

Governor Dunleavy has several bills going forward, SJR 4 (a Constitutional Amendment so that We the People will vote on any Income Tax that comes out of the legislature or if a citizens referendum is passed the House and Senate has to approve), SJR 2 (a Constitutional Amendment that requires a spending cap on the legislature), and SJR 5 (a Constitutional Amendment that will protect the PFD).

I fully support all three of these! The legislature has proven that they will go around the people to try to get more money to spend as they see fit. They need to be stopped and Constitutional Amendments appear to be the only way to stop this!

I am a member of AMAC and my vote is YES on all three of these Constitutional Amendments!

Debbie Sherfick  
Willow, AK

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Brent Chandler Jr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:42 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support a full PFD

Dear Representatives,

I am adamantly opposed to imposing an income tax on the citizens of Alaska.

There are multiple factors which fuel my opposition but the one issue with clarity is that an income tax is a financial form of class warfare. I have never accepted the idea that we could treat one set of American citizens differently than another set. This is overt discrimination. This is precisely what a progressive income tax does.

On the other hand, taking any portion of the PFD has substantially more impact on the less fortunate, elders, and rural residents of our state. Taking any portion of the PFD is a form of class warfare on these classes of citizens. This is patently wrong.

Ultimately, it comes down to living within our means by designing a budget which is balanced with the resources we have. I believe representatives of government do best when they represent the general interests of the entire state of Alaska, not the special interests of multiple user groups.

I fully support the mission of the Governor in his mission to reign in a government in excess. In the end, I ask you to protect his veto pen as I do not believe the legislature is tooled to make the difficult financial decisions we must make. If you are truly "representatives of the people" then allow the citizens to vote on the 3 amendments proposed by the governor. If we do not fix the structural issues which have lead us into deficit spending, then we will simply continue to kick the can down the road. A stable financial future is the best present we can give ourselves.

Respectfully,

Brent L Chandler Jr

Ketchikan , Alaska

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 4:39 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Public Testimony--Written-- SJ4 and SJR5

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for your work and accepting this public testimony. I am opposed to both SJR4 and SJR5 for the following reasons:

SJR4 requiring a vote by registered voters has the potential to mute voices:

1. Those who are pro or con should have an elected legislator to present and support their viewpoint.
2. One can be sure that an elected representative will vote on the issue. One cannot be sure every voter will turn out so results may not be what benefits a majority.
3. It's common knowledge that even when a real need exists, it's very difficult to get people to agree to a tax. Let's leave the power in the hand of accountable legislators who can hold hearing, take public testimony, and assess their constituents to make the decision.
4. This resolution waters down the people's power use the initiative process.

SJR5 is not the place for PFD/PFD Dividend determination.

1. Alaska's history of boom and bust and legislated spending could result in a perpetual fiscal and social mess if all this is ingrained in the constitution.
2. Requiring a vote by the people has all the weaknesses of SJR4.

Sincerely,  
Mary Corcoran

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Elizabeth Dooley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for SJR4

I support Governor Dunleavy's proposed SJR4. No. New. Taxes.

The problem is not that the state needs more money for government. The problem is that special interest groups and unions are demanding more and more money for departments, people, and projects we don't need.

Example: We have 53 school districts in this state. The total population is only 750,000! We are building multi-million dollar facilities for, in some cases, only a handful of students. We are highest in the nation for cost per student and lowest in the nation on test scores.

A school superintendant here recently told a parent that test scores didn't matter. That's why kids here don't make it in the real world. As a retailer, I see it all the time. Most public school kids I encounter can't even count change to know if they've overpaid, underpaid, or been cheated in the change returned to them. This is the legacy of common core, an expensive program that has utterly failed.

Looking at the education budget, it was pointed out that only .585% goes to pay for teachers, yet every education funding budget debate revolves around 'more money for teachers'. It's just a propaganda tool to extort more money from the state budget.

We have approximately 9.8 state employees for every 100 people living in this state. Yes, it's a large area, but mostly unpopulated. We need to cap the budget, spend only within our means, and quit trying to bleed the Alaskan people dry with taxes, appropriating their lawful PFD, and more fees for everything. The bureacracy is bloated. It needs lancing and a bandage.

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Dooley  
Trapper Creek, Alaska

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: lio.sitk@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Cheryl Stromme

REPRESENTING:

myself

BILL # or SUBJECT:

STAR Constitutional amendment to require  
vote for taxes.

COMMITTEE:

Senate Affairs Committee

DATE: 3-27-19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

The Senate is passing the buck by trying to hand off Taxation decisions to the electorate.

The Alaska State legislature is charged with this decision, not the voters.

If the state does not generate enough revenue to pay expenses other revenue must be found and not by raiding the permanent fund!

Unfortunately, the Alaska state legislature chose to spend down our savings rather than deal with the issue.

We can't cut our way to solvency by gutting the state economy.

It is time the legislature does its job by implementing a progressive income tax.

It is time for Alaskans to step up to  
the plate and pay a fair share of the  
cost of running this state.

**Jake Almeida**

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**From:** Support [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 7:59 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Cc:** Laura Bonner  
**Subject:** Oppose SJR4

Chair Senator Showers  
Members of State Affairs Committee

I have lived in Alaska since 1972. I oppose SJR 4, the proposed constitutional amendment to require a public vote on any new tax. Taxation is never a popular subject but sometimes it is needed for good of Alaska. Citizens can contact their legislators and comment at public hearings on any new proposed tax.

Respectfully,  
Laura Bonner  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** C Moll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 7:14 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Testimony

I support SJR4  
Catherine Felt  
[REDACTED]

Kenai



**Jake Almeida**

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**From:** Jake Sloan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 7:08 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** I strongly support SJR 4 and ask you to do the same

I am asking you to support SJR 4 and give the people of Alaska a voice in whether they want to pay additional taxes or not. This is a big issue that will affect every person living in our state and needs to be put to the people to decide.

Thank you for serving our state.

Jacob Sloan  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK 99504  
[REDACTED]

**Jake Almeida**

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**From:** Joseph Schlanger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 5:51 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SJR4

Dear Senate State Affairs committee,

Please support SJR4 Constitutional amendment for the vote of any taxes implemented onto the people of Alaska. I believe this would be not just an historical event in Alaska but in the nation. Give the people right to say how much and when they should be taxed. If it's the vote of the people for taxes then let them decide not the legislature. Let our voices be heard once again. Let's not play partisan politics this bill is something that all Alaskans can benefit by. Please pass SJR4. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joe Schlanger  
Wasilla, Alaska

**Jake Almeida**

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**From:** J. AK [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SJR 4

Alaska Senate State Affair Committee,

I write to express my fervent support for the SJR 4 constitutional amendment. It is my sincere belief that any proposed state taxes should be presented to and ratified, or rejected, directly by the people of Alaska. Such a fundamental alteration to our state and livelihoods must be addressed in this way.

I ask for your consideration and support of SJR 4.

Thank you,  
Jon Henry  
Kenai, AK

**Jake Almeida**

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**From:** Kandy Swedberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SJR4

hello,  
My name is Kandall Swedberg  
[REDACTED]

I just wanted to write in to say I support Gov Mike Dunleavy's amendment SJR4.  
I believe we need to cut spending. No new taxes until we cut spending!!  
I support Gov Dunleavy budget cuts too!

Thank you  
Kandall Swedberg

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Mike Coons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support SJR4

My name is Mike Coons and I am sure that I speak for my membership of the Greater Alaska Chapter of AMAC!

We fully support SJR 4

This Constitutional Amendment goes to the core of why our nation in 1776 went to war with England! "Taxation without representation!" The difference now is narrow from that time. We now have representation with our House and Senate, unlike the colonies who had no one in London speaking for them. Yet, we have a House that listens to those whom would impose taxation and further theft of our money (PFD) by a vocal minority.

Without those House Representatives and Senators whom represented the majority of the people, Governor Walker and the House Democrat-Socialists would have placed all sorts of taxes on We the People! These ranged from sin taxes on tobacco, alcohol and of course an Income Tax! Not to mention the ever present taxation on the oil industry and any business that they felt needed a tax! If Governor Walker and the House and Senate had passed an Income Tax, it would have been taxation with a minority representation over-ruling the vast majority of Alaskans!

Although this Constitutional Amendment would not stop sin taxes or more oil or business taxes, it will stop, cold, any Income Taxes unless a majority were to vote for an Income Tax upon the Legislature putting that forward or agreeing to a citizens referendum. Since we are a republic, the voter margin should be a 2/3rd vote vs a simple majority. We are not a Democracy, our founding fathers worked hard to ensure we would not be because a Democracy is two wolves voting 2-1 to eat the lamb!

Pass out soonest SJR 4!

Mike Coons  
President, Greater Alaska Chapter, AMAC

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## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Pam Swedberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SJR4

Hello

My name is Pam Swedberg

[REDACTED] Soldotna, AK 99669

I just wanted to give my testimony for the committee

I am for Gov. Mike Dunleavy amendment SJR4. I support his cuts for our state budget.

I know it is a hard thing to do but we need to curb our spending!

There are other people that live in this state and do not have gov jobs.

I think that this amendment will help keep the legislators from using our PFD or taxing us to keep their spending going. We need to balance this budget and not leave it to our children.

Thank you

Pam Swedberg

## Jake Almeida

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**From:** Jim Gifford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:12 AM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SJR4 written testimony, apposed

Written testimony apposed to SJR4

March 27, 2019

I am Jim Gifford, Valdez Alaska, representing myself.

I am writing in opposition to SJR4. The citizens of Alaska vote to have Legislators to represent their interests in our state government.

When citizens chose to change their representation they have their say by voting for the representatives of their choice to the Legislature.

It is important that the Legislature retain their responsibilities in funding of essential services for the State of Alaska.

I urge the Legislature not to nurture itself in allowing to enact SJR4.

I do not support SJR4.

Thank you,

Jim Gifford  
[REDACTED]

Valdez, Alaska 99686