

Doniece Gott

From: Sally Rue <sarjesrue@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Frank Rue
Subject: PLEASE preserve state funding for public broadcasting

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

We are longtime Alaskans who have been loyal listeners and watchers of Alaska public broadcasting ever since we came to Alaska in the 1970s. We value the service greatly, use it heavily, and contribute financially to our local stations every year.

Please do not eliminate funding for this service. We know the state budget is stretched to the breaking point, and that changes must come, both in judicious cuts, changes in the structure of the Permanent Fund, and new sources of revenue. We strongly support the reinstitution of an income tax, and are willing to pay our share. What we DON'T want is severe cuts to the budget for the state, and in turn, communities.

The public broadcasting network in Alaska is the nearest thing to a statewide media that we have. It plays an incredibly important role in informing the public of statewide and local issues, and creating connections across the state. Local stations are vital to their communities and to neighboring communities that are linked by public broadcasting. It is especially important to rural Alaska, which would be significantly cut off from statewide news if public broadcasting were to go away.

We urge you, please **do not eliminate state funding for public broadcasting!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sally and Frank Rue
7083 Hendrickson Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

Doniece Gott

From: Scott & Pat Hartman <nomeimporta@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Public Broadcasting Funding

Dear Honorable Senators,

My name is Scott Hartman and I reside in Juneau, Alaska.

I am a long-term fan and supporter of public broadcasting. Gavel to Gavel, Sesame Street, various educational, news, business, and cultural programs on both TV and radio provide significant information, educational value, and service to the public. Without public broadcasting (PBS and local affiliates), access to government workings, excellent educational programming, and cultural experiences will be lost to many Alaskans, particularly to and from rural communities.

I realize that the state faces a fiscal crisis and that cuts must be made; however, I ask that you continue to provide support and funding as possible for public broadcasting. Significant funding is and should be provided by private support; however, public funding is a vital part of overall funding.

Thank you for your time and considering restoring state funding for public TV, radio, and the APBC.

Scott N. Hartman

17060 Island View Drive

Juneau, Alaska

March 22, 2017

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Sheinberg <barbara@sheinbergassociates.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Public Broadcasting Funding

Greetings,

This email is to support continued strong funding by Alaska for Public Broadcasting.

I am not exaggerating to say Alaska's strong public media network is one of the reasons I am able to happily remain in Alaska and am able to enjoy summers in my remote cabin (where I can receive some public radio). More than ever this is true... I count on the in-depth analysis of issues important to Alaskans... from developing mariculture to oil and gas to commercial fishing to opioid problems to homelessness issues to the Alaska Energy Desk to Gavel to Gavel coverage.

I truly depend on public broadcasting media to be an informed and civically minded citizen as well as to give me information that I need to make business decisions.

Please maintain strong funding for this essential news service.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara Sheinberg

Barbara Sheinberg, AICP

www.SheinbergAssociates.com

1107 West 8th Street, Suite 4

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ph: (907) 586-3141

Doniece Gott

From: Alison & Kurt <alisonkurt@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding

I am a supporter of Alaska Public Media and have been for over 35 years. I believe in funding the organization in order to provide communications throughout the state and particularly in rural areas.

Please continue funding Alaska Public Media. State funding only represents 7% of their budget, but each year they leverage that investment and raise an additional \$4.2 million from individual donors, corporate partners, foundations and other community partnerships. Those funds are reinvested in-state to provide state-wide television, radio and news partnerships.

Thank you,

Alison L. Smith

1536 West 14th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99501

Doniece Gott

From: Brenda Taylor <abcjabroad@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Bill Legere
Subject: funding for public broadcasting

Dear Senators,

Please restore funding for public broadcasting to the operating budget.

Public TV and Public Radio are vital to a state as diverse and expansive as ours. Now, more than ever, we all need to know what is happening around our state (and the world.) Speaking personally, my husband and our two teenage children rely on our local station, KTOO and its affiliates, extensively. My children grew up listening to local and national news on KTOO, switched over to pop music for a few years, and have now come back to the news on their own. I rely on the recorded shows on 360 North for in-depth stories about local people and ideas, such as Ernestine Hayes and what has been effective here in Juneau in reducing the high school drop out rate. And, I still continue to be surprised when a friend or relative says that they "saw me on TV" when I have testified to House or Senate Finance about education funding.

I understand that the services that I enjoy and rely upon, such as public broadcasting and public education, cost money. I am proud to give money to our local station and to volunteer in our local schools. I am also more than willing to contribute via an income tax and would greatly prefer that as a solution to our budget problem.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brenda Taylor
Juneau, Alaska

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska

Finance Committee

Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Signature

Printed Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Rocky L. James

P.O. Box 101

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Doniece Gott

From: Jill Gann <gann.jill@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please fully fund education

Please ensure the future of our state by fully funding education. Our state can not afford to neglect those who are our future.

Jill

Doniece Gott

From: susan jabal <susanjabal@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson; Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Justin Parish; Rep. Sam Kito; Benjamin.Robinson@alaska.gov
Subject: Absolutely NO! to education budget cuts.

Good afternoon, my name is Susan Jabal, I am writing you from 423 East Street in Juneau, Alaska.

I am deeply concerned about any proposal for further cuts to education funding. The school system simply cannot support such continued instability, and our students education **MUST NOT** be sacrificed any further.

Fully educating our children to the very best of our ability is a fundamental investment in Alaska's future. Further cuts risk this investment and will lead to continued, long-term challenges for our State, as we lose quality for our future workforce.

In addition to the strain on teachers, the physical classroom spaces alone simply cannot hold more students. I have volunteered in my children's classroom and witnessed the inability of the teacher to get the students to sit in a circle, as the space alone is so tight it can barely accommodate them. Please take all angles of the impact of proposed cuts into consideration.

In order to maintain education funding, **I would fully support an income tax or sales tax, and reduced PFD options.**

I DO NOT, however, support any cuts to the education budget - and I ask you to represent me as such.

I appreciate your action on this critical issue.

Sincerely -

Susan Jabal
423 East Street
Juneau, AK 99801
mother of children in Kindergarten and 3rd grade

Doniece Gott

From: Stefanie Wolter <swolter@bbslawyer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:33 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Justin Parish; Rep. Sam Kito; Benjamin.Robinson@alaska.gov
Subject: Education Budget

Hello:

I am a parent of a 7th grader at Floyd Dryden and a 2nd grader at Montessori in Juneau. I have been dealing with the annual cuts the legislature has been making since I arrived five years ago. What is it about education that you don't see as important? Have you ever spent time in a classroom of 33 kindergarteners? I have. Have you ever watched an Orchestra concert that has to stop after every song because there aren't enough instruments to go along? I have.

Because of what you have already cut, my daughter hasn't been able to study a foreign language as an elective because there aren't enough teachers in her school. Because of what you have already cut, the Extended Learning program only starts in third grade and then, only for 45 minutes a day. Because of what you have already cut elementary roofs are leaking, playground equipment is not getting installed, and 20 year old carpet cannot be replaced.

I am tired of proposed cuts to education. I am tired of having the conversation every year.

So, let's think about this differently. What is your State of Alaska 10 year or 20 year plan? What is your vision for the State? Please, let me know, in detail, how cutting the Education budget makes that plan/vision a reality. Because I don't understand.

Thank you,

Stefanie R. Wolter

(907) 523-1022

Doniece Gott

From: jen laroe <jalaroe@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:08 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: Rep. Justin Parish; Rep. Sam Kito; Sen. Dennis Egan; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: No Cuts To Education!

Dear Senate Finance Committee members, and the Juneau Delegation~

Please stop cutting education. How much more do you think the schools can take?

Since Fiscal Year 2011, JSD has already had to cut the equivalent of \$11 million in personnel, programs and materials. In 2011, my daughter was in a fourth grade with a PTR of 24 and my son in first grade with 21 other students at Harborview Elementary School. At that time, we were very fortunate to have several master teachers on staff. Since then, the PTR has steadily increased, with my son's 4/5 grade class having 29 students this year. We have seen more than 10 highly qualified teachers leave the teaching profession due to large class size on top of too many requirements and demands on teachers and students. One of the highest demands and most consistent imperatives expressed by both families and educators is to lower class size. When the number of students with special needs continues to increase per classroom, another 4/5 class this year of 27 students has 8 with special needs in one class with one teacher, funding needs to be available.

According to a Juneau community forum held in 2015, two points from the Superintendent's summary were:

- Whether Pupil/Teacher Ratio (PTR) is important and if there is a tipping point for class size.
- The budget priority for PTR.

Clearly lowering PTR is a very high priority for our community in Juneau. We live in a small town for a reason, so we can know our neighbors, our children's teachers, our classmates. We like it small and we know that the smaller the community, the closer knit it can be. This goes for the classroom community as well.

We want small class sizes for all our kids. Raising the PTR every year for the last too many is putting the budget issues and problems on the backs of our students. In a recent discussion with friends, I learned that a board member said that PTR increases give a great "bang for your buck!" Please find an alternative that may take more work and incentive than taking the easy road.

MORE TEACHERS for students! Any student would rather have more attention from his or her teacher than a new math curriculum or even new Chromebooks. Many citizens do not fully understand that a PTR for a 4th grade classroom being set at the highest in the district at 27 actually can translate upwards to 32 students in a class. The actual physical size of our classrooms is too small for this many people for 6 hours a day!

My son is in a mixed 4/5 grade class this year and really loves his teacher, even her strict and high expectations. I believe he deserves her attention, group attention AND 1-on-1 moments, where he feels valued and **known by her**, which requires more than 1/27th a the day that remains after 45 min of recess, 20 min of lunch, and 30-40 minutes wasted in transition, and then lessons...how much time are we willing to allocate for our students to feel known and connected to their teacher?

Please be fair to the students and their families and **DO NOT RAISE PTR**. In fact, I recall several board members promising to make every effort to **REDUCE PTR** when they were running for election/re-election. Keep your promises please, to your own kids!

Thank you for your service to our community and state. Please remember us!

Jennifer LaRoe
5134 Glacier Hwy
Harborview Elementary Parent
DZ Middle School Parent

Doniece Gott

From: Chris Turletes <cturletes@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Sen. Click Bishop; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: FY 18 Operating Budget

From: Chris Turletes [mailto:cturletes@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:05 AM
To: 'Senator.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov'; 'Senator.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov';
'senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov'; 'Seantor.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov';
'Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov'; 'Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov'; 'Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.org';
'Finance.Committee@akleg.org'; 'Senator.Natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov'
Subject: FY 18 Operating Budget

2018 Operating Budget –SB 22

Thanks for your service to the states. I am Chris Turletes, I am a retired Army Engineer, I live in Bayshore area of Anchorage and work at the University. I am a Graduate of UAA, both of my daughters attended UAA; ones an engineer and one is a business owner here in Anchorage. I encourage you to support the Governor's budget and the re plumbing that he proposes to fund government this year and into the future. It is important that we get to a sustainable budget without destroying our economy and the future of Alaskans. My wife and I support using the permanent fund and an income tax for residents and non-residents to help fund government. I think income tax is a good tool to have in our tool box (again); along with other taxes and use of some of our reserves.

I am concerned that if we cut too deep we lose jobs and families. We want industry and people to **come and work in Alaska**. We need to be an inviting environment with a certain amount of physical, social and economic infrastructure.

Along that line, I think funding for Public Media should be fully supported. Public Media is a balanced outlet of news and programing important to communities across Alaska. In some communities it's all they have. My wife and I have been supporters of Public Media since the late 1980's. We feel it is an important source of news, programing and information for citizens of Alaska.

I think it's critical that we support education from K on up to our University. I think key to a great state is a great university. Please support the University at the preferably the Regents request level (\$341M) but at the worst case at the Governor's proposed level of funding (\$325M). The University is vital to Alaska's future. The university provides programs that meet our state's needs, that meet our global needs, that provides vital knowledge about the Arctic, that supplies our workforce with locally trained engineers, teachers, nurses, miners, artists and technicians that are likely to stay in Alaska. The university is an integral part of diversifying our economy through commercializing the intellectual property developed through research, through education, and by providing quality human talent. It provides jobs to faculty, staff, contractors, businesses and suppliers

that meet the needs of the University. I firmly believe that the role of our university is to transform lives and serve our society and citizens by educating and providing experiences; enabling graduates to put that knowledge to work right here at home.

This week the house added an amendment (no 26) to the operating budget to repeal the balance of the Capital appropriation (approximately \$17M) for the U-Med District Northern extension and re-appropriate it to the public education fund. This road is necessary for the future growth and safety within the U-Med District. The university needs it for the safety of the students, faculty and staff and community; it allows access out of east campus, it will help de-congest the core of Providence Drive; it will reduce traffic on UAA Drive, it will allow the district to continue to grow by improving the access into and out of the district. It will add pedestrian paths along both sides improving pedestrian access into this area. It will allow the utilities access to repair replace utilities in this corridor. I encourage you not to adopt this amendment.

Over the last couple of years, I have been able to participate in a couple of sessions with Cliff Groh and Gunnar Knapp using their budget model. It's a daunting task what you have to do. You have to look beyond the next few years; look way down the road. The big oil days are gone. The time is now to change the momentum of declining oil and economy; Fix our budget model to address the future Alaska. We should be grateful for the fore thought of the Permanent Fund creators and all its earning and growth. We've gone too long without owning our government it's time to get some skin in the game. For me that skin is: a smaller government, a smaller dividend, a personal income tax, and strong education, health and infrastructure and public media.

Thanks for all you do. Seize this opportunity to invest in the next year and re-plumb to allow us all to invest in Alaska's future.

Respectfully

Chris Turlletes

Doniece Gott

From: Jim Welch <jwelch666@cs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

When Colin Fletcher prepared what he would carry on his back when he hiked the length of the Pacific Coast Trail, he packed only essentials and then did everything possible to reduce the weight he would have to carry. He was relentless and merciless, but when he started snipping off the tags on his teabags he realized he had gone far enough.

Kudos to the legislature for making as many cuts as they have, but to balance the budget we need more revenue and there simply are not enough cuts available to close the budget gap, and some cuts are just too much. When Senate Finance proposes to zero out all funding for Alaska public broadcasting and cut the satellite funds by \$160,000, effectively ending management of the Alaska Rural Communications Service and Satellite Infrastructure system they go too far. It is a drop in the fiscal gap bucket but essential to what Alaskans rely on throughout the State.

There are doubtless legitimate ways to make cuts, but the big ones have been made. Let's not cut off our proverbial nose to show how sharp our axe is. The purpose of a legislature is greater than reducing the size of government.

Sincerely,

James P. Welch