

Dear Finance Committee:

My name is Nathan Ord. I am a WWAMI medical student graduating in 2020 and I am writing to ask you to lend your voice, energy, and vote to supporting WWAMI.

You will receive a pile of letters asking for your support of WWAMI, so I will try to avoid covering the same ground and instead, tell you my story.

I grew up between Juneau and a remote cabin near Swanson Harbor at the Southernmost tip of the Chilkat peninsula. While my father was crabbing during the summer, my mother, sisters and I lived at the cabin and headed to town in the winter. And when I could lift crab pots, I joined my father – earning much of my way through college on the back deck of his boat, the Williwaw.

I graduated from Juneau Douglas High School and Whitman College. Since then, I've coached soccer with the Thunder Mountain High School, skiing with the Juneau Ski Club, and Cross Country with the Lynn Canal Cross Country Camp. I've crabbed and caught halibut. I've worked as a medical assistant with Valley Medical Care and the Juneau Pain Clinic. I've worked as a research technician with the NOAA Ted Stevens Lab. I've worked as a laborer with Ed Vantor Construction. And I started a business with friends making maps using a home-built CNC router.

Now, I'm in medical school, pursuing a profession that combines what I love: science and helping others. WWAMI has allowed me to pursue these passions in Alaska. Currently, I'm finishing a six-month rotation at Valley Medical Care. The opportunity to stay in Juneau for part of my education has let me learn from longtime mentors while also coaching skiing and working on research to support and improve Juneau's Housing First Project – a program that provides housing to our most vulnerable residents while reducing overall public expenditures. Without WWAMI, I would still be working my butt off, but I would be working somewhere else.

Without WWAMI, I would be twice as deep in debt. Without WWAMI I would not be exploring medicine in Alaska and our unique opportunities. Without WWAMI, I would be learning to live somewhere else. Without WWAMI, I would be much less likely to come home to the city and state where I grew up.

Thank you for your time.

Nathan Ord

**Alexander von Hafften, M.D.**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99523-0069**

**March 11, 2019**

**Dear Senator von Imhof,**

**I am writing to express my concern about the proposed elimination of funding for Alaska WWAMI. Governor Dunleavy's proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget eliminates Alaska WWAMI. I respectfully request that you support funding Alaska WWAMI and, if necessary, override a veto by the Governor.**

**Alaska WWAMI and Alaska WWAMI's partner, the University of Washington School of Medicine, have added more physicians to Alaska's physician workforce than any other medical school.**

- 214 of Alaska's practicing physicians are WWAMI graduates.**
- 61% of WWAMI medical students have returned to work as physicians in Alaska.**
- Alaska WWAMI has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest student-return-rate in the country.**
- Alaska's per-capita-investment in Alaska WWAMI is less than 1/4<sup>th</sup> the investment by states with independent medical schools and similar populations (i.e. North Dakota and South Dakota).**

**I am a product of Alaska WWAMI efforts to meet Alaska's physician workforce shortage. I first came to Alaska in 1990 from the University of Washington School of Medicine. Since 1993, I have provided clinical care and consultation, education and training, and workforce development for the SOA (DHSS, DOC, Court System, UAA, Alaska WWAMI, and AMHTA), Alaska Native health organizations, Providence Health System Alaska, Southcentral Counseling Center/Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Anchorage Police Department, Alaska VA Health Care System, and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.**

**During the 2000s, Alaska DHSS completed two studies of health care provider recruitment. SORRAS I (2004) found that rural health organizations spent a total of \$2.35 million recruiting physicians in 2003 alone (not including psychiatrists). SORRAS II (2005-2006) found that facilities spent a total of \$6.97 million recruiting physicians in 2005-2006 alone (not including psychiatrists).**

**Eliminating Alaska WWAMI is the wrong policy direction for Alaska. How would eliminating Alaska WWAMI not increase physician recruitment costs, not increase physician vacancy durations, not increase physician turnover, not reduce access to care, and not increase cost of care?**

**Please consider asking advocates of terminating Alaska WWAMI the following questions:**

- What are possible unintended consequences of terminating Alaska WWAMI?**
- What alternative strategies would Alaska deploy to meet Alaska's physician workforce shortage?**

**Please vote for full funding of Alaska WWAMI and vote to override a Governor's veto if necessary.**

**Respectfully,**

  
**Alexander von Hafften, M.D.**

**Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Co-Chair**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Alaska State Senate**

**Alaska State Capitol, Room 516**

**Juneau, AK 99801**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Dear Senator Natasha von Imhof,**

I am a Family Medicine physician practicing primary care in Eagle River, the town where I live, where my children go to school, where my family members and I are active community members. I am also a former WWAMI student, and the primary reason I am practicing in this state is secondary to the WWAMI program. I am passionate about Family Medicine in Alaska as well as the WWAMI program, and for a number of years have been a community preceptor for first-year medical students in the WWAMI program. In this way, I am helping train and educate the next generation of providers, introducing them to the joys and realities of practicing primary care in Alaska. Every day that these students work alongside me in my clinic, I hear overwhelming support from patients for the journey on which they are embarking, and appreciation that this program exists. It is an investment in our future doctors, an investment in primary care, and an investment in our community's health.

The amount of debt after medical school is ever-growing and overwhelming for many students, and many choose to pursue better paying medical subspecialties in order to pay off these debts, pursuing residencies and careers outside of Alaska in order to do so. We lose these medical students to primary care and to Alaska itself without your help. By reducing the burden of medical school debt, the WWAMI program allows Alaskan students to consider primary care as a financially viable career. Although we have shortages in many types of physicians in Alaska, primary care providers in particular are sorely needed. It is in Alaska's best interest to keep and create more primary care providers, both to improve our community's health, as well as to provide less expensive care overall for the healthcare system.

I am a Family Medicine physician and an active member of the Eagle River community directly because of the WWAMI program, and I strongly encourage the continued funding and support of this program. We have a responsibility to our Alaskan patients to invest in their medical future. I ask that you please support reinstating the full funding of the WWAMI program in the FY2020 operating budget.

With sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Pressman-Schneider', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Nicole Pressman-Schneider, MD**

**Family Medicine Physician**

**Eagle River, Alaska**

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Luann McVey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Budget Concerns

**Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature, as you consider the Governor's Current budget plan, please strive to:**

**INCREASE REVENUE:** Please 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.

**PRESERVE 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.

**PRESERVE HEALTH CARE,** including Medicaid and Planned Parenthood, whose services keep thousands of Alaskans' healthy

**PRESERVE 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 longer live in their own homes. Keep the Pioneer Home rates affordable to ALL, not just the wealthy.

**PRESERVE 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.

**PRESERVE OUR FERRIES:** Like actual roads, they connect coastal communities with the mainland & support our economy & culture. They are considered a federal highway; what are the consequences of closing down a federal highway?

**Austerity is not the path to a prosperous future.** Kansas and other states, whose budgets were authored by Ms Arduin, Governor Dunleavy's OMB head, have experienced disastrous results. Look to them for what NOT to do and CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STREAMS, as oil revenues decline.

Thank you for your hard work considering alternative revenue streams, to protect Alaskans from the sharp and reckless knife of Governor Dunleavy's administration.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey

To Senate Finance Committee Re 2019 – 2020 budget.

Roman J Motyka

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear committee members:

First, I wish to thank you for your hard work on addressing this deeply critical issue. I entreat you to be kind and compassionate toward your constituents and fellow citizens during your budget deliberations. The budget as proposed by the Governor would devastate so many of our friends and neighbors across the state. We desperately need to rethink our priorities. I have been a resident of Alaska since August 1973 (pre-pipeline) and here are some of my suggestions for rendering an equitable budget for all Alaskans that does not eviscerate education, health services, public safety, the ferry system, our Pioneer Homes, and many other government services.

1<sup>st</sup>, It is time to either cap or better yet, abolish the Permanent Fund dividend. When our Permanent Fund was first established, it was envisioned as a nest egg for future generations, from which revenues would help fund government into the foreseeable future. Think of how much larger it would be had the state not distributed dividends all these years (Norway is a great example). Please reject “super-sized” PFDs and cap this year’s and future PFD amounts.

2<sup>nd</sup>, Stop subsidizing the oil industry by nearly one billion dollars per year! This giveaway (aka, corporate welfare) in times of governmental financial distress is outrageous.

3<sup>rd</sup>, Raise our Alaska royalty and production taxes on oil from 12.5 percent back to 30 percent as Gov. Hammond recommended. Make our oil taxes competitive with rates in other states and foreign countries.

4<sup>th</sup>, It is time citizens once again help pay for government services. Reinstate our state income tax, at 10 percent of the federal tax liability. The tax would also generate revenue from the out-of-state labor force working for the oil, mining, and fishing industries that utilize our infrastructure.

5<sup>th</sup>, Increase our motor vehicle fuel tax. Our motor vehicle fuel tax has not been adjusted for over half a century despite inflation; at 8 cents per gallon, it is by far the lowest in the nation. If it were doubled it would still be a dime less than the national average! (See op-ed by Carl Benson in ADN).

6<sup>th</sup>, Examine both royalties and taxes on mining; they are low, and foreign businesses and countries dominate the industry in Alaska, taking the profits away from Alaska.

7<sup>th</sup>, Charge tolls on Mat-Su and interior roads to help pay for road construction and state maintenance. These revenues will alert users just how much government subsidizes roads in Alaska.

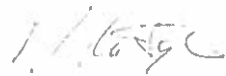
8<sup>th</sup>, Invest in the state ferry system; it is the economic lifeblood of coastal communities (see op-ed, Alan Gross, JE, 3/20/19).

9<sup>th</sup>, Stop government subsidies to all mega-projects, e.g., Juneau Road Access, Ambler Road, Point McKenzie etc. During these times of extreme financial difficulty, how can our state government plausibly defend funding such projects whose economic return is dubious at best.

As a final note, I am a retired UAF and UAS university professor of geology and geophysics. During my tenure, my colleagues and I brought millions of dollars of federal research funding from NSF, NASA, NOAA, and other agencies to Alaska. Other university professors and researchers have done the same. These grants funded fundamental and applied research in a variety of fields that helped us better understand Alaska's geology, earthquake hazards, volcano hazards, climate change, fisheries, ocean changes, and many other disciplines. These grants help fuel the state's economy by funding research positions and by utilizing local logistics and resources for field work. These research efforts also helped train a number of students who now hold positions at various state and federal agencies, in the oil and mining industry, at high schools and elementary schools, as well as in advanced education. With the proposed decimation of the university's budget, these important studies plus the economic spark they bring to Alaska could very well disappear.

Please work hard to establish an equitable budget that does not sacrifice funding for our schools, health services, and elders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roman J Motyka", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roman J Motyka

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** David Pearson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Governor Dunleavys proposed budget

What role our government plays in our life is at the core of the hard choices that must be made to balance our budget. I want a state government that is committed to education, infrastructure, and increased investment in diversifying the engines that power our economy.

I have a child and strongly support education and recognize it is one of the best returns on investment our dollars can be spent on. I do not currently utilize the Ferry but I recognize its importance to the success of the state and its citizens. The same is true for countless services I may never take advantage of directly but I am not in favor of their elimination just because I don't use them myself.

Hard choices and compromises must be made to responsibly balance the budget while preserving the services we depend on.

More spending alone does not equal better outcomes. Most can agree on that but more cutting does not equal better outcomes either and it is time more of us recognize this. Focused and justified cuts are a necessary component.

Cuts to oil production tax credits are a far better place to start than education. Cuts of any kind are not intellectually honest though, when they simply shift the burden to other places like the borough. We cannot find our way out of our budget crisis by cutting alone. Promises that we can do so are as bankrupt as the results they will generate.

A responsible budget must include mechanisms for generating revenue that provide long term stability and offset the drastic swings in revenue caused by volatile oil prices.

A progressive state income tax is a reasonable mechanism that captures revenue from those that benefit from the services whether they live in the state or not.

I support using a percentage of the permanent fund dividend to pay for government expenses as a part of the solution to government. Some say that using the pfd will hurt the elderly and poor as they utilize this money as income. The same group of people also often utilize other government services that are not replaceable by the private sector and will not be able to be made up for by an extra grand or two0. Ending these programs it is likely more disruptive than reducing some portion of the PFD. It is unlikely that we will have the ability to rely on income from the energy sector any longer so using the dividend and taxes need to be on the table.

It is unreasonable to expect that we should not have to pay into a system that provides us services or that we should slash those services wholesale before we even consider discussing paying into that system.

I do not support Governor Dunleavys proposed budget and neither should you. Thank you

--  
David E. Pearson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Moose Pass, AK 99631



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Claire Shipton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 4:37 PM  
**Subject:** Governor Dunleavy's Proposed Budget

Hello,

What role our government plays in our life is at the core of the hard choices that must be made to balance our budget. I want a state government that is committed to education, infrastructure, and increased investment in diversifying the engines that power our economy.

I have a young child and strongly support education and recognize it is one of the best returns on investment our dollars can be spent on. I felt this same way before I had a child. I do not currently utilize the Ferry but I recognize its importance to the success of the state and its citizens. The same is true for countless services I may never take advantage of directly but I am not in favor of their elimination just because I don't use them myself.

Hard choices and compromises must be made to responsibly balance the budget while preserving the services we depend on.

More spending alone does not equal better outcomes. Most can agree on that but more cutting does not equal better outcomes either and it is time more of us recognize this. Focused and justified cuts are a necessary component.

Cuts to oil production tax credits are a far better place to start than education. Cuts of any kind are not intellectually honest though, when they simply shift the burden to other places like the borough. We cannot find our way out of our budget crisis by cutting alone. Promises that we can do so are as bankrupt as the results they will generate.

A responsible budget must include mechanisms for generating revenue that provide long term stability and offset the drastic swings in revenue caused by volatile oil prices.

A progressive state income tax is a reasonable mechanism that captures revenue from those that benefit from the services whether they live in the state or not.

I support using a percentage of the permanent fund dividend to pay for government expenses as a part of the solution to government. Some say that using the PFD will hurt the elderly and poor as they utilize this money as income, however this same group of people also often utilize other government services that are not replaceable by the private sector and will not be able to be made up for by an extra grand or two. Ending these programs is likely more disruptive than reducing some portion of the PFD. It is unlikely that we will have the ability to rely on income from the energy sector any longer so using the dividend and taxes need to be on the table.

It is unreasonable to expect that we should not have to pay into a system that provides us services or that we should slash those services wholesale before we even consider discussing paying into that system.

I do not support Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget and neither should you.

Thank you.  
Claire Shipton

[REDACTED]  
Moose Pass, AK 99631

3/24/19

Dear Alaskan Representatives of the Senate Finance Committee:

One of the reasons Alaska has meant so much to me these 26 years has been the fact that our elected officials live among us. You are in touch with your neighbors, families, and friends and we share a history together. The relationship of the government to the people of Alaska is now threatened by outside monied interests.

The \$3000 PFD promise made during the election was a bribe to citizens and will soon become a consolation prize if Governor Dunleavy has his way, as the state as we have known it will be eradicated. The proposed budget has triggered a fight for the very soul of Alaska. Do we honor the native peoples, sourdoughs, infirm, homeless and/or addicted, and our children, or do we assume the template of life in Michigan, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Kansas, Montana and other states where the Koch Brothers and other corporate cronies have bought their way to robbing those citizens of a quality life and the respect they deserve?

Do we employ a foreign budget developed by an outsider devoid of the understanding of our collective history? It is interesting that importing values from Outside is acceptable for the Governor as evidenced by the budget, yet he cannot recognize that the PFD, by the virtue of its existence, makes us different and contradicts this importation? That income tax is not an untouchable if he pushes his lower 48 specialized financiers' version of life here? We are only one of a handful of states without an income tax, right? The State of Alaska has always been different and unique.

The Alaskan people are more than data! The UAA ISER report determined that 13000 jobs would be lost if this budget passes. I have seen a figure of 17,000. What a catastrophic disruption to the lives and livelihoods of so many! How many fractured relationships will occur in a state that has been built on relationships, given our isolation from the rest of the US? It will destroy the ties that bind us.

Teachers who earn no retirement nor social security benefits have no reason to stay when we tell them their jobs will indeed be very much harder next year. Some of our best and brightest have left over the past four years due to flat funding and demoralization, and there is a potential mass migration of the best and brightest on the horizon, not just from our school districts and UAA, but in many fields.

Yes, I agree that some areas of the budget can be tweaked. I also support an income tax and a lowered PFD payout. Whoever heard of services without payment? But, I wonder how lower income families will be impacted if they must pay income tax on the PFDs. Can you define this for us? I believe many people, particularly in the Valley, are tired of feeling like they are being ripped off by large families who tap large numbers of PFDs and live off the rest of us through government assistance. Can that be defined, or is that a myth? What happens to rural communities, native communities, when they are taxed for their dividends and PFDs? Can this be defined?

I have an outrageous proposal. Let's cede from the US, rewrite our constitution, and redefine life for ourselves because this budget is attempting a coup by proxy. It is an effort to recreate a state without the history, cultures, values and legacy we share while turning over 1/3 of the US (AK) to the profiteers- corporate America. The 1% must be chomping on the bit as they await the passage of this budget. We have a chance to ensure that they don't plunder and pillage one of the last pristine environments on earth without regard for the needs of our peoples. Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden look like Alaska yet they take care of their citizens and retain the things that have made them who they are. The people are valued through education, healthcare, social services, environmental stewardship. They have a high standard of living and people have high quality lives. What if we became more like them instead of casting aside the young, the weak, and the infirm among us- instead of embracing disembodied corporate entities that have no allegiance here? The above-mentioned countries preserved their integrity while accessing resources to build their economies. At the very least, take away the oil and gas tax credits!

If so many jobs will be created by the private sector, let's let them come now and negotiate. Let them contractually agree to employ only Alaskans and donate a portion of their profits to our state government to pay for the infrastructure and services they will use. Let's contractually bind them to number of jobs created, and specific corporate citizenship/stewardship of our lands and its peoples. In the meantime, let's honor the elderly, the sick, the impoverished, the addicted, the mentally ill, and our children with good health care, education and social services.

Our state has the highest rate of alcoholism in the country. We also have the highest rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Nationally, 1 in 20 students has an FASD. This means the incidence of Down Syndrome, Autism, Spina Bifida and other disabilities pales in comparison to the number of children experiencing this spectrum of disabilities in our systems- especially our public-school systems. We know the rates are exorbitantly high here. These children become homeless adults, unemployed adults, mentally ill adults, suicidal adults without supports such as those available through Medicaid. The highest increase in drinking is among white, educated, middle aged employed women of child bearing age ([www.cdc.com](http://www.cdc.com)). I hope this dispels one myth about who gets FASDs. The reading and math scores of our students *do not begin to tell the tale* of what educators face and the services we provide to the human beings in front of us each day, all day. Testing measures mere drops in the ocean of humanity, of one student's status at one moment in time without any incentive, in most cases to perform in that moment. Public schools, health care, social services are essential government services. Individuals with disabilities and *hidden* disabilities like FASDs will be negatively impacted, as well as their families, by cuts in services that will *affect all of us*. I heard someone say that the state should not be the "parent". If we cut these essential services to those in need, you can be sure we will need to act in other ways to address ("parent") the individuals who experience the societal ills that will multiply exponentially in the wake of withdrawal of services.

Please do not forget the community of people you come from. Help us retain a state that we can continue to know/recognize, love, and be proud of.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mannix

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Anna Prussian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget cuts

Hi, my name is Anna Prussian and I live in Sitka Alaska. I am in 8th grade at Blatchley Middle School. I am concerned about the budget cuts for many reasons, one of which is mine (and others) education. We have recently lost my librarian, and they have talked about cutting many more teachers. The librarian was very important, she ordered books, did Battle of the Books, and was very involved in lots of activities. I do not want to lose more teachers because then we will most likely lose our electives, and everyone loves having electives. Also, without as many teachers, the classes would be bigger and students wouldn't get the help they need. I am also concerned about how the governor wants to cut ferries. Ferries are a big part of living on an island, we use them for sports, moving, and transportation in general. People living in inland Alaska are not affected, but it will affect everyone on the coast. I was recently in Juneau and went to a ferry rally on the steps of the capitol building. there were stickers, posters, and lots of people were voicing their concerns. Thank you for considering and reading this.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Elinor Jane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Senator.Natasha.VonImhoff@akleg.gov; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Representative.DanielOrtiz@akleg.gov; Representative.Colleen.Leonard.Sullivan@akleg.gov; Rep. Tammie Wilson  
**Subject:** Governor's proposed budget

Hello. I was unable to participate during the teleconference hearings regarding the governor's proposed budget, so I write you now.

My husband, Jeffrey Robinson, and I are commercial fishers, homeowners in Petersburg, (where we raised our two children, and continue to live) and committed residents of our community and our state. We do not know one person in favor of the governor's budget proposal.

On Talk of Alaska, aired on public radio Tuesday, March 26th, I listened to Governor Dunleavy say he is not considering any new state revenue proposals, until he gets the state budget balanced and government spending "under control". This makes no sense to me. Sounds like tearing down the house because you cannot afford your bills. How do you get back on your feet again once you are homeless? We need to think of the Common Good, and how to fund programs, services, and agencies that work to this end. I do not support the governor's proposed budget and his cuts to education, the ferry system, public broadcasting, and healthcare.

I do support using a portion of the Permanent Fund to meet budget shortfalls this year. Though individual PFD payouts help with an infusion of cash, receiving this individual payout cannot possibly replace the economic activity resulting from ongoing programs that employ so many and also benefit so many. Perhaps a needs-based dividend could be considered.

I also support a statewide progressive income tax, so all who work in the state can help fund the state. And most importantly, I hope the legislature will work together to roll back subsidies to Big Oil in the form of tax credits. We should not be subsidizing wealthy corporations at the expense of education, health care, ferries, and our people.

I feel deeply concerned about the future of our fisheries, rural communities, and environment, the sharing of information throughout the state via public broadcasting, and the Governor's priority of a balanced budget before the wellbeing of our citizens and our state.

We are all counting on you.  
Thank you for all your work!

Suzanne Fuqua  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Jacqueline Foss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on State budget and PFD 3/26/2019

Hello. I spoke the evening of 3/26/19. Here is a written version of my testimony.

My name is Jacqueline Foss. I have lived in Alaska for 16 years. I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am a fisherman and a parent of 2 kids ages 6 and 4. I support the current system where much of the aw fish tax I pay returns to the community it was landed. Sitka reinvests this money back into harbors—directly supporting the fisherman who make our rural communities vibrant. I do not support funneling all fish tax to the AK state government. I would also support using fish tax to fully fund ADF&G for the purpose of sound fisheries management. Alaska's conservation-oriented management has made it possible for my family to make a living in commercial fishing. Every effort needs to be made to properly manage this abundant, natural resource.

As a parent, I support adequate funding of our schools and not the Governor's proposed budget. I have watched my son bloom in his small class with a veteran teacher. Please prioritize education and the future of Alaska.

I support a modest, graduated income tax and a modest PFD to support critical functions of government.

Thank you for your time listening to all of this testimony. I really appreciate your service to the state of Alaska.

I am available to answer any questions.

Best,

Jacquie

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** john sonin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:18 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** S.O.S. more clear I was rushed

Dear House & Senate Finance,

If a pebble splashing on a Carolina beach can undulate the ebb that a shear of wind moistens into the jet stream that inverts the air-pressure for London fog, or rain in Spain, dehumidifying air for a Istanbul mirage before the convectional eddy typhoons Malaysia and drowns the Philippines weighing crustal plates to molten Mona Loa and then tsunami San Diego, what will pressurized liquid shattering the shale bedrock, or gazillions of plastic microbeads tilled through Earth's crust, do, to inflame of OUR verduous Blue Planet Earth? We're sure to find-out when the visceral fear instilled by our Execut(-ive)\(-or)'s budget plan, petrifies!

The economic insanity, mindlessly proposed by the elementary mindset squatting in our Governor's Mansion, is nowhere made more explicit than in the kabuki budget proposals being spewed from his, or maybe his silent-master's (Pete Kelly?), self-serving and derisive use of OUR - Alaska's - state treasury,

To begin, he wants all distributions from that social symbol and qualifier of human progress, this public treasury, to tyrannically, despotically, funnel through his Office of Management and Budget. This way, he's likely more able to 'skim' his own gains, then, he acts as though the "added value" of people - OUR democracy - working TOGETHER, is somehow created without this "synergy," which is the economic growth that he and his fellow "investor class" are able to "earn" (if simply juggling numeric symbols is "earning"?) those capital gains!

We MUST NOT allow the abrogation of OUR State Constitution by this despotic democratic derision – misplaced and found 'squatting' OUR Governor's Mansion! Attempting to testify to this matter in Public Testimony last night, I, being on the phone, may not have been as "cogently" clear in my testimony; especially with and my emotional verve and passion for Alaska's well-being which seemed to have 'boiled' as I was trying to explicate my dismay! Lacking of the time at this moment, my argument to deter exactly what our Governor is trying to do has yet to become evident. As I've been scrutinizing his department spokespeople hem, haw and deflect on Gavel to Gavel, it's clear that instead of have each department of Alaska's government allocated their funds by the Legislature, he is playing 'kabuki' economics, or maybe still living Reagan's misguided "voodoo economics" (Reaganomics) and trying to have his (mis-)placed department-heads coerce laws that give the funding discretion to his, Dunleavy's, Office Of Management & Budget. By doing so, he has sole discretion of their disbursement. Trump is trying to do the same thing!

The 'fear for our future' Dunleavy is instilling amongst Alaskan's, without regard for the consequences to our State, its perspective on the future (attitude for and about tomorrow accounts for ALL growth), and its contemporary 'peace of mind' is a Homeland Security issue and certainly unpatriotic!

John S. Soniin  
[REDACTED]

Douglas, AK 99824  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** terry schwarz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; House Finance  
**Subject:** Comments on proposed Budget (HB39)

Hello,

I would like to provide testimony on the proposed budget, as I did not get to testify in person.

The budget as proposed by Gov. Dunleavy is short sided and economically unsound. I base this opinion on my own experiences as a resident of Alaska. I am a graduate of the Anchorage School District and the UA system. I have taken advantage of the fine public education I received here to go on to graduate school out of state but returned to become a long term and successful state employee. Now I have two young children that I want to have the similar educational opportunities afforded me. Under this budget that will not be possible. I am firm believer that a strong educational system is always a good investment.

I would also like to comment on the proposed cuts to the ferry system. I am a 20 year resident of Southeast Alaska. The Ferry System is this regions Parks and Glen highways, our connection to rest of the country. Without a subsidized ferry system Southeast Alaska would be economically crippled just as Anchorage and the Mat-Su would be crippled if the Parks and Glen Highways were closed.

Education and the Ferries are two items out of the many cuts that I personally oppose. There are other items that are being cut that I do not support, Medicaid, HSS, and API to name a few. I realize that it takes money to fund a budget and I support a balanced budget. Personally I do not need a "full" PFD and would be OK if I received a smaller or no PFD. I believe that cutting the state budget to provide a "full" PFD is just introducing more middle men into the funding of services in the state, which is inherently inefficient. For example if I want to take the now Private Ferry System I will undoubtedly have to pay more for my travels and that money will come out my newly received "full" PFD. I am also willing to pay a reasonable income or sales tax to fully fund state government and services if necessary. I am fortunate to be able to have a good job to be able to say those statements and I have good job because I had a good education. My good education was supported by well funded UA and K-12 education budget. See how that works....

Respectfully

Terry Schwarz  
Juneau Resident



## DON'T ALLOW THE RHETORIC FOOL YOU

Words can be so misleading. Budgets tell the real story and point to the motive. Governor Dunleavy campaigned as an educator with understanding for our educational needs coupled with compassion for the elderly. But was that what elected him or was it the promise of recouping the past 3 years in a super-sized PFD and fully restoring them?

The Governor's budget clearly points to the real values: eliminate early childhood education; cut K-12 funding; cut 41% of our University budget. Does this sound like an educator? His budget would virtually eliminate the Alaska Marine Highway system. How would Hoonah, Wrangell or Angoon even survive? How would Juneauites get on the road system for a vacation? The radically increased cost of our Pioneer Homes for seniors would barr the door to most! Our Housing First and Glory Hall would close or be so impaired that many of our most needful citizens would again sleep under bridges. Cutting funding to municipalities would send property taxes sky high. Does this sound like compassion and progress? Alaskans have worked diligently over 50 years to develop a balanced budget with a safety net to help the most vulnerable. The Governor's budget strips them away.

To build a fine house requires good material, skilled craftsmen, and considerable time. But one careless match can quickly destroy it. For over half a century skilled legislators with competent governors have crafted a state of which we can be proud. Don't let Governor Dunleavy destroy that which has taken generations to build.

Why such a Draconian style budget? The administration quickly answers, "we are ideology driven". Look beyond the rhetoric. The list of budget cuts is almost as long as the budget itself- except one major area- BIG OIL. Ponder-the largest single contributor to Governor Dunleavy's election campaign- his brother- a Texas oil executive.

Governor Jay Hammond stated that the resources of the state belong to the people and Alaska. He stated that we must get at least 30% of the oil revenues. What are we getting now? A mere pittance. The state even pays the oil companies something like \$900 million. Has the governor's budget cut this?

The enticement of super PFD's, coupled with such a budget is an utter travesty and heartless to the needs of our most vulnerable. Today demands more, not less, education. Do we really want a steady stream of families leaving the state they love, because their job is no more and education sub-par? Economists tell us we are gradually emerging from recession. Do we want to now spiral into a deeper recession or even a depression?

However, there is hope. Our constitution does not allow a governor to be an autocrat. Our House and Senate can say "no" to the Governor's budget and submit a responsible one. They

can reject super-size PFDs and limit the size of this years-for the good of the WHOLE state. They can say the time is NOW for the benefit of our very young, our very old, and everyone in between, that we need the additional revenue of a graduated income tax. Then the 22% of our out of state labor force with high paying oil, mining, and fishing jobs and who utilize our infrastructure, can with us help pay for the needs of our state. Don't allow the rhetoric fool you.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sylvia Kidd <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 4:51 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: SoA budget

Subject: SoA budget

To: <[house.finance@akleg.gov](mailto:house.finance@akleg.gov)>, <[finance.committee@akleg.gov](mailto:finance.committee@akleg.gov)>

Cc: <[rep.andi.story@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.andi.story@akleg.gov)>, <[senator.jesse.kiehl@akleg.gov](mailto:senator.jesse.kiehl@akleg.gov)>

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am deeply concerned about the effect your proposed budget will have on the economic and social well-being of our state, making Alaska a much meaner place to live. Your proposed cuts include many false economies:

Education improves not only one's own life but the life of the community. For people in poverty it's a leg up. Don't leave our children even less prepared for adulthood than they already are. My own career and contribution to the community were the result of a University of Alaska degree. If our university system cannot meet the needs of our students, those who can will go outside to college where they will accrue much higher student loan debt (and may not return to live here).

Cutting Medicaid will mean that chronic conditions will worsen and many, especially the poor, will go to ERs for medical care, the most expensive option.

I lived in the bush for many years. I know how important NPR is for keeping our rural residents in touch and informed. And as a daughter of Southeast I know how vital the ferry is--the ships are our wheels and the docks are our airports. The commerce of Southeast floats on those keels.

By the way, state ownership of natural resources is, by definition, socialism. So is the program where the state shares the profits with citizens--it's known as a 'guaranteed basic income' or, in Alaska, the PFD. I find it ironic that your conservative peers are currently pounding the liberals who espouse these same ideas as un-American. I'm okay with a socialist Alaska but could do without a raise right now. It simply isn't sustainable to have very low or no taxes and give away the profits, through industry tax credits and super-sized PFDs. "You get a car and you get a car and you get a car" is not an economic plan. Hoping a larger PFD will stimulate the economy enough to matter is a crap shoot. You can't control how much spending will even remain in the state rather than go to Alaska Airlines, online retailers, Hawaii, outside universities.

Instead of large PFDs, I encourage you to institute a progressive income tax, a progressive payroll tax (to capture out-of-state high income workers) and a modest PFD, all of which could be adjusted as needed so that neither taxes nor PFDs would be static but would expand or contract with the economy, which is what families do.

Respectfully, Sylvia Kidd

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 1:29 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** The Budget

Hello,

I am a 51 year resident of Alaska. I love this state. I want it to succeed and I want the government of Alaska to provide the necessary services to the citizens of Alaska. Those services included education, police & fire protection, judicial courts, and access to affordable health care. The governor's proposed budget would gut many of the items I just listed.

If we need to balance the budget, so be it with an income tax. A progressive income tax would capture the wages of out of state workers as well as those of us who can afford to pay. The time is NOW. Do IT!

Sheri Williams  
Juneau, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** George Reifenstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 23, 2019 7:07 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budgeting Realities and Responsibilities

Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

I am a 50 year Alaska resident, earned my B.A. at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and have worked in both Alaska's public and private sectors. I am saddened to see the Administration's budget showing a disregard for basic services and a failure to prioritize people over dogma. I am encouraged to see Legislators reaching across the aisles to come up with workable solutions.

When I was 19 years old and started working a summer position on the AMHS among the first documents I filled out was authorization for the first \$20 of my pay to go to "school tax". Although the amount went up slightly, this was a tax that every working Alaskan and all seasonal workers paid out of their first paycheck. I believe that along with instituting a state income tax, dropping the oil exploration credit scam and capping the Permanent Fund at \$1000 (or less) we need to go back to a school tax. I would gladly forgo a Permanent Fund payment if it meant continuing the services that bring our state together while promoting commerce, culture and education. Public safety, the court system, transportation, education and social services are some of the prime reasons people choose to relocate; when these are good there's an influx and when they are lacking there's an exodus.

Thank you for considering these comments and be steadfast in showing the courage, emotional integrity and compassion that is so obviously lacking in Governor Dunleavy's Administration.

Respectfully,

George Reifenstein  
[REDACTED]  
[Juneau, Alaska 99801](#)

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bill Tremblay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Subject:** Gov. Dunleavy's Budget costs too much

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members;

It's time for the Senate Finance Committee to work with the House Finance committee to provide a realistic budget for our State. Gov. Dunleavy's budget costs too much to our communities in eliminating essential services vital for a quality of life worth living in Alaska.

Last week, Public Radio allowed Senate President (Sen. Giessel) to address the State with House Representatives to address the current budget issues. Frankly, she embarrassed herself (and Senate Republicans) early in the program by complimenting Gov. Dunleavy for "bringing our current budget issues to our attention" and then talking about how there is "only" \$2 Billion in the Congressional Budget Reserve that must remain to address State emergencies.

First, was she sleeping through the Walker Administration? He raised the issues about the budget shortfalls to the attention of everyone early in his administration. He offered tools for the public to try their hands to develop options to address the budget concerns. His staff went to every corner of the State to discuss the situation and to show that we couldn't cut our way out of the problem. (We could lay off EVERY State employee and still be deficit because of obligations to basic services and oil development obligations.)

Second; the Congressional Budget Reserve HAD \$11 Billion dollars MORE in it before Senate Republicans spent it down to cover annual budget shortfalls. Raising revenue was welcomed as a skunk to a 6yr old Birthday Party. While Gov. Walker proposed solutions, you all hid behind the CBR to "make the problem go away".

Before Gov. Dunleavy shared his updated budget with the Legislature, some people in the Senate were talking about following his lead because "he was elected based on giving those permanent fund dividends back to the citizens and some heads could roll if we don't follow his lead." All I can say is that if you DO follow his lead to reduce budgets for education (K-12 and University), the Alaska Marine Highway, Fish Taxes to communities, public safety in rural locations, and public broadcasting; I will GUARANTEE....MANY of you will NOT make it to your next term.

I am willing to pay an Income Tax BEFORE using my Permanent Fund Dividend to pay for State Services. The State hasn't increased the State fuel tax since the Eisenhower Administration. I do NOT support a State Sales Tax as many communities already have this in place for municipal services. I would gladly forgo my Permanent Fund dividend check to maintain public services in the State.

Bill Tremblay  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** LIO Homer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Sarah Vance; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** FW: State budget

Hello,

Please see the message below from Roger Imhoff of Homer in regards to the State 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)

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

To watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature go to [www.akl.tv](http://www.akl.tv)

**From:** roger imhoff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** LIO Homer <Lio.Homer@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** State budget

Dear Senators and Representatives

Along with most Alaskans, I am more than "concerned" about the budget issue and the extremely negligent analysis by the administration of the effects on our state economy and the welfare of our citizens. All this is supposedly to "save" the PFD check. And avoid a tax of some sort.

Personally, I support a strong education system, healthcare for all Alaskans, care for seniors, and a good, if not great, transportation system including the ferry system. Contrary to what I hear some state elected folks say...private enterprise does not always do a better, more efficient, less expensive job than our government. Another issue that deserves the circle file is the administration proposing to "take" the oil/gas taxes that goes to the municipalities. That is not a new source of revenue. By my calculations...I don't have all the numbers....it's a guesstimate....governors' proposals will cost the average household in the neighborhood of 3000\$ in increased taxes and fees. Please consider a few options: lower the PFD, set an income tax, restructure credits to oil and gas companies, increase severance taxes on resources. Thank you, Roger Imhoff, Homer, AK



# City of Pelican

BOX 737 - PELICAN, ALASKA 99832 - PHONE: 735-2202/2203 - FAX: 735-2258 - EMAIL: cityhall@pellicancity.org - WEBSITE: www.pelican.net

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## MUNICIPAL IMPACT STATEMENT, CITY OF PELICAN, ALASKA MARCH 2019

To:

Jonathan Kriess-Tomkins  
House Finance, Brodie Anderson, Barbara Barnes, and Remond Henderson  
Senate Finance, Caroline Schultz, Juli Lucky, and David Scott

The City of Pelican is responsible for municipal governance in this community of 67. We have 4 full time employees and 6 part time employees who fulfill the obligations of a local government. Our ability to do so is limited by statute, public interest and available resources. Traditionally, those resources have included State and Federal Funding, which offset the burdens that might otherwise be felt by a local tax base.

In FY17, our tax revenue was 11.15% of our total budget, and any impact from State decision-making on local economies further weakens our sustainability. This includes cuts to the University, AMHS, and Medicaid (which impacts municipally-owned hospitals).

Based on the proposed FY20 budget, we have highlighted below some of the impacts that your decisions will have on our residents:

- Our Community Assistance funding has been \$76,288.45 and is 6.41% of our budget
- Our current Local Contribution to education is \$40,775 and additionally we contribute \$30,041
  - Our contribution is 5.81% of what the State contributes
- Our residents depend on PCE funding to afford high energy costs
- Our portion of the Shared Fisheries Business Tax is \$1,968
- The anticipated cuts to our school district are \$113,472

While PCE and Community Assistance remain funded, we are concerned for their long-term viability. The combined reductions and cost shifting will result in the City being compelled to reduce staff and services across the board. These reductions will affect City employees and residents, and it appears as though the proposed FY20 budget and approach that you have outlined reflects little concern for the burden that you have passed on to Alaska residents.

When you add this to the threat of reductions in the AMHS, one cannot help but feel that the bush communities that contribute so much to the history and uniqueness of Alaska are being under appreciated and disregarded.

Sincerely,

Walt Weller,  
Mayor  
Pelican, Alaska

Copy to Norm Carson &  
City Council of Pelican

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - PELICAN HEALTH CLINIC - PELICAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mary Watson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 1:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** budget

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I'm writing because of the horrific possibility the Governor's Budget might be passed. I have lived in this state for nearly 60 years, seen it grow and become a place of vitality still retaining its wonderful sense of community. In Juneau we have vibrant arts, quality education, a new-found respect for our Native culture, a first class museum, and an awareness that we all do better when we support each other.

In Southeast Alaska we have a unique geographical problem which the Marine Highway deals with and which has no other solution. Elimination of the winter service would cripple the small communities. I, personally, feel that the budgetary losses with the ferries could be partially solved with more creative marketing both for tourism and for locals, but beyond that is the vital need for their existence. This also applies to the rest of Alaska where small communities depend on their ferries.

Education is an investment in our state. Our children are being better educated here in Juneau than the national average and we have a higher than normal number of winners of National Honors in science, arts, math and sports. Our University is respected for its programs in marine biology and other fields of studies. To cut funding to education is completely short sighted. We are doing well in these areas. In the rest of the state schools have to deal with greater problems and gutting their funding will only exacerbate the difficulties they face. Maybe it is time to re-institute the School Tax.

Public Radio is a low cost program that provides news and entertainment to the small communities as well as being a voice of our own town. It is an important use of public money. In some communities, public broadcasting is the only radio they receive.

Revenue is the issue. I want you to institute a state income tax and cap the PFD. I want to keep my state thriving and am willing to support it with my tax dollars and the non-resident oil workers should also pay taxes on the income they receive for work in our state. I also want tax breaks for oil companies to end. They already have more profit from Alaska than any other state.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work for our state and us, Alaskan residents.

Sincerely,

Mary Watson

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tracey Schaeffer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2019 5:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; House Finance  
**Subject:** thoughts on the budget cuts

From Tracey Schaeffer, PO box 1082, Willow Ak. I live between Kotzebue and Willow.

Thoughts regarding budget cut proposals:

Early childhood education: there are many children born here with significant needs. Early Childhood education opportunities has statistically shown to decrease teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and rates of incarceration, all of which cost our state significantly.

Education: Decreasing teacher to student ratio is the fastest way to increase high school drop outs and increase rates of incarceration, which are expensive. Every district will need to let go of teachers and paraprofessionals, which means more families in villages which will be needing public assistance as there are not very many jobs in villages.

Big PFD's: result in many people leaving their villages just before the direct deposit hits to go to Anchorage to shop. As a result, the childcount day happens and there are fewer children at school, resulting in less funding. Larger PFD's lead to significant social upset in the villages, increased crime, increased domestic violence, increased OCS reports. Very costly, overall.

In the PFD application there should be a bill pay option, similar to "pick click give"

Medicaid expansion: This is allowing parents to work instead of being on welfare so they can get Medicaid for their children and themselves. Rejecting that money would be foolish and would result in people needing to seek very expensive medical care in emergency rooms instead of affordable care at local clinics with mid-level health care providers. I believe I've seen a statistic that thousands of jobs would be lost. Rejecting that money makes no sense.

VPO funding: Losing boots on the ground local law enforcement is not a way to fight crime. Less people present in the village mean more expensive trooper intervention.

--

Tracey Schaeffer, Occupational Therapist  
Arctic OT Services, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Neal Foster  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Input on the budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee members, House Finance Committee Chairs, Senator Kiehl, and Representatives Hannan and Story,

I oppose Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. The governor has repeatedly stressed that this is a "sustainable budget" but it is predicated on oil revenues, which are neither reliable nor sustainable. The governor's proposed cuts to K-12 education, the University system, Medicaid, Pioneer Homes, public broadcasting, Village Public Safety Officers, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and local government revenue sharing deeply undercut Alaska's social and economic sustainability.

Governor Dunleavy's supply-side approach has been tried in other states and communities in the U.S. and failed. To produce the economic boon in the private sector that supply-side budgeting claims to do has been estimated to take 20-30 years. We can't afford to wait five years. Lacking basic and essential government services, people will vote with their feet and leave. Our population will be decimated and the Alaska as we've known it will be gone. Most likely, you won't be here either. I have been in Alaska since 1969 and my grandparents arrived here before statehood. With the future that Governor Dunleavy's budget will create, I realize that I may have to leave this state that has been my beloved home for 50 years.

I am also gravely concerned that we will face a government shutdown if a budget is not passed and signed by the governor by the end of June. A shutdown would cut essential state services needed by our healthy fisheries and tourism sectors at their peak and only further our economic problems. Therefore, I ask that you not waste further time deliberating over this unworkable proposal and instead introduce a new budget bill, as recent press reports indicate you are considering. I also urge you to relinquish your aversion to new taxes. We need a sustainable revenue source. Fair and reasonable taxes do that. I strongly support reinstating a state income tax and any of the following for creating a sustainable future for Alaska:

- 1) Repealing oil and gas tax credits
- 2) Capping permanent fund dividends
- 3) Increasing taxes on resource extraction and tourism industries
- 4) Enacting a carbon tax to fund our response to the climate challenges that are coming

Thank you for all the work you do.

Sincerely,

Sally Schlichting  
Juneau, Alaska

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Malani O'Toole [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Concerns from Cordova

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Malani Towle. I am a born and raised Alaskan. I grew up in Cordova, left to attend college at Stanford University, traveled the world, and then returned home to Cordova to raise a family. My husband and I own a drift gillnet operation for the Copper River Flats and Prince William Sound.

I am deeply disturbed by the Governor's proposed budget and cuts to services that are vital to our way of life. We are a small, coastal fishing community without road access. The state ferry system is our highway, our connection to the rest of the state. We rely on the ferry service for the groceries and goods sold in local stores, for affordable transportation to Anchorage and all of the medical and retail opportunities there, for school groups to travel to competitions, for tourists to reach us, the list goes on and on. In isolated, rural towns in Alaska the cost of transporting goods into town or traveling out of town is already high, but without a ferry system it begins to look unfeasible.

The proposed plan for the State to stop splitting the raw fish tax with the communities that harvest those fish would be another devastating blow to Cordova. The funds that the fish tax provides to communities like Cordova are crucial to city budgets. In Cordova 20% of the city's budget comes from fish tax. Cities that are providing services and support to the fishing industry need the fish tax in order to continue supporting the fisheries that bring in that money.

The proposed cuts to education are also deeply troubling to me. In Cordova the proposed budget would cut our School District's budget by \$1,000,000. My daughter is in kindergarten this year. She started the year in a classroom with 1 teacher and 36 children. It was a very stressful beginning for teacher and students alike. Luckily the school district found a way to split the class into two classes for the second half of the year. What happens when they get their budget slashed? Will there be 36 children with 1 teacher in first grade? I have a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and I can assure you that the quality of education our children will receive is going to suffer greatly under such conditions.

I urge you to look for ways to make up the deficit in the budget without making such harmful cuts to education, transportation, and fishing communities. Please do not support the PFD payback. The costs of such a program are too high. It is much more important to me to have the services I have spoken of than an extra \$1000 in our PFDs for the next 3 years. I think that we need to prioritize the Alaskan lifestyle and future (education, the ferry system, and fishing

communities) so that we can continue living in rural Alaska. Maybe that means getting rid of the dividend all together, or implementing a state income tax or sales tax... The current plan is not sustainable. Alaska will suffer. Rural Alaska as we know it will become a vestige of the past. We cannot survive with the proposed cuts to our city budgets, transportation, and education.

Thank you for listening,

Malani Towle

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Anne Wieland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** The proposed State Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Senators Stedman and von Imhof and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My husband and I fell in love with Alaska when we worked for the Territory in the summer of 1957. We returned with the military and after his tour of duty we moved into our new Anchorage house February 1964. Scenic Park was "way out of town" then but we had all amenities. We began to pay State Tax to Alaska just as we had earlier in Pennsylvania. We also paid School Tax for the next 16 years, I from my salary as an Anchorage School District teacher, by then as a single parent. The city grew, schools that my daughters attended were doing well as were UAA and Alaska Methodist University. Churches were increasing in number, libraries were well stocked, streets were plowed, health care was good, police and State Troopers kept the peace. Anchorage Airport grew. Alaska was becoming prosperous. The State Tax helped ensure that most necessities were provided.

Somewhere during that time oil was discovered and and developed. Many more people came to the state, property values increased rapidly. Then in 1980 Governor Hammond and legislation abolished the state income tax instead of zeroing it out. Prosperity and a Permanent Fund payment became our new reality.

Inevitably there were good years and bad, in general depending on the price of oil. We became more and more accustomed to a comfortable life. Then came a recession in the late '80's. Eventually after a lot more years of prosperity we have come again to a period when our demands and population are having to make sacrifices to meet the state's budget.

Several of us long time Alaskans keenly wish we would return to the years when we paid State Income Tax as a routine and had a comfortable life with plenty of amenities. But since 1980 very many people have come to live here and have no memory at all of how well we lived back in the 60's and 70's while paying a moderate state income tax. Instead there is the PFD that we have come to expect.

Now we have a Governor who has introduced a draconian budget that threatens to destroy the progress we have made since Statehood. With cuts to virtually all essential necessities of our quality of life, this proposed budget will ruin the state starting with Education K through 12 and the University system which are the bases of our present and future. It seems the governor wants to balance a budget on the backs of our children and grandchildren, who are our best hope for the years to come. This proposal is beyond outrageous and must not be imposed on our state and our families.

Class size is a strong predictor of how children will do. The extreme school funding cuts that have been proposed will inevitably lead to much larger class sizes that will fail our students and drive teachers away from Alaska. We are already near of at the bottom of all 50 school systems nationally. These cuts will secure our place as the worst by far.

Cuts to the University to the extent proposed will cause tuitions to rise sharply, more people will not

be able to attend, professors will leave, level of education in the state will fall drastically. The lure of Alaska to Outsiders will dim. There will be a brain drain away from here to greener pastures.

Add to just the potential huge damage to the education system here, we will suffer in many other ways if Governor Dunleavy's budget is even partially adopted. Reducing Medicaid services by 40%, about \$271 million, will prevent many from receiving immediate necessary as well as long term care. With less funding, not only will the very significant population of Alaskans who depend on Medicaid be without care, but their would-be caregivers may be let go and/or facilities shuttered. More jobs lost.

Now our Governor wants to seize the local property taxes levied and collected by municipalities that have oil and gas facilities and divert those taxes to the state treasury. Do they think they can manage these funds better than locally elected officials? What will become of these local municipalities, here and in the north Slope? We on the Kenai Peninsula with many of these facilities would lose a great deal of tax money, greatly harming many smaller towns like Anchor Point and Seldovia. State Administration should keep its hands off our locally raised money!

The precipitous shutdown of the Alaska Marine Highway System is an extreme mistake. Perhaps the people who are advising the Governor are insufficiently familiar with the ferry system to realize how great is the reliance on the AMHS. For example, service to the South East community of Angoon which has neither an airstrip nor barge service will have no way of accessing food. Angoon and several other small towns will suffer greatly by this ill considered and untimely cut of ferry services!

Retracting the proposed \$21 million to increase for the already insufficient number of State Troopers is a potentially very harmful cut. Without that funding we would lose any chance of attracting new badly needed recruits. Rural communities all across Alaska not just in South East could suffer even more if the proposed \$3 million cut to the Village Public Safety Officer program is allowed to take place. If the property tax money that is pretty slim in the rural areas is redirected to fund state demands, the fate of rural residents is in grave danger. Take away public radio from small communities and close their tiny airstrips and the communities' futures will be closer to complete isolation and abandonment.

There are more proposed cuts on our State Budget. Each cut adds up to help create a mortal wound to Alaska. A domino effect may take place. The people who are laid off will likely leave Alaska. OMB director Donna Arduino predicts that about 625 full time state positions will be cut. The homes they and others leave behind and the services they used will suffer and succumb. This will extend our recession from which we have yet to recover. Alaska will become a mass of Junk paper in the eyes of Standard and Poor and Moody's. This budget if implemented is a ticket for Alaska to lose 60 years of progress leaving a trail of tears and delusion.

I respectfully ask that you very seriously consider reinstating a State Income Tax for all. It is a fair solution better than a sales tax and also captures income from seasonal workers who pay nothing to the state now. It will affect wealthier people more. Some of us would even gladly give up our PFDs!

Bring back the State Tax! The time has come!

Sincerely,  
Anne Wieland



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Janet Fink [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2019 4:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget

Representative Vance,

I am writing to you as I am deeply opposed to the governors proposed budget. I feel strongly that we need to continue funding all essential services at their current level. This includes All aspects of education, road maintenance, expanded Medicaid, pioneer homes and transportation and Ferry service, to name just a few.

In my mind the permanent fund is not an entitlement.. It should be used to be pay services in the state. I think it is inappropriate to back pay residents for the smaller PFDs I also feel it is time to consider taxes.

The governor's proposed budget would create a State that after 40 years I would not want to be living in any more.

Janet Fink

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** fam randall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 7:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sara.childress@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** 4 key issues need to be addressed before any budget cuts

I am forwarding my 2nd email to Mia about my and many other parents expectations for Gov Dunleavy.  
Sarah

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** fam randall [REDACTED]  
**Date:** February 20, 2019 at 10:07:59 AM AKST  
**To:** "Sen. Mia Costello" <[Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Education cuts will have negative ripples for years to come

Thank you mia!

I would ask that the governor be able to answer how he is going to address 4 main areas of critical concern for education before he cuts a single penny:

- his plan to meet young English learners needs in K-2 that not only don't understand English yet but also come from homes where no english is spoken and are new to the country (Positively Addressing that critical need will Increase reading test scores)
  - his plan to address the growing number of children with high ACEs scores from trauma in the home. (Domestic violence and abuse) Traumatized children will not learn or test well. Some parents and I have contacted [traumainformedschools.org](http://traumainformedschools.org) ALIVE about their program that shows huge improvement in learning and huge decreases in behavior problems from implementing their program.
  - his plan to address the FASD students and his plan on how he will prevent/educate prenatal mothers about the affects on their children if alcohol consumption during pregnancy, especially in the villages.
- how will any cuts to education not increase class size which will decrease quality of learning, attention capacity from their teacher, and thus result in lower test scores?

His argument to cut \$ to schools because of earthquake damage costs does not fly. He can get funds from FEMA and other gov't agencies.

He can propose a plan to use some of our PFD \$ for schools and give us the rest as he promised. He has broken trust with his spending cut proposals going to the heart of Alaska at our children's education and village safety. He needs to back peddle fast.

I and other parents that are part of my private Facebook page "ASD academic Balance" would be happy to meet with him or you to further discuss solutions.

Thank you for listening Mia!

Sincerely,

Sarah Randall

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2019, at 2:06 PM, Sen. Mia Costello <[Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for reaching out, Sarah. We received the governor's budget proposal on Wednesday, and now I will be listening to you as we continue the process of going through the proposal line by line. My concern will be how the proposed governor's budget affects the economy and education, among areas that are so vital to our state. I'm grateful for your viewpoint and will take your thoughts into consideration as we get further along in the process.

This is just the beginning and your input will help guide my decision making. Again, I greatly appreciate that you reached out to me.

~Mia

**Senator Mia Costello**  
**Senate Majority Leader**  
**Senate District K – West Anchorage**  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801  
How to reach me:  
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>  
(907) 465-4968/ 1-800-773-4968  
Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#)

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From: fam randall <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 4:27 PM  
To: Sen. Mia Costello <[Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov)>  
Cc: DAVE <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Proposed Education cuts will have negative ripples for years to come

Hi Mia,

I'm grateful you have reached out for feedback. I am a past Elem Educ teacher and current stay at home Mom of 6. I am also in the process of going back to school to get my Masters in social work.

To say I am alarmed and horrified at the proposed budget cuts to education is an understatement. Especially if the logic behind the cuts is that schools need to raise test scores to merit more \$. That thinking is backwards and naive.

The reality is that not only is ASD one of the biggest school districts in the nation, it is also the most diverse. Along with this diversity comes children who don't speak English at home nor are read to at home so naturally their reading scores are going to be lower than average especially for k-2 until they catch up with ELL services and other school resources. Further more our state has some of the highest rates of sexual assault and domestic violence- high ACEs scores that negatively affect learning, testing and focus abilities for children. Thus another valid reason why test scores are low but also a cry for help to pay for the needed resources/staff to support those children not take their funds away. Not a reason to stretch teachers further with more behavior problem/traumatized kids added to each classroom.

Alaska also has the highest rates of FASD especially in the villages. Alaska needs education on prenatal care and alcohol abuse and support for those fasd kids whose brains are permanently damaged because of their mother's alcohol consumption. Schools need money to support these FASD kids who yes also have lower test scores regardless of how good their teacher is because of their brains incapacity to think long term cause/affect or retain facts long term. GOv Dunleavy could spend \$ to proactively

educate and rehabilitate alcoholic adults which then would increase their children's test scores but cutting funding to their schools certainly won't.

Finally for many kids in Alaska, school is their only safe place and way for them to have any hope of breaking the cycle of poverty. Part of that hope comes from extracurricular activities including sports which give them a positive outlet for their stress instead of drugs etc. as well as scholarship opportunities.

So is it possible to educate our kids with 300\$million less if we cut any services that support diversity or special needs or mental health? Yes, If gifted Educ "ignite" along with English language learner programs are cut, if sports and other extracurricular activities along with school counselors are reduced or cut along with special education. If mental health services, librarians, and custodians are cut than yes, quite possibly we could educate the children that don't have any mental, emotional or academic needs with Gov Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts. If we also increase class size from 30-40 kids across the district so that maxed out teachers who already can't meet the diversity of their students needs, can further fall behind, and then we could fire 25% of those teachers, then yes I'm sure we can educate our children with less money. Basically what I'm hearing from Gov Dunleavy is that if schools will take away the diverse needs of its students and make them all the same, while asking teachers to do more with less time and money, then yes we can educate our children with 300\$million less.

For many kids, school with all its diverse services and extracurricular activities is their only source of hope. If that hope is cut down to a skeleton of what it was then the ripples of cutting education this drastically will be seen and felt for years to come in increased drug abuse, crime, violence, suicide, and homelessness and the highly educated leaving.

Personally I don't want to take away the diversity of our district, I want to support it. I don't want to ignore the children dealing with trauma on a daily basis, I want to nurture them to heal through trauma informed services that myself and other parents have proposed and are working with ASD to incorporate and yes, pay for....

I also don't want to see the loss of the love of learning or for some, the only reason why these bright kids want to come to school to go to ignite and honors and AP classes. I don't want to lose those kids who are our future problem solvers. If we take away the challenging classes to force them to mediocrity in a bigger class size of average learning and teaching material then they will have no reason to stay engaged in school and lose their potential to better the world OR their families who pay high property taxes and are strong educated workers in our community will move away.

Schools should be our top investment. There can be priorities of HOW to better allocate those resources to meet children's needs in the budget but to simply cut off the funds to meet those needs is unacceptable, appalling and thoughtless! Especially if the rational is because our states test scores are too low.

I am and always will be a defender of children. They deserve our best not our bare minimum!

Sincerely,

Sarah Randall

Alaska resident of 8 years

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Amy Rowe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 7:10 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

Dear Finance Committee,

The budget proposed by our Governor and his staff is insulting to the people who work and live in this state. We expect government to make responsible decisions to make life in the state they govern the best for its occupants as well as growing a healthy economy. The cuts proposed in this budget would decimated Alaska's economy. None of us deserve to have dividend check each year, but we all need our elderly cared for in the Pioneer Home, health care, people well educated pre-k-12, access to high quality secondary education, and basic services provided. I am the parent of a 10th grader and a college freshman. All students in this state deserve to have access to quality education. The cuts proposed would be devastating.

Sincerely,

Amy Rowe Danielson

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Gary Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 6:56 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

I hope that you don't implement the cuts that Dunleavy has proposed. His cuts would devastate our economy, hurt the elderly and poor and end services from the State of Alaska that we need.

Please pass an income tax if that is what it takes to maintain our current services, especially our ferry system and schools. I will gladly pay state income taxes over higher PFD checks and cuts to our services. The other 49 states collect taxes, Alaska should also. We have had a good run of not taxes, now is the time to start collecting it.

I have noticed that the oil companies are swamping the airways with commercials. It seems that they are building up opposition to increasing their taxes. One important thing to remember; once the oil is gone we can't go back and try to collect the taxes we should be collecting now.

No need to respond to my email.

Thank you.

Gary Miller  
[REDACTED]  
Juneau, AK 99801-8211  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** LIO Homer  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Finance committee

Hello,

Please see the message below in regards to the 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)

Go to the AK State Legislature BASIS Website [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov)  
To watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature go to [www.akl.tv](http://www.akl.tv)

**From:** roger imhoff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 5:34 PM  
**To:** LIO Homer <Lio.Homer@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Finance committee

I am listening too and watching the omb presentation to the finance committee and let me say that her presentation sounds great if you think of changing alaska into another oklahoma. How did all the cuts to prosperity work out there??? Donlevy budget is just a "bridge to nowhere" ....please pass on my comments to the finance committee and my local elected rep and senator. Thanks, roger imhoff, east end road, homer

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Emily Ferry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2019 7:06 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Mike Shower; Senate State Affairs; Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl  
**Subject:** How can my daughter go to college if there is no college?

Good morning,

I would like to add my testimony to the many who highly oppose super-sized PFD's at the cost of slashed education, ferry, and social services budgets.

I have tucked each of my kids PFD's into a college savings account. I am grateful for these funds. But the other day when my 8-year-old daughter announced that she wanted to go to UAS, I realized that there might not be a UAS if the bills like SB 23 and 24 pass. I also don't know if she will continue to love school if she gets less personal attention from her beloved teacher and fewer opportunities to do stimulating self-directed project-based work.

Given the state's budget situation, handing out super-sized PFDs is the last thing the state should do. Instead, please invest in our kids, our educational system, and our state's future.

Sincerely,  
- Emily Ferry

[REDACTED]  
Juneau AK, 99801



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jane Ely [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 8:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** In support of Sheldon Jackson Museum

Hello All.

I live near Seattle, Washington. Over the years, I've been able to visit Alaska six times, and am very interested in the history and cultures as well as the arts and crafts of the Alaska Native People. I've been to Sitka three times, and each time I was able to visit, I spent most of my time at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. What a treasure it is!

This museum was founded to house Dr. Jackson's extensive collection in 1888! These items (over 6000) are priceless today. SJM is a gem of a museum, and that's why I support it with a membership.

The BEST part of the museum is the educational aspects, most notably, the "**Native Artist Residency**" program. Alaska Natives accepted to this program are able to teach the art or craft of their proficiency. This gives opportunities to those artists to develop as teachers, as well as all others interested to learn their skill (either to master it or teach it themselves). In addition, videos from these artists are provided online so that anyone in the world can watch and learn! In addition to that, the extensive SJM website provides **resources for teachers**!

The SJM collection is very important to the state of AK, both Alaska Natives as well as all other residents. It is so much more meaningful to view museum artifacts in person rather than as pictures in a book from the library. It's important both to house the artifacts safely and make them available to the public, as well as to keep this unique set of skills alive, to be passed down to future generations.

Today I strongly suggest to you to discuss **providing SJM with continuous support**. I believe the museum needs to remain open all year, with both full time and part time employees to serve not only seasonal visitors but to continue the educational programs used throughout the state. It seems very shortsighted for the State of Alaska to consider selling this museum!

Thank you all for your thoughtful consideration.

Jane Ely, [REDACTED], Des Moines, WA 98198

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P.O. Box 102205, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2205 • [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com) • [www.aahp-online.net](http://www.aahp-online.net) • (907) 929-9870

March 18, 2019

State Senate and House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**RE: Funding for the Office of History & Archaeology and subsequent grant programming**

Dear Honorable Alaska Legislative Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Members,

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) supports legislation restoring \$150,000 to the state general fund in FY20 for the purpose of matching the federal National Historic Preservation Fund allocation to the State of Alaska. This funding is an excellent return on minimal investment for our economy, as the federal government provides matching funds for up to \$500,000. Beneficiaries of this program include private and nonprofit entities that in-turn provide additional matching funds to restore and rehabilitate their properties. These activities create, among a variety of trades, construction and survey jobs within our state. This program is an exceptional example of how such cooperative programs work in favor of our economy.

AAHP urges budgetary legislation to also include authorization to bring in the federal funds with a line item of \$500,000. AAHP strongly believes that not supporting this action may impede upon private and state development projects.

Both of these items are critical positive benefits to Alaska's economy and legacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Elise Pollnow  
President of the AAHP Board

cc:

Judith E. Bittner, Chief, Office of History and Archaeology and State Historic Preservation Officer  
Alaska Historical Commission  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

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The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is a private, statewide, 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion, and advocacy. To achieve this mission of historic preservation in Alaska, AAHP maintains several internal and external committees, programs, and partnerships overseen by a Board of Directors and managed by corporation staff. AAHP adheres to the principle that preservation of the built environment provides a vital link and visible reminder of the past, emphasizing the continuity and diversity of Alaska. The organization also provides financial and technical assistance to protect and preserve places on the annual list of Alaska's 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties.