

SB 70, 26, 21

Support

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Burch <barbarajburch@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB70, SB21 and SB26

I am writing to you all to urge you to vote for these bills. The Legislature **MUST** do their job and work toward a balanced budget for our State. ~~We are in serious trouble financially and before we are in the position in which we must make cuts to needed services, these bills would help to begin to solve the problem.~~

I am begging you to stop mucking around and get to the business for which you have been elected, balancing the States budge!! Passing SB70, SB26 and SB21 would be a start!! So, please, just do this!! But, don't stop here!! Continue to work to find creative and feasible ways to save money in our State.

Thank you,

Barbara Burch

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony on SB21, SB26 and SB70

From: AMY LUJAN [mailto:alaskbo@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>
Cc: Lisa Parady <lparady@alaskaacsa.org>; Dave Jones <davejones@kpbsd.k12.ak.us>; Holly Holman <hholman@ucsd.net>
Subject: Testimony on SB21, SB26 and SB70

Co-Chair MacKinnon, Co-Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO). Our association represents K-12 school business staff who handle budgets, payroll, purchasing, and a host of business office tasks for school districts across the state.

We would like to express support for the approach to use of the permanent fund as part of a long-term fiscal plan for Alaska. We leave it to the legislators to work out the details of the best plan to support Alaska's needs for stable, sustainable funding.

In support of the difficult decisions you must make, I would like to point out that along with our partner education associations representing superintendents and principals, ALASBO has strongly stated **our support of a long-term, multi-revenue fiscal plan**. We have firmly stated this position each year for several years now, have provided testimony on specific bills and will continue to do so. The full text of our Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) Joint Position Statements can be found here: <http://www.alaskaacsa.org/wp-content/uploads/JPS-State-Issues-2017.pdf>

ALASBO members will be participating in the ACSA Fly-In, April 8-11. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about K-12 school funding. Thank you for your support of public education and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Amy Lujan
Executive Director
Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO)
3145 Pioneer Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
907-723-7415
www.alasbo.org

Doniece Gott

From: Janice Zilko <zilkoj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony on SB70, SB26 and SB21

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB 26 and SB 70, as I recognize the importance for the legislature to develop a financial plan for the state this session.

I am fully in favor of using permanent fund earnings in a responsible manner to pay for important government services. I think the permanent fund dividend should be capped at \$1000 or less. Education is a large component of the state budget, and using dividend money to guarantee all Alaska residents a quality education is a good use of that money.

I think the state should implement other measures as well, specifically a state sales tax which would exclude essentials such as food, medicine and some clothing items.

I am opposed to the proposed income tax structure of 15% of federal tax liability. That calculation is too unbalanced. I would support a simplified flat state income tax of 1 percent on all income across the Board, no deductions allowed. This is done in other states.

I am worried about cutting the budget too much, as so many of my friends and acquaintances are losing jobs and leaving the state. I live in Alaska due to the quality of life here, and I am not committed to remain here if that quality is impacted by severe budget cuts to essential services and capital projects that improve our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Janice Zilko

Anchorage, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Dave Bishop <db7597@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fw:

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is David Bishop and I am an Alaska resident. I am registered to vote in Anchorage.

I am unable to attend the upcoming hearing in person in support of SB70, SB26 and SB21 so please accept this written testimony.

The reasons for supporting the bills are very clear.

- 1) Using a portion of the PFD to reduce the budget has to be a part of any comprehensive solution. The purpose of the PFD was to provide a "rainy day" backup solution for Alaska - that "rainy day" is here.
- 2) I have seen the full financial analysis - we need to literally "buy" some time until the price of oil increases and/or we find some other products/services that will sustain the Alaska economy.
- 3) Alaska is in trouble and the Alaska economy is heading downward. The trend downward will increase in velocity very soon without some sort of plan to slow down the decline.
- 4) Without legislative action now - the PFD fund will actually be depleted to a zero balance.
- 5) There are those who give very sincere testimony indicating that they rely on the PFD as part of their household income. They clearly do not outwardly support senate bills that reduce their PFD. However, I would like to provide the perspective that passing senate bills that protect the

long-term life of the PFD and Alaska as a whole are actually the best thing for those families who rely on the PFD. A reduced PFD is far better than no PFD.

6) The senate bills as proposed - preserve the fund for the longer term. They also seem to be the only way to provide time for us to sustain an economy in Alaska until we find an alternate solution.

7) I am concerned that some think the problem will be solved simply by cutting government spending alone. Although that's an important component of any plan to cut spending - cuts alone do not solve the crisis we face.

8) I am concerned that some don't understand the crisis is real. Many simply hope the price of oil will increase. Hope is not a strategy.

9) I am concerned that there will be a rapid loss of jobs as companies are likely forced to downsize.

10) I'm concerned for the kids of Alaska who will lose their chance to grow up in such a great state if their parents need to leave the state to find another job. Wouldn't it be tragic for people to use their last PFD for flight tickets out of Alaska because they simply can't live here anymore without a job?

For all of those reasons - this is the time we need our state government to lead and govern.

We need our government to make tough decisions although they may be unpopular to some.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

David Bishop

Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Sue Petersen <fisherwoman101@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Alaska's fiscal future

You will have to use PFD money to balance the budget. You can't cut your way out . It would cause a huge problems for our economy.

Sue Petersen

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Norse Alaska <norsealaska@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Alaska's Budget

Please see message below.

From: Norse Alaska [mailto:norsealaska@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:21 AM
To: 'Finance.Committee@akleg.org'
Subject: Alaska's Budget

Please don't be afraid to make the hard choices. I do not have all the information you have, so I cannot tell you exactly how to come up with needed revenue, but I will accept a sales or income tax, a smaller PFD check. Don't put off making decisions. It is better to do it now. No one wants to pay more, but we must if the State is to survive this crisis.

Melanie Kopperud

Norse Alaska, LLC

P.O. Box 1822

Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 745-0645

norsealaska@mtaonline.net

Doniece Gott

From: Tony Johansen <TJohansen@grtnw.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Permanent Fund Earnings

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

When I was 25 years old, the citizens of Alaska amended the State Constitution to create the Permanent Fund, so that the State would have a source of income once the oil revenues declined. In the debate leading up to the amendment there was no mention of a dividend or of the elimination of the State income tax, yet within a few short years we created the permanent fund dividend and eliminated our State income tax. I consider both of these actions to be a mistake and ask that you work to heal our State's financial woes by eliminating the Permanent Fund Dividend and using the Permanent Fund earnings to fund State government, and by instituting a State income tax and/or a sales tax, preferably a sales tax.

I also support reviewing the tax credits offered to the oil industry with the intention of reducing or eliminating them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony Johansen

Anton K. Johansen, P.E. | Great Northwest, Inc. | www.grtnw.com

2975 Van Horn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

T: (907) 452-5617 F: (907) 456-7779 C: (907) 460-5898 E: tjohansen@grtnw.com

Doniece Gott

From: leah Scholz <leahalayne@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 70, SB 26, SB 21

Greetings,

I am a lifeline Anchorage resident and want to express my concern about our current budget deficit. I believe the PFD payout to Alaska residents is an outdated program. While extra money is nice to have, residents should not be relying on it as a source of income. I believe we should use the entire fund in whatever capacity our financial experts believe it will be the most effective to fix our budget deficit.

Thank you,

Leah Scholz

Doniece Gott

From: Arlene Ronda <jaronda51@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 21, SB 26, SB 70

Dear Senator MacKinnon, Senator Hoffman and Finance Committee Members:

Your work in addressing our state's fiscal needs are appreciated. However, the restructuring of the permanent fund and the dividend program should include a balanced search for revenues over and above oil and mineral revenues.

They must include a graduated income tax, use taxes, and other sources that spread the load more equitably and away from dependency on non-renewables. I believe Alaskans are ready to support such measures if done even handedly.

Thank you,
Arlene Ronda
Homer

Doniece Gott

From: Todd Syverson <starjumper.ts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Permanent Fund

You have my support to use some of the Permanent Fund earnings to help pay for things like Schools and roads.

Todd Syverson
254 W Katmai Ave
Soldotna AK 99669

Sent from my iPhone

SB 70, 26

Support

Doniece Gott

From: John Cooley <jscooley68@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 8:04 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: "Members of the Senate Finance Committee: public testimony for Monday March 6"

Members of the Senate Finance Committee

My name is John Cooley and I was born in Fairbanks in 1946 and have been an Alaskan Resident since then. I have voted in all the general elections since 1964.

I am submitting this testimony to express my desire that the Legislature come up with a solution to the State's financial problem THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. I believe that part of the purposes of the Alaska Permanent Fund was to provide a source of funds to supplement other sources of revenue for the State to provide needed services when the oil revenues were depleted. I think it is now time to use part of the fund for that purpose while also maintaining a reasonable size dividend to the citizens of Alaska. An annual dividend of approximately \$1000 seems adequate. I do not foresee oil revenues returning to previous level thus additional sources of revenue are required.

I do not believe that it is rational to deplete all of the State's savings before doing anything. It is also not rational to believe that one could sufficiently reduce expenses to balance the budget. There are many required services that the citizens expect and deserve. I remember the pre-pipeline days when there were very few state services and personally I do not want to return to that kind of state. Schools, the University, roads, police to name a few are required services and we must pay for them.

I believe using the permanent fund to pay for about 2/3 of the deficit while retaining a dividend of about \$1000 is the logical solution. I urge support of such action as HB61/SB26 or SB70.

Most of all I expect that the elected officials solve this problem THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Respectfully,
John Cooley

Doniece Gott

From: Penny Gage <gagepenny@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for SB 70 or SB 26

Hello,

My name is Penny Gage, and I am an Anchorage resident (zip code 99517). I strongly support the passage of a comprehensive fiscal plan that is forward looking and long term. I voice support for SB 70 and SB 26.

Thank you,

--

Penny Gage

gagepenny@gmail.com - (907)738-4600

Doniece Gott

From: MICHAEL WISNEWSKI <alaskamike38@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Daniel Ortiz
Subject: SB70, SB26, HB115

Members of The Finance Comm.

I can't make the meeting on Monday because of a doctor's appt. But I do wish to say that I support SB70 or SB26. I actually would prefer something like HB115, adding a tax to the mix.

However something must be done to get our state on firmer footing before we are bankrupt.

Alaska has been good to my wife and me and to our kids. It's time we started paying back. Also, I have a personal interest since I am now a retired teacher living on my retirement check. We've lived here in Ketchikan now 52 years and have no desire to leave. If Alaska goes broke, I am not sure what we will have to do.

Thank you for your hard work. Sincerely, Mike and Marcy Wisnewski

Doniece Gott

From: William Tatsuda <WBtatsuda@kpunet.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 11:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. Daniel Ortiz; 'Katherine Tatsuda'; JOESTOLLAR@YAHOO.COM; midget@kpunet.net
Subject: PRO SB70 AND SB26

Dear Finance Committee,

As owner of Tatsuda's Supermarket, Inc. in Ketchikan I am very concerned about the devastating consequences if Alaska does not quickly find a long-term solution to its \$4 Billion budget deficit. I believe that a large part of the solution is contained in SB70 and SB26, which are similar in that they would protect our Permanent Fund, Ensure continued future PFD checks, cut the budget deficit by two thirds, and end our reliance on oil and gas revenues to fund our government.

The State cannot afford to wait even one year. Failing to act now will only make it exponentially more difficult to solve the problem. Budget cuts and additional taxes are also needed, but without SB70 and SB26 they are not nearly enough to prevent a fiscal disaster in the not too distant future.

I urge you to act now and pass SB70/SB26, and then get on with the task of trimming the State Budget and imposing a State Personal income tax and other taxes necessary to balance the budget.

For decades Alaskans have had a free ride while enjoying the benefits of State Government. The sudden drop in oil prices has suddenly changed all that. We must now do what is necessary to support State Government. We must all acknowledge the new reality and be willing to sacrifice for the good of our Great State of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

William Tatsuda

President

Tatsuda's Supermarket, Inc.

P.O. Box 8820

Ketchikan, AK 99901

wbtatsuda@kpunet.net

907-225-4125

Doniece Gott

From: Mike Stinebaugh <mstinebaugh@stinebaugh.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Alaska Fiscal State

Dear Committee Members,

Similar to last year, I am writing to encourage the Alaska Legislature to find a realistic solution to our financial crisis. Although HB 61 / SB 26 & SB 70 are much better than doing nothing, I support a bill similar to HB 115. Doing nothing (but cutting the budget), as proposed by Senator Pete Kelly, is ludicrous. All of the experts agree, our current budget problem can't be solved by only cutting the budget. Additional revenue sources need to be found and utilized. In addition, what will Alaska be like if we reduce the budget to the point where we lower the quality of life (think of roads, parks, schools and other needed services) and, at the same time, reduce our options for finding a long term financial solution. That path makes no sense.

Personally, I like the HB 115 balanced solution to our budget problem that includes:

1. Restructuring the Permanent Fund and dividend.
2. Continue to reduce the oil tax credits.
3. Institute a state personal income tax. I support a tax that is a fixed percentage of the individual federal income tax so that everyone that earns an income in the state pays. This is important for several reasons: everyone has a vested interest (and perhaps pays attention to how funds get spent) and out of state workers, that use our roads, airports and others services, get to participate.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Regards,

Mike Stinebaugh

M 907-242-8117

H 907-346-2979

Doniece Gott

From: Christy Everett <christyeverett.personal@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restructure the Permanent Fund!

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please support a bill such as SB70 or SB26, that reduces our dependence on gas and oil revenues, reduces our deficit by 2/3, and guarantees an ongoing Permanent Fund Dividend of at least \$1000/year. As the mother of five sons, four of whom are currently living and working in Alaska, I am very concerned about the long term sustainability of our economy. Using the Permanent Fund for it's original intended purpose of bridging the gap between oil revenues and a more diversified economy will allow time to develop other sustainable revenue sources.

I also think it is time for the return of an income tax. We Alaskans have had the luxury of receiving services such as the state troopers, public education and road maintenance without directly supporting them for far too long. Our dependence on oil and Federal funding is not sustainable, and an income tax, perhaps with credits to offset food and energy costs for Alaskan residents, is the best revenue option. We cannot cut our way to solvency!

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Sincerely,

Christine Everett
2308 Robinson Circle
North Pole, AK 99705

Testimony to AK Legislative House and Senate Finance Committee
For Senate Hearing on March 6, 2017 on SB 26 & SB 70

The legislature are our elected officials in this representative government, their job is to act when necessary and not to obfuscate into inaction. Your single job this year is the solving the budget crisis. Inaction will result in a far worse budget mess next year, likely resulting in selling Permanent FUND assets to pay unresolved budget deficit and destroy the PFD.

Simple cutting of government spending alone will not solve our State's problem. Past legislatures made that mistake in the early 1980's. Poor judgement and a lack of understanding by those in power magnified the impact of our first major recession linked to falling oil prices, large State deficits and coincidental cuts in the Federal workforce (a likely scenario under the new President). Each year it becomes increasing apparent that our state cannot survive on a largely single revenue source; nor can it survive on policy makers who do not understand basic economics, as others in the legislature have demonstrated by their preferred approach to ignore new revenue and access Permanent Fund earnings. It is important that the policy decisions regarding the control of budgetary expenditures and implementation of new sources of revenue be determined in a thoughtful and knowledgeable manner.

We have already made harmful cuts to State Government. Please do not slash government further as was done in the early 1980's; resulting in recession when jobs were lost and communities became places of mostly empty houses and failed businesses. Over-exuberance at cutting government led to job loss in the private and public sector, which largely increased the depth of that recession.

We must have new taxes and tax fixes this year. Four legs to our balanced budget stool, which all Alaskans must participate in, are:

- 1) Keep current Government cuts in place (over the last 4 years you have cut government spending by 30%; this is GIANT!), but do not cut so deep that job losses destabilize communities.
- 2) Continue to link PFD checks to the realized earnings of the PFD fund; and bite the bullet and limit the PFD refund check to a maximum of \$1,000, the long term average, so everyone helps pay for our government, but a lesser hit to our less financially secure neighbors.
- 3) Implement an income tax. It is the least regressive tax (we already taxed low income individuals in PFD reductions) and will have non-residents who earn money here and use our infrastructure participate in our budget solution.
- 4) Most all of us are thankful for the benefits of oil to our economy and the good neighbors the oil companies have been. But it is irresponsible for our good neighbors to expect and our legislature to give away money that we no longer have. Oil companies have their highest profitability in Alaska. So we must end or drastically reduce cash subsidies to the oil industry.

Most all of us Alaskans who plan to remain here in Alaska know that we have had a 35 year tax holiday – and we are ready to pay our share now. Please do the job you were elected to do. Putting it off will hurt us more in the long term and ruin our credit rating; which will cost us all more money and increase deficit by raising the interest rate at which our cities and State finance our obligations.

Earl Krygier & Minoo Minaei
12840 Johns Road
Anchorage, AK 99515
Earl E Krygier' <minooml@yahoo.com>

Doniece Gott

From: pstark@mosquitonet.com
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB70, SB26

Dear Members of the State Finance Committee,

I urge you to support bill SB70 or SB26 this session. This is critical for Alaska. Both of these bills protect our Permanent Fund, ensure everyone continues to receive a PFD check, cuts our growing budget deficit by two thirds, and ends our reliance on oil and gas revenues to fund our government. Without this our savings will be gone within the next 4 years and so will the dividend. Delaying to enact SB70 or SB26 for one year leaves the state as a whole \$1.4 billion worse off by 2021 than if the bill passes this year. Use of the Permanent Fund earnings is the only option that can make a significant dent in the deficit in the next fiscal year. If action is not taken now, the State's bond rating will be further downgraded resulting in higher interest rates for the state and municipalities. Higher interest will cost us tens of millions more per year. Alaska will retain more jobs if action is taken. Job loss will be significant if no action is taken this session. Please support SB70 or SB26.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stark

Doniece Gott

From: patw@gci.net
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB70 & SB26. In Favor

Due to other obligations, I will not be able to participate in this afternoons public forum regarding the PFD bills currently before the committee. I would appreciate if the committee would include the below feedback during this forum.

I believe it would be prudent for us to pass one or the other of bills SB70 and SB26. As long as we are not tapping into the principle funds of the Permanent Fund, I think this is what was intended in the first place when Governor Jay Hammond and other Alaskans created this fund.

The wording regarding the purpose of this fund was as follows:

"...was designed to be an investment where at least 25% of the oil money would be put into a dedicated fund for future generations, who would no longer have oil as a resource."

This fund was the intended provision set forth by the makers of the fund and it is only common sense and knowledge that Alaska is in dire need of this provision.

Pat Wendt
Soldotna, Alaska

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Bundy <bebundy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony on SB70 and SB 26

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I want to thank you for tackling the fiscal crisis. As you are aware, we are in recession and need immediate action to get our economy back on track. Waiting for oil prices to change is not an option.

I strongly support efforts to restructure the Permanent Fund earnings reserve, even if it means a significantly smaller PFD (or none at all). While I'm aware that many people rely on their PFDs, they also rely on many state services that must be paid for somehow, including transportation infrastructure, public safety, K-12 education, and other things that are necessary to keep our economy functioning.

I ask you to please keep in mind two things:

1. There are many people, like me, who are not angry and are not calling your offices and making comments. We do support the efforts you make to balance the budget, even though you might not be hearing from us all the time. I think most of your constituents understand that we are not permanently entitled to have all of our costs paid by oil, and we support you doing what needs to be done.
2. If we lose 30,000 or more jobs in the next 5 years, as is predicted, many of those families will move to other states - where they will likely pay BOTH income and sales tax. There is no free lunch, and people will soon be learning that one way or another.

I believe that the silent majority understands that the free ride is over.

Thanks,
Barbara Bundy
2112 Esquire Dr
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-230-0940

Doniece Gott

From: Nancy Bird <nbird5800@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 2:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 26 and SB 70

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I plan to testify at this afternoon's hearing, but in case I am unable to be there I wanted to submit my testimony in writing.

My name is Nancy Bird. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Once again, I'm here to speak in very strong support of bills which will cut the \$3 billion deficit by using a percentage of our permanent fund earnings. It's the only source of funds large enough to stem the huge funding gap we're facing. Today, that means I urge you to adopt either SB 26 or SB 70. Without action this year, Alaska will once again dip into savings that are practically gone. That, in turn, will likely result in the state's bond rating being downgraded, higher interest costs and declining investments in jobs and Alaska's future.

I've lived in rural and semi-bush Alaska most of my 40 years here and I'm very aware of the greater importance of the Permanent Fund dividend to rural residents. However, I also have watched budget cuts in recent years to multiple state programs, like the Department of Fish and Game, and schools, cuts which hurt us out here. We rely on good management practices to ensure the returns of salmon, herring and crab. We need excellent education to ensure that our children have job opportunities. We cannot cut the budget further without cutting our noses off.

There's undoubtedly some fluff left in the state budget but it's not of a magnitude that will replace the \$3 billion we need today.

I'll end by saying I actually prefer HB 115 because of its inclusion of an income tax which would share the burden of closing our deficit gap with those non-residents who make their incomes in Alaska but don't pay much, if anything, for the many services they benefit from while here. I'm very tired of talk and I most want to see positive action this year, so again urge your strong support for SB 26 or SB 70. Thank you.

Nancy Bird

PO Box 1185, Cordova, AK 99574

Nbird5800@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Chris Gill <cgill@gci.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 2:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for SB70 or SB26

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please support SB70 or SB26 as it is critical that we take steps now to address the current fiscal crisis Alaska is facing.

Thank you,

Chris Gill

Director, GCI Project Management and Implementation

Desk: (907) 868-7098

Cell: 227-9352

email: cgill@gci.com

Doniece Gott

From: Marcella Cresap <tmcresap@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Please pass SB 70 and SB26. I am a 74-year-old senior who believes in working for what we earn. Alaska has become a socialist State giving away money and not charging for any taxes and Alaskans now expect it to stay that way which is unreasonable. All Alaskans should be willing to give up some of their dividend and pay income tax to help our wonderful state.

Marcella Cresap

Sent from my iPad

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jim Dodson, I am president of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity today to address the Senate Finance Committee. I speak in favor of passage of Senate Bill 26 or Senate Bill 70. Both bills would reduce the Permanent Fund Dividend to approximately \$1000. And both bills would use the balance of the Fund distribution to reduce Alaska's \$3 Billion budget deficit by \$2 Billion and stop a significant and unsustainable drain on Alaska's savings accounts.

While the use of the Permanent Fund earnings will not completely eliminate the deficit it will give the Legislature more time to find the right balance between the use of new broad based taxes and/or continue reduction of State spending to accomplish a balanced Alaska State budget.

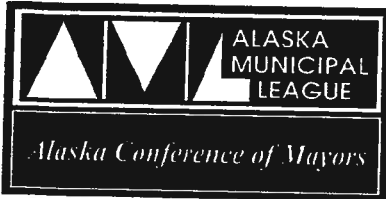
Having a balanced budget is, by far, the most important task to assuring Alaska can continue sustain Alaskan jobs and to eventually diversify and grow its economy.

Thank you for this opportunity and please support SB 26 or SB 70.

Jim Dodson
President
Fairbanks Economic Development

SB 26, 21

Support



One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

March 6, 2017

Senate Finance
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: SB 21 and SB 26

Dear Senate Finance Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these singularly important bills. On behalf of the Alaska Municipal League and all 164 of Alaska's boroughs and cities, we would like to strongly.....strongly encourage Senate Finance to adopt either one of these bills are a hybrid mix of the two. While all of the ramifications of each bill are not always clear to those of us outside of the Legislature, due to our inability to study these issues to the depth with which you are privy, one thing is very clear to many of us..... you must do something rather than simply cut.

Cuts may solve the issue for the "State" budget, but it will only exacerbate the issues for Alaskans. Shifting costs from the State government to municipalities simply transfers those costs to the Alaskan taxpayer. Municipalities cannot continue to have costs shifted to us, while yet seeing decreases in our revenue streams. Our only two means of raising revenues are through taxes or fees. Even lowering personnel comes with a high price, as we are charged termination study costs for doing away with positions.

The Alaska Legislature has spent considerable time with government cuts. It is now time to address revenues. Both of these bills increase the funding to the State. Our AML Sustainability Plan calls for:

1. Use of the Earnings Reserve of the Permanent Fund;
2. Some sort of broad based-taxes;
3. Constant watch for ways to effectively and efficiently cut government;
4. Adjustment to oil tax credits.

We strongly encourage Senate Finance to adopt one of these measures. Time is running out.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Alaska Municipal League

Doniece Gott

From: Branson, Pat <pbranson@city.kodiak.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Alaska fiscal plan

Senate Finance Committee:

It is most imperative a sustainable fiscal plan is in place for all Alaskans. And it is imperative that plan is in place before the end of this legislative session.

You have fiscal tools before you: SB21 and SB 26, both of which lay out details for achieving fiscal sustainability and stability. Both bills lay out a route for you to take and not delay planning for our State's future. I commend Senator Bert Stedman and Governor Walker for taking the time to do research and give you these tools to adopt.

Please know that we cannot cut our way out of this fiscal mess; municipalities cannot bear the burden of the Legislature passing on to them unfunded mandates and other cost shifting which only penalizes our local residents. Municipalities know this is a difficult job and we want to do our part in solutions, but we also want this process to be fair and equitable.

Thank you for your work and service.
Mayor Pat Branson

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Rudy Bean <citymanager@cityofkake.org>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State of Alaska fiscal budget

As SB 21 and SB 26 are reviewed this afternoon, I encourage Senate Finance to adopt some sort of plan that moves Alaska towards a fiscal plan. If some sort of fiscal plan is not adopted, the budget cuts which affect the City of Kake in SOOOO many close and personal ways, will come down hard on all municipalities. Municipalities cannot soak up any more cost shifting from the State. It is time to concentrate not on cuts, but on solutions for all the people of Alaska.

Respectfully....

City of Kake

SB 70

Support

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Griswold <mgrt@xyz.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:43 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: sustainable fiscal plan

I urge you to support a sustainable fiscal plan that includes POMV draw from the permanent fund earnings reserve, preferably less than 5%, a state income tax, and further budget cuts. Such a plan will save the PFD and balance its effect on lower income Alaskans with the income tax on wealthier residents and non-residents. SB70 is a big step in the right direction.

Mary Griswold
Homer

Doniece Gott

From: Patrick Cowan <patrickcowan68@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:27 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB70

I would like to testify in support of SB 70.

Our local Senator Peter Micciche and our local Representatives Mike Chenault & Gary Knopp are in favor of it and discussed it at a town meeting in Soldotna.

They were elected by us to represent us in the Alaska Legislature and they believe it is a good bill and will in time get us out of our current deficit position.

Patrick S. & Myrna K. Cowan
42237 Sterling Hwy / P. O. 828
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-398-4136

Doniece Gott

From: Ronald Johnson <rajohnson@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 70

I support SB 70 as the only hope we have of digging ourselves out of our fiscal challenge is to begin to utilize the PF earnings to fund part of state government.

As part of this plan, we can't afford a \$ 2000 dividend. So, I support a \$ 1000 dividend at least in the short term. I realize that some folks depend on PFDs to support them. But, there would be no dividend if we don't get our house in order.

Other states are laughing at AK with (1) no income tax and (2) giving everyone \$ 1000 or \$ 2000.

Plus, we tell WA DC that we need more federal help. Give me a break !

--

Ron Johnson
Professor Emeritus
Mechanical and Environmental Engineering
Univ of Alaska Fairbanks

2113 Jack St
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Doniece Gott

From: David Tallmon <dtallmon42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support SB 70

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee-

I urge you to support passage of SB 70 along with oil and gas tax reform to fund the State of Alaska. Continued cuts to K-12 education and UA are unwise and unacceptable if this state is to enjoy future success. I will pay my share for my daughter's future and that of other children in this state.

Thank you,

David Tallmon
4453 Mountainside Dr
Juneau AK 99801
209 5811

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Ward <bdwardak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 70 Testimony

It is critical that legislation is passed this year to address Alaska's budget shortfall. The use of a portion of Permanent Fund earnings is a responsible method for dealing with the budget requirements.

My wife and I SUPPORT SB70 in this regard.

Bill Ward, Marcia Ward
Box 1087, 478 Ward Farm Lane
Delta Jct., AK

--

NOTICE: My e-mail address is changing. Please change your address book to reflect my new address: bdwardak@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: vivandclyde@gmail.com on behalf of Vivian Finlay <vivianfinlay@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB70

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am not able to attend the hearing about SB70 today. It is very important to me and my family that legislation similar to SB70 passes your committee and the Senate and the House.

Obviously the State has a deficit budget. The permanent fund earnings need to be structured in a good, careful, sustainable way, and the dividend needs to be cut to assist in balancing the budget. Also I believe the State needs to diversify its income by re-instituting an income tax, and if necessary a sales tax also.

I do NOT support taking money from the reserve account for this year and more years. It is time to make the hard decisions, even if a vocal group opposes any alteration of the permanent fund earnings. The fund was created for exactly the purpose it is now needed, NOT to give us all dividends indefinitely.

Thank you,
Vivian Finlay,
455 Elderberry Drive,
Homer, AK. 99603
907-435-3903

SB 26

Support

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Tremblay <brtrembla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 9:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senate Finance Committee;

I appreciate that there is finally some serious talk this session regarding the Alaska Budget Crisis. It's been sad to see how this topic has been kicked down the road for the last three years and I hope we can finally begin to bring our State into some kind of fiscal reality.

First, I do not support additional cuts beyond what is proposed by Gov. Walker. (We probably should not have cut as much as we have to date.) Additional cuts pose a threat to many of services to the public and are close to threatening public safety. (Examples; reductions in troopers, reductions to road maintenance, cuts to our court system, cuts to education, cuts to resource management agencies, etc) When I testified last year I noted that there are some people in the legislature that just won't be satisfied with what they cut until someone calls for a service and there is no one there to answer the phone.

Second, of the bills being considered by the Senate; SB26 might be the most reasonable. However, I'm more aligned with HB 115 as I think it is necessary to raise income to support our services. An income tax is the most fair way to generate income because it's the best way to collect money from persons who come to Alaska to make money. We have large portions of several industries (fisheries and tourism) with seasonal workforces that are untapped resources for the State. If the income tax is based on a percent of federal taxes, then there will be less impact to lower income individuals or families. (I don't support a State sales tax as many communities already have sales taxes in place to make ends meet.)

I'm not afraid to pay for services I want to support. We need strong schools, public safety, and infrastructure.

Bill Tremblay
P.O. Box 662
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-4461

SB 21

Support

Doniece Gott

From: Peter Katsur <Katsurs@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee, as a lifelong Alaskan I want to convey my opinion of Alaska's current budget situation. ~~The current oil slump is greatly affected Alaska's yearly revenue, and as such has plunged the state into a heavy recession.~~ What we as the population yearn for more than anything else is economic stability. Being that Alaska has very limited private industry (healthcare and then grocery stores make up the first 4 of the top private employers in Alaska), the oil companies are also downsizing, which leaves the remaining spending to the government, which has also been heavily cutting. I can attest that at the state department where I work has been shuttering remote offices, cutting staff and freezing spending and hiring. Just as importantly, small businesses which service state government agencies are having a proportional impact. I've worked with local vendors who service our offices and they say they will likely start layoffs when the state tightens it budget further, since state departments are starting to forgo all but extremely necessary costs. The extreme boom/bust cycle is dysfunctional to operate under both with government as a service and living day to day as a state resident.

I would like you to seriously consider Gov. Walker's plan to restructure Alaska's budget using the PFD funds. Frankly it's hard to see those around me, including friends and family members lose their jobs with few if any job alternatives in state due to its limited industries, forcing them to move and possibly come back when the bust cycle ends. Creating a consistent and stable government budget is in the best interest of all Alaskans, and the permanent fund among other things is an obvious choice to achieve this. Polling last and this year show it to be well supported as well. Please consider this email during future hearings regarding the state budget.

Thank you
Peter Katsur