care contributions at about \$500,000, No COLA, Furloughs throughout the contract and Leave Caps.

There has been a lot of conversation about State wages vs Private Sector wages. In an effort to be brief, I'd like to focus on the men and women of Local 71 who maintain the roads and airports for all Alaskans, approximately 1/3 of our membership. In Anchorage a Private Sector Equipment Operator makes an average of \$40.03 an hour. Starting Wages for a State of Alaska Equipment Operator is \$24.07 an hour. Almost 16 dollars an hour less than private sector.

To put Pay and Merit increments in prospective even with the current schedule it would take a newly hired Equipment Operator 27 years to equal today's Private Sector wages. As far as promotional opportunities in the Operator Classification, if you are willing to take the training and assume Airport Crash fire rescue responsibilities at airports like, Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Cordova, Deadhorse or Barrow to name a few, you can move up 1 step to an Equipment Operator Journey 3. If you are willing to become a fire fighter and perform aircraft rescues in case of an aircraft incident you get an extra \$1.67 an hour and your time frame to get to Private Sector operator wages drops from 27 years of service down to 24 years.

Given these low starting wages, and no Defined Benefit Retirement, the State already has a hard time recruiting, we currently have 11 open positions, some of which we have been trying to fill for up to 6 months. Passage of HB 379 would make recruitment even more difficult, possibly creating unsafe working conditions both to our State Workers and to the Public in general.

I want to close by saying again HB379 is BAD LEGISLATION for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dennis Moen
Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

DM/tls

■

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon Williams [mailto:supposenot@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Dear Rep. Thompson,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 379. Alaska's state employees deserve better from the government than welching on agreements that were negotiated in good faith. There are lots of ways to address the budget shortfall that don't negatively impact labor relations in the state, increase uncertainty about the economic climate (being the biggest employer in the state comes with responsibilities for the whole economy), and negatively impact the good faith and credit of the state.

We can all do better. I'm willing to pay taxes. I expect the industries in this state to pay their fair share, and I don't think resource extraction should be subsidized by the state coffers. I expect my legislators not to waste money on projects with little positive economic impact for the state as a whole (new offices for the legislature in Anchorage? really?). We are going to face some tough times, it is true. But failing to pay the people who work for us what you agreed to pay them, and the many ways those cuts will trickle out into the larger economy is not how to fix it.

best wishes,
Gordon Williams
Fairbanks

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:16 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Bill 379

From: Matt Moore [mailto:Matt.Moore@akrehab.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Bill 379

House Finance Committee Members,

I am asking that you vote against House Bill 379. There has been no public process, no notification from my representative, Lance Pruitt, and no notification of public testimony in a form that could be considered a reasonable effort/notice to allow public comment. I found out about this bill from the efforts of Great Alaska Schools.

BTW, I never heard back from Lance Pruitt or Cathy Giessel when I sent emails regarding funding for education last year. Even though we are in different political camps, I expect you to do your job, keep me informed and reply to my neutral letters and communications. I am your constituent and you have a job to do.

Sincerely,

Matt Moore

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:14 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Reject HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Cruickshank [mailto:mjfc4th@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 5:59 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reject HB 379

I have always encouraged my private sector trades friends to join the ranks of the state of Alaska. when we adopted the merit steps into our contract, it did a injustice to all new employees. The merit steps caused a drop in pay close to 35% for new employees entering the states employment . The only reason we are still able to find qualified employees is the annual increase. It now takes seven years to reach The same pay as when we did not have merit steps and we went to step B(6 months). I and many others have been paid frozen, because we have to have seven years in Merritt steps before we can go to Long Jevity. This newly introduced legislation Will only hurt morale, retention, and hiring. State employees money go straight into the economy, Helping Drive Alaska. I urge you to reject this bill.

Respectfully,
Matt Cruickshank

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:13 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Opposed to HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Karla Stephens [mailto:karlastep@icloud.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:14 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposed to HB 379

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

I would like to see the Finance Committee focusing on how we as a State can raise revenue because we can no longer depend on oil revenue. I support an income tax as one way to help.

Thank you
Karla Stephens

Sent from my iPad

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:13 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Mathews [mailto:benjamin.mathews01@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:33 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Hello Sir

I am sending this email to express my concerns about HB 379. How can it be fair that state employees can no longer receive the step increases and raises that are due to them. It is bad enough that the governor wants to take money from the Alaska PFD which I am ok with, but then to say he also wants an income tax and higher fuel and alcohol taxes plus now he wants workers to not get anything extra. That is unacceptable. There are still more cuts to be made, still things to look at closer. The state has already done away with good retirements by switching to the Tier 4 program so without pay increases every now and then what is the incentive to stay and work for the state. As I know you are very well aware Alaska is an expensive place to live already and Now the government wants to squeeze the people trying to make it here even more. Why is it every time it's brought up its an income tax or pay freeze or PFD restructuring? What about a sales tax? What about the careless spending in so many other places? I am a DOC employee and I see useless spending almost everyday. I work at Fairbanks Correctional Center and there are dozens of inmates kept there from Barrow. Now these people get flown back and forth time and time again for meaningless court hearings. Why are we still doing that let them do there court stuff via video we have that technology use it. They fly from Fairbanks to Anchorage and then to Barrow what an absolute waste of money. That is just one example that comes to mind. I really think that the legislature needs to dig deeper for cuts before we continually ask Alaskan workers for more. We want taxes, we want income taxes, we are not going to give you a full PFD, oh and on top Of that you won't get any pay raises for the foreseeable future. Well thanks government just keep taking my money. When is enough enough. Cut more spend smarter impose a sales tax that is fair across the board and doesn't require an entirely new government agency. Please explore other avenues before we continue to beat down hard working Alaskans. I love it here but if everything the governor wants is just handed to him it may be hard to get any tax revenue when people leave to go to places they can live cheaper. Please vote down this bill and give working Alaskans a fighting chance.

Thanks

Ben Mathews

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:09 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: ATTENTION!!!!

From: chayna azlin [mailto:chayna_azlin_1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: ATTENTION!!!!

Dear Legislator,

State Employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that the state employees review, administer and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. these concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the state at least 57 million the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB379 is a shameless disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please oppose HB 379

From: Rena Bukovich-Notti [mailto:rena.bukovichnotti@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:24 PM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jim Colver <Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov>; Representative.Harriett.Drummond@akleg.gov; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Representative.Lynn.GattisD@akleg.gov; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Representative.Shelly.Hughes@akleg.gov; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Representative.Charisse.Millett@aklet.gov; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Representative.Benjamin.Nakeak@akleg.gov; epresentative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Representative.Ivy.Sponholz@akleg.gov; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please oppose HB 379

Please support local and state employees. Most of us do not make high wages and many live paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. We need a balanced and fair approach to solving the budget. We are part of your community and we need to work together. Last minute late night attacks do not represent a fair process and do not support finding a middle ground that is fair to all. Please reconsider HB379 and support a fair process for employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:04 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB379

From: CS Gray [mailto:graycs86@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:45 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB379

Hello,

Understanding that the state is in crisis, I find it very unfortunate that the only solution found is to continue to cut pay and benefits of state employees. I don't see any of the state House or Senate members agreeing to or being forced to take cuts. I also find it unfortunate that the state continues to give away the farm to oil companies out of fear they will leave, which many have already done so because of the economy. Please stop making the budget crisis only a state employee problem and don't take more away from them. Don't vote for HB379.

Thank You.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:01 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Nelson, Eric Stephen (DOT) [mailto:eric.nelson@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 7:33 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Rep. Thompson,

I would like to voice my opposition to HB 379. I am an employee at the AKDOT maintenance station in Nenana. We have already felt the crunch of the State's budget woes. Positions have been cut and hours drastically reduced to keep the State afloat. Freezing our annual pay increases and merit steps will only drive away our dwindling number of good equipment operators that the State needs to keep its roads, highways, and airports open and safe for the traveling public. Please do not support a bill that directly cuts the men and women on the ground keeping this state moving.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Nelson
AKDOT&PF Nenana Maintenance Station

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:00 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Molly Fortunato [mailto:mollyfortunato@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 7:40 AM
Subject: HB 379

Good Morning,

State employees are an integral part of our government and have long been under-paid for the work that they do. All Alaskans and visitors are affected by the work produced by this group of people and they deserve a fair wage with incentives for a job well done. HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit state employees have and will not solve Alaska's budget crisis; only take MORE from hard-working, faithful servants of this Great State.
<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

While I understand that we are facing a substantial budget crisis, state employees have already made concessions by ratifying a contract which provided NO COLA for the next three years AND requires 6 days of furlough. This act alone is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year. *We have done our part.* State employees shouldn't have to solely bear the burden of this financial crisis; the State *as a whole* needs to step up and do their part. There are other avenues to explore that shift the burden to all the citizens of this state, as opposed to just one group of people.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 379 and any other actions to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees and prove that you support state employees and their loyal service to this state.

Thank you for your time.

Molly Fortunato

Wasilla, AK

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Oppose HB 379

From: Katie Palof [mailto:palofkj@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose HB 379

Rep Steve Thompson,

As a relatively new state employee (employee since 2013) I have come to rely on our system of merit increase to raise my salary to those comparable in my field in other states and agencies. I took my current job with the state because I believe in the state of Alaska and the unique resources we have to offer. I work in fisheries and I think sustaining the livelihood of Alaskans is vital to both the state and the resources. Up until recently I was proud to be a state employee.

Recent budget discussions and bills have lead me to seriously considering taking my family elsewhere (my husband is a born and raised Alaskan so this is not something we take lightly). There are jobs available elsewhere that myself and most of my colleagues could take that would have substantially more benefits than those we have with the state. We choose to work here because of our love for Alaska. It seems unfair and harsh to shift the burden of state budget short falls onto State employees that currently sacrifice alot for our dedication to the state. Trust me - we're not in it for the money - if we were we wouldn't be working for the state.

In the past year we've all seen an increase in our workloads, restrictions on travel and continuing our education, in addition to an overall decrease in workplace moral. Most of us our doing 150% more than we were two years ago without any compensation. We are doing this because of our love and willingness to sacrifice for the state. Our only glimmer of hope - especially for younger employees since merit increase really only play a significant role if you've worked for the state for 6 or less years - are the small merit increases we receive.

I know that everyone needs to sacrifice and work together, but in light of our recent contract negotiations, this further decrease in our pay seems a bit extreme. As a young state employee I would rather you work to increase

retirement and remove some higher paying jobs than demoralize those employees that are working the hardest to make this state a better place.

In this recent budget crisis I believe that we, as state employees, are doing our share to help balance the budget (as is mentioned below). Demoralizing and reducing our pay will not help to retain the caliber of individuals that currently work for the state.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Sincerely,
Katie Palof

--
Katie J. Palof
palofkj@gmail.com

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW:

From: Shaylise Sylvester [mailto:ssylvester@alaska.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Oppose HB 379

From: Melanie Best [mailto:melaniebest@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 12:37 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose HB 379

Representative Thompson,

I was born and raised in this Great State and my intention is to stay here. I also spend my money in this State. I work for the Division of Public Assistance, I work hard at my job serving the people of Alaska. I am a member of GGU and we have negotiated a new contract, within that contract we have taken and accepted cut's in our pay to do our part (Zero Cola increases for the next three years and a reduction in how much the state contributes to our health insurance and furloughs). Please do not single out State employees to take even more reductions. Please do not support our merit/step increases being frozen until Oil reaches a certain price. Please look at other sources of revenue to assist further with the State budget deficit. Please consider reducing oil and tax credits. Please look at other sources of revenue that wouldn't target a specific class of working Alaskans. Instead of looking at a specific class we should be looking at how all Alaskans would pay towards the budget deficit.

Please Oppose HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for State employees.

Thank you,

Melanie Best
222 Kody Dr
(po box 74424)
Fairbanks, Ak 99707

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:14 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please oppose HB 379

From: Ethan Graetz [mailto:eegraetz@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please oppose HB 379

Dear Representative Steve Thompson,

Reading House Bill No. 379 leaves me very disappointed.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees when many collective bargaining agreements have already been reached. Creating bills to alleviate the State of contracts it already agreed to harms good faith contract negotiations.

This cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska and disincentivizes state employment. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Sincerely,

Ethan Graetz

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379, State Workers already taken substantial hits in work force, pay cuts just like private sector, Don't support HB 379

From: AK Girl [mailto:akgirlcomeback@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov
Subject: HB 379, State Workers already taken substantial hits in work force, pay cuts just like private sector, Don't support HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. Yes other companies are laying off workers across the state, but so has the State. State employees have not only been laid off but we had our COLA taken away for 3 years; we have to do two days furlough so that amounts to a minimum of several hundred dollars per year, plus we have increases in our medical care. I'd say we are doing more than our share and have taken sizable hits just like the private sector. As it is the State of Alaska has trouble recruiting people to stay and

provide services for the State of Alaska. There are those who have always blasted State workers for a number of reasons. However, State workers are educated and usually have worked many years in the private sector gaining valuable experience before coming to work for the State. We're hard working and provide a great a valuable service to the State of Alaska. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 379

From: Jan Carolyn Hardy [mailto:jancarolynhardy@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 2:50 PM

To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jim Colver <Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Herron <Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Charlie Huggins <Sen.Charlie.Huggins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Shelley Hughes <Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Craig Johnson <Rep.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Wes Keller <Rep.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Benjamin Nageak <Rep.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kurt Olson <Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Stoltze <Sen.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>

Cc: Jan Carolyn Hardy <jancarolynhardy@yahoo.com>

Subject: HB 379

Dear Legislators,

Although Representative Craig Johnson states that he initiated HB 379 at the beginning of the legislative session it appears on DAY 91 we have another last-minute shill game on the table.

State employees have already agreed to many concessions in the current bargaining agreements: no cost-of-living adjustment increases for 3 years (unprecedented,) unpaid furlough days, as well as higher out-of-pocket contributions from employees for their healthcare premiums. **State employees have known since last session that these concessions were needed and stepped up to the plate.**

HB 379 states that merit increases can be reconsidered only if oil reaches \$90/barrel and remains there for an entire year. That never happens in the current Department of Revenue 10 year forecast. Many departments including public safety already have problems with retention since other municipalities and states have better benefits than Alaska. If we remove merit increases we further take ourselves out of the running for attracting quality employees. Furthermore tying merit increases to oil revenue standards only perpetuates Alaska's unreasonable expectation that everything will return to normal and we will not need to diversify our income base. **Merit increases are revenue neutral.** New employees come into the system at the lowest pay range while high paid individuals are retiring.

HB 389 was introduced after the regular session was extended. The legislature also ignored its own 24 hour rule requiring the timely announcement of hearings and public testimony. HB 379 a disingenuous distraction to the real work needed and designed to appeal to Representative Johnson's political base not to the Good of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jan Carolyn Hardy

Jan Carolyn Hardy
GTK Commercial Real Estate, LLC
Sales Associate
(907) 227-2580 Work
(907) 301-4685 Cell
JanCarolynHardy@yahoo.com
4730 Business Park Blvd., H-44
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
www.AlaskaCommercialLeasing.com

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Everybody does better when *everybody* does better.

Please spay or neuter your pets!

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:10 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: House Bill 379

From: O'Kelley, Shannon L (DOT) [mailto:shannon.okelley@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 8:05 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 379

Hello Steve,

I just wanted to voice my opinion on the House Bill 379 from the perspective of an employee who works hard but doesn't make a lot of money. My pay scale is just under \$20 an hour and when I get those small raises, it makes a huge difference in the lives of my family. When the oil prices were skyrocketing, our raises continued but so did the cost of everything around us so it was as if we weren't receiving any more wages than before. Now that the price of oil has gone down, the only decrease in prices we have seen on the market are fuel prices, all other prices remained the same. It costs an arm and a leg to go to the grocery store to feed my family for a week. Instead of putting a stop on raises for everyone, maybe you should look at the pay scale of employees and their job performance and adjust accordingly instead of everyone across the board having to do without. I know for a fact, there are some employees that are making ridiculous amounts of money who do considerably less work than others. I understand it boils down to the education you have paid for determines the wages you receive, but if you don't have enough money to pay for a college education, how are you ever to get ahead of your station in life. I believe that a job done well deserves a decent pay and if you work hard, you should be compensated and appreciated with a raise so you can better yourself and your family. Just a thought. Please consider these few things when you are considering cutting well deserved raises for state employees like myself.

*Thanks for taking the time to listen,
Shannon*

Shannon O'Kelley | Admin Assistant I | Fairbanks International Airport Operations 
5195 Braumbaugh Blvd, Fairbanks, AK 99709 | 907.474.2500 | FAX 907.474.2512

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Merit increases

-----Original Message-----

From: Andy Khmelev [mailto:andy2001ak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:16 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Merit increases

Dear senator,

I understand that the state is in fiscal trouble and that things like income taxes, sales taxes and cutting into the PFD were put down on the table. However what in gods name made you target state employees and state employees alone?

It's shocking that you would even considering doing something so horrid. While there are some state employees that are in upper management living fairly well off, but do you not realize that most state employees are not like that. In fact there are so many employees that are living paycheck to paycheck barely getting by. Do you realize that by taking away peoples raises you are taking away their livelihood! You are making people lose out on groceries, gas, mortgages, car payments, and more! Your are interfering with people's ability to take care of their families! We are talking kids (of all ages), college tuitions, ailing parents or grandparents, and members of the family who are disabled. Do you even grasp how wrong this is?

On top of that if you take away merit increases, do you realize how many quality people you would lose? I grew up in Juneau where a good chunk of the population works for the state. People spend years going to school, or working the private sector just to get good experience to work for the state. Why you ask? Because the state has always been a secure job where you can count on a consistent paycheck, health insurance and raises. What does this bill tell us? It tells us that you no longer value the hard work that we put into this state. That we don't matter and that you don't care to lose good people.

There will be a lot of people that will either pack up and leave Alaska entirely, or they will stay but leave state employment to go work for the private sector. You will be left with a workforce that won't care about their job and won't do efficiently, because the ones that did were under appreciated and left. Do the right thing!!!

Sincerely,

Andy Khmelev - a concerned Alaska resident.

"If at first you don't succeed, your not Chuck Norris."
"If at first you don't succeed, your not Chuck Norris."

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please Vote No on HB 379

-----Original Message-----

From: Wayne Norlund [mailto:wayne.norlund@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:09 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Vote No on HB 379

Greetings Representative Thompson!

I urge you to vote against HB 379. As a long time State employee I am already doing my share to help. HB 379 is a misguided and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to State employees.

HB 379 suspends the last wage and benefit package agreed upon for thousands of State employees who have already made significant concessions in contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. This already amounts to a pay cut. The agreement is expected to save the State substantial funds.

Basing the re-implementation of step increases on the price of oil, at any level is arbitrary and capricious. It is a standard that is divorced from any performance measure or other factor that is within the control of any employee, and is unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that State employees review, administer, and deliver. The paychecks of state employees also provide substantial portions of many communities' private sector economies. Further reduction of State employees' compensation takes essential resources out of these communities. It also discourages talented, experienced employees and business owners from remaining in Alaska and discourages qualified, skilled people and potential entrepreneurs from moving to the state. A positive esprit de corps becomes darkened with fear in such circumstances.

Finally, creating upheaval in contract negotiations this late in the game as well as compounding the challenges in balancing the budget even after the legislative session should have finished is likely to create a similar situation to 2015, forcing the threat of a government shutdown which drains further resources, both financial and temporal.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has exceeded the threshold of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for State employees.

Thank you for your time,

Wayne Norlund

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Stop 379

From: Felix Favorite [mailto:scottfavorite@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 6:11 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Stop 379

I find it fundamentally dishonest on day 91 of a 90 day session to change terms of a negotiated contract where historically significant concessions were given.

Negotiations began in Summer of 2015. It is especially mendacious waiting to change it until after members voted on it Spring of 2016. Urge a No vote on HB379.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10