

March 19, 2019

Senate Finance Comt.  
State Capitol Room 518, Juneau 99801

Re: Pioneer Homes

We are writing to ask you to support the current level of funding in the state budget for our Pioneer Homes. Our elders are the ones who have made Alaska, they are our history.

We realize the state has financial problems but are hopeful you can find solutions without harming our elders in Pioneer Homes.

Respectfully,

Homer Pioneers of Alaska

Men's Igloo 32 and Women's Igloo 14  
PO Box [redacted], Homer, AK 99603

cc: See attached page of signatures, March 11, 2019

March 11, 2019

Process of Alaska

Sy Low 31 Sy Low 14

Don Burt, PO Box [redacted], Anchor Point, AK 99556

Glenn Green, [redacted] East End Rd., Homer, AK 99603

Frances Lorraine Haas, [redacted] Forest Glenn Dr., Homer, AK 99603

~~James R. [redacted]~~ (Pastor) [redacted] Kachemak Way, Homer, AK 99603

Marilyn Green, [redacted] East End Rd., Homer, AK 99603

Carber J. Klopf, [redacted], Homer, AK 99603

C. A. Koening, [redacted] Spruceview Ave., Homer, AK 99603

Charlene Ditton, PO Box [redacted], Homer, AK 99603

Bob Ditton, PO Box [redacted], Homer, AK 99603

Joan Edens, PO Box [redacted], Homer, AK 99603

Janet M. Krutson, [redacted] Lupine Ctn., Homer, AK 99603

Vision \$, PO Box [redacted] Anchor Point, AK 99556

Donald Van Buren, PO Box [redacted], Anchor Point, AK 99556

# letter to legislators

1 message

---

**Renamary Rauchenstein**

<[REDACTED]>

Fri, Mar 1,  
2019 at 12:55  
PM

To: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

We, my husband Vern and I, are long time residents and business owners in Alaska and we have a bone to pick with our legislators. Our understanding has always been that we elect representatives who will champion our communities and ultimately our state. It is our belief that the fiscal health of the state of Alaska comes first. It would be nice that every town had all the money necessary for the upkeep of the city, but at times that has to be put on the back burner in order to balance our budget. For years our legislators have spent money unwisely and when it was shown that the expenditure was not correcting the problem (i.e. the amount of money spent on education to produce one of the lowest success rates in the nation), more money was thrown at the failure. The examples of that are too numerous to count!

The legislature has always advised the people of this state to tighten their belts, while at the same time, the legislature did exactly the opposite! It has to stop!!!

Gov. Walker STOLE money from every resident of Alaska while championing programs whose outcomes would eventually cost the state more than we could afford (I.e. increasing medicade and woefully underestimating the eventual rise in recipients and cost). We are in a situation that calls for massive cuts that no one wants and that we desperately need; and what do we have: A governor with enough gumption to make the cuts and a legislature in which we cannot tell the difference between a democrat or a republican! A legislature that spends its time doing nothing but fighting, and blaming, and and telling the people they represent that it's our fault. The fault lies in men and women who make a career of politics while having little regard for the state they have been elected to represent and SERVE.

As a business owner I knew that the difference between a successful or failing business was balancing the budget and watching the dotted line, while at the same time serving my customers in the best way that I could. My business was successful, but many challenges had to be faced in the last 40 years with the boom and bust economy of Alaska. We expect our representatives to face the challenges and have the courage to tell the voters that the next few years will be tough, but together we can balance the budget and get on a firm fiscal foundation once again.

There is a simmering resentment among Alaskans ever since Walker started taking away part of the permanent fund dividend, instead of balancing the budget (that he just kept increasing). The PFD was never a welfare system but an dividend payment to the owners of Alaska resources. Gov. Dunleavy is trying to remedy the repeated theft, and bring the PFD back to its original intent. This intent needs to be anchored in the state constitution since the last four years have shown that we, the people, cannot trust our legislature.

We have some thoughts on education also; there needs to be an independent study done (independent of the legislature, the unions, and the NEA since they are the ones that drive the education dollar). The members of the study should be public

school teachers of the year, successful home schooling parents, private and Christian school teachers, and advisors from the top two most successful education systems in the United States. The criteria for successful systems should be the graduation rates and the amount spent on each student. The results of that study will no doubt astound, but will point the way to an education system that we can all be proud of and one that will benefit our students and our state.

In closing we ask that you keep the real fiscal goal in mind; a sustainable balanced budget, before you even think about new taxes.

Sincerely,  
Vern and Renamary Rauchenstein  
P.O.Box [REDACTED]  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676  
[REDACTED]

*Vern Rauchenstein*  
*Renamary Rauchenstein*

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** John Rozzi [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:38 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** gov.pressoffice@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** Keep funding the Housing Assistance Grants in the Capital Budget  
**Attachments:** 2018. Matsu HAP Community Connections.Data one pager.pdf

Hello,

My name is John Rozzi, and serve as the Chair for the Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. I have collected some information showing the positive impact your funding has contributed as well as the damaging impact if you do not keep funding the Housing Assistance Programs.

## **I. HOW WE USED YOUR FUNDING SUPPORT:**

Here are some stories from Valley Residential Services who provides several affordable housing units for seniors and persons with special needs.

- A young girl, 18 years old, still a student at Wasilla High school that was being abused by her step father, according to her school counselor, and was living in her car in the middle of winter to stay clear of this abusive situation. We moved her into Swanson House, where she could get to school and shopping easily and away from a very dangerous situation, where she was warm, safe and able to continue her education. She is now enrolled in college.
- A young man who battled alcoholism and was living in a car/park (homeless). We were able to house him in Swanson House and with community supports he stabilized his addiction and continues to work in the community.
- A man who was chronically homeless and have been stabilized in Swanson for five years.
- The man who was homeless for years and holding up signs at the entrance to McDonalds has been stabilized and living at Swanson for three years.
- Peter, who was being abused in a village had physical and mental disabilities is now functioning well Swanson for five years.
- Lucky, who experiences a learning disability and a form of cancer, a job core person who was homeless, is now stable at Swanson for a year.

- Claude has been stable in housing at Delphi for 12 years, he was chronically homeless before his assistance.
- Roslyn was chronically homeless and taken advantage of by men, has been stable at Delphi for 14 years now.
- Steven, serious disabilities, wheel chair bound, has been stable for 15 years at Delphi. He was abused by family members prior to his housing with us and has been working with care coordination.
- A man and partner has been living at Chugach View for four years, prior to our housing they were homeless and now stable, they transitioned from Swanson House.
- Renee is at Chugach View for 8 years and has supports and services that make her stable after being homeless.

## **I. UNFORTUNATELY, WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT:**

Valley Residential Services (VRS) would lose the Special Needs Housing Grant money, projected at \$500K. This includes their properties at Swanson House(Downtown Wasilla), Chugach View and Deneki House in Palmer, a worst case possibility that they may have to close these down if operational and mental health support was eliminated. Simply not enough revenue from minimal rents to make the projects pencil.

## **II. HOW WE USED YOUR FUNDING SUPPORT:**

Here are some stories from the Family Promise of Mat-Su Case Manager. Family Promise Mat-Su is the organization who provides shelter for families with children. The funding has enabled them to transition families from their shelter program into stable housing. Here are a couple of success stories as a result of your funding support.

- **A single woman received BHAP rental assistance when she moved into her apartment.**

This is her story...

"I am 60 years old and only had enough money to put the deposit down on a new apartment. With the help of this program I was able to get my car fixed so I didn't have to walk to work".

~Sonia

- **A single man and his daughter were placed into an apartment from the Family Promise shelter.**

This is his story...

"Without the help of the BHAP rental assistance program, I would have never tried moving into my own place. But, now I know I can do what I need to support my family".

~ Jean

## **II. UNFORTUNATELY, WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT:**

Family Promise would not be able to transition families into stable housing provided in the Mat-Su. Family Promise only has a 15 bed capacity. Not having the ability to transition families out with eliminate any openings to help very many in need of shelter. Those families would be housed for a short time than placed back on the streets if they can't find work and affordable housing. In most cases it will cost a family up to \$5K to get into housing. (Deposit, First month's rent, utilities, furniture)

## **III. HOW WE HAVE USED YOUR FUNDING SUPPORT.**

Below are some success stories from our Valley Charities, Inc. Case Manager.

- A family of 5 was facing eviction due to a job loss where unemployment was a third less in monthly income than before. The primary earner in the family had just found a new job but they had exhausted savings and options and were a month behind in their rent. They had never had problems before and with help from the Neighbor to Neighbor Housing Assistance Program they were able to avoid eviction and are now sustainable.
- We helped a single woman who had been living in her van for over a year get into affordable housing by paying her first month's rent. She had recently started working at Wal Mart and had saved enough for the deposit but was having trouble staying warm while trying to save up for the rent. With help from the HAP grant she was able to move in right away and avoid being in 0 degree temperatures. She said it was her first permanent home in over 4 years.
- A disabled widow in Trapper Creek was having trouble staying warm due to running out of firewood. She was waiting for the Heating Assistance Program which was 3 months behind processing applications. She was physically unable to cut any more wood so the HAP program had a 100 gallons of stove oil delivered which she said would be enough to help her stay warm until her other grant could be approved.
- We had a Single Father of 2 children who needed help getting into an apartment. They had been staying with his brother following a divorce that resulted in the foreclosure of their home. His brother had 2 kids of his own in a 2 bedroom apartment and with a total of 7 people it was



becoming a crisis. He was working and found an affordable place but could not pay for all the up-front expenses. With our help he and the kids were in their new place in 3 days.

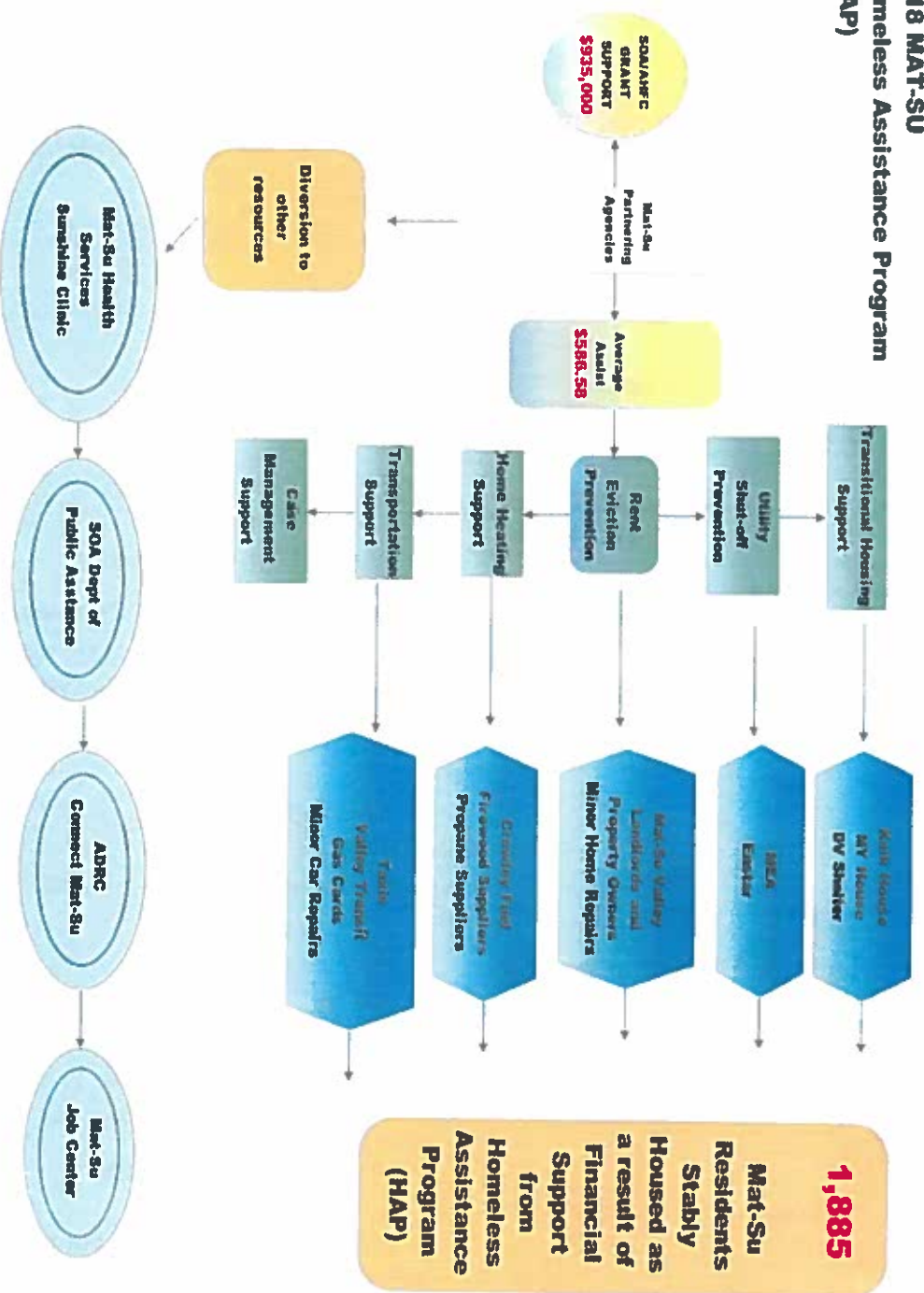
Attached is a data sheet with a corresponding flow chart showing the community networking and assistance enriched by the state's financial support. Please keep in mind that we are good stewards of the funding allocated to help prevent homelessness in the Mat-Su Valley. We implementing a good program with outstanding results. Providing upstream funding to fill DPA , senior allowances and heating assistance voids. Please feel free to contact me with any clarifying questions.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

John Rozzi

# 2018 MAT-SU Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)

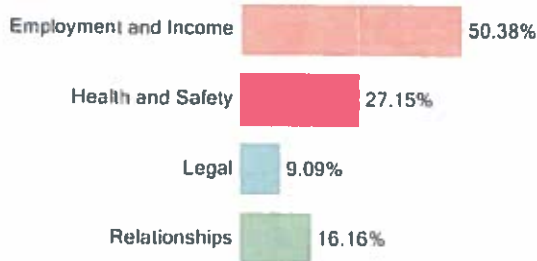


# Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

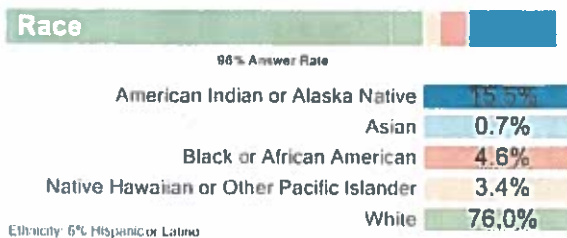
## Fiscal Year 2018

### Reason for Homelessness

92% Answer Rate

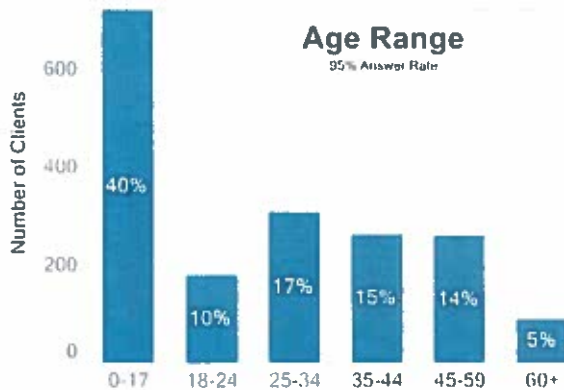


### Client Demographics



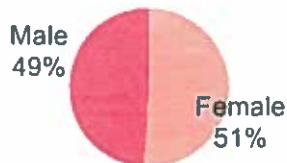
### Age Range

95% Answer Rate



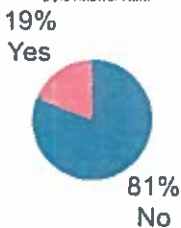
### Gender

95% Answer Rate  
One non-binary response



### Disability?

90% Answer Rate



Unique Clients Served: 1,885

Average Monetary Assist: \$586.58

### Number of Services Rendered

Rent Payment Assistance	333
Utility Service Payment Assistance	285
Gas Money	35
Transitional Housing/Shelter	25
Propane/Home Heating Oil Suppliers	24
Utility Deposit Assistance	9
Food	5
Other	44

### BHAP Mat-Su Agencies

Alaska Family Services (NON-AKHMS)	907-746-6291
Blood n Fire Ministries	907-864-0463
Daybreak, Inc.	907-746-6019
Family Promise Mat-Su	907-357-6160
MYHouse	907-373-4357
Salvation Army, Mat-Su	907-745-7079
Valley Charities, Inc.	907-354-4660
Wasilla Homeless Committee	907-521-2949



### Contact Details

907-232-4450

matsuhousing@gmail.com

404 N Yenlo, Wasilla, AK 99654

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Scott Hayden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:12 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Rep. Chuck Kopp  
**Subject:** School Funding

I am a lifelong Alaskan.

I was homeschooled in the bush until we had enough students in our community to get a school when I was in the 6th grade. I attended our little one-room school until I graduated from high school.

Being able to attend a school in my own community meant I didn't have to be separated from my family or attend a boarding school. Those years with my family are years that mean a lot to me.

I attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks where I earned a BS in Biological Science. UAF is a good school, the beating heart of the Golden Heart City, and it was a great opportunity for me -- a bush kid -- to attend university in a place that was not a big city. I would have been overwhelmed and unhappy in Anchorage.

Our school system in Alaska served me extremely well. My little high school did an excellent job of preparing me for college.

When I see plans to cut our education system by 25%, I think that our Governor has no respect for the education professionals in our state -- the same kind of talented, dedicated people who provided me with a great education.

The University system in Alaska launched my career. I have worked all over the world in Biology, and the degree I received here was excellent preparation for that work.

Don't cut the any more funding for the Univeristy. You have already made huge cuts to the University over the past few years. If you want a thriving, successful university system that benefits our state, our communities and our citizens there will be some costs involved. But we all reap those benefits when we work with well educated, talented professionals who grew up here or came here for school. Cutting the university will lead to a brain-drain. We will lose many of our most precious resources - hard working Alaskans - to school outside the state. Please fully fund the University System.

Please fully fund early education and k-12 education. Our state depends on it.

And override the Governor's veto. He isn't listening to Alaskans, and given the chance he will devastate our great state.

Sincerely,

Scott Hayden  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK 99515

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Steve Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:44 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT UA

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for a funding increase for the University of Alaska. The past four years have seen significant cuts made to UA programs and personnel. Additional cuts at this point will result in lost degrees, lost students and lost opportunities for the future of Alaska.

Please exercise vision and recognize the important role the our university plays in developing our future.

Best,

Steve

Steven Johnson  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** ghussion <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 6:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Defunding Public Broadcasting

To whom it may concern,

Having reviewed Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal, I would like to raise a concern regarding the budget cuts to public broadcasting. Our local station, KYUK 640AM provides important services to the Yukon Kuskokwim region. Weather, News, local sports coverage, Music and important safety announcements concerning travel on the Kuskokwim river. KYUK is invaluable to keeping the community safe, informed and connected. The station helps to broadcast local and state legislative hearings to encourage us to stay active in the government process! KYUK has not only facilitated the fundamental operations of a local radio station, but also has created unique program content (such as *Talkline* and *Coffee at KYUK*) for the community to enjoy. Furthermore, it provides a creative outlet for volunteer DJ's to play music and learn about the radio/TV process.

I do not support a budget that decreases the amount of funding to this valuable organization.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Garrett Hussion, D.C.  
Arctic Chiropractic  
[REDACTED]  
Bethel, AK 99559  
Office: 907.543.7600  
Cell: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Bill <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Defunding of public broadcasting

Dear Senators,

Public broadcasting is the voice of the heart of the community. This is true in Anchorage where I now live, but even more so in Bethel where I lived for 23 years. In the bush, public broadcasting is an essential element of the community and the surrounding villages. In addition, services provided are integral to the safety of people living in the bush communities.

Defunding public broadcasting would be a disservice to the citizens of Alaska. Please do not let that happen.

Respectfully,

William W. Eggimann, MD

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:08 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Public Radio

**From:** Nancy Deschu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:46 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Public Radio

I am in support of continuing to fund Alaska Public Radio and Alaska Public Media.

It is an essential service to the public not only for news but also during emergencies, accidents, traffic closures on the highway to Girdwood and Eagle River and so much more.

This proposed cut is one of the most irresponsible cuts to the Alaska public.  
Instead, cut the permanent fund refund.

Nancy Deschu  
Anchorage Alaska



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: I AM FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING,!!

**From:** Christine Anderson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:46 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I AM FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING,!!

Please do not stop funding PBS in Alaska!!!

Christine Anderson

[REDACTED]

Eagle River, Alaska

[REDACTED]

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

## **Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Radio and TV

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

**From:** Jan Gruhn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:57 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Radio and TV

**Representatives:**

Please do not cancel public support of Public Radio and TV. The people in the Bush depend on this connection to the world, and those of us who live on the highway system also rely heavily on it. I do support PBS and KSKA with my dollars, but private contributions cannot fully fund this vital resource. In your discussions and decisions, remember that you are impacting the lives of Alaskans everywhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janice Gruhn, [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99515

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: School funding and Alaska Public Media

**From:** N. Diane Fejes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** School funding and Alaska Public Media

1. I fully support the idea that all Alaskans should decide what they are willing to pay to keep. Starting with a zero based budget is a good start.
2. I am willing to give up my Permanent fund for a a. newly designed school system ( teachers held accountable for how they reach students and how they teach) and b. the Public Media system.
3. Using technology to teach must become a large part of the school system for remote classrooms vs expensive buildings and outside teachers who don't stay long enough.
4. Alaska Public Media is part of our statewide resource for emergency disasters – and YES, I donate thousands of dollars to the organization for my personal use of their products – so I do pay for my use.

If you do not fund the school system and AK Public Media – what nongovernmental resources do you have to pick up the pieces?

*Diane*

**N. Diane Fejes**  
**Downtown area, Anchorage**

## **Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Please Support Public Media

---

**From:** Michael Daigneault <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Support Public Media

Please support public media and reject the proposed budget cuts.

Funding for these services is essential. State funds are used to provide critical services.

These cuts will result in lost local services:

- Essential local **emergency**, health, and safety information.
- Without State funds, the majority of local stations will fail to meet minimum eligibility for federal grants.

Defunding the satellite and interconnection system:

- Ends ARCS as an emergency communications platform statewide for all broadcasters.
- Ends use and management of the satellite system to provide statewide distribution of public television and radio content to rural Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Michael Daigneault

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public media

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

**From:** Joan Diamond <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public media

YES, I support public media because it provides unbiased information about the city, state and world. It seems that when Republican legislatures and governors are in control they resist every effort to fund public services. In the case of public media, it is the vehicle that helps keep our representatives accountable for acting in our best interests.

Joan Diamond

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Media needs funding

**From:** Deborah Vandruff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Media needs funding

I am writing to encourage strongly that the money for public media stay intact! I am shocked to think that a person like our Governor who has lived in the rural part of the state would not understand the need that the state has for this. The information that Alaska Public Media provides for the people in this state is invaluable. Please keep the funding strong.  
Deborah L Vandruff  
Anchorage, Alaska

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: please fund public broadcasting

**From:** Diane Carr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** please fund public broadcasting

Public broadcasting is at the heart of Anchorage and is my main "go to" for information and entertainment. Please make what effort you can to recommend the funding of Public Broadcasting and let the governor know how important it is to Alaska.

Diane Carr

Anchorage resident for 46 years



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Alaska Public Media

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

**From:** Jason L Burkhead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:11 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Alaska Public Media

Dear members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to request continued public funding support for Alaska Public Media in its service to the state and local communities. Alaska Public Media provides essential local emergency, health and safety information, and may be the only broadcaster in remote locations. Much of this service is supported by federal funds, but state investment is required to meet eligibility requirements. I personally contribute to Alaska Public Media every year and volunteer time as a member of the Community Advisory Board.

Elimination of funding for the satellite and interconnection system, on which AK Public Media relies for broadcasting, means a loss of objective reporting, but also loss of ARCS emergency communications for ALL Broadcasters.

It is clear we need to carefully weigh all expenditures and revenues for the state. It is also clear that no state has ever cut its way to prosperity, or public safety for that matter. I urge you to investigate new revenue sources such as reform of the oil tax credit regime and personal income tax.

Regards,

Jason L. Burkhead  
([REDACTED])



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: State funding for public media

**From:** Charles Young <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:17 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** State funding for public media

Dear friends,

As seniors public media is our main source of vital information for daily living! It also provides mature general programming not found on commercial media. We recognize and respect the issues of state funding for many areas of life in Alaska, however public media is BASIC to our lives as seniors. Taxation is acceptable as a way to fund a state budget that meets our needs if this means we do not have to do without the critical role public media plays in our lives.

Sincerely,

Lela and Chuck Young

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public media

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

**From:** Lela J Young <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 6:20 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public media

Please don't zero out funding for public tv or radio.

I watch channel 7 a lot.

Sincerely, Lela Young

Sent from my iPhone  
Lela J. Young

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for public broadcasting

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

**From:** Irene Bortnick <"[REDACTED]">  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:09 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for public broadcasting

Dear members of the Alaska State Legislature,

It is with great dismay that I read that Governor Dunleavy may zero out funding for public broadcasting. My husband and I regularly tune into both public radio and t.v. for news and other pertinent information. However, the most important reason to continue state funding of public broadcasting is to provide information in case of an emergency. Having recently experienced a major earthquake and with aftershocks continuing to occur, it was brought home in a very real way, how important it is to have a local public, state-funded broadcasting system. I acknowledge that there are many hard economic decisions to be made, but please save the public broadcasting system.

Respectfully,  
Irene Bortnick  
99508

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for public broadcasting is essential

---

**From:** Howard\_Susie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 10:13 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for public broadcasting is essential

To State Legislators,

Please make funding for public broadcasting a priority. I listen to, and watch, AK Public Media everyday, multiple times a day, for informative, unbiased news. The local news segments and programming helps keep me informed of essential state and local news, weather, and emergencies.

Additionally, they broadcast national news that helps inform me about our nations current news.

This helps keep me, as an Alaskan citizen and a citizen of the United States of America, informed on what is happening with our state, our country and the world.

I know you have tough decisions to make. Please continue to fund public broadcasting so our state has access to unbiased, informative news every day.

Thank you,

Susie Howard

## **Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: public broadcasting

---

**From:** Mike and Susie Howard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 10:25 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** public broadcasting

To State Legislators,  
Please make funding for public broadcasting a priority. I listen to, and watch, AK Public Media everyday, multiple times a day, for informative, unbiased news. The local news segments and programming helps keep me informed of essential state and local news, weather, and emergencies.

Additionally, they broadcast national news that helps inform me about our nations current news.

This helps keep me, as an Alaskan citizen and a citizen of the United States of America, informed on what is happening with our state, our country and the world.

I know you have tough decisions to make. Please continue to fund public broadcasting so our state has access to unbiased, informative news every day.

Thank you,  
Thomas Howard

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Please, do NOT cut funding for public radio

**From:** Kwie-Hoa Siem <Kwie.Hoa.Siem@akleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 10:47 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please, do NOT cut funding for public radio

Governor Dunleavy,

NPR/AKPM provide round the clock up-to-date, in-depth, unbiased news in an interesting and focused way. It keeps the general public well informed.

It will serve you well listening to Alaska Public Media yourself: the far reaching negative impact your proposed budget cuts will do to the community concerning health care, education and general well-being.

Sincerely, Kwie-Hoa Siem, MD

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Save Public Media Funding

---

**From:** Cynthia McFeeters <cynthia.mcfeeters@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:22 AM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Public Media Funding

I would like to take a few minutes to share with you my thoughts on why it is essential for our leaders to keep state funding for public media.

I moved to Alaska in my early 20's and have lived here for 28 years. I first lived in Juneau, then Gustavus, Klukwan and now I am back in Juneau. I have experienced both the urban and rural lifestyles in Alaska and I love them both. In all places public media, both radio and television, have been an important part of keeping my family and our communities safe and connected around the state and also helping us all to feel connected to the outside world.

I have been an educator for almost 20 years. In that time, our districts and our state have taken pride in the work we have done to keep Alaskans connected and, despite our long distances and challenges, a part of the modern world. We can be independent, rugged, savvy and informed.

I realize that our leaders have some tough decisions to make in all areas of our state funding. This is just one area that I am super concerned about when it comes to the loss of funding. If we start cutting these essential services we are taking a step backwards for the future of our residents and especially the residents in our rural communities for whom public media is the only source of information.

Thank you for your time.

Cynthia McFeeters

Juneau, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:11 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska Public Media Funding - Testimony

---

**From:** msgmaker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:51 AM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media Funding - Testimony

RE: Budget proposal to eliminate funding for Alaska Public Media

I offer the following testimony regarding Public Media funding:

Please do NOT continue to cut state funding for Alaska Public Media.

In an era of special interest media, it's difficult to find news and information that is neutral and trustworthy. Public Radio / Media offers precisely that. I rely on public radio for updates and important news every day as I drive to work and drive home. In the span of those 45 minutes, I get what I need to be an informed citizen. I cannot find this elsewhere on radio through commercial stations that have become more biased in reporting.

Alaska Public Media delivers huge bang for the buck. Money provided by public donors, coupled with the state's modest investment, in turn draws matching funds from federal sources. Combined, this money is spent wisely, conservatively and locally to support and inform our communities. Please do not continue to cut funding for Public Media. Many local stations will simply stop operating and we all lose under this scenario.

Thank you.

Stephenie Wheeler, a super-voter citizen

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

[REDACTED]



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** LIO Juneau  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:51 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Save Public Media Funding

---

**From:** Cynthia McFeeters <cynthia.mcfeeters@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:26 AM  
**To:** LIO Juneau <LIO.Juneau@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Public Media Funding

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to take a few minutes to share with you my thoughts on why it is essential for our leaders to keep state funding for public media.

I moved to Alaska in my early 20's and have lived here for 28 years. I first lived in Juneau, then Gustavus, Klukwan and now I am back in Juneau. I have experienced both the urban and rural lifestyles in Alaska and I love them both. In all places public media, both radio and television, have been an important part of keeping my family and our communities safe and connected around the state and also helping us all to feel connected to the outside world.

I have been an educator for almost 20 years. In that time, our districts and our state have taken pride in the work we have done to keep Alaskans connected and, despite our long distances and challenges, a part of the modern world. We can be independent, rugged, savvy and informed.

I realize that our leaders have some tough decisions to make in all areas of our state funding. This is just one area that I am super concerned about when it comes to the loss of funding. If we start cutting these essential services we are taking a step backwards for the future of our residents and especially the residents in our rural communities for whom public media is the only source of information.

Thank you for your time.

Cynthia McFeeters



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** LIO Homer  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:54 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Media Budget Testimony

Hello,

Please submit the following as a part of the record on SB20: Operating Budget.

Thank you,

*~Amber*

[Homer Legislative Information Office](#) 270 W. Pioneer Ave | Homer, AK 99603  
PHONE: (907)-235-7878 | FAX: (907) 235-4008 | E-Mail: [Homer.LIO@akleg.gov](mailto:Homer.LIO@akleg.gov)

**SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY ~ Assisting Concerned Citizens ~ PROMOTING GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION**

Visit the AK State Legislature Website [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov)

Watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature [www.akl.tv](http://www.akl.tv)

**From:** Chuck Jay <[chuck.jay@akleg.gov](mailto:chuck.jay@akleg.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:13 AM  
**To:** LIO Homer <[Lio.Homer@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Homer@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Media

Madam and Sir:

I strongly support the continued funding of our essential public media. Cutting the budget for public media is irresponsible and further erodes the quality of life and the prospects for a vibrant, socially engaged population. Please maintain support of our public media at current levels.

Budgetary focus should be on the revenue stream – especially the unwarranted and unnecessary tax credits given to the oil industry. If the oil industry were taxed fairly, and in line with other states' tax regimes, we would not have a budget crisis.

Respectfully,

C.A. Jay  
Jay-Brant General Contractors, LLC  
[REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Lauren Attanas [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Public testimony re: FY2020 budget

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for giving all Alaskans an opportunity to testify regarding Alaska's budget priorities for FY 2020 and beyond, and thank you for working to build a sensible budget. The Governor's promise to super-sized PFD checks to Alaskans by cutting off essential state services at the knees is unworkable. 'Penny-wise and pound-foolish' is not a path to financial stability and prosperity.

I am writing to ask that you support all of the programs critical to our way of life here in Alaska--our health care system, the Alaska State Ferry system, public safety, transportation, public media, wildlife and natural resources management, but most especially our schools. Please maintain K-12 funding at levels approved in 2018 for FY2020 and make funding notification timely, reliable and predictable (per SJR 9). Please fully fund all 3 UA campuses.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about my family and the importance of education funding in our household.

We are a public school family. I see the effects of the past few years' cuts every day at my son's elementary school. Because it can't provide a competitive salary and because nurses are in high demand, the Fairbanks-Northstar Borough school district has been struggling to hire a school nurses for many schools. As a result, administrative staff is grappling with sick kids, administering medication, and handling emergencies on top of their daily workload, and our kids aren't getting the care that helps them be healthy, successful learners. Teachers are being asked to do more and more with dwindling resources and fewer staff. We cannot afford to cut more from the budget and expect that our children will receive the education they need to become the skilled workforce Alaska will need in the coming decades. We must invest in Alaska's future, starting with our youngest citizens.

We are a University family. My husband works for UAF's Alaska SAR Facility--the farthest-north satellite tracking ground station in the United States--which provides critical data to scientists worldwide. His paycheck accounts for the majority of our household income, as well as our health insurance. Our daughter attends preschool at the University where she gets a top-notch education while simultaneously helping our next generation of teachers, firefighters, and paramedics learn and practice their trades. So, we'd stand to lose a lot as a family, were the Governor to cut the UA budget by 41%. A super-sized PFD could not replace my husband's specialized job or even pay for our family's health insurance.

We are a private-sector family. I am research biologist and a minority shareholder at a Fairbanks-born environmental consulting firm started by UAF graduates in 1976 and still powered by UA graduates; they are our board members, our scientists, our business administrators, and our software developers. We work in partnership with the University, state and federal agencies, and resource development companies. Were the University to be dealt the blow the Governor is proposing, we'd lose one of our main resources for attracting and retaining new talent.

Though I realize that the Legislature is working very hard with very little time in order to produce a workable budget, I would like to encourage committee members and the Legislature at large to think about the larger economic picture. Our state's own economists (and common sense) tell us that we cannot just cut our way out of these fiscal problems. We have to generate revenue. I believe this should be done as a combination of cuts to the oil tax production credits (per SB 14), a modest income tax on *all* people who work in Alaska, and holding the PFD at the levels set by the previous Legislature and Governor.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Attanas

[REDACTED]

Faribanks, AK 99709

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Luann McVey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:25 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Governor Dunleavy's Budget

**Honorable Members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee,** I'm a retired teacher. I've lived in Alaska since 1957 and I urge you to:

Understand that austerity is not the path to a prosperous future. Kansas and other states, whose budgets recently resembled Governor Dunleavy's due to the efforts of Ms Arduin, have experienced disastrous results. Look to them for what NOT to do and consider the following, in crafting your budget:

**INCREASE REVENUE:** Take responsibility. Adopt adequate revenue streams to ensure responsible stewardship of all Alaskans and our environment. To balance the state's budget, stop paying the oil companies to take our oil; cap or stop PFD payments; and institute a personal income tax.

**PROTECT SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY FUNDING:** Budget cuts mean greater class sizes, reducing time teachers can spend with each student. This is less effective for everyone involved. The learning of students at all levels, from preschool to university age, suffers when those who teach them are over-extended due to high student: teacher ratios. Please don't cut them further.

**PROTECT HEALTH CARE,** including Medicaid, whose services keep thousands of Alaskans' healthy

**PROTECT ELDER CARE & PIONEER HOMES:** Our elders who worked to make this state a better place deserve attentive care, including health and residential services such as the Pioneer Homes. For many, including my own parents, our Pioneer Homes are the only option when they can no longer live in their own homes. Keep the Pioneer Home rates affordable to ALL, not just the wealthy.

**PROTECT OUR WATER, AIR, WILDLIFE, AND EARTH:** The natural world upon which we rely deserves protection from the large corporations which profit from extraction. Prevent the removal of environmental oversight, to ensure our water and air are clean and our fish and wildlife survive into the future.

**PROTECT OUR FERRIES:** Like actual roads, they connect coastal communities with the mainland & support our economy & culture.

Thank you for your hard work considering alternative revenue streams, to protect Alaskans from the sharp and reckless knife of Governor Dunleavy's administration. As legislators, you are our only hope for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey

A thick black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of Luann McVey.

Douglas, Alaska 99824

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Billeen Carlson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:21 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Options

Hello,

I am Billeen Carlson, a 6th-12th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Nikolaevsk School. I was born and raised in Anchor Point, Alaska. I have an AA with an English Literature focus from the Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, a BA in History from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and an MAT with a social studies endorsement from UAA's formerly accredited College of Education. I am the single mom of two children, 8 & 10, who attend Nikolaevsk School. I support my children & pay my bills (and taxes) primarily with the salary I earn teaching.

Education is a pretty big deal to me.

I worked waiting tables and gutting fish to help put myself through school. I finished my degrees with a baby (or two) on my hip while juggling a teen & building a home. I've been a driven and active member of my community for most of my life while pursuing my career as an educator.

I've worked hard because I know that a solid education can improve the lives of children living in [poverty](#). I know that a [healthy](#) school can reduce crime, increase property values, and make a community a safer and healthier place to live. [Excellent](#) public education is the key to a stable and productive workforce. I do not want to live in a community of undereducated, desperate people. I do not want my children growing up in that community.

I've been hearing a lot of "common sense" talk from people who support cutting education and other infrastructure in the state. The talk likens balancing the budget with managing a household. I propose that those "common sense" people do not have a great grasp of metaphor. The governor isn't choosing to forgo brie & steak in order to save his wallet. He's choosing to board up his children in their bedrooms. And light the bedrooms on fire.

Here's a different dea, to extend the metaphor, get a freaking job!

Alaska, as a state, has subsisted off the royalties obtained from the oil industry since [1980](#). When, in our infinite wisdom (sarcasm), we decided to lower [taxes](#) on the oil companies in 2013, we set the stage for our current fiscal [situation](#).

So, getting back to the metaphor, instead of murdering our children, how about we start collecting rent from our deadbeat buddies again (reinstate appropriate taxes on the oil companies)?

We might also choose a state lottery, although 2016 lotteries in [Wyoming](#) & [North Dakota](#) netted their states only \$2 million and \$7 million, respectively. Only a drop in the bucket in our current economic crisis and possibly not worth the hassle in the short term but it is worth considering, particularly in light of the jobs the industry would create.



[Colorado](#) generated \$247 million in tax revenue on marijuana in 2017. Alaska, with our much smaller population, could not hope to reach that number but, knowing our state, I have faith many would give it their best shot.

Other ideas might include "collecting rent," (income tax) on everyone who is living and working in our state. Non-resident workers made \$2.5 billion, \$2.5 BILLION, in our state in [2017](#). Non-resident workers make up 20% of our workforce! They extract our resources, benefit from our infrastructure, take their earnings, and leave.

The actions proposed by our current governor is gutting Alaska's ability to create and maintain safe and healthy communities for our population. I believe that it is the governor's intention to drive out as many of us, his constituents, as he can; forcing us to relocate for employment or out of concern for our children. I believe that he, and those in his camp, are in the pockets of outside interests who would return Alaska to a gold rush territory, unable and/or unwilling to regulate and protect itself from the predations of those who would extract its resources and leave behind a depleted mess.

We became a state partly to stave off this very thing. We wanted to protect our [salmon](#) from over harvesting by outside corporations. History repeats itself.

I would encourage you to spend some time with my message. Follow the links. I've done my research. Make an educated decision for education and for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

**Billeen Carlson**

***"Bravery, creativity, curiosity."***

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Sue Sherif <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:03 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Best Beginnings and Imagination Library

Best Beginnings and Imagination Library are modest investments in programs that are based on the best information and data about early childhood education. The small sums that have been cut are not significant in the whole budget balancing endeavor, but their long-term investment in our very young children is far more significant and impactful long-term than almost anything that the state of Alaska can do. Investments like these programs are how we help families produce literate, well educated citizens for our state's future. Please restore the funds for these programs.

Sue Sherif

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Residence address:  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Amanda Duvall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** fund our young Alaskans

Dear Finance Committee,

It was a larger concern to me early childhood education was removed from the budget than the cut to our university system. A strong beginning for a child starts when the child's brain is most malleable, the youngest years. We need to invest in our people, the youngest ones will not know what they missed, we will see it as a state when they take longer to read, write, compute, and think. We need to support our students ability to think critically and a strong foundation begins in early childhood. Please focus on the education of our children, it will affect all, when you are making the budget. An education lasts a lifetime, the PFD lasts as long as the vacation, roof, video game lasts. **Please fund early childhood education such as head start and Pre K.**

Thank you,  
Amanda Duvall  
Mother of 2: ages 2 and 5

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Anna Carey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Restore early education funding in FY20 budget

Childcare and early education is very important to the state of Alaska, the state is already behind in this area compared to the rest of the country further cuts hurts the future of Alaska and the Children that are raised here.

I work for the State of Alaska full time and pay over a 1000 a month for one child's preschool and daycare and it is still a struggle in Valdez to feel comfortable about the early education my child is getting. The quality of education our child gets is largely impacted by training the teachers receive which is supported by Best Beginnings and Thread. I am also a volunteer on the board of the non-profit daycare/preschool in town and with out support we would have a hard time staying open. The State regulations require at least 24 hours of training for each employee (even the 16 year olds who are helping just for the summer), with out the support from Tread we would not be able to stay in compliance with that regulation. There also has to be a staff member with 12 credits in early childhood education in the building at all times, this is another area where we have gotten support from Best Beginnings. It is very hard to find anyone with this in a small town.

I want my child to have a class of kindergartners who is ready to learn and programs for less fortunate families are very important to all children! Early Child hood programs keep our children safe and prepare them to be good students and productive members of the State of Alaska.

Thank you,  
Anna Carey

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Hayley Anderson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:37 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Restore early childhood funding

Members of the committee,

I urge you to restore early education funding in the FY20 budget, including support for Head Start, PreK, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings. As a parent of two young children in Anchorage, I believe every child in Alaska deserves high-quality early childhood programs. Research tells us that the first years of life are the most critical period of human brain development. If we don't invest in our children now, we'll still pay for it later. In fact, we're already paying for it with the costs of unemployment, healthcare, and crime. Please take action to make Alaska's children a priority.

Thank you for supporting our children,

**Hayley Anderson**

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Mildred Parker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Finance Committee "My Testimony"

My name is Mildred Parker and I am an early childhood professional.

I ask that you **fund early childhood programs** at the amounts approved by the legislature last year for Head Start, PreK, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings Imagination Library.

These programs need to continue and grow in the future because **90% of a child's brain develops before age five**. The early years are the foundation for all future learning.

Thank you for listening.

Mildred Parker

**Mildred Parker, M.S.Ed**

Early Learning Coach

**thread**

Direct 907.265.3116

Main 907.265.3110 or 800.278.3723

Fax 907.265.3191 or 877.563.1959

[www.threadalaska.org](http://www.threadalaska.org) / Facebook

3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 203

Anchorage, AK 99501

Celebrate with us!



April 8-12, 2019

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual(s) or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender immediately and delete this e-mail from your system. Disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Stephanie Eggart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Headstart funding

To whom it my concern:

As a parent of a child that went a Headstart program, I believe it's very important to fund that program and other early childhood programs like it. It gave my child a consistent routine while I was at work and prepared her for the routine of school. It also taught her important social skills like how to work and play with other kids. I think in the long run cutting the funding will have a negative impact on our child, our future.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Eggart

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Peggy and Alex [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Operating Budget

The budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy is a disaster in the making. It is an attack on Alaska's children's education, our University System, our marine transportation system, our health care infrastructure. It will send Alaska in general, and Southeast Alaska in particular, into economic decline. It will transfer the burden of supporting essential services to local governments while at the same time devastating the economic base of local government. These draconian cuts were NOT part of the Dunleavy campaign rhetoric, and thus do NOT represent the will of the people. Please work with your colleagues in the Senate and House to build a sustainable budget that will pay for and provide the essential services Alaska needs. The permanent fund was not originally set up to provide dividends to individuals, but to be a rainy day source of funds for essential services when oil revenue inevitably declined. Well, it's raining now, and we need to continue to use a portion of the earnings for a sustainable budget. We also need to reduce corporate welfare for the oil industry, and to have a simple, progressive income tax to make sure those that benefit from the economic opportunities in Alaska share in supporting the Alaska community as well.

Sincerely,

Alex and Margaret Wertheimer  
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Hannah Weed [mailto:hfw@hillcountry.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 1:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

Good afternoon,

My name is Hannah Weed and I am sending this email to add my voice in your consideration of how to fund various services while creating the budget. I live in Juneau and am a resident of Alaska.

I do not agree or support many aspects of the Governor's proposed budget and support finding alternate funding sources, including state sales tax or income tax, to preserve and ensure services to Alaskans are maintained. I would choose to receive no PFD over seeing cuts in social services that impact Alaska's most vulnerable populations - children, elderly, individuals with disabilities or mental health problems.

I ask the Senate Finance Committee to support youth and early intervention efforts that promote healthy development, early recognition and intervention for disabilities and behavioral health disorders, and prevention of serious problems later in life - services including Head Start Grants, Early Childhood Grants, Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers Grants, and Pre-Kindergarten Grants.

Please protect funding for programs that provide "safety net" services to low-income, disabled, and senior Alaskans—including Adult Public Assistance, Permanent Fund Hold Harmless, Tribal Assistance, and Assistive Technology for people with disabilities.

Please maintain support funding for behavioral health programs that serve Alaskans with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual/developmental, and cognitive impairments.

Please protect funding for senior and disability services that support Alaskan seniors and people with disabilities with limited incomes in living with independence their communities.

Please support community programs that provide temporary, supportive and/or permanent housing to low-income, disabled, and senior Alaskans. Please reverse recommendations that reduce resources to homeless and housing programs, shelters, and food banks statewide.

Thank you for your hard work,

Hannah Weed  
[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801



**ADVOCATE. PROMOTE. DEVELOP.**

## **SUPPORT A LONG-TERM FISCAL PLAN FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA**

### **Position Statement**

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the Alaska State Legislature's efforts to balance the state budget using a "safe landing" approach. While progress has been made with spending, a long-term solution must be implemented. The Chamber supports legislation that:

- 1) Utilizes earnings from the permanent fund, which will include dollars not currently circulating in our economy;
- 2) Allows UAF to maintain its current role as an economic driver vital to the success of our community and the state of Alaska;
- 3) Makes government more efficient by changing the cost and structure of government at all levels;
- 4) Secures the long-term future of the state by encouraging resource development and business-friendly practices; and
- 5) Includes passage of an appropriate and timely capital budget.

The Chamber does not support new taxes at this time, especially narrowly defined taxation targeting specific industries.

### **Action Required**

#### **Safe Landing Approach**

A "safe landing" approach to solve the budget crisis means cutting expenses gradually and increasing revenues each year by broadening the economy through developing and maintaining a strong business environment. This approach minimizes negative effects on the economy and reduces the risk for job losses.

The proposed FY20 budget not only creates negative impacts, it will result in a drastic reduction of our entire economy. Cumulative local impacts of the budget as proposed include more than 1000 expected job losses, compounding stresses on the healthcare system, increased burden on local tax payers, and many more unintended consequences.

**Permanent Fund**

The State of Alaska enacted percent-of-market-value (POMV) legislation in 2018 to use permanent fund earnings as a source of revenue for the general fund in a manner that can be sustained in perpetuity. POMV allows for both reasonable dividends and desired state services. For long-term budget and fiscal planning, the Legislature needs to establish a formula in statute to allocate the 5.25% POMV amongst government services, PFD payments to individuals, and inflation proofing. The Chamber opposes dividend payments for past years at this time.

**Support for University of Alaska Fairbanks**

The Chamber supports, at a minimum, funding the university at the level of the FY19 budget. UAF is a significant economic driver in our community in terms of jobs, feeding our local talent pipeline, and increasing Arctic research and opportunities. UA has worked through a strategic plan for the past 4 years resulting in methodical and responsible cuts resulting in significant reductions in spending and jobs.

**Make Government Efficient**

The cost and structure of the Alaska State Government must be revised so that services are provided more efficiently. In this regard, all solutions should be on the table. Lower priority programs can be eliminated, regulations that require redundant activities should be repealed, and statutes and formulas that direct funding should be reviewed. Funding that leverages federal dollars for capital projects should be prioritized.

**Develop a Strong Business Environment**

The State of Alaska must have a long-term view of the future, and plan beyond the budget gap. To create jobs for Alaskans, the legislature must focus on ways to encourage private investors in all sectors; bring Alaska's oil, minerals, and timber into production; and diversify employment opportunities available within the state.

**No Additional Taxes**

We believe continued downward pressure on state expenditures is appropriate. Additional taxes are a last resort for funding Alaska state government. The Chamber does not support new taxes at this time, although the time may come when implementing a broad based tax will become necessary.



April 10, 2019

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
State Senator  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 518  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Natasha von Imhof  
State Senator  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Providence Health & Services comments on FY20 Department of Health & Social Services operating budget

Dear Senators Stedman and von Imhof:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the governor's proposed operating budget and for the ongoing Senate Finance Committee conversations about potential impacts on Alaskans and Alaska's economy. We are all reflecting on our vision for Alaska's future, including education, safety, economic opportunity and the health of our families, friends and neighbors.

As the legislature and Senate Finance Committee debate final budget numbers, we advocate that reductions match a clearly articulated plan and are not aspirational numbers that may not be achievable during the fiscal year. In addition, I request that you consider including intent language to help guide the Department of Health & Social Services as they look to transform Medicaid delivery while maintaining their stated principles to protect primary care, small hospitals and access to services.

**Work with provider community to mitigate unintended consequences:** I request that the committee includes intent language that encourages the department to work with the provider community, through the Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association, as they develop and implement their Medicaid cost containment proposals to mitigate unintended consequences.

**Include Skilled Nursing and Long-term Care Facilities to protect small hospitals:** Critical Access Hospitals provide an important role in community health by providing a wide-range of services, ranging from 24-hour emergency departments to long-term care for seniors and elders. It is misleading to say Critical Access Hospitals are not subject to the rate reductions or that they would be held harmless.

A vast majority of Critical Access Hospitals are co-located with skilled nursing and/or long-term care facilities. By sharing resources it ensures that these facilities can continue serving the needs of Alaskans near their homes. The survival of one is directly tied to the other. Providence Health & Services Alaska joined an ASHNHA workgroup to share this concern with Deputy Commissioner Donna Steward and has

sought to correct the inaccurate statement that our Critical Access Hospitals in Kodiak, Seward and Valdez would be held harmless. Exempting skilled nursing/long-term care facilities from the proposed rate cuts is essential to the overall financial stability of the state's small hospitals.

**Include pediatric subspecialties in pediatric exemption:** We appreciate the exemption of primary care, obstetrics and pediatrics from rate reductions. However pediatric subspecialties are not included in this exemption. There is often the misnomer that specialty services are somehow unessential. Pediatric specialties include oncology, nephrology, cardiology, pediatric surgeries, and autoimmune diseases. Providence is home to the state's only children's hospital and by providing these services in Alaska, we are able to ensure that Alaska children are able to seek treatment near their families after a devastating diagnosis like cancer. Including pediatric subspecialties in the pediatric and primary care exemptions are important to vulnerable children and families across our state.

**The path toward reducing health care costs is through transformation, not by limiting access:** The Alaska Legislature charted the path for Medicaid reform and to begin addressing the costs of health care in 2016 through SB 74. Health care providers partnered with the state to begin transforming the delivery of care in order to begin reducing costs.

As part of the Medicaid reform initiative, Providence Family Medicine Center was awarded a contract by DHSS to participate in a 36-month Medicaid Coordinated Care demonstration project. The cornerstone of this project is a patient-centered medical home model of care delivery. We are integrating health care services and blending behavioral and physical health care for 5,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible Alaskans. By shifting from high-cost and potentially unnecessary emergency services to preventive care, we are already seeing a reduction in emergency room visits within this group. These resident physicians and WAMMI graduates are the next generation of Alaska's family physician workforce and are committed to Medicaid innovation.

As we look at transforming the delivery of care, the state must partner with the provider community in order to transform payment models that invest in preventive care and move away from a purely fee-for-service system that incentivizes volume over results. We cannot pursue one without the other and the governor's proposed budget and cost containment measures leave these types of initiatives in limbo.

As a program, Medicaid is a reimbursement of costs for services provided. Reducing the cost of health care in our state will not be achieved by reducing reimbursement rates, implementing large unallocated budget reductions, or limiting access. Comparing reimbursement rates to other states in a silo, without discussions about value-based transformation of payment models, does not provide the full picture.

Although we face budgetary challenges, Alaska also has resources and the ability to learn from other state's successes and failures. Several states, including Washington, have successfully used the 1115 waiver process to leverage federal funds in order to partner with the provider community to redesign the Medicaid program, improve outcomes and lower costs for the long term. In Alaska, this would include moving from fee-for-service to a managed care environment and incentivizing improved health behaviors in our communities.

Providence Health & Services Alaska began in 1902 with the sisters in Nome and has now grown to the state's largest private employer. We face a rapidly changing environment, budget constraints, and have the great responsibility to provide stability to roughly 5,000 caregivers.

In 2017, Providence paid \$24 million in non-exempt taxes and provided \$65 million in community benefit. As a part of that community benefit, Providence provided \$23 million in free and discounted care for patients; as we close the books on 2018 that number is expected to be higher. Many states have state-supported hospitals, or county hospitals. At Providence, caring for poor and vulnerable is at the core of who we are and will never change. However, reduced reimbursement rates and a surge in charity care would impact our ability to continue providing a broad range of services within the state and keep care close to home.

We understand that the cost of health care must be addressed and there will be budget reductions. Together with the provider community, Providence is committed to being good partners in the design and implementation of workable solutions with the goal that Alaskans will still be able to access high-quality health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PMS', written over a light gray circular background.

Preston M. Simmons, DSc., FACHE  
Chief Executive, Alaska  
Providence St. Joseph Health

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Rosemary Conneen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 6:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Council for the Arts

Dear Legislative Body...

Please know how this sensitive issue has not only brought our state through years of boom and bust, but centuries of the world's areas through tough times. When it stops being enchanting, entertaining and fun, the population drops. Please remember that many of our working community are people who bring light to a local community during "tough times".

Thank You...  
Sammi Conneen-Baker  
Douglas, AK  
An Alaskan Person of Performance and Arts

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Tyler Watson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please Avoid Drastic Budget Cuts and Consider Diverse Revenue Sources

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As you meet this week to consider the budget and hear more public testimony I'd like to offer my views as a constituent on how the legislature should move forward.

Obviously, our budget/deficit has issues. And as Senator von Imhof, we also have a priorities crisis. Cuts are needed, but the Governor's draft budget goes too far.

All of Alaska feels the effects of budgetary decisions and the ongoing recession and so all of Alaska must work together to provide the solution. Alaska needs fiscal stability to spark investment and economic growth.

Cuts should be modest and preserve services that Alaskans deeply care about like healthcare, education, transportation, and public safety. The House budget does a good job of meeting this.

However, we should also reconsider addressing increasing revenue. A mix of using the POMV formula, a broad based tax (income or sales), and reassessing oil taxes would ensure that no one group is unfairly targeted by any one revenue mechanism. Cost shifting down to boroughs and municipalities could be done for specific programs, but the state should not take away their ability to collect property taxes from oil and fishing industries.

If all Alaskans pitch in by sacrificing modest cuts and contributing modest taxes we can work towards a sustainable future where we all are truly invested in the future of our state.

Our motto is North to the Future! Please continue your hard work to get us there.

Thank you for your time and service to our great state,

Tyler Watson  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504

--

Tyler Watson  
Cell: 303-960-1273  
Email: [mahan.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:mahan.tyler@gmail.com)



## **Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Kate McLaughlin - [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Louise Stutes; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** Testimony

I am against this budget, of which every aspect harms me, my family, and the values we hold.

My 84 year old mother is struggling to find adequate, affordable health care while paying her heating bill. The measure of a society is how it treat is Elders. Do not cut elder benefits, who already are stressed with limited budgets and options.

I wonder if my 15 year old son will be able to use that UAA college fund we've been putting into for a over a decade, and if he'll get the educational opportunities he needs to obtain scholarships that will supplement our savings. NO to cutting education, the best investment we can make is in our children's educational opportunities - and have them HERE in AK.

The AK Marine Highway must be maintained for the benefit of the Alaskan public and our economy - just as the road highways are. With the State's limited road system, cutting off access to 1/2 the populace is a dereliction of the State's duty.

No to taking fish credits, that money belongs to the communities that generate them.

No to all the rest of this draconian, authoritarian budget that fails Alaska and Alaskans.

Raise revenue. There is no need for a huge PFD.

Take back the oil credits. It is OUR oil - its makes no sense that Big Corp can walk away with huge profits while AK struggles to keep the roof over our heads. The whole purpose of making Alaska an owner state was to be able to support ourselves independent of the Federal government or Industries that want to exploit OUR resources.

Institute an income tax that captures out of state workers who take their AK income out of State.

Give back to the people and communities for which the State is supposed to be supporting. Give back to our most vulnerable. Keep the promises made to the people of Alaska that are spelled out in our Constitution.

Thank you.

Katherine McLaughlin [REDACTED] Cordova, Alaska 99574

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Steve Bradford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 5:28 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing Testimony

I am a 44 year resident of Alaska. Even though I have been retired for many years I continue to call Alaska home and continue to reside here.

I think Governor Walker made the tough decision and used part of the PFD to help fund Alaska's budget as well as he passed some costs on to users and municipalities. I support that course of action.

We live in a state where people expect the state to pay for nearly everything- roads, utility assistance, education, libraries, convention centers, fire engines, etc. The list goes on and on. I believe the state should provide for the basic services such as transportation, education, state police, etc. but it is time to cut out funding many of the grants for specific local projects.

In the course of your budget deliberations I support continued use of the PFD (partial or in it's entirety) for the operation of a leaner state government. If additional funding is needed beyond the PFD, then I would favor an income tax. The income tax should only come after giving up the full PFD as it makes no sense to receive \$\$ from the state, pay federal tax on it, then turn around and pay the state an income tax.

I think we need to visit oil taxation again. We need to look at other countries such as Norway, to see how their oil taxation is structured and working.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Steve Bradford  
[REDACTED]

Juneau. 99801

Sent from Steve's iPad.

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Courtney Munson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:01 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget testimony

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I'm unable to submit in person or phone testimony, so I am submitting comments on the budget via email. I want to weigh in because I feel like my views don't conform to either of the two main positions I see being advocated in the media/social media/in person conversations with people.

On the one hand, I feel like pulling the rug out from under some of our most vulnerable populations shows a lack of compassion and true leadership. I also think that it is unfair to make these cuts while insulating those who have the most to gain from any loss (exacerbating the wealth divide), as well using the cuts to maintain the PFD, which seems like a calculated appeal to people's self-interested motives at the expense of the greater good of our fellow humans -- essentially pitting us against each other.

On the other hand, do I believe that anywhere near the current spending on social systems --- like public education and health care --- can continue? No. They absolutely cannot. We need to acknowledge that there is some truth behind the governor's budget, even if we don't agree with his justifications. Our current economic system and the social services and institutions that have grown up because of it, are based on an unsustainable consumption of fossil fuels that drives an economy predicated on infinite growth. That growth is at odds with the natural limits of our earth. Our continued consumption of all things is killing the living planet, and it is making humans sick, depressed, and anxious.

Furthermore, even if you don't believe in or care about environmental destruction, or don't believe that human health and well being is tied to the health of the planet like I do, just look at peak oil. The fossil fuels are running out. Our entire economy is based on fossil fuels. There is no possibility that alternative energy sources can make up the difference; decoupling the economy from them is a pipe dream. So, what are we going to do about that? Try to keep everything the same until we can't and our civilization implodes? Or try to talk about this now?

There needs to be some acknowledgement of this by those opposed to the cuts. Can we not have compassion for those impacted by the cuts and yet also acknowledge that keeping our lifestyles and entitlements as they currently stand is not possible? These are the hard conversations that need to happen, I believe. The longer they don't happen, and the longer these things are framed as polarizing battles against good and evil, with no discussion of the nuances, the more people check out of the political process.

With regard to "health care", one thing that frustrates me is that the debate happening on this proceeds under the assumption, from both sides, that sick people are inevitable. But why? I see no way that our society can continue to bear the cost of all of these sick people, so why don't we start questioning why so many of us are sick? Could it possibly be related to the food that we are eating --- grown in soils that are increasingly devoid of essential nutrients, and poisoned by pesticides and herbicides that are par-for-the-course in industrial agriculture, which has turned our nourishment into a commodity? Could it be from other chemicals and imbalances in our environment due to manufacturing, waste disposal, etc? Could it be from the fact that our society increasingly isolates us from meaningful, close connections with our fellow humans? Or from the fact that the messages being told to us from the time we are children is that we are not enough, and that we must acquire more material goods to be happy or jump through hoop after hoop in order to be "successful?" And could it be from the fact that we have a population of people taking their own unprocessed pain and suffering out on others in the form of physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional violence? I do not see how we can keep going down this path and expect our "health care system" to deal with these problems, while

turning our back on the causes of the ill-health. We should be striving for much more than survival --- we're barely surviving now.

As to education, I have a hard time getting up any energy up to defend our public education system. I invite you all to please do some reading into the origins of our compulsory education system (Carol Black and John Taylor Gatto are two good places to start). Our system of school is built on the premise of control and authority. Schools squash individual creativity and autonomy, and were designed to create an assembly line of workers to keep the growth economy going. They are designed to get children used to be graded/ranked/sorted at a young age. To look to authority for justification of their value. No matter how many fluffy and positive words we use to describe our current public schools, they are basically the same as they have always been. I don't believe they are worth saving. Right now they are a crutch used to hold up our economy --- if parents don't have a place to send their children, then how can they work? With no personal skills or ability to grow our own food, or otherwise meet basic needs, and no real true community to care for each other, then we are all completely at the mercy of the social safety net. We have created a completely dependent and vulnerable population, and that is very sad to me. It seems like rather than facing this head on, we assume the only way is more of the same, and so we push ourselves deeper into the hole.

In sum, I just would like to hear some of these harder questions talked about. That means each side is going to have to step back from their entrenched positions and acknowledge the complexity. I don't see that happening right now.

Sincerely,  
Courtney Munson  
Anchorage, AK


--

Courtney Munson


Senator Bert Steadman

120 4<sup>th</sup> St. Room 518

Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 4, 2019

Subject: In ref to HB 39 & Sb 20... "One Trip on One Ship"

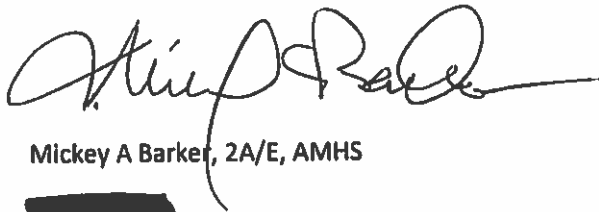
Dear Senator Steadman;

As both a Sitkan, and an employee of the Alaska Marine Highway, I have a unique perspective on the community and State service provided by our "Ferry Highway." Having just completed a 2 week tour of duty aboard my bid ship, the M/V Columbia, I submit the attached photos with comments to elucidate the many ways we provide service, money, and sustenance to our entire State. These photos are just a sampling of the vehicles/boats/heavy equipment/RV's/materials/ and groups of people we moved on this "One Trip on One Ship!" Multiply this many times over to see the impact we make!

Not pictured here but also of important note, are the many times our fleet assist stricken watercraft, stranded sportsman, and in the recent search for the downed Guardian flight that we were traversing near. The Kennicott is also equipped for major spill assistance.

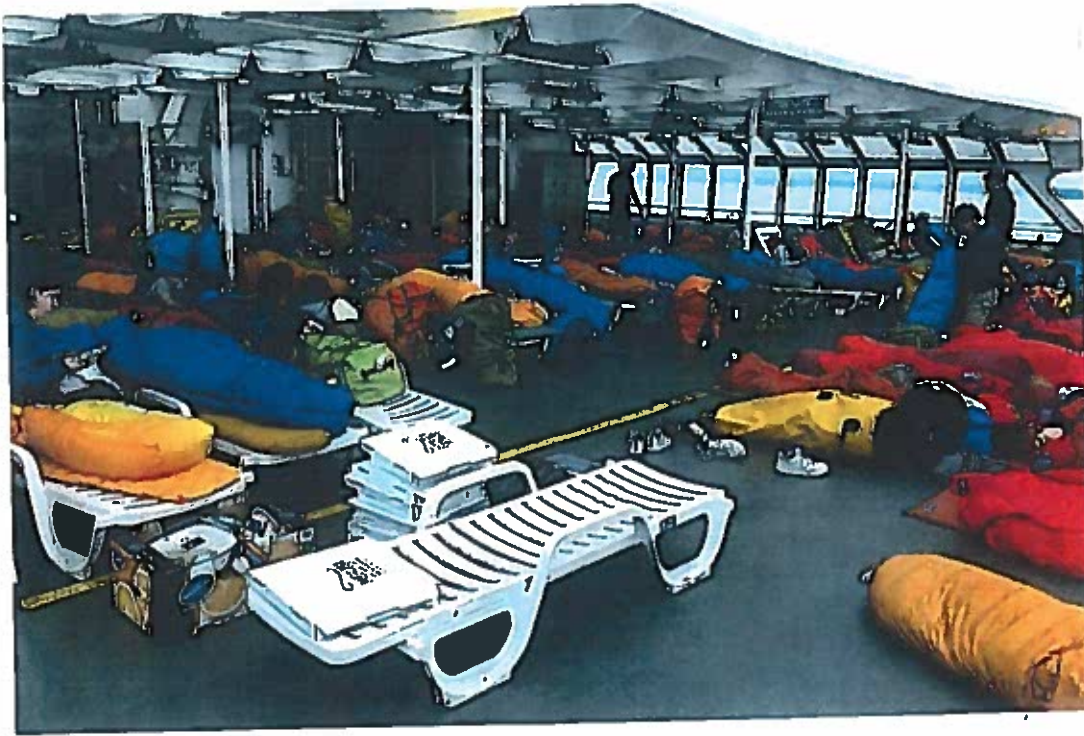
I believe our service is critical for the health and welfare of the entire State of Alaska, and we must keep this vital service providing Alaskans & many other visitors the "Alaska Marine Highway."

Sincerely,



Mickey A Barker, 2A/E, AMHS

[REDACTED]  
Sitka, AK 99835  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Over 100 high school students from WA heading on a summer "Alaska Adventure"



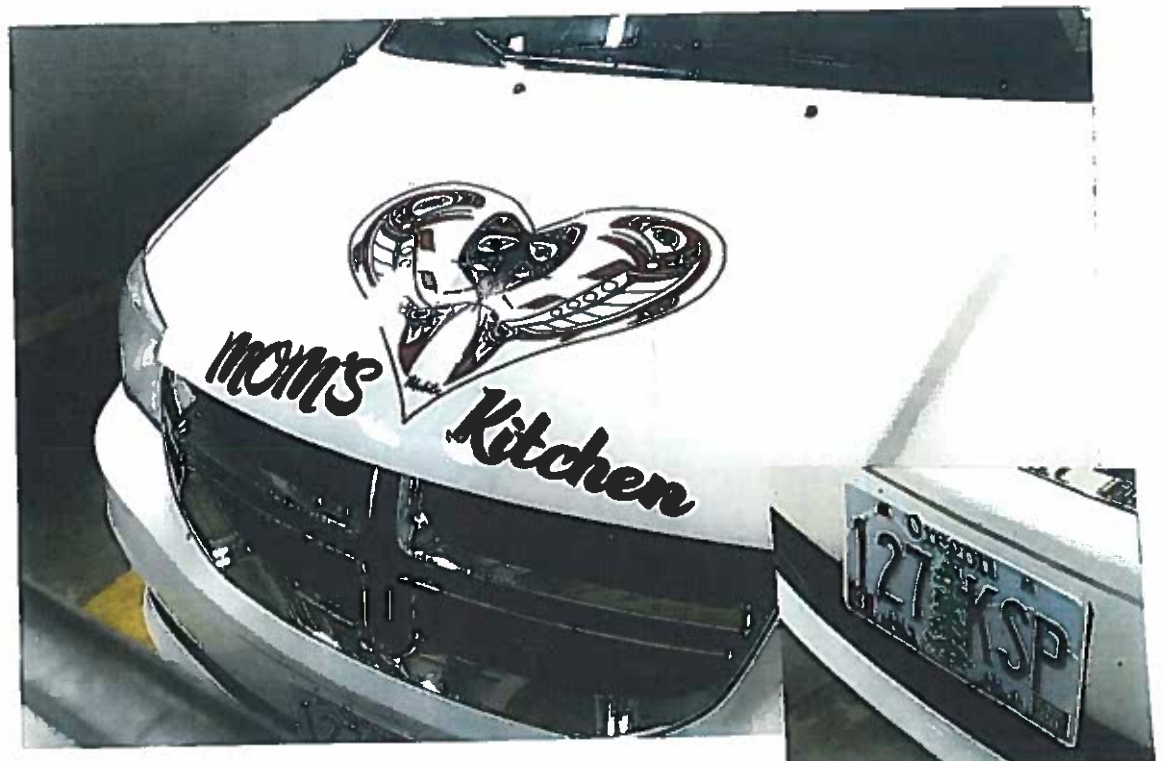
Local business going to provide service, and make \$\$





State of Alaska trucks &  
equipment are transported  
all over, on our Ro-Ro vessels, for  
work in communities not connected  
by roads

We bring people  
& businesses from  
the "lower 48," up  
to Alaska, again...  
\$\$\$





An Alaskan bringing building supplies for his home...



Boats,  
boats,  
boats...

We transport many of all sizes





Businesses of all kinds rely on us to move heavy equipment,  
to and fro... \$ \$ \$ for the State & the businesses!



Another large RV,  
on the way to an  
"Alaskan Adventure"  
We bring A LOT of  
Them up.. \$\$\$ for  
Businesses & AK!

Typical cluster of boats, watercraft, trucks & trailers... full of needed supplies by Alaskans & visitors...



Gold mining  
equipment,  
headed for  
Hanes...



Someone's  
Dream may  
come true!

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Alice Ruby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Urging Budget Amendments

Greetings

The citizens of Dillingham urge you to please reconsider the current budget proposal.

Please amend the budget to include

- School bond debt reimbursement
- Shared fisheries business tax
- Community Assistance and protection for the PCE

Omitting these critical funding sources from the budget will have a crippling impact on the City of Dillingham and our residents as we do not currently have sources of funding to replace the more than \$1 million loss of revenue.

Dillingham is a small community and our residents currently tax themselves heavier than many other communities in order to support local services, being listed as 17th in a list of over 100 communities on the per capita taxable list as published in Alaska Taxable (State of Alaska). Dillingham levies real property tax (13 mills), personal property tax (13 mills), inventory tax, sales tax (6%), alcohol/bed tax (10%), gaming tax, tobacco tax and we levy fees for almost all of our services. We provide significant support to our schools of \$1.3 million.

This is not a small loss to our community. The only recourse will be huge reductions in critical services such as our police, fire/emergency medical service, water, sewer, harbor, landfill, library and more; all of these services are provided through our local tax revenue. All of these services support our residents as well as the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishing industry that brings significant revenue to the state of Alaska.

Please act now to add those funds to the FY20 budget.

Thank you for acting now in support of Alaska communities and Alaska residents!

Alice Ruby, Mayor  
City of Dillingham

--

**Alice Ruby, Mayor**  
**City of Dillingham**

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Peter Williams <[pwilliams@cityofbethel.net](mailto:pwilliams@cityofbethel.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** PCE & Community Assistance

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I think to eliminate the Power Cost Equalization Program would affect these program(s) would be very hurtful. I believe that the hardship that it would impose would effect there quality of life to the extent that they would be unable to pay their electric bills. Extras such as clothes, gas for boats and vehicles and food would suffer. Many here are finding it difficult as it is. It would affect their water bills since so most houses have to run circulation pumps and heat traces during the winter. It is hard to imagine what all the multiplying effects discontinuing this program would have.

Please keep this p[rogram in place.

Thank you,

--

Peter A. Williams  
City Manager  
City of Bethel  
Telephone;  
Office: 543-2047 Ext.223 or press 2 then press 1 Cell: 545 4150  
Fax: 543-2311  
E-mail: [pwilliams@cityofbethel.net](mailto:pwilliams@cityofbethel.net)



APRIL 10, 2019

# TESTIMONY FROM OCEAN RANGERS

GETTING SOME FACTS STRAIGHT

OCEAN RANGERS



## Introduction

Many Ocean Rangers have been returning to the seasonal job for several years and have found it to be the most important work they will do in their life; not the best paying, or the most prestigious, but the most important. During the recent legislative session many proponents of eliminating the program have been making dubious, uninformed, and (likely) disingenuous arguments about reasons to eliminate the program. Most of these arguments are made by people who have never worked on ships and appear to have little understanding of maritime pollution regulation and enforcement. Little acknowledgement has been made of the historical tendency of cruise ships to operate outside of the law. Through our testimony we seek to provide a more balanced and accurate overview of the program. Having Ocean Rangers – professionally licensed marine engineers - on board to protect Alaska's waters is done at \$4 per passenger; less than the cost of a bottle of water on these ships.

### Ocean Rangers Don't Report Violations Because the Cruise Ships Self-Report

One of the arguments was that out of all Ocean Ranger reporting, only six Notice of Violations were issued. The following was submitted to the Senate Resources committee (hereafter Committee) in the power point presentation on 3/13/19:

*"Ocean Ranger observations •238 Notice of Violations over the same period attributable to permittee self-reporting, staff inspections, and review and opacity monitoring by Department contractors."*

The Committee was informed that those ships self-reported the issues to ADEC. When Ocean Rangers observe an item of interest or a potential non-compliant item, standard procedure *requires the Ocean Ranger to inform the cruise ship of potentially noncompliant conditions before we notify the State*. Thus, it seems as though they are "self-reporting" instead of being reported by Ocean Rangers in Daily Reports as non-compliant items. Moreover, the decisions made by DEC on whether to pursue a potential violation is subject to political influence, and many possible NOV's may not have been pursued for political reasons.

### 2018: Holland Discharges in Glacier Bay

Upon the conclusion of Ocean Ranger voyages in September 2018 the Carnival owned Holland Westerdam promptly discharged 26,000 gallons of grey water into Glacier Bay National Park. While the State levied a fine totaling all of \$250, a federal judge is threatening to block Carnival ships from docking at US ports.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article229069589.html>

### Trying to Regulate Cruise Ships with Port Visits

The Committee was shown the following in the power point presentation on 03/13/2019:

*"Program is costly for its outcomes (\$3.8 million/year in Ocean Ranger fees)."*

Cruise ships are *mobile*: if an inspector doesn't come out to sea, the ship's crew is well aware of it and less scrupulous operators may take advantage of that fact. While the monetary cost of putting Ocean Rangers onboard the ships at sea is significant, the environmental benefits to the state are very likely exponentially more valuable. In no other jurisdiction do state representatives ride ships at sea for any significant amount of time, and the crews on the ships are aware of our presence. As the foreign-flagged cruise operators also have a long, consistent history of violating environmental laws, having a state presence on board is likely to benefit Alaska by deterrence alone. Through the years numerous officers of the cruise ships have told the Ocean Rangers that the impending arrival of Ocean Rangers acts as an impetus to ensure all processes and procedures are being followed.

As the \$4 fee from each cruise ship passenger pays for the Ocean Ranger Program and none of the funds come from the State, why would the State of Alaska want to get rid of this program that consistently finds items of interest?

#### CPVEC Administrative Burden and Duties

The Committee was shown this information on 03/13/2019 regarding ADEC CPVEC department:

*"Four department staff positions:*

- Register cruise ships and review submittals (e.g., best management plans for small cruise ships & vessel specific sampling plan)*
- Issue waste water discharge authorizations under larger cruise ship general permit*
- Conduct inspections, issue notices of violations, and with Law initiate enforcement actions and fines"*

As trained and licensed USCG marine engineers onboard all types of marine vessels traveling in all areas of the world, we are probably the best candidates for riding onboard vessels and scrutinizing equipment, logs, operations, safety items, and other potential hazards.

The following is from the document presented to the Committee on 03/13/2019:

*"Most issues identified by Ocean Rangers on daily reports turn out not to be formal violations - since they are not the experts on what constitutes non-compliance over this vast array of State and federal statutes and regulations."*

How can four staff members from the ADEC cruise ship program do the work of 19 experienced, licensed Ocean Rangers and complete their current workload at their office in Juneau?

#### Advanced Waste Water Treatments System Modifications

Many cruise vessel modifications made to onboard Waste Water Treatment Systems are not reported. The cruise ship operators are supposed to update their reports about their system changes from year to year. It is historically proven that many vessels' system reports are *not* correct when sent to ADEC for approval, all the while the paperwork on these cruise vessels have been approved by ADEC without actual physical verification by ADEC. Ocean Rangers find these modifications while conducting observations of onboard systems for waste water treatment plants and exhaust gas cleaning systems and report them to ADEC.

#### Automation

Regarding the committee being told that automation exists for obtaining information, the only information that is transferred from the cruise vessels to ADEC is the cruise vessel's speed and location while in Alaska State waters. The cruise



vessels operating in Alaska waters use AIS (Automated Identification System), which allows the shipboard equipment to track ships speed and location. Wastewater logs are required to be submitted every thirty days to ADEC from each cruise vessel that has a wastewater discharge permit in Alaska State waters. Ocean Rangers review these wastewater logs each day that an Ocean Ranger is onboard. Infractions with Wastewater Discharge logs are usually corrected after the Ocean Ranger brings it to the attention to the Environmental Officer and states that it will be reported as a potential non-compliant item.

### Significance of Remaining Authorities

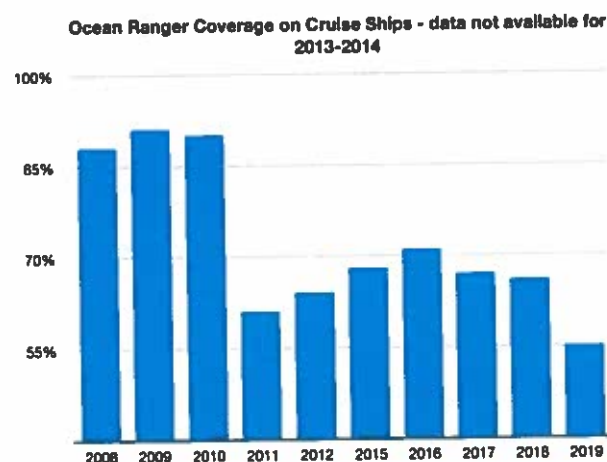
*Department staff have authority to conduct inspections at reasonable times (can obtain a warrant to inspect if denied reasonable access)*

Ocean Rangers are able to conduct inspections while the cruise vessels are underway in Alaska State waters. The four staff members assigned to ADEC's Cruise Ship Compliance Program can only make observations during wastewater sampling events or by authorization from the cruise vessel itself which can only be done if the cruise vessel has a wastewater discharge permit and the cruise vessel is dockside. Thus, opportunities for observation of the type that Ocean Rangers perform are not available to someone NOT riding the vessel.

### Ocean Ranger Coverage

In the earlier years of the Ocean Ranger Program, Ocean Rangers were deployed when the first cruise vessels started the Alaska cruise season in April and ran until the last cruise vessels left the State of Alaska for the season, typically at the end of September. It has been many years since the Ocean Ranger Program

has followed this practice, with coverage falling to 50% in 2019. Ocean Rangers disembark cruise vessels that they are stationed on to conduct in port inspections/observations on other cruise vessels that are in the same port without an Ocean ranger stationed onboard, increasing coverage. Ocean Rangers could possibly see three cruise vessels in the same day; two in port inspections/observations and the cruise vessel the Ocean Ranger is stationed onboard.

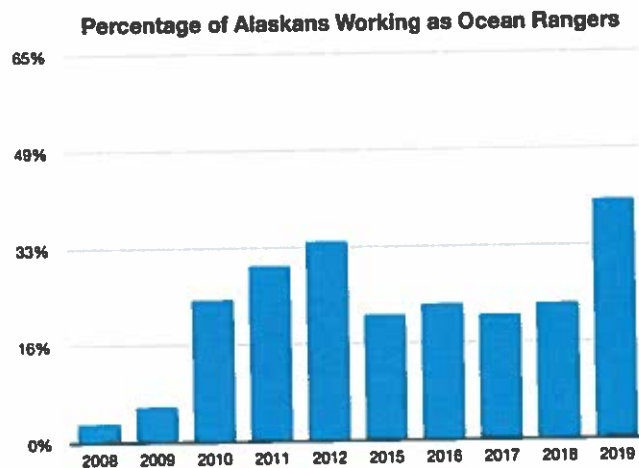


### Alaskans Working as ORs

Some proponents of eliminating the program often say many of the ORs are not Alaskan, and henceforth the program should be eliminated. By this standard, the foreign-flagged cruise ships would also need to be looked at for shutdown – out of 1000-2000 crew 1 or 2 Alaskans may be on board, usually as the nature or wildlife storyteller that is employed seasonally.

Upon further research it was found that the Ocean Ranger salary was set too low from the beginning as to not attract Alaskans. In testimony to the House Transportation Standing Committee on February 20, 2007, co-author of the ballot measure Joe Geldhof responded to representatives concerned about Ocean Ranger jobs being filled by Alaskans: *"wages should be set at the entry level of third engineer, and that this wage level would not be attractive to AMHS employees who are 'chiefs, firsts, or seconds' and who have 'permanent billets'..... Structuring the wages at an entry level will not cause 'cannibalism' of AMHS and private marine companies"*

Despite having deliberately set the salary this low, many Ocean Rangers who have been working several years have extensive experience as chiefs, firsts, and seconds – some from Alaska and some not. Apparently, the state has been getting the services of senior officers with extensive experience at a deep discount.



For any questions feel free to contact individuals. See contact information for Ocean Rangers below:

#### Alaskan Residents:

Mark Farley  
907.612.0315  
[mfarley922@mtaonline.net](mailto:mfarley922@mtaonline.net)  
Talkeetna

Chris Schneider  
907-830-1462  
[Chrisjschndr@gmail.com](mailto:Chrisjschndr@gmail.com)  
Anchorage

Raymond Eric Clock

[Akelectro2018@gmail.com](mailto:Akelectro2018@gmail.com)

907-362-1651

Seward

Jeffrey Hokkanen

858-242-9097

Homer

John Hitchcock

907-299-6916

[Hitchcock613@msn.com](mailto:Hitchcock613@msn.com)

John Clifton Passmore

907 360 0212

[Clifpassmore@hotmail.com](mailto:Clifpassmore@hotmail.com)

Eagle River

Tom Cook

907-394-3999

Ninilchik

**Non-Alaskan US Residents:**

Alan Ladd

207.437.2812

[ladd@uninets.net](mailto:ladd@uninets.net)

Rob Layko

360.901.8792

Phil Parent

775.220-8844

Tim Nelick

[Tnelick@fastmail.net](mailto:Tnelick@fastmail.net)

(832) 771-2048

Wesley Whittier

[wesleywhittier@hotmail.com](mailto:wesleywhittier@hotmail.com)

(808) 369-4304

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Kesler Woodward [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:23 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony Urging Support for the Alaska State Council on the Arts

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to continue the State of Alaska's modest annual support of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. As the clear and impassioned lead editorial in the March 23, 2019 *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* stated so clearly, State Government does have a role in helping the arts in Alaska flourish, and the return on the modest investment the State of Alaska makes in its officially designated arts agency is enormous.

As noted in the *Newsminer* editorial and elsewhere, the Alaska State Council on the Arts has been a shining example of how a lean state agency can use even very modest state funding to not only qualify for federal matching dollars, but secure several times that amount in support from private foundations. Less than a quarter of ASCA's budget comes from the State of Alaska, and each year ASCA has increased the ratio of private dollars to state support in order to leverage the State's investment. But in order to continue to provide the services that the Alaska Legislature has established as ASCA's role, triggering the minimum match that allows ASCA to receive not just full, but *any* funding from the National Endowment for the Arts is essential. Funding by the State of Alaska in that matching amount is required by federal statute, before the National Endowment for the Arts can release its funding. Without that match, the federal funding slated for Alaska will simply be distributed among the other 49 states in the nation.

The loss of that federal funding, however, would be only the start. The modest State of Alaska funding which makes ASCA viable is just as essential to continued funding from ASCA's many partners—among them the Rasmuson Foundation, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, Cook Inlet Region Incorporated, and the Atwood Foundation. Without that minimal state funding, there will simply be no statewide Arts-in-Education program in Alaska, no Silver Hand program, no Alaska Contemporary Art Bank, and no Alaska State Council on the Arts to serve as the catalyst and linchpin for one of our state's most thriving economic sectors. In Alaska the arts, museums, and creative industries provide 11,853 jobs—more than forestry, agriculture, education, or utilities. Those jobs provide over \$890 million in compensation annually to Alaska families, and the continued work of the Alaska State Council on the Arts is key to maintaining that economy.

As the editorial board of the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* stated so clearly less than a month ago, State of Alaska support for the Alaska State Council on the Arts should continue because the arts are an essential part of life, and State Government does have a role in supporting artists and the arts. Please continue to provide the extremely modest, but stable funding that has made that possible for generations.

Thank you,

Kesler Woodward  
Vice-Chairman, Alaska State Council on the Arts  
Vice-President, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Nancy DeCherney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:04 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 20

Thank you Senators, for your hard work for our State.

Priorities from the Juneau Arts Council perspective:

- Arts - note that the small amount that our organization receives from the the Alaska State Council on the Arts budget (\$14,000) translates to significant support from many outside sources - our budget is close to \$1 M this year of a combination of grants, earned revenue, donations. The work we do in Juneau and the region provides work, programs for children, and keeps our state vibrant and attractive.
- Education - To keep families and our children in the state, we need a solid education system. The Council participates in supporting educations from pre-K to graduate level because we see how extremely important educational opportunities are in keeping our state competitive in the world market.
- Ferry System - It's a life line for this region. Incomprehensible how that is not understood. Keep the ferries running. Improve the existing services in fact.
- Health and well-being of our citizens.
- Communications infrastructure, including public radio, internet.

Thank you.

Nancy DeCherney  
Juneau Arts & Humanities Council  
350 Whittier St. Suite 101  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-ARTS (2787)  
(907) 586-2148 (fax)  
[www.jahc.org](http://www.jahc.org)

*The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council cultivates vibrant arts and cultural opportunities and is a leader in building a strong, prosperous community where creativity and innovation thrive.*

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Pat Race [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 20

To the members of Senate Finance,

I serve as a volunteer Trustee for the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). I hope you will agree with me that our organization deserves continued funding and will help to see us through this budgeting process.

ASCA is a key part of Alaska's arts ecosystem and is an important to the funding of individual artists and arts organizations all over the state. The money we receive is multiplied with federal dollars and foundation funds and then goes even further by providing a basis for local arts organizations to bring in additional revenue through ticket sales and other grants.

I was just at Perseverance Theatre last week and it's easy to see the impact an organization like that has on the micro-economy of Douglas. Small businesses are all buoyed by the vibrant arts community as people grab dinner out or go for a drink after the show. From the carpenters and electricians who work on the sets to the local thrift stores that make a buck off a costume shopper, each state dollar you provide just snowballs through the private economy growing as it goes.

And that's nothing next to the priceless cultural impact the arts have on our people. It gets dark and cold her. People need activities and self expression to get them through, to combat trauma, to be human.

Two of the programs ASCA boasts about are Silver Hand and Creative Forces. The Silver Hand program helps to authenticate Alaska Native artwork and ensure members of that unique and vibrant cultural economy aren't getting undercut by fraudulent sellers. Creative Forces provides clinical arts for trauma-exposed active duty service members.

At ASCA, we have a stable and hard working staff. Our board is dedicated and we're moving in a good direction and being responsive and responsible in light of our state's fiscal situation.

If you'd like me to come bend your ear about our work, I'd be happy to schedule a short visit.

Please vote to maintain funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts. It's a relatively small amount of money with a meaningful impact on every region of the state.

All my best,  
Pat Race