

HB 57
OPPERATING BUDGET
OPPOSING
DOCUMENTS
March 2, 2017

#1

Tim Kane
Anchorage
Issue: PFD

I just wanted to let you know I am very upset with the Alaska State Legislature passing a bill that would allow the spending of the PFD and money earmarked for the PFD fund. I'm frustrated, no, I'm pissed-off, that our representatives simply choose the easy way out instead of doing their job! As head of household in a family of five, and as a business owner for the last 24 years, I've had to make difficult decisions on spending in order to survive through good times and bad, just as everyone else has to do in life. But for some reason, our government representatives can't figure out how to do that!

I want my Representatives to quit pandering to special interest groups, make the necessary cuts, AND DO YOU JOB!

Thank You!

Tim Kane
Anchorage Alaska 99516

#2

Deanna L. Chesser
Chesser Assisted Living Home
Anchor Point
Issue: Day Habilitation Services

I am hearing that there is a cut being proposed to Developmental Disabled folks waiver services in regards to Day Habilitation services.

I am a licensed assisted living home which provides adult foster care for 2 developmental disabled women. Out-of-home Day Habilitation services are specifically for the purpose of furthering the independence of this population of people. These women, as well as many others like them, are not like the elderly who reside in assisted living homes, who may, or may not, need out-of-home services and who are content being more home-bound. These developmentally disabled folks are quite often highly mobile, have youth on their side, work as volunteers or employees in the community, and would not receive the necessary assistance to continue their progress in living as independently as possible. An assisted living home is not equipped or frankly paid enough to provide one-on-one services for each individual or resident in their home. It is not the role of an assisted living home to provide these services.

"Day Habilitation services can assist individuals to acquire, retain or improve their self-help, socialization and adaptive skills, including communication, travel and other areas in adult education. Activities and environments are designed to foster the development of skills and appropriate behavior, greater independence, community inclusion, relationship building, self-advocacy and informed choice. Additionally, individuals accessing day habilitation often contribute to their communities through volunteer work." - Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

An assisted living home has neither the funding, the time, or the ability to spend hours outside of the home performing these types of activities, which are necessary for the developmentally disabled person to progress. An assisted living home's role is to provide in-home care, meals, a home environment, emotional support, medical support & assistance as needed, and to support the health & safety of the resident. An assisted living home does not have the ability to provide one-on-one services. It is a home in which more than one person generally resides, and the needs of each individual differ greatly between residents. It is not possible to provide individualized services in a group with differing abilities and disabilities. It is also not fair to the resident or to the assisted living home to reduce Day Habilitation services to such a minimal amount per week, leaving the developmentally disabled person unable to access activities within the community that would benefit them and lead to further independence. This reduction in services would lead to increased depression, isolation, a lack of motivation and other negative results, which are things we already deal with.

A cut to services resulting in a maximum of 8 hours per week is not only disastrous, but it goes against the very purpose of Day Habilitation services. Please, do not cut their Day Habilitation services. I understand cuts are needed, but cutting the services of some of the most vulnerable people in the country is not, in my opinion, the cuts that anyone should be entertaining.

Sincerely,

Deanna L. Chesser
Chesser Assisted Living Home
PO Box 515
Anchor Point, AK 99556

#3

Peter Schaub

Anchorage, AK

Issue: PFD, control spending

I'm probably not the first person to bring this up to you all, but I just learned about how you intend to cap our PFD's this year and impose many more taxes on us in the ensuing years. All of course without decreasing your budgets to any appreciable degree. You may not realize this but the vast majority of Alaskans actually paying into the system (i.e. paying taxes and not receiving subsidies) are squeezed about as tight as we can be. I am now in the unfortunate position of having to consider whether or not it is possible for me to continue living in Alaska. I never thought I would say that and always intended to live here for the rest of my life. I am raising two children and I wanted THEM to grow up here. But it's just too expensive! Everything costs more here than it does practically anywhere else in the country. I have to make decisions every single month as to what I will or will not pay for. My budget is being tightened up all the time and at this point I simply do not have any more wiggle room.

This is the reality that YOU have created by mismanaging the government, a task that we have specifically set out for you to accomplish. The budget has grown exponentially over the years while the state population has remained roughly the same. My wages have not increased for years. My company is struggling to keep the doors open. I shop at discount and second hand stores, work full time, and don't really have any luxuries in my life. I'm not the only one. Everyone I work with and know lives the same way that I do. There is another segment of society - state and municipal employees - who live an entirely different existence. You get paid so much more than we do and you live so much better. You refuse to cut your budgets in any way and yet constantly look for ways to squeeze more money out of OUR pockets.

I will no longer vote for any incumbents. I don't care how long my representative has been in office or what he's accomplished. I don't care WHO runs against him in the next election, that person will get my vote. Same goes for the governor, all municipal politicians, etc. I want you all voted out. The only way you could possibly make things worse would be to impose a sales tax and I'm sure that's next on your absurd agenda. I hope you all get voted out in the next election.

Good luck in the real world,

Peter Schaub

Anchorage Resident

#4

Kerry Crabb

Issue: Spending cuts and process

I would like to take the time out of my busy work day to congratulate the legislature on using the Nancy Pelosi approach of pushing through legislation "We Have to Pass the Bill So That You Can Find Out What Is In It" method.

Then y'all have the nerve to limit public comment to 1pm-3pm, when the Alaskan workers are too busy working to pay your salary.

I want every sorry S.O.B. that made the choice to send this bill through to look around and soak up Juneau while you can, because you won't be there next session.

Make spending cuts and stop looking to tax your way out of the crises, or start sending out your resumes!!!

With love,
Kerry Crabb

#5

Paul Bennetts

East Anchorage

Issue: PFD to "balance the budget"

Dear AK House Finance,

I hear you are patting yourself on the backs for raiding the PFD and "balancing the budget." I just want to let you know that my neighborhood gets together and we talk. We are against this raid and taxation without the absolute needed cuts that you refuse to make. Our representative will be easy to beat next election, because us poor working stiffs have already started talking about raising money to run a local member against your tax and spend liberal in East Anchorage. I say enjoy our money now because you'll be crying later. We sent you up there to cut the budget and protect the PFD. I keep hearing, "We have cut so much already and the budget just can't be cut more." That's poppy cock and makes my beard curl. Poll after poll show Alaskans believe you are not cutting the budget enough and that you should be working harder to do so. Your responsibilities are to the constitutional requirements, public safety and Infrastructure. Start cutting and stop raiding my wallet. Your action WILL cause an exodus from the state and you will ultimately have less money to spend. Every state with high taxation eventually have huge deficits. I am highly agitated and can't wait to vote against your lazy, ridiculous policies. This will be the first year our neighborhood will be raising money to remove the Democrats from this body. We urge you to rescind this bill and do the hard work for which we sent you up there to do.

V/r,

Paul Bennetts,

East Anchorage

#6

Kathrine Hardy

Anchorage, AK

Issue: PFD and taxes, cut the size of government

Good Morning,

I understand we only have about 72 hours to respond to your current bill recommendations.

As a Nurse Practitioner in our Anchorage community, as well as a small business owner, I understand that balancing our budget is necessary. Taking money from one account to another is just robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Cuts are necessary...we can't continue to pay our bills with less. Taxes may be an option down the road, but first there are numerous cuts that need to be made prior to pulling more money from the citizens.

The PFD is also not appropriate, for the same reason stated above.

Cut the size of government, decrease the number of employees, take our budget back to where it was 10 years ago, prior to the boom...this is bust time, and that includes tightening all our belts. If the money isn't there, you don't get to spend it.

I appreciate your time, but it is also time to get to work, not find an easy work around. No, not everyone will be happy with you, but take your responsibility seriously, and do the job that 1) needs to be done, and 2) that you were elected to do.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kathrine Hardy, ANP

Anchorage, AK 99515

#7

Bradee Luhr, PT, DPT
Issue: Day Habilitation

Representative,

I know that our state currently in a fiscal crisis and that talks of financial cuts are taking place. I have recently heard about a proposed cut to Day Habilitation for medicaid waivers to 8 hours per week of community based activities. As a physical therapist in this State AND a family member of a person who will be affected by this cut, I urge you to vote against this.

Our society has been working very hard to take away the negative stigma having a disability comes with, taking people out of their house and integrating them into the community is essential to this forward progression. I work daily to help my patients gain more independence to allow them, and encourage them, to go out into the community and participate in social activities. This cut would be sending Alaska back into the past where individuals with disabilities are not able to lead normal, social lives.

My mother worked hard to ensure that my sister, Sabrina, whom is in a wheelchair lives everyday to her fullest potential. Sabrina has been able to move away from our home in Petersburg to live in Juneau with staff. She participates in special olympics, college classes, art classes, she teaches Sunday school and volunteers in kindergarten in addition to going to lunch with friends or the movies. She lives a NORMAL life, and why should she not, why should her disability stop her from that type of life. With this cut to 8 hours, she would be able to leave her house only TWO HOURS a day. Tell me, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO BE SOCIAL AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE ONLY LEAVING YOUR HOUSE FOR TWO HOURS A DAY. The answer is NO.

This cut is inhumane and a direct statement saying the people with disabilities are less than us "able bodied" individuals.

Don't allow or participate in making people with disabilities second class citizens.

Don't allow Alaska to go backwards.

Thank you for reading this letter,

Bradee Luhr, PT, DPT

#8

Barb Luhr

Petersburg

Issue: Cuts to Day Habilitation

As you are aware, the 2017 legislative session in Juneau has a significant focus on addressing the fiscal crisis within the State of Alaska. The proposed cuts to Day Habilitation beginning July 1, 2017 reducing all waivers to 8 hours per week of community based support.

That would mean that my daughter's full life would be jeopardized. She would not be able to be in the Community as she is now. Here are a few of the things she does now: volunteers for a kindergarten class Tuesday & Thursday, she teaches a Sunday school class, Monday nights she teaches a youth bible class, she goes out to lunch on Saturdays with friends, she goes to an art facility twice a week and she goes shopping twice a week.

If her plan of care is cut back to 8 hours a week instead of 4 hours per day she will not be able to keep the full life she has now. She has lived her entire life in Alaska. She was part of the Petersburg community for 19 years and now part of the Juneau community for 17 years. She is independent as much as her physical disability allows, she has an awesome smile, she is a friend to all people & animals, she has an infectious laugh and she loves life.

Alaska will be going backwards and hiding people with disabilities, like they use to. Treating them like second class citizens.

I want my voice heard for not only my daughter but all the individuals with a disability living in Alaska.

Please stop this harmful cut.

Thank you for your help in this matter,

Barb Luhr

"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained."

– Marie Curie

#9

Meg Mitchell

Homer, AK

Issue: Cuts to Day Habilitation

Please do NOT allow this cut in funding for Day Habilitation services to happen for people who experience disabilities. This is not only a huge cut to DD services but it will be a huge cut in employment for the people employed to serve the IDD population in Alaska. It doesn't make sense and this bad idea proposal is a NO WIN for anyone situation! -Meg Mitchell Homer, AK

#10

Doug Maynes

Issue: Funding for UA

As a Rep for the University why would you not put forward a bill to support it? Rep Wool put one forward and you didn't forward it on to the committee. What are you thinking? My Dept was cut by 66% and you people don't want to cut your staff? How stupid are you? Support the U!

Doug Maynes

#11

Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Anchorage School District
Issue: 50% reduction in school bond debt



Anchorage School District

Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • www.asdk12.org

February 28, 2017

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Alaska Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

I wanted to share Anchorage School District's deepest concern for the amendment proposed by you in Section 19(l) of HB 57, Version J. This particular amendment revises a general fund appropriation for municipal school bond debt statewide and decreases it by the amount of \$67,278,294, or a 50% reduction.

This is very detrimental to our school district and city. It inequitably targets municipalities and boroughs whom have contracted with the state via school bonds to invest in capital. As you are aware, the State finances upwards of 100% in capital projects in unincorporated areas.

As a new member of the Anchorage School District and a new resident of the city of Anchorage, I have experienced both through my position as superintendent and as a citizen that Anchorage tax payers have fully supported their share of education. Our Assembly supports 100% of the allowable contribution in the school funding formula, as well as supports school bonds (most at a 60/40 share, rather than 70/30). This support demonstrates strong responsibility to public education. Moreover, after Governor Walker's veto of 25% percent of the bond debt last year, it was the Anchorage School Board who partnered with our city to pay the outstanding debt via our fund balance reserve (savings account). As you know, this is an unsustainable manner to do business, so we would need to go back to our taxpayers and break the contract you have made with our city and its residents.

As proposed, the present amendment will cost Anchorage tax payers 21.7 million dollars of unexpected taxes in FY 18 for previously passed bonds - **bonds for which the State entered into a contract with the city of Anchorage**. I do understand that the support for bonds is provided by the appropriation during each session. Nevertheless, this is a disappointing and unacceptable move that our state would transfer the debt to local taxpayers, thereby breaking its contract and its word on support for its schools and local communities.

I highly encourage you to *not* support this proposed amendment. It unfairly targets larger, incorporated areas in our state. It also questions the veracity of the state Legislature and its statutory contracts. It continues the trend of shifting state responsibility to the local tax payers. Anchorage has continuously provided 100% of the local tax authorization but this will likely impact local voter support for future capital improvement bonds. ASD and its School Board understood and acknowledged the bond debt hiatus on new bonding due to the revenue

Educating All Students for Success in Life

Anchorage School Board
Elisa Snelling, Vice President
Starr Marsett, Clerk

Tam Agosti-Gisler, President
Kathleen Plunkett, Treasurer
Bettye Davis

Pat Higgins
Kameron Perez-Verdia

Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop

February 28, 2017
The Honorable Paul Seaton
Vice Chair House Finance Committee
Page Two

shortfall we are experiencing in Alaska. However, ASD does not support the present action to default on its contacts for previous community-approved bond debt.

Again, please reconsider your proposed amendment that would present such hardship for schools across the state, but particularly those larger districts in urban areas. I am available to address any questions you may have. I can be reached on my cell phone at 907-631-2679.

Respectfully,



Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Anchorage School Board
Anchorage Assembly
Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House
Representative Chris Tuck, Majority Leader
Representative Charisse Millett, Minority Leader
Representative Chris Birch
Representative Matt Claman
Representative Harriet Drummond
Representative Les Gara
Representative Jason Grenn
Representative Jennifer Johnston
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Representative Lance Pruitt
Representative Lora Reinbold
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Ivy Sponholz
Representative Geran Tarr
Senator Pete Kelley, Senate President
Senator Peter Micciche, Majority Leader
Senator Berta Gardner, Minority Leader
Senator Tom Begich
Senator Mia Costello
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Anna McKinnon
Senator Kevin Meyer
Senator Natasha Von Imhof
Senator Bill Wielechowski

Talking Points for House Bill 57

1. Anchorage School District strongly encourages legislators to deny support to Representative Seaton's proposed amendment to House Bill 57. The bill would cut state bond debt reimbursement, for prior-year capital improvement bonds, by 50%. That equates to a shift of funding responsibility, from the state to the Anchorage Municipality, of approximately \$21.7 Million.
2. The reduction in bond debt reimbursement would continue a disturbing trend of gradually increasing the burden placed on municipalities and boroughs.
3. This past year ASD was able to shift funds from its internal fund balance (savings account) in order to cover the nearly \$10.8 Million dollar unanticipated cost of the last 25% reduction in state debt reimbursement. Funds are not available to cover a \$21.7 Million dollar shift and would require additional support from the Municipality through local tax increases.
4. Anchorage School District must maintain clean and safe facilities in order to provide educational opportunities for approximately 48,000 Students. The continued shift of debt responsibility will very likely have a negative impact on Anchorage School District's ability to garner public support for future bonds.
5. The District maintains 93 buildings, covering 7.8 million square feet, and is the largest publicly-owned plant in Alaska. The replacement value of our facilities is approximately \$2 Million.
6. The district has 22 buildings that are more than 50 years old, 47 buildings between 30-49 years old, and 51 buildings between 17-29 years old. Maintaining these buildings requires a combination of major building renewal as well as repair to systems such as heating, power, water/plumbing, etc.
7. The national standard for maintaining facilities would expect ASD to invest \$140 million annually. ASD has not been able to sustain that requirement. The breakout of anticipated investment follows:
 - a. 3% of Current Replacement Value (CRV) for Annual maintenance & operation (\$60 Million). The funding source for this requirement is the General Operating Budget.
 - b. 2% of CRV for periodic renewals (\$40 Million) by replacing key components that wear out (roofs, windows, doors, boilers, etc.). The funding source for this requirement has been a combination of General Fund, Bonds and Grants.
 - c. 1% of CRV for alterations (\$20 Million) such as increased space for small classrooms, expanding early childhood capacity, addressing environmental concerns, addressing Special Needs requirements, and improving safety and security.
 - d. 1% of CRV for systemic reduction of deferred requirements (\$20 Million). Items in this category include backlog of requirements in all of the above categories when they have been underfunded. The funding source for this requirement has been a combination of General Fund, Bonds and Grants.
8. Due to financial constraints and prior bond failures, ASD has not been able to keep up with this level of planned building sustainment needs. The continued trend of shifting costs from the State to local tax payers places an unfair burden on the large school districts.

#12

City and Borough of Juneau

Resolution

Issue: Full Funding for School Bond Debt Reimbursement and State Aid for REAAs

Presented by: The Manager

Introduced: 11/07/2016

Drafted by: A. G. Mead

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2775

A Resolution In Support of Full Funding from the State of Alaska for the School Bond Debt Reimbursement and State Aid for Construction in Regional Education Attendance Areas.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to "maintain a system of public schools" under Article VII, section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; and

WHEREAS, since 1970 the State of Alaska has encouraged municipalities to bond for school major maintenance projects by reimbursing municipalities with bonding authority for principal and interest payments; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has for decades provided major maintenance for rural Regional Educational Attendance Area schools through appropriations in the annual capital budget; and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2015, the Alaska Legislature determined that school projects which passed the Department of Education & Early Development's criteria and were approved by local voters would receive 70 percent debt reimbursement, and those that did not meet the department's criteria would receive 60 percent reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 the Alaska Legislature provided consistent funding parity for rural schools' major maintenance needs by automatically funding major maintenance projects in areas without the ability to bond with a percentage of the school bond debt reimbursement funding; and

WHEREAS, relying on these programs and the State of Alaska's commitment to fund its moral and constitutional obligations, Alaska municipalities have maintained schools for the education of our state's most precious resource, our children; and

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities issued bonds relying in good faith on the State of Alaska to live up to its financial commitments to education; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Alaska Legislature responded to a difficult fiscal situation by placing a five-year moratorium on any new projects being eligible for school bond debt reimbursement, thus giving municipalities and voters across the state notice that bonds sold within the five-year period would be the sole responsibility of local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau, in an effort to mitigate deterioration of school facilities during the capital funding moratorium, immediately began allocating \$600,000 of local tax revenues to provide funding for major deferred maintenance school projects; and

WHEREAS, 2016 the Alaska Legislature recognized the State responsibility to honor past project funding and appropriated funds to the municipalities for school debt reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Governor Bill Walker, in trying to address the budget deficit, cut twenty-five percent of the funding for both municipal and rural schools from appropriation bills using his line-item reduction power; and

WHEREAS, these reductions 'saved' the State of Alaska \$40,703,819 out of an estimated \$3.4 billion deficit, or 1.2 percent, by shifting costs to local municipalities and by leaving badly needed rural projects unfunded; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau lost \$3,075,566 as a result of the line-item reduction, or approximately 13 percent of its total budget and emergency reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities do not have the fiscal resources to close the State's revenue gap; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska should not reach a long-term solution to its revenue problems by ignoring its constitutional obligation to public education.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau calls on Governor Bill Walker to fully fund the FY18 and future State of Alaska moral and constitutional obligation to public schools through both school bond debt reimbursement and state aid for construction in Regional Education Attendance Areas in his budget submittal to the Alaska State Legislature.

Section 2. The City and Borough of Juneau calls on the Alaska Legislature to continue its practice of fully funding these moral and constitutional obligations to public schools as it has in the past.

Section 3. The City and Borough of Juneau calls on fellow municipalities and the Alaska Municipal League to join in support for funding school bond debt reimbursement and the State's new construction and major maintenance obligations.

Section 4. The City and Borough of Juneau calls on Governor Bill Walker and the Alaska Legislature to adopt an FY17 budget supplemental that reinstates full funding for this year's school debt reimbursement payments.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 7th day of November , 2016.

Kendall D. Holme

Attest:

Laurie J. Sica
Laurie J. Sica, Municipal Clerk

#13

Michael Mackowiak

Haines, AK

Issue: Haines State Forester position

Honorable Finance Committee Members

I am writing you to express concern and support for the State Forester position located in Haines.

The inveterate struggle for Local Governance seems to be the bane of Alaska, much as it was for the original colonists. This concept and struggle should be near and dear to all Alaskans, as we so often find ourselves trying to explain our needs to a Federal Government a continent away. I entreat you to consider our petition.

The Haines Forest — a significant forest resource in the State — is currently managed locally in the city of Haines. This forester position has a long history as a local position. I don't mention this for nostalgia's sake, but rather to aid in the understanding that there are more things going on here than simply the wage and position of a state worker located in the city of Haines. Because of this lengthy history of local governance, many other benefits have developed between the Forest Service, the forest, its resources, and the community surrounded by it. These benefits might be *unseen* when looking at a position roster or a finance report.

Fire Management The forester position has developed very close ties with the local Haines Volunteer Fire Department. And because both of the foresters who have most recently held those positions are also members of the HVFD, they have an intimate understanding of the equipment and personnel capabilities. This is important because the HVFD has an agreement with the State to provide firefighting equipment. This is handy, but so is the fact that many of the HVFD volunteers are also RED Card holders, which means that they are trained and able to fight forest fires for the State. Of course the reason so many of the volunteers hold RED Cards is because the local State Forester is qualified to help with the training and provide the certification on a schedule that fits the needs of the community. This symbiosis would not appear on that position roster or finance report. This relationship has developed because of the local presence and community — this symbiosis is very unlikely with remote governance. Anyone who has any understanding of fire fighting knows the significance that response time has for the final outcome. Local governance makes that response time as fast as possible.

Timber Sale Management The Baby Brown timber sale will need monitoring and management to assure compliance with the terms of the sale, protection of the environment and assistance in the efficient and responsible harvest of the resource: a win for the contractor and the State. Of course there are arguable reasons why this could be done from afar, with another forester traveling back and forth from the interior. But it doesn't take a vivid imagination to see that a Forester thirty minutes away will have a greater overall influence and impact than one who is a day or two away at best. Again, part of that history that comes to play is that the last two Foresters are very seasoned in the valley and have tremendous local knowledge pertaining to weather patterns, the geography, and previous history of sales.

Specialized Forest Products and Services In addition to the Baby Brown timber sale, the long history of local governance has provided for the development of small scale local lumber production as well as specialty commercial forest products used for retail sales. Continued thinning and forest restoration measures are also a part of the local economy. These small scale operations are beneficial to the local economy as well as the State Forest Service because many of them are custom crafted between the local Forester and the individuals in the community. These customized contracts and operations are on a smaller scale, fitting into a tighter State budget than the scale required to mobilize and attract larger contractors. An example of Local governance providing an opportunity where remote governance would miss them, primarily because they were unfamiliar with interests in the local community.

I thank you for the time you have given to consider our petition.

Michael Mackowiak
Haines, Alaska

#14
Pat Oskolkoff
Ninilchik, AK
Issue: Do not reduce education funding

Dear Representative / Senator,

Please help Ninilchik provide a basic education for its students.

Do not reduce funding for Ninilchik school.

The reduced funding removes mathematics and science classes.

These are basic classes.

Don't say on line classes can provide - We need teachers that are in the room with our students answering questions and promoting student achievement .

We are not asking for ornate classes, we need to maintain the basics.

Please look at the classes offered in Soldotna High, Kenai High and Homer High –now look at Ninilchik.

Transport kids to bigger schools – no - we want them growing up in our community with friends and families we know.

Don't take away 2 teachers - we do not have any spares.

Pat Oskolkoff
Mother of (2) Ninilchik graduates
Grandmother of (1) Ninilchik graduate
Grandmother of (3) current Ninilchik students (2 ninth graders and 1 sixth grader)

#15

Ranada Hassemer

Soldotna, AK

Issue: Education

Thank you for your time on this critical issue.

My name is Ranada Hassemer. I have taught in Wisconsin for 23 years and this is my 9th year teaching as an interventionist and also test coordinator at Redoubt Elementary School in the Kenai Peninsula School District. Having taken 10 years off when our children were very young, I have been closely involved with education for over 40 years.

Many teaching trends have come and gone, family dynamics have drastically changed, and the future for our youngsters is more unknown than ever before. As we try to prepare our students for their future, educators struggle as the jobs many of our students will be working in have yet to be created. We are preparing for the unknown. A daunting task. However, their need for solid basics of reading, math, and problem solving skills has not changed over the decades.

Our school district is again talking of increasing the number of students per class which already has seen steady increase in recent years. Children are crossing the thresholds of our classrooms with greater needs than ever before. Not just educationally, but physically and emotionally as well. When our class sizes are continually increasing due to budget constraints, our students are hurting.

I ask you to support a fiscal plan that will close the state's budget deficit and avoid major cuts that will hurt our students.

Thank you again for your time,

Ranada Hassemer

Soldotna, AK. 99669

#16

Lois Conway

Palmer

Issue: Gas line, Cuts, PFD

I'm quite disturbed about what the Governor is doing by getting the State into business over the gas pipeline. He has committed many millions, or more, to have an office in Texas and now in Japan in addition to the big spending in State. This is so very out of line. First, no state should entertain the idea of getting into business. This is basic. The money thrown away on this gas project would go a long way toward paying for essential services in the budget. PLEASE see that it is demolished. If it was a good investment the oil companies would be doing it. They are not because it isn't a viable project.

The Permanent Fund should remain as is and figure the dividend same as always. AFTER enough cuts have been made to unnecessary expenses, and IF the budget is still lacking, there are ways to use the earnings for the budget. We do not want the Governor to use it for the dream of a gas line.

This is not the time for starting a payroll tax.

You and the Governor should support in many ways the new oil discoveries on the North Slope. That would put oil in the oil line, as you know, and would go a long way toward balancing the budget.

Please NO to all this craziness.

Thank you

Lois Conway

Palmer

#17

Ted Banker

Anchorage

Issue: PFD

Number 1: The Permanent Fund Corporation's Earnings Reserve Account is OFF LIMITS to money grabs by the state government.

Number 2: If it is ok for the Alaska lawmakers to cut the PFD payout in half, then all members should be willing to cut their per diem by 50% as well.

Number 3: The Alaskan lawmakers were elected to work FOR Alaskan citizens, they were not elected to take advantage of the citizens. Lawmakers have ONE responsibility and that is to govern in the best interest of the PEOPLE of Alaska.

Tad Banker

Anchorage

#18

Sheila Shilling

Issue: PFD

Word of mouth and facebook will go a long way to make your constituents aware of who is stealing from them via the pfd. You need to pay what walker took last year and keep your hands off pfd in the future. I will make it my personal mission to make voters aware of who voted to spend it on your inability to balance the budget. I am sick of politicians who hide in Juneau where it is impossible to afford to travel and voice our concerns. Paying per diem for those living in Juneau is an example of waste.

#19

Jessica Milwicz

Issue: Cut the budget

To my employed, Representatives,

My husband and I have already had a \$12,000 a year cut through his work. With these proposed obscene cost of these taxes, we will no longer be able to provide food, clothing or shelter for our family in this state. When hard working Long time Alaskans (My family is a homesteading family and we have lived here for over 70 years) are forced to leave this state because we can longer afford to live here, who is going to foot these outrageous, elitist, unattainable government bills? I implore you on behalf of my longtime Alaskan family, please do your jobs, as you were hired to do and make the much needed, responsible cuts to the bloated, irresponsible current budget. Please be honorable and stop stealing the food from children's mouth's. Be compassionate and honorable and fight for the hard working Alaskan family who employs you and stop HURTING US! I

Long Time Alaskan,
Jessica Milwicz

#20

Benjamin Nelson

Issue: PFD and taxes

I am writing you today because I am quite displeased with the way the representatives in the Alaska State Legislature are acting regarding our budget deficit.

The last two days have made me ashamed to be an Alaskan, and only hope that next election cycle the whole lot of you are wiped clean from the senate and house. How in good conscious ask the citizens of Alaska to give up a portion of their PFD dividend, and then expect them to pay either an income tax, and/or a tax on K-12 education, while the lot of you RESCINDED cuts to your per diem, and I have heard NOTHING of talks about restructuring the oil taxes.

Is it not a bit ironic that we as a state are now bleeding red just one year after the oil companies swindled a lower tax rate for themselves? A tax rate that when compared to the rest of the world is minimal, a rate that even compared with other US states (after factoring in ownership rights/etc), is one of the lowest. Would it not then be prudent for ALL of Alaska to focus on that aspect FIRST?

Secondly, in these tough times the Alaska legislature is expecting the citizens to shoulder some of the "pain" of the downturn, should not those that WE elected into office ALSO bear that burden? It is truly telling the class of you people now in office. Deplorable... refusing to cut your own expenses while expecting the citizens to pick up the tab. Shameful...

IF you look at the expenditures for the last 3 years, Alaska's budget has GROWN by some 5 billion, It would be naive to think there are not enough cuts to get us to the black without trying to make the citizens feel it.

I'm very ashamed of the legislature, and if I don't see per diem cuts and oil tax subsidies back on the table, I will make it known that we must drain the Alaska swamp, as the current legislature doesn't give one bit about it's citizens.

Remember, YOU all work FOR us citizens... DO YOUR JOB! or risk being cleared out when the Alaska citizens decide to drain our swamp.

Thank you,
Benjamin Nelson

#21

Bob Solberg

Issue: Cuts, No taxes, No PFD

The state of Alaska does not now nor has it ever had a revenue problem! Our legacy from the "boom" years is that we are now saddled with a massive overburden of government and we are simply **addicted to spending**.

We do not need any new or increased taxes or fees. We already pay far too much for the few services we receive from the state and we certainly do not want to spend any portion of the permanent fund on a **state government which is already far too large**.

The solution to the State fiscal situation is quite simple!

STOP SPENDING

NO NEW TAXES!

LEAVE THE PERMANENT FUND ALONE!

CUT! CUT! CUT!

and then get serious and

CUT MORE!

We should immediately stop this tax-and-spend madness and concentrate on the core services for which the state government is actually responsible:

Basic education, Roads, Public safety.

Sincerely

Bob Solberg

#22

Gary Gudz

Issue: Cut the Budget

Cut the budget....get your hands of of the pfd and our children's future...Alaskan families are struggling to make ends meet, businesses are failing, and our state is in a recession and you all in Juneau continue to spend, take from the permanent fund and talk about raising taxes (income and sales)....its time to cut open your damn eyes!

Gary Gudz

#23

Jake Libby

Issue: Cut Budget first

Dear Committee,

I know you all face pressures from the constituent groups that have sprung up in the dependency that is created by government spending, but please remain steadfast in the determination to dramatically downsize state government. There is no other reasonable measure that will not have the long-term, deleterious consequences that adding an income tax or restructuring the PFD.

I was at a large family function last night, and asked of the 42 people in attendance a show of hands, who believes the state needs to meaningfully cut spending FIRST, and then address revenue streams SECOND, and the response was unanimous.

The opinions of constituencies that are dependent on government payouts cannot be considered as part of an equitable approach to fiscal responsibility, any more than your neighbor should be able to tell you how much you should contribute to help cover the cost of their utility bills.

This is not an overly complicated problem, it is simply a question of whether you have the courage to say no to people with their hands out.

Respectfully,

Jake Libbey

{C3} STRATEGY & DESIGN

#24

Sarah Godfrey

Wasilla, AK

Issue: PFD

We are a larger, multi-generation life-long Alaskan family. We are the blue-collar workers and are tired of carrying the other classes.

My husband is a slope worker and we've taken job loss and pay cuts over the last three years. We are struggling to keep afloat and maintain our budget, and despite family emergencies, job losses, pay cuts, and raising four teenage children we are succeeding. We do not have large saving accounts at our disposal, we didn't ask for help. We managed our budget. Neither of us, are lawyers, accountants, financial advisors, bankers, or have any access to those, yet we managed. And have managed well.

How can a party full of educated professionals, with access to financial consultants be unable to figure out what a humble family can without, and not be successful?

The use of our Permanent Fund not only hurts the individual families, like ours, but the community. The business I work for seen a drastic decrease in sales in October, which in turn meant clients went without health services due to lack of funds. This will ultimately see higher incidence of emergency based services that will be a financial burden to the persons and community. In turn, creating an increase in government spending to make up the difference

The Permanent Fund cuts hurt all of Alaska's future. By decreasing the Fund, the UAA deposits for all Alaskan Children were cut in half. The dollars set aside by parents for college for their children have been lessened and by the current legislation, will continually be less for years to come or nonexistent. A family struggling, now has to choose, if they want to pay their mortgages or school for the kids.

Those savings accounts may be the only means for a portion of Alaskan student to even attend college. In the future, with the increasing higher education costs this account can mean graduation or drop-out.

Our already struggling university, will see lower enrollments and cuts. This will only hurt the community. Without our children and adults who want to increase their knowledge, we will lose revenue. These students will leave state to cheaper, larger schools that meet their interests.

Families, who are on the fence financially may leave this state to find solace somewhere cheaper. The reduction of the PFD, may increase the populous exodus. They in turn will take property and sales tax revenue with them. Anchorage politicians complain about a budget, yet our largest city does not have a sales tax, and currently has lower property taxes than those of Palmer, Wasilla and Big Lake. I pay just shy of \$4000 on property tax for .9 acres, yet in Anchorage, if I had an equivalent on the hillside I would maybe pay \$3000. The revenue is there if the politician tax the main populous equally as other communities. If they instated a city tax we would also benefit for tourists helping to pay our budget.

The PFD cuts and restructuring are sure ways to destroy this state. It will cause ripples to the communities for years and decades to come.

I implore all elected officials to cease and desist any thoughts of tapping the Fund and to reinstate the Fund back to the populous and to cut items from the budget.

Sincerely,

Sarah Godfrey

Wasilla resident

#25

Shannon Connelly

Palmer, AK

Issue: Cuts not taxes

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Shannon Connelly and I live in Palmer. I am unable to attend the public testimony at our local LIO, and so I am asking you to enter my testimony into the public record.

Do any of you have personal budgets that you follow in your personal lives? I am not seeing any evidence of responsible budgeting. If the money coming in doesn't cover your expenses, you do not keep spending at the same level; instead you must decrease your spending to pay for only those items that are absolutely necessary. Raiding your savings should be done very judiciously since you do not want to drain your savings too quickly, not knowing when, or if, things will ever return to when you were more flush.

Our family has a budget and follows it very carefully so that we can meet all of our obligations. I resent that you have not done the same, and are now demanding that our family take from our budget to bail you out. All of the tax increases and new taxes will have a huge impact on our family, and many others in our state. Not only are you planning on having us bail out the state, but you are making local communities do more without state help, which will affect us with our local taxes. So we will be supporting the state and increasing our support in our local communities.

No one likes to have to cut their budget, but if we do not cut at this time, the problems will only grow. How much do you really think you can tax Alaskans before they decide that they can no longer afford to stay here? I know several lifelong Alaskans that are putting their homes up for sale and are preparing to leave the state since the new tax burdens will be too great.

Taking money from other people is not leadership; it is theft. You are doing nothing to stop the real problem, which is that the State of Alaska is spending too much money, and has been for far too long. Once you deal with your spending addiction, then you can come to the citizens for help. Until then, the Permanent Fund and Dividend are off limits, as are our wallets. We cannot afford to have you blow through the savings and still not learn your lesson.

#26

Brad Slama

Anchorage

Issue: Do not use PFD to balance the budget

To Whom it May Concern...

I'm writing to urge you to cut government spending and not use the PFD to balance the state budget.

It is disheartening to see almost \$8 billion dollars spent on 725,000 people with the size and scope of government increasing yearly. Oil companies, from which the state derives 90% of its operating income, are vilified for not giving enough to a state government that hasn't learned to say "NO" to spending. Instead, many senators and representatives in Juneau want them to pay even more. (No, I do not work for an oil company)

My wife and I were on a walk last weekend and we both noticed the number of houses for sale. A co-worker, who lives in Eagle River, mentioned the same thing yet, in Juneau, it seems as if none of the legislators realize the brutal reality of excessive spending and doing "nothing" to arrest the problem. If this budget is passed, we will face state income and education taxes as well as continue to pay a burdensome, local property taxes. Who knows what else lurks inside of the bills and amendments that you have in your hands.

Draining the swamp worked quite well nationally last November 8th and, it appears that process may be repeated in Alaska should this bloated budget be passed and spending cuts ignored.

Thank you.

Brad Slama

Anchorage, AK 99506

#27

Russell Overman

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Shrink Government

Dear House Finance,

This will not be a very articulate, sophisticated email as I am certain you have received many of those already from our citizenry regarding your failure to pass a common sense budget.

My father taught me long ago that government, although necessary, is by human nature, inevitably going to do only three things: GROW, SPEND, and TAKE. They know no other way. They will never SHRINK, SAVE, or GIVE.

Crazy, bitter old man, is what I used to think as a young, naive, unexperienced taxpayer myself, but YOU elected officials in Juneau continuously solidify and confirm my father's warning every flippin day.

You can all fortunately be replaced, but the damage you're doing now will sting a long time for families and businesses of this great state.

Please grow up and REMEMBER who you are or who you aren't (the latter seems more applicable) and who you represent, and decide what is best for your constituents, the ALASKAN residents. GIVE US a reason to retain you and a desire to continue living here.

MAKE ALASKA GREAT AGAIN!, if you will.

If I am not mistaken, that slogan worked very well a recent candidate at the national level, as did the mindset of SHRINK, SAVE, GIVE. The people really liked that... not GROW, SPEND, TAKE!

Com'n guys and girls. you can do this. Or perhaps the next legislature can?

Russell in Anchorage

God bless!

#28

Gerald Van Bruggen

Salcha, AK

Issue: No PFD reduction

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like the committee to know that by reducing our dividend once again that you are taking away 50% of my present yearly income as these past few years have been hard as little to no work in the construction industry has been available. As a single male adult with no children I am ineligible for any public assistance as I own 2 vehicles (a truck to haul trash and a small 27 year old economy car) which immediately disqualifies me from any help whatsoever. I am strongly against any reduction of our yearly dividends or any changes to the formula calculations to determine the size of our dividends. I am a lifetime Alaskan of the Tanana Valley and our past Governor Hammond set this up so all would get a slice of the pie and not the crumbs that you are proposing to offer us now. Thank You,
Gerald Van Bruggen

#29

Scott Ogan

Issue: Cut programs and formula spending

Legislative friends;

There is a list of new programs created since oil money flowed. Please use it to actually manage fiscal policy. Start introducing bills to repeal programs. It's hard work and I know you don't have the votes, but who amongst you will stand out as a real reformer? Start the substantive discussion now to clarify who the leaders are.

Formula spending is the Elephant in the Room. You eat an elephant one bite at a time.

Best,

Scott Ogan

#30

Carol Carman

Issue: Permanent Fund

Dearest House Finance Committee,

No budget has been passed, but you have taken **\$4.2 billion** out of the Permanent Fund? And no small amount either. I can only assume you intend to pass the **largest** budget we have seen to date in our state. AND **you stole** the money from every Alaskan in the form of a PFD cap, instead of doing your due diligence and reducing the government footprint in our state - which is the largest in the nation, per-capita. Just because we **had** lots of money at one time doesn't mean we should continue large spending habits. When we have less capital, we should tighten our belts instead of taking that belt off to make room for more spending. Your action is **irresponsible**.

Your action will **hasten and worsen the recession** our state is experiencing in the private sector. Alaskans will speak to you at the polls in 2018.

Kudos to the Republicans in your committee and all of them in the audience who stood for the people of Alaska yesterday (yes I watched your committee meeting - link below). I also remember the letter written 2 years ago complaining about a PF Earnings draw. Representative Wilson was correct about it. Your action is **hypocritical**, as you are doing is far worse than you complained about the Republicans intentions 2 years ago. The House Republicans deserve **tremendous** respect!

You would do well to rescind your action and talk to Senator Dunleavy about his plan to gradually reduce spending over a 3-4 year period with **NO** taxes and **NO** PFD theft.

One Facebook user said:

The last time we had Permanent Fund grabbers try to absorb the PF into the general fund the PF was worth \$23 billion and we told them NO ... now it is grown to over \$55 billion good thing we told them no now the fight is on to keep them off of it.

And oh by the way that's back when oil was down to nine dollars a barrel and they were running around like chicken little saying the sky is falling and we couldn't survive without taking the permanent fund!

Well they were wrong then and they're wrong now!"

Carol Carman
Chair, ARP District 9E

#31

Kelly Gifford

Kenai, Alaska

Issue: Day Habilitation Waiver

Dear Committee Members,

I am the guardian of my brother -in-law Patrick Gifford, Patrick is client of Hope Community Services. Let me introduce you to Patrick. He is a 41-year-old man, who has Fragile X Syndrome and has the mentality of an 11 year old boy. He loves Star Wars, the Seattle Seahawks, the Kenai Kardinals, going to the movies and Home Depot (where he works eight hours a week), he will never be able live independently drive a car, or do ANY form of an activity on his own accord.

The current funding that is provided by the State to Patrick allows him to feel that he has some glimpse of a normal life. If the funding is cut Patrick and others will have no more "activity time" than an inmate on death row. Unless you have a family member that is special needs you will have NO idea what time out of the home means to someone like Patrick. Patrick comes alive when he is out in the community feeling happy that he is out of his home. When Patrick is not out with his Hope worker, he merely sits in his room watching TV and becomes sedentary.

It is easy to say that family must step up and take care of their family member, but that isn't always possible. Jobs must be worked, parents die, siblings are left to shuffle the member around and remember they are siblings which means there is true sibling issues even with a special needs person. My husband, his brother has Parkinson's disease and the other siblings do not have the ability either to take on the role of such wonderful agencies as Hope Community or Frontier Community provide their clients.

I also feel that the State has selected this group of people who cannot defend themselves, thus making them an easy target. They don't vote and their population base is small in comparisons to other special interest groups. As the guardian of someone, who for all intense and purposes is defenseless please do the right thing and defend Patrick and other people like him by not reducing the funding to DHSS.

Sincerely,

Kelly L Gifford

#32

Vanessa Reinhardt

Wasilla, AK

Issue: Create a lean budget

Dear Legislators,

Few words are necessary in order to share what you all - deep down - already know. Until you work together to create a lean and mean budget, you do not deserve one more penny from any source, especially from Alaskans who are working and providing for others. Show us that you are responsible, and that you can handle with integrity the monies of which you currently have control, and only then will logical Alaskans be open to trusting you with more.

Best regards,

Vanessa Reinhardt

Wasilla, Alaska

#33

Dean Eisberg

Eagle River, AK

Issue: Cut spending, tax fish

Legislatures,

You need to cut spending, cut entitlements, cut your per diem, and cut subsidies before taking the PFD, instituting a sales tax or creating an income tax. Make all communities incorporate and pay their own way. Before you tax the Alaskans who work and live here, tax the fish. A 10 cents per pound on every fish caught in Alaskan waters (commercial, sport, subsistence) will solve your budget crisis.

Dean Eisberg

Eagle River

#34

Tim Gehrke

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Cut and stop spending, open ANWR

State Legislature,

This is a total travesty of justice! The State Legislature needs to introduce these bills independently and give the public a chance to comment and talk about every one of these issues. I am a small business owner for the last 8 years, I was born here and have lived here for 40 years, but I am ready to move out of Alaska!

In these tough financial times we need to cut the budget, not add taxes or take away the permanent dividend from the people. Cut city employees. Cut infrastructure improvements to the bush. Cut health care and retirement benefits for all government employees. Cut from the ASD budget. Stop building all these fancy buildings and schools. Stop renovating the museum. Stop all activity on a LNG gas pipeline, it isn't economically viable.

Open ANWR for responsible, sensible drilling. Create incentives for companies to invest in Alaska.

Do you not remember the late eighties here in Alaska?

When I was growing up here in Anchorage the budget was balanced with the oil price averaging 15-30 dollars a barrel. Now the legislature is trying to balance it with 100 plus a barrel? Oil is not there. Cut, cut, cut. Stop spending with aplomb. This is ridiculous.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Gehrke

Lifetime Alaska resident

#35

Meghan Nelson
Juneau, AK
Issue: ERA Draw

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the house majority's recent move to withdraw from the Earnings Reserve Account.

Instead of cutting government spending further, as the majority of Alaskans support, it seems that democrats would rather place the burden on the Alaskan residents and on our fragile economy.

The PFD is vital to Alaska. It stimulates the economy better than any amount of government spending (see last year's ISER report) and it keeps more people out of poverty. We are in a recession and the last thing the legislature ought to consider is imposing new and burdensome taxes on the residents of this great state.

Furthermore, this move made by the majority limits the debate regarding the budget and eliminates other funding options. This is absolutely wrong.

The legislature ought to open this up to public input in the form of a vote. The ERA draw will impact our PFD and we, as shareholders in our mineral earnings, deserve to have a voice in this issue.

Again, I oppose a draw from the ERA and support any move that would 1. Restore the vetoed portion of the PFD to the people 2. Protect the PFD and it's current calculation 3. Reduce the amount of money spent in government.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meghan Nelson
Juneau, Alaska

#36

David L. Barnes

Palmer, AK

Issue: Cut before taxes

I am a very hard-working Alaskan who lives in Palmer. I am disgusted by your lack of fiscal responsibility and your attempts to impose a tax on my efforts. My job family has been cut back to college-level spending and budgets since 2014, but I see no evidence that the state has curtailed its spending. Start making serious cuts and get rid of the myriad of social programs and handouts. Do NOT impose an income tax. If you have made substantive cuts and need a tax, a sales tax needs to be the only option considered.

David L. Barnes

#37

Julie Gillette

Fairbanks, AK

Issue: Permanent Fund & spending

Good Morning Legislators,

Please include this testimony as part of the record for public testimony of HB 57. I've been an Alaskan for 20 years. My husband and I dreamed of living here and making it our permanent home. Until this year, we never considered living anywhere else. Alaska comes with lots of hardships, harsh winters, expensive heat oil, bad roads, expensive groceries, higher insurance and housing costs, and extraordinarily high air fare. We put up with all of this because we love the state. We love the scenery, the wildlife, the fishing, and the freedom. We also loved that despite the high cost of living, there was an offset, no income taxes.

This year we are watching bill after bill being proposed to tax us through an income tax, a school tax, and increased urban taxes due to the potential of the state removing school bond funding and even studded tires. We are finding it hard to justify staying if these bills are passed. We are looking at the potential of losing income equal to three house payments due to all of the proposed taxes. I am a disabled veteran and this is too much. We are capable of making a good living anywhere we move with our skills. If these taxes are passed, our family and others will be forced to make the hard decision of relocating. You will lose your six figure workers and producers if you do this. Who then would actually be left to pay these taxes?

I understand the state has a fiscal problem but there have been better solutions offered that would prevent massive taxes and massive exodus. Sen. Mike Dunleavy provided a plan. I am amazed at how many republicans are against his plan and for taxes. Also, I am opposed to the amendment to remove \$4 billion dollars from the Permanent Fund earnings reserve. The Permanent Fund should not be raided. You do realize that PFD money in the hands of residents does stimulate the economy? Taking it away does the opposite. I'd like to see a freeze on your per diem until we figure this out. As a member of the Board of Nursing I have been involved doing my part by reducing travel expenses, the length of meetings and holding all meetings in Anchorage.

I have been a very active member of the community since I've lived here to included holding offices in the Republican party and the Board of Nursing. My husband and I are licensed foster parents. I understand the state from several angles. I also understand the impact all these taxes would have on my family. I implore you to seek more cuts and if taxes are needed, let's use some common sense and fix our finances without losing our most important resource – people.

Respectfully,

Julie Gillette

District 4

Fairbanks AK 99706

#38

Anna Bosin

Anchorage

Issue: Don't cut NPR funding/Need state tax and PFD reduction

I am extremely disappointed to see cuts to programs that Rural Alaskans rely on to connect to the rest of Alaska and the rest of the world. Specifically, I do not support cuts to public broadcasting where I have seen first hand how critical radio is in Dillingham, AK as residents call in to alert others of weather, fishing, and subsistence safety conditions. Radio is a vital connection for the elderly to hear from family when they are less mobile from their homes. It's the most endearing thing to hear family and friends call in to wish an Auntie or elder a "very happy birthday" from a far away village so everyone in town can celebrate together.

My other concern in the proposed budget cuts is the \$1.3M cut to the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. This is a vital program that offers a real-world bridge from village to education for so many young Alaskans who dream to attain higher education. This program also provides Alaskan employers local hires that are trained and most likely to stay and work here in Alaska for years after graduation- a win/win for Alaska! Don't rely on private companies to fund this program- That isn't how education should be funded and doesn't guarantee that the program will continue with the same goals and successes.

I understand all of the state programs are being carefully reviewed because we have a huge financial debt. However, we have cut during the last two cycles and these cuts are beyond filling the deficit and will impact real Alaskans. Enough with the cuts that put Alaskans at risk-Instead I support revenue options such as a State Income Tax and a reduced PFD. As a state with less than 1M people, we are not self-sustainable and need government programs- both State and Federal. I am ready to pay my fair share to ensure we have a quality of life that Americans deserve.

-Anna Bosin

Anchorage, AK 99517

#39

Mark Frazure
Anchorage, AK
Issue: PFD

Well I see the Alaska State legislator is at it again. Trying to get your hands on the Alaskan people PFD money as you have been trying to do since it was created. This money was set aside for the people and not for the government. Your last minet deals to try and take that money is an outrage. Looks like we the people are going to have to drain the swamp here in Alaska also.

That money was put aside for a reason, so Alaskans would get a small share or the profits from our oil. If it is to be used for anything other than the PFD only a vote by the people should allow that to happen and not by a mandate or law from you!

I have to live within a budget and so should the state. Reduce the spending and the budget and live within what the state can aford and stop with your special projects.

I demand that you leave the PFD moneys alone!

You all should be ashamed.

You can be assured I am watching and will use my vote accordingly!

Mark Frazure
Anchorage, AK 99504

#40

Linda Frazure
Anchorage, AK
Issue: Spending and PFD

Hello,

Here is what we need a Sustainable Budget. One like my husband and I and all our children and friends have to live within. Income has to exceed or equal our expense or we are living in our trucks. This is not a hard concept and many of us Alaskans are very confused as to why expenses are not being cut by our elected officials before they are considering going accessing new taxes or going after the dividend. I think we could even consider new taxes if that was the last resort and you had done your job in cutting all the extra baggage that is not necessary. As for the dividend it was set up for the residents of Alaska. Of which I have been a resident for just under 29 years. It was not intended to be used in the manor in which you are proposing. What happens in a couple of years then this money is gone and the budget is out of control? How can you consider taking this money from the PFD fund without taking this to a vote of the people?

With oil money down we as a state count on a couple of things to help the local economy . One is tourism and that has a limited number of months that we can count on. Once the tourists have left the next influx of income for the local economy comes from the residents getting their dividends. Well when you take half the dividend like you did last year guess what happens. People aren't as free with what they spend or donate. All this trickles down and hurts the economy in numerous way.

We are tired of watching this out of control spending continue year after year. I do not approve of this operating budget that was sent through the House at the last minute this week and I wish to be heard and I DO VOTE

Linda Frazure
Anchorage, AK 99504

#41

Glen "Bud" Irwin

Issue: Reduce expenditures, institute a sales tax

There is no question that expenditures must be reduced and that the Permanent Fund must be used in some manner to meet the shortfall. Some proposals involve retaining all or a reduced dividend program and imposing an income tax. While I strongly favor a sales tax over an income tax, an income tax could be palatable but NOT IF COMBINED WITH A CONTINUATION OF THE DIVIDEND PROGRAM! If this happens, you will have TURNED THE DIVIDEND PROGRAM INTO A WELFARE PAYMENT received only by those who pay no taxes or taxes at a level that requires payment of state taxes in an amount less than the dividend.

If the dividend program is retained and taxes are required, institute a sales tax. We don't need another welfare program.

You may also want to consider in your planning the state's potential loss of outside income spent here by retirees. No matter what you do, retirees will have more incentive to move to a warmer climate and the effect could be significant.

Glen "Bud" Irwin

Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)

Resident since 1975

#42

Janet Boylan
Eagle River
Issue: Cut the Budget

Dear Committee Members,

I have been an Alaska resident since the late 1960's. I have watched the legislature spend billions of dollars and have little to show for it. This year there have been repeated requests for suggested cuts. If you are sincere in those requests here are some constructive ideas.

An 11 billion dollar budget for approximately 600,000 residents amounts to \$50 per day per person, or \$200 per day for a family of four. We are not getting our monies worth. Cut the budget in half and it still isn't a reasonable spending limit.

You say you have cut the budget to below 2007 levels. Bosh! If you were spending at that rate then, you were spending too much.

And where has the money gone!

- 1) \$40 + million dollars to renovate the LIO downtown that doesn't belong to the state. Now you are involved in a lawsuit so you don't need to pay rent because of a broken contract. **STUPID WASTE OF MONEY.** The legislature bought a ferry they couldn't use, then had to dock it somewhere until it was sold at a loss because they didn't do their homework.
- 2) How many buildings throughout the state are you supporting that have little usage? **SELL THEM** or give them away. You can also sell the mansion you built for the President of the University of Alaska and let him furnish his own housing. Who needs a glass house in Fairbanks to heat?
- 3) Cut the governors budget. He has no idea how to spend money anyway. \$200,000 a week for a consultant to build a pipeline that will never see fruition is a complete waste of money.
- 4) Cut the legislative budget. Allow one trip to Juneau and back home during the session to encourage a "get the work done" attitude. Cut all other travel until the budget is under control. Junkets to Iceland or Las Vegas to study education, get real!!
- 5) A 15% income tax is just a foot in the door to increase it later. Say **NO!**
- 6) Reduce the state work force. Many state workers don't have enough to do, and they waste both time and money. The money saved could be used to give raises to good workers. But that would require that supervisors actually supervise and write up poor workers and too many of them don't want to do their job. It Is easier to skate. The same is true of government at both the city and federal level.
- 7) Cut all grants for studies of any kind.

- 8) Avoid any and all supplemental budget requests.
- 9) Avoid all special sessions. The state cannot afford \$23,000 a day because the legislature can't or won't get their work done. If the governor calls a special session "gavel in and gavel out".

A 25% reduction in the operating budget is not out of line at this time of necessary fiscal restraint.

Where has the money NOT gone.

- 1) New roads. There hasn't been a major highway built in this state since the 70's. Some upgrades, but nothing major, and when they built the four lane between Anchorage and the valley, they had to go back and spend more to change the lighting to set it off the highway because someone did not do their homework. The roads now are very pitted, and in need of resurfacing.

- 2) Education. There has been little improvement in education because instead of putting money into smaller classes it goes to higher salaries and more administration. That is thanks to teachers who would rather have more money than improvements to the classroom. Good teachers don't need that much supervision and poor teachers should be gone.

The University keeps putting up new buildings and spreading out all over town (in Anchorage) instead of using the campus space they do have.

- 3) Many villages still do not have adequate sewer and water facilities. That should have been done thirty years ago and it still isn't done.

The legislators do not need more money to BLOW. Cut the budget.

Thank you,

Janet Boylan
Eagle River, AK 99577

#43

Nancy Crowden

Willow, AK

Issue: PFD

The PFD belongs to the people NOT YOU.

Please keep your hands off!

Nancy Crowden

Willow, Alaska

#44

Phylis K. Silverton

Wasilla, AK

Issue: Permanent Fund & Spending

No budget has been passed, but you have taken \$4.2 billion out of the Permanent Fund? This is a huge amount of money to basically steal from the people. I can only assume that you intend to pass the largest budget we have seen to date in our state and you stole the money from every Alaskan in the form of a PFD Cap rather than doing you due diligence and reducing the government footprint in our state. I am appalled at the way some of the Legislature seems to be going after the people of the State, like myself...a 52 year Alaskan Resident, to pay for the outlandish spending spree that is the largest in the nation per capita. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!

The reduction of our PFD last year impacted the people in my office and their families to the tune of \$10,000.00 for one of my co-workers and I lost \$1000.00. My boss and his family lost about \$7000.00 so that is about \$18,000.00 that we, collectively, would have spent in the private sector.

That action alone impacted the private sector adversely, and I wonder how many people had to be laid off because of that action, or should I say in-actions in standing up to Governor Walker and telling him NO, do not steal the peoples PFD checks.

Just because we have generally had lots of money in the past, doesn't mean that we should continue the large spending habits. When we have less capital, we should tighten our belts like the people you are stealing the money from has to do when we are shorted...like when the Governor steals half of our Permanent Fund Dividend.

Your action will hasten and worsen the recession our state is experiencing in the private sector. Alaskans will speak to you at the polls in 2018.

I must say that not all of you are responsible for this problem. I know, for a fact, that there are House Republicans who are working their behinds off trying to get the budget under control by other means than stealing the funds from people and pretending that you are doing all you can to protect us. The House Republicans are doing a great job in talking to their constituents and working for them.

You would do well to rescind your action and talk to Senator Dunleavy about his plan (that I understand the Senate Finance Committee refuses to bring to the floor) which would gradually reduce spending over a 3 to 4 year period with NO Taxes and NO PFD theft.

Phylis K. Silverton

Wasilla, AK 99654

#45

Marty Artz

Issue: No taking of the PFD

Please vote No to taking away the PFD. Walker is trying his hardest to pay the debt of the state by taking the PFD!!!!!! Then he wants to establish a state income tax on the backs of the residents of Alaska!!!!!! Has anyone thought about the elderly and how this will affect them!!!!!! Me included..... why are you not putting a sales tax and when visitors come to Ak they will be paying as well. Put a sin tax on cigarettes and alcohol, and marijuana.

This is insane. Legislators voting themselves raises. Demanding increases on per diem rates. Per Diem is to allow food and hotels while in Juneau not an expense account for entertaining. Trim down government!!!!!! Don't keep spending money you don't have!!!!!!!

What is Walker going to do when he drives the oil companies out of Alaska!!!!!!

Stop putting this Debt on the backs of Alaskans!!!!!!!