

House Finance Committee
Public Testimony
HB 2001
Emails received to
HouseFinance@akleg.gov
July 18, 2019

From: Nicole Eiseman <n.eiseman1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:15 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 2001 and reverse budget sweeps

July 17, 2019

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony and for staying so late at the Fairbanks LIO. I'm currently listening from home and you're on number 250. I was number 282.... but had to leave. Additionally, I'd like to extend a special thanks to the senators and representatives that upheld the legislative process, and stood behind the budget that was based on priorities negotiated by legislators representing districts throughout Alaska.

The governor's vetoes are a travesty, make no financial sense, are divisive, and if left to stand, will bode ill for the whole state, as evidenced by the outcry you've received from bankers, homebuilders, realtors, Native corporations, educators, chambers of commerce, development corporations and just plain old individuals. When all these groups and individuals oppose the vetoes, you have to know they will be bad for Alaska in a myriad of ways.

On that note: I fully support HB 2001, a complete reverse sweep, and a functional Alaska Marine Highway system. A PFD of \$900 or less would be fine by me, and next year I look forward to your work on taxing the oil companies and some form of income tax for the rest of us.

Tonight, I'm thinking about the future of Alaska, the young families. My daughter and son-in-law represent exactly what our young state thrives on and needs. They each have strong work ethics, commitment to friends and community, imagination, and impressive entrepreneurial spirit and energy. They recently bought a modest home, are new parents, are both close to finishing degrees at UAF, and own a small business. They have one employee, and have contracted with other small business to perform services they can't provide themselves. This is just the beginning for them. ***Alaska has everything to gain from their efforts, and they have everything to lose if the governors vetoes are left to stand.***

Thank you again for all the work you did during the regular session, and your bold decision to organize across party lines. Please respect and retain all the compromises and cuts previously made in both houses, and in conference committee. Stand Strong... Don't let the governor divide us!

North to the Future
Nicky Eiseman
House District 4, represented by Hopkins and Coghill

From: ggwalker@mosquitonet.com <ggwalker@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:25 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

ELIZABETH J SCHAFFHAUSER
PO Box 10872
Fairbanks, AK 99710

July 17, 2019

Dear Elected Representatives of the House Finance Committee:

My family and I support the actions on the state's budget represented in HB 2001. We want a strong University, support for the Arts, and infrastructure.

We value a supportive community where people take care of each other. A reasonable PFD can be part of the mix, but not such a huge one that we put other aspects of our community at risk. We urge members of the Legislature to provide the leadership and statesmanship necessary to navigate the current situation with an eye towards keeping Alaska strong now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Schaffhauser

From: Scott Hummel <scotthummel86@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:41 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB2001

Greetings Committee Members, and my elected district legislators.

I would like to thank you for the extra hours put in this year to resolve these budget issues and recent actions taken by the governor. Like you, I would much rather be fishing or camping. But here we are, and business needs doing.

I knew today's testimony in Fairbanks would be both well attended and represented, so I chose to tune into internet broadcast through the legislative hyperlink via 360 North.

In lieu of the short-time frame with which we have to work, I would like to generally speak to support of SSHB39, as passed by the Legislature by a margin of 51 yeas to 7 nays on April 11, 2019.

I was present during the first round of public testimony in the spring here in Fairbanks, and I know that the finance committee and legislature has put in a great deal of effort to carefully, thoughtfully, and thoroughly weigh our State programs and spending, with the limited revenue stream available with market forces setting \$55 per barrel oil.

I encourage you to reject any haggling for these services considered for veto under the governor's revised budget, and advance the legislative budget, with no concessions. I know that in order to do that, with a veto-proof majority is required. This may have been made more complicated with the Wasilla special session debacle.

I have reviewed the OMB's 12 pages summarizing the governor's vetos, and reviewed only the services exceeding \$300,000 in the budget and reflected and prayed over their value. We are running out of "fat to trim." Analyzing these cuts I realized that they make up approximately 96% of his proposed cuts to the operating budget. Nobody really cares about executive branch travel reductions ... but cutting 4% of the operating budget will not fully fund a \$3,000 PFD.

From public broadcast via both radio and television, to education, pre-K through up to the UA system (including OWL), legal services and the COLA adjustments to our judicial branch, rural corrections facilities, the self-funded Ocean Ranger's program, our senior benefits and DHSS funds and grants, the council for the arts, PCE, ... the list goes on.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS are worth funding. Which is why, I'm sure, they passed the legislature with such a large margin. Let me remind you, 51 yeas and 7 nays.

Yes, we are in a tough spot. Many of the arguments supporting the full statutory PFD disbursement are made with broad statements of "government overspending" and "they are stealing our money." These arguments are partially true, but don't hold water, if you pull back the economic curtain of Facts and not Feelings. However, this isn't the forum in which to have this lengthy philosophical conversation to how-best resolve Alaska's revenue issue. We have a job to do, our programs need funding, our accreditation are under review, and our reputation is being blemished.

Since the collapse of oil in 2014 our spending has far exceeded our revenue. But this is not because we haven't slashed government spending from the recent highs under the Parnell administration. In an economic recession, two things will worsen the conditions; 1) reduction in government spending and 2) the levying or increase in taxes on the citizen base. Make no mistake, oil commodities are in a recessionary pricing level. The price is being inflated by OPEC limiting production, in order to sustain THEIR revenue.

So what is the governor's obsession with this \$3,000 PFD? Is it to avoid egg on his face for his impossible campaign promises about repayment of PFD funds used during the Walker Administration? Is his Pride worth the \$444 million in cuts to our institutional systems and \$1 billion in lost federal dollars? As Sen. von Imhof said during the second special session, "The time for campaign rhetoric left this room a long time ago."

Fully fund SSB39 / 40 / FY2019 Supplemental - as passed in the legislature with a veto-proof majority. And I'll be working with you this coming year to draft up a sustainable solution to stabilize Alaska's economy during these recessionary pressures with the foresight our framers used in creating the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation in the 1980s.

Thank you for your service and our prayers are with you.
Scott Hummel, Districts A/1

<10planet@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:58 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB2001 and more

To the members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Robin Dale Ford and I live in House District 6. My representative is Dave Talerico who was part of the "22 WRONG" that went to Wasilla to avoid overriding Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes (even after hearing overwhelming testimony in favor of overriding at his town hall meeting in Two Rivers).

Tonight I went to the Fairbanks LIO to testify in support of HB 2001. I arrived at 6:15pm and was assigned my number 315, and folks were still signing in after me. In the 3 1/2 hours that I was there I heard from my fellow Fairbanksans some of the most eloquent testimony in support of overriding Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes in favor of HB2001. Only two people spoke in favor of the governor's budget while I was there.

I had to leave before I could testify so I'll briefly state that I am a 65 year old Alaskan that came to the state in 1966. I am a small business owner and believe that we have already been in a recession and know that Dunleavy's budget cuts would cripple Alaska's vulnerable economy for years. I am proud of the University and what it brings to my community and the state. I love Alaska and have no plans to ever leave, but now feel that this will be a very difficult place to spend my senior years.

I support HB2001

I support a progressive state income tax

I support repeal of the oil tax credits.

Dunleavy's vetoes are gutting countless essential services, but only save Alaska \$444 million. At the same time, Alaska gave away \$1.2 billion in oil tax credits last year. **The choice between basic services and the PFD is a false choice. We could have both if we repeal the oil tax credits. No more corporate welfare.**

Please do all that you can to stop the Koch Brother's and other outside interests from destroying the beautiful state of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Robin Dale Ford

From: clanwallace@gci.net <clanwallace@gci.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:36 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: The Budget

Hello.

My name is Kathleen Wallace, and I'm sending this to make my thoughts known on the massive cuts to the University.

One of my favorite parts about driving through the UAF campus was seeing so many diverse people and trying to guess if the older people walking around were professors or students. You see, I drove a taxi for 30 years here in Fairbanks, giving me a chance to talk with so many different students, whether they were learning to teach, and going back and forth to area schools to intern, or kids trying to make their classes at 50 below. I also hauled visiting professors, physicists, statisticians, molecular biologists, geologists, you name it. One thing they all had in common was igniting a deep desire for me to go to college, even at my age, or especially at my age. I thought I'd reached a point in my life where schooling was possible, and I was getting ready to take a few classes at the Tanana campus, just stuff I was interested in, and had a little money saved up to pay for it. That's when Elon Musk put a flipping convertible in orbit, and something fired in my 30-year-old son. It was wonderful to see, direction and passion, he wanted to do whatever it took to work in the space industry, and that was far more important to me than learning how to use herbs in a sauce, or doing some volunteer fieldwork on top of a volcano. So he jumped in the pool with both feet, pulling straight A's in STEM classes and finding out he had a gift for helping other students along. Maybe because he was older they sought him out, but whatever the case, UAF was there when he was ready.

I understand the need to dial back state spending, but this list of hits, against those who need the services the most, leaves me begging the question, why go into this with a sledgehammer when a scalpel would be far better. Over the years I've seen a tremendous waste of state dollars, sweetheart deals, and cronyism of the highest order. I've seen the Corrupt Bastard Club laugh with glee at the depths they had sunk to while pandering to the oil industry. They sold out cheap too, one senator selling his vote for a mere \$1,600. Now we're trying to save a school that has such an immense influence on the lives of the people associated with it. The wonderful options that open up in these young people's lives, chances they would never have had if they hadn't taken that first step into UAF. The changes the university makes in older students lives are just as important. These are people that call Alaska home, that have no wish to make a life anywhere but here. I wish I had the words to magically make you see how necessary the University is to so many people. I can't throw a bunch of money at you to make you listen to me. I can't compete with a couple of ideologue billionaires with some kind of libertarian death wish for this country. Is the vision to make the University only accessible to the

wealthiest Alaskans? Instead of a public university, is the goal to have drunken fraternities with admission loopholes like other colleges? The University of Alaska is special, and it's unique. Please don't destroy it.

Kathleen Wallace
3165 Hillary Avenue
Fairbanks AK
99709
907-460-4264

From: arctic-pair@gci.net <arctic-pair@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:37 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for HB 2001 hearing on 18 July 2019

Testimony of Sheila J Dufford, 2482 Old Chena Ridge Rd, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, contact # 907-457-5161, Representing myself.

Alaskans have had a good long run of receiving had State services without having to pay for them. The Permanent Fund was initially set-up to fund State services when the oil revenues ran out. The dividend was added later encourage more interest in State government actions and expenses and to provide residents with a share of the interest on oil & gas earnings. In this regard, it was very successful. Well the future has arrived and oil & gas revenues are no longer enough to fund State services.

Former Governor Walker made Alaska residents unhappy when he cut the PFD to fund State services. Now Governor Dunleavy is making residents unhappy by cutting State services in order to fund a full PFD. Governor Dunleavy's approach will likely drive Alaska into recession and cause a large exodus from the state. At any rate, it is becoming clear that we cannot have both a full PFD and all the State service and programs. There is not enough revenue. I would like to thank Governor Dunleavy for driving this point home. Alaskan's need to step-up and start paying for some of their services. We currently have very little any skin in this game.

I am not opposed to cutting the amount of the PFD to pay for State services. This amounts to a flat tax on every resident. Some are opposed because it is not progressive and hits those with low incomes the same as those with higher incomes. However, those with lower incomes are also receive more from State services and this way part of the PFD is contributing more to needs like Medicaid, not just what they want. My problem with just using part of the PFD to fund State services is only residents receiving a PFD pay. Out of state workers and tourist do not contribute, even though they benefit from many of the services and facilities.

These are some of my suggestions to solve some of our revenue shortfalls.

1. Eliminate the oil exploration tax credit. If oil & gas is valuable enough to develop. The companies will explore without the credit. They did in the past. Currently there is an oil & gas surplus in the US and much of it is easier to extract than on the North Slope. We should save our resources for the future when the price is better.
2. Institute a State property tax on private in unincorporated areas. Residents living in incorporated areas pay property taxes to support their schools, roads, law enforcement and other services. Those living in unincorporated areas should be doing the same. The State revenues support a much higher share of these costs in unincorporated areas of the state. There are no other states where residents can vote not to incorporate thereby exempting themselves of the responsibility of paying property taxes to support these services. It is about time that residents living in unincorporated areas start contributing for the services they receive. It does not have to be equal to what is paid in incorporated areas, but they need to be contributing. This is also a progressive tax as those with more valuable property pay more.
3. Raise the gasoline tax so that it is enough to cover not only the federal required match, but all costs associated with highway maintenance, repair, and snow removal and sanding. This is a user pays system and the more one drives, the more one pays.

4. Institute a State sales tax that includes internet purchases, but excludes necessities like food and medicine. This is a progressive tax those who have more money tend to spend more money on stuff and will pay more taxes. It also taxes tourists and out of state workers when they spend money in Alaska.
5. Consider an income tax so that those who come to Alaska to work also contribute to paying for State services while they are here.
6. Finally, there are many programs that make our lives better, but are not really necessities. Like the arts, college scholarships funds and funding for parks, recreational facilities and trails. If these programs are important to residents, they should be willing to contribute their own money to support them. I am a strong believer in affordable user fees where applicable. If these programs are important to citizens, they should be able to contribute by raising and matching state funds. These combined funds could then be leveraged to obtain federal or NPO grants. However, for this fiscal year; people and programs have had no time to prepare for these cuts and start working to raise other funds. I am opposed to the draconian cuts to the UA system. The university cannot meet its contractual obligations to enrolled students or non-university research collaborators and grantees given a 41% cut in State funding in one fiscal year. This scale of cut is ludicrous, the desire is to keep a functioning university in Alaska. These types of cuts if made need to be phased in to accommodate student in degree programs and to complete cooperative agreements. I do not fully understand the impact cuts on lower income senior citizens, homeless services, energy cost equalization and other similar programs. But I don't know how we can absorb these cuts without throwing people out into the streets and refusing medical care. Maybe the programs need to move into a direction that helps people and communities become more self-sufficient. Maybe matching grants would help here also. Finally, I wish to support HB 2001 as a stop-gap measure to get us through this fiscal year with the idea that the legislature seriously consider other revenue sources for next fiscal year and stop leaving us at the mercy of the global energy market. Also, the legislature passed a budget and Dunleavy is governor, not King. The legislature needs backup their budget against the vetoes.

From: Kate Schaberg <kate.schaberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:33 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: A concerned Alaskan

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I support HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut by the governor.

I am particularly concerned about the University of Alaska Fairbanks funding, funding for early education and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, all of which enhance the culture and way of life for countless children and adults in my community of Kodiak and across the state. Without these programs, our community will suffer, and in my opinion, the problems of our state budget should not rest on the shoulders of our children, our future.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Kate Schaberg

<schnix@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:07 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: I support the House budget and limited PFD

To my Alaska Legislators,

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to voice my stance on the current budget catastrophe. I have attended numerous local sessions hosted by you, many in bipartisan partnerships that have served to bring many constituents together. Most citizen speakers at those sessions spoke loudly and eloquently in support of the budget the House passed, and urged a block override of the Governor's vetoes and a limit on the PFD. As many Alaskans, I am angry about the events from last week and the resultant chaos in our state and financial ramifications. I want to say, again, loudly and clearly, I support the work that you did and the balanced budget you passed, I support overturning the Governor's vetoes, I support a limited PFD and I support and want added to the conversation a progressive income tax.

I have lived in Fairbanks for over 35 years, have maybe taken a class at UAF, but neither my husband nor I have been employed nor received our degrees from there. Yet I value the role UAF plays in our community. I work next to graduates of UA, I support businesses that are owned and employ UA graduates, I attend public activities sponsored by UAF. A big part of why I choose Fairbanks was because of the presence of UAF and the stimulation and added quality of life the university would add. According to Sen. Wielechowski, Moody is very close to downgrading the UA system, the result being we would be the second lowest rated flagship university in the nation. Only Puerto Rico ranks lower. This is in direct response to the severe cuts Dunleavy requests. The destruction of UA system will have such a domino effect throughout the state. I am very concerned that even if funding is restored, that there has been such an erosion of faith in the status of UA that for the next many years we will be seeing repercussions in the way of declining enrollment, exodus of faculty and reductions in projects and grants that bring millions of additional dollars to our state economy. I support full funding for UA.

The cuts to services and programs are already having serious effects and on the most vulnerable populations. Programs for the homeless are being cut or closed, benefits to Elders have been cut. I am an RN working in Case Management and I have seen the benefit of the expanded Medicaid program. Where there had been prior significant barriers to health care, the expansion allowed patients to schedule follow up appointments, afford medications and receive health care at appropriate and less expensive levels of care. With cuts to Medicaid and Elder/social programs, I anticipate hospitalizations related to inability to afford medications, more high cost ER visits and difficulties getting follow up appointments. We should be working towards a healthy citizenship. Healthy lives are more productive lives.

There are so many more areas of concern. The negative effect on small businesses (my husband has a small business and is worried about the effect of UAF reductions), the loss of arts programs, the shift of burdens to local communities, the reductions in legal aid and police safety. I know you are hearing again from my constituents about the wide reaching impacts of the vetoed budget. I hope that all is not lost and that our Alaskan values can be restored.

Thank you again for your hard work and the acknowledgment of the voices from our state.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mannix
PO Box 73525
Fairbanks AK. 99707

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:53 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Vetoes

Please do whatever it takes to reverse all of the budget vetoes. We need our ferries, we need our university, we need our Arts Council, we need support for the elderly and homeless, we need support for our schools, we need scholarships

for our bright youth and WE DO NOT NEED a \$3,000 PFD!!!! I fear our best and brightest are already packing up and leaving our state.

Sincerely,

Helen Alten and Tim Huber

From: emily harshman <eehars@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:58 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I write in full support of HB 2001, in which the pfd would be \$929 and veto funding over ride. Alaskans need a strong early childhood and university system, health and social services, and reliable transportation more than we need a larger pfd. I believe that the current vetos will cause devastating effects to Alaska for generations.

Emily Palmer
Juneau

From: Jennifer Walker <paterjen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:18 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please override vetos

Please override the governors vetos. Use our pfd's to fund them!

The legislative budget represents the needs and desires of the many voices of Alaskans. The governor's the few.

Especially important to our economy and wellbeing here in Alaska: the UA system (an economic driver!), schools, arts council (don't let our state be the only one without one), housing and homelessness funding.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Walker
Alaskan Resident

Jennifer Walker

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

From: Lynn H. Hoffman <lynn.hoffman@k12northstar.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:33 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 2001

I am writing to support HB 2001..

Sent from my iPad

From: Nina Faust <fausbail@horizonsatellite.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:36 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Funding for our State Institutions HB2001

P.O. Box 2994

Homer, AK 99603

July 18, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

HB2001 is an opportunity to rectify the harmful cuts made by the Governor's vetoes. The complete elimination of some programs like the Alaska Council on the Arts will be harmful to communities like Homer that are trying to diversify their economies by building arts programs that contribute to the visitor economy. To continue creating collaborative events like the upcoming World Arts Festival this September in Homer, we need the complementary structure that the Alaska State Council on the Arts provides. This entity helps local communities attract federal and private funding from many places, even Outside, that make possible big events that draw visitors who bring their money into the local economy.

This is just one example of an important non-profit in Homer that helps us build a diverse economy and provide local services that enrich us, but also complement what other institutions do. Each time visiting artists come, our schools and children benefit greatly from visiting artists who go into the schools to do workshops. Throughout the community there are non-profits that benefit and give back to the community, but without the State funding that helps these NGOs do their job, we lose services and funds that will not be replaced. This is the tremendous, unstudied ripple effect that will have a big effect on our local economy. We in Homer realize that NGOs provide a huge service to us all, making the community stronger and more diverse in services that can be offered, but without the structure of the state funding, we will lose many NGO employees and many of the services they provide.

There are so many different entities that will be affected by the sweeping cuts—our university, head start, our local public schools, public broadcasting, and so much more. Our state is not like states Outside where there is a huge pool of private wealth to draw on. We have to have the state structure to provide the stability needed to attract grants and federal money.

It is time to move beyond this impasse and come up with solutions to avoid an economic collapse that is predicted by so many economists. I think they know far more than some of the folks who are backing the devastating cuts. Lacking is the careful analysis of the cascading ripple effects of all these cuts—the economists are giving us a good preview. It is imperative that we walk this back to a commonsense solution.

I want to see all the cuts addressed; I want a properly funded capital budget that addresses dire maintenance needs throughout the state, a sustainable amount for the PFD, funds for student scholarships, money to address dire rural issues like the need for public safety officers and power cost equalization, and money to serve communities with adequate ferry service, money for our poorest seniors, homeless programs, and so much more that was axed in the budget.

We are a state of people who care about other Alaskans, our economy, our environment, and the programs that make this state a good place to live. Do not let these misguided cuts stand. Alaskans overall do not want this. You, the Legislature, did it right the first time in your original budget. Let's restore commonsense and get on with our lives!

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

907-235-6262

From: Jennifer Sonneborn <darkpond@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:48 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Please fund the capital budget. Restore funding for the University and the Arts Council. I'm more concerned about retaining help for elderly people and the homeless than having a large permanent fund. Save jobs and federal matching funds by restoring our state budget to a more civilized state.

From: Kim Sweeny <kimsweeny4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:49 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Honorable members of the House Finance Committee~

Thank you for your efforts. I urge you to reinstate vetoed funding. I support a smaller dividend and/or a state income tax to provide these necessary services to the state.

- A healthy University of Alaska campus
- Scholarships for 12,000 students
- Food and medicine for elders in need
- Homeless services including day programs and beds
- Hundreds of millions in federal match dollars from capital budget matching funds
- Alaska Legal Services
- State Arts Council !!!!!

Please keep up the good fight. I'm counting on you!

Thank you.
Kim Sweeny

From: Jamie Shanley <takutotspreschool@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:00 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001 Balance the Budget & Restore all Vetos

I support House Bill 2001 and want to see the budget cuts restored for the future of our state. I am Alaskan native, a teacher, a child care provider and parent of a young child. My husband works for the mine. The cuts to our early childhood education programs and universities are going to impact my family and business directly. Please remember us hardworking, Alaskan-loving people you represent and make the right decisions.

Jamie Shanley
Taku Tots Preschool, Director
206-992-6469
TakuTotsPreschool@gmail.com

From: Laura Volmert <lauravolmert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:02 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony regarding budget

I was unable to testify before the House Finance Committee in Fairbanks yesterday due to work, so here is my testimony:

I am a therapist in private practice, and since the governor's vetoes have been announced, I have had people in my office in crisis, fearful about the impact this draconian budget will have on their lives. The bright young man about to start college whose scholarship is now unavailable, the disabled woman who relies on Medicaid to fly her to Anchorage to receive medical care, the Pioneer Home resident who is wondering if she will be able to afford a rate increase. These are just a few of the real people who will be impacted by this budget. I, too, will be impacted--my husband works for the University, and my children are in public school here in Fairbanks. Truly, no one in our community will remain untouched.

I urge you to work together to figure out a way to restore the funding the governor has vetoed from the budget. We do not need a \$3000 dividend. Even considering this is the worst kind of fiscal irresponsibility. We need an income tax, a decreased dividend, and creative thinking about how we can increase revenue for Alaska. Making Alaska a totally undesirable place to live, a place without good education options, no arts council, bare-bones programs, will not keep the innovative minds we need in our state. For the sake of our future, please restore funding.

Laura Volmert
519 Bonnifield St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Stacey Buckelew <staceybuckelew@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:03 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: support for HB2001

July 18, 2019

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee-

As resident of Homer, I am writing to express my support for HB 2001 which combines PFD funding and reinstatement of the vetoed funds. HB2001 is critical for protecting our public services and our jobs that are at stake while the Governor proceeds to destroy the Alaska economy despite the human and economic cost. Massive cuts will dismantle, in just one year, services, organizations and programs that took decades to build. These cuts are a priority of the governor, but they do not represent the philosophies and beliefs for the good of the Alaskan people.

Your support for HB2001 is essential for restoring funding to the state operating budget so we can continue to provide health care, education, a University system, public broadcasting, arts, and so many other services that are critical for our state's most vulnerable population. As a reminder, these cuts will have the following impacts:

- Very low-income seniors will be pushed into homelessness with the loss of their senior benefits.
- The closing of Head Start programs for low-income families will decimate the childcare now available to working parents and force many into public assistance.
- 2,500 professionals will be laid off from UAA and 40 student programs shuttered. It's estimated that scholarships for 12,000 students will be directly affected. University of Alaska campuses may seek closures, thousands of jobs and program losses, tuition costs will be increased.

- Hundreds of millions in federal match dollars from capital budget matching funds will be unrealized.
- Alaska Legal Services will be forced to turn away 1,363 people including seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and victims of crime and domestic violence.
- Programs that support the economies of rural communities, service members, academic advancements, Alaska Native Arts, and other art activities would be undercut or totally eliminated by the State Arts Council.

Given the high level of community support across the state for nonprofit groups and education, from the arts to services for the poor and vulnerable, it seems unlikely that the depth of these cuts truly represent the Alaska residents' beliefs. Reducing spending – dramatically and on such short notice – will significantly diminish certainty and confidence in Alaska. As a state, we can and must do better. The budget, as reduced by the governor's vetoes, does not embody the values of the Alaska we all support and love.

Thank you for standing up for Alaska and for voting in favor of HB2001.



Stacey Buckelew

66584 Diamond Ridge Road
Homer, Alaska 99603
staceybucklew@gmail.com
(907)717-4583

From: susan rainey <sue.rainey.alaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:19 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fairbanks budget hearing

Dear Committee members,
Thank you for your time and patience taking testimony regarding the state budget.
Now, please, listen to Alaska and restore the funding!
Thank you,
Susan Rainey

--

NOTE: The information contained in this message is intended only for the addressee or the addressee's authorized agent. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt for disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or recipient's authorized agent, then you are notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message immediately.

Susan Rainey
Broker/Owner
Riverview Realty
(907) 479-4000
www.suerainey.com

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

Dear all in House Finance Committee

I have been in state since 1971 and became a resident in 1972. All of the governor's vetoes are short sighted and the worst policy by Alaska's leaders since I became a resident. Please restore all funding and override those foolish vetoes. As I understand House Bill 2001 will restore funding. I am fine with a \$1000 to \$1600 PFD. For those who want to hold on to the old out dated formula please call all legislators who are still alive and find out what their intent was when that formula became law. Our revenue sources now are were vastly different than they were when the law was enacted.

Please quit fooling around and work on the revenue sources. All sources of revenue should be up for discussion no sacred cows oil, mining, fishing and yes an income tax. All who benefit from state services resident and non-residents should should help pay.

The Governor's manufactured budget crisis in nothing new, he has been neglecting to solve the problem since he was in the legislature.

Sincerely
Richard Gustafson
[P.O.Box](#) 4144, 1039 Barnett Place,
Homer, Alaska 99603

From: Jens Munk <jens.munk2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:25 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

To the Esteemed member of the House Finance Committee:

A little background. My wife and I are both UAA professors, having moved up here 18 years ago after getting our PhD's at The Ohio State University. We had a number of offers, but were excited about living in Alaska, and more importantly, about the contributions we could make to this University. As a geology professor my wife was instrumental in getting the BS and MS geology degree's at UAA, while I was the first electrical engineering (EE) hire and was also directly involved in getting the BS in Electrical Engineering at UAA (as well as Mechanical and Computer Engineering). While we do not have children, we have worked hard to make this University an institution we could be proud of, and one where we would send our own children. As faculty we are not atypical - this is the dedication I see among our faculty in both engineering and science.

I understand that no institution, public or private, cannot realistically operate more efficiently and do more with less, but the cuts as they stand are nothing short of catastrophic. It is heartbreaking to imagine all of our hard work potentially vanish overnight, with the UA system dealt a blow it may never recover from. Consider also the many unintended consequences of this budget, specially the negative impact to our economy. As you are well aware, this is not just my

opinion but that of economists and business leaders throughout the state. As it stands, this reckless budget will send us over a cliff - and for no good reason.
(The \$440M in cuts come to less than \$600/Alaskan, or \$175 if just the University's cut are included - not much when compared to the cost).

I therefore **fully** support the finance committee's substitute for House Bill 2001, which was introduced this week, and includes funding for all items vetoed by the Governor, while providing a reasonable PFD of \$929.00. This budget is prudent, it is forward looking, and it makes sense.

Thank you,

Jens Munk, PhD.
Professor and Chair
Electrical Engineering
University of Alaska Anchorage

From: Kerynn Fisher <kerynn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:27 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear members of the House Finance committee,

I enthusiastically support HB 2001. The restoration of funding to the university and critical social services will pay huge dividends for Alaska in the long run, and help us avoid snowballing future costs.

I support a reasonable dividend, in the ballpark of \$1000. I'm disappointed by how entitled Alaskans feel they are to a larger dividend – which is more a function of the stock market than anything else. With oil prices dropping, I think we need to look to permanent fund earnings to support basic government programs – nothing extravagant, nothing wasteful. I also support a nominal income tax, particularly for those workers that come here for the summer or for shift work and leave without investing in our communities.

The governor's veto has left me worried for Alaska's future, and whether our communities will turn into resource extraction colonies. We are so much more than that. Listening to the floor speeches in the joint session last week gave me so much hope. I cannot imagine that there was a legislative body in this country that was more unified than ours was during that session - Republicans, Democrats, independents from all over the state speaking a unified message of responsible fiscal management to support the programs that make Alaska a great place to live.

Thank you for your work to move Alaska forward, and thank you for the listening sustenance you conducted over the last few days – particularly the marathon nine-hour meeting in Fairbanks yesterday.

- Kerynn Fisher
3971 Ridgeview Dr
Fairbanks (District 5)

From: Kris Jez <kjez@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:15 AM

To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please forward on to entire legislative body

Dear Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I am an employee of Hope Community Resources, Inc., a non-profit organization celebrating 50 years of service to Alaska's most vulnerable citizens who experience disabilities. Hope provides services across the entire state of Alaska, enabling people to remain in their community of choice with the family and friends they love. Over the past 6 years cost containment measures imposed by the state, and regulatory changes mandated by state and federal agencies reduced Hope's revenues by 35%, and that is before taking into account the impact of this years' budget reductions or the governor's vetoes.

Hope provides services to more than a thousand people throughout the state. Budget cuts imposed by the Governor's vetoes will seriously restrict Hope's ability to deliver support. Individuals in rural communities will be particularly hard hit. These cuts will eliminate community safety nets and services, like nursing oversight and care management.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR MEDICAID AND ADULT PREVENTATIVE DENTAL SERVICES

PROPOSED IN CSHB2001 Section 1, page 6, lines 25-28

The Governor's vetoes will result in much higher cost to the State of Alaska for these recipients who will need emergency and crisis level services without maintaining community based and preventative services.

Hope reduced its staff by 34 positions this year, in anticipation of the legislature's 2020 budget cuts. The governor's vetoes will require even more job losses.

Please vote to reverse the effect of the Governor's vetoes to preserve the safety and well-being of thousands of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Kristan Jez

Kristan Jez

Deputy Director of Internal/External Relations

Hope Community Resources, Inc.

kjez@hopealaska.org<<mailto:kjez@hopealaska.org>>%3E

Direct 907-433-4910/fax 907-433-4925

From: katherine beatty <ksbeatty@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:34 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: budget

Representative Sara Hannan,

Thank you so much for all you are doing and what you are doing for Alaska. The governors budget is so wrong. I plead with you to reverse as much as possible, and that the senior benefits get back on track. we are paid a month behind and not getting June sure was ruff. I am so lucky to have some food in my freezer, but that only last so long.

The "Arts" is so important and I feel that art is the glue that holds a society together. We as a state can not afford to give up on federal funds of any kind.

Also, I would love to see a state income tax come back, we gave that up in 1981, but just yesterday when I was flying back from medical, the person I sat with was from Oregon, and he works 2 weeks on 2 weeks off at the hospital. Also, the man in front of me was from the mine, he and 12 other men were on board for the 2 weeks on 2 weeks off. Juneau itself triples with kids working the jobs and tour companies. Most jobs in Alaska with a slit shift have people living elsewhere. We need to get revenue and I feel this is something that can bring back what is leaving and not put a huge burden on the people here.

Please keep up the good fight and stay strong for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Katherine s Beatty

415 Willoughby ave #218
Juneau Alaska 99801

From: Suzanne Cohen <ssog@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:36 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your continued hard work this legislative session. I would like to take this moment to comment on your decision regarding the size of the PFD.

I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years now, and have raised my family here. My husband and I are self employed and have employed many fellow Alaskans over the years. We have no intention of leaving Alaska; we love our community, we love the unspoiled wilderness.

I understand that many Alaskan's rely on the annual PFD payout to help with bills. Who wouldn't love an extra \$3000 in their pocket? The problem is what we lose if we go through with this one time large payout. We all know that and annual \$3000 PFD check is not sustainable over the long term and none of us in the state is used to that accustomed to it. However, we are accustomed to a certain level of services from our state government. We the people need access to good education, law enforcement, road and sewer services, care for the sick and the elderly, well managed fisheries, forests and parks. These are the sorts of things that governments are created to provide. The sort of spending that supports these services cannot be done as individuals, but must be done collectively.

This ride we have been on, that our oil production has provided has been a wild one, but as our supplies dwindle and as the realization that we can no longer risk developing more fossil fuels becomes glaringly obvious (yes, I am talking about the climate crisis), we must look at other sources of revenue for the state. My recommendation is this: Let's have the \$1600 PFD. That's a lot of money!! Let's end these tax credits for the oil companies and use that money for the state. I also support an income tax. People who make money in the State of Alaska need to pay a little bit back for the opportunities the state provides: ie roads, education, fire safety and law enforcement, parks, etc. etc. etc.

Thank you for your attention.

Wishing you ease in finding the best path forward for all of us.

Suzanne Cohen
725 5th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Molly Mylius <molly.mylus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:42 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reinstate funding for the vetoes and trim the PFD

I am writing in support of your efforts to lower the PFD amount and reinstate funds for the University, Medicaid, seniors, arts and other critical social services.

Yesterday I spent a heartbreaking afternoon in a room full of homelessness providers trying to figure out how to respond to Alaska's budget crisis. As a result of the Governor's vetoes, hundreds of people are going to be

literally turned out of shelters and onto the streets over the coming weeks, without a backup plan. Our already-overwhelmed social services system has no easy answers. To make matters worse, case managers who play the important role of helping people find stability are being let go.

These budget cuts are more than numbers - they represent life or death for many of Alaska's most vulnerable residents. **If these cuts are what is required for a full PFD payout, I do not want a full PFD.** Please use your role as leaders to set us on the right path and fund critical services. I hope one day soon we have a tax to cover many of these services but in the meantime, the PFD is the best option for keeping our state afloat and our residents healthy.

Thank you for your time and hard work resolving these difficult questions.

Best,
Molly

Molly Mylius
molly.mylus@gmail.com
907-782-8787
735 Birch St., Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Katie Kowalchuk <naturekatie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:44 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Please support a smaller PFD in order to override the Governor's operating and capital budget vetos. While the PFD does go a long way to help support individuals in Alaska, what goes further is having our people's basic needs met, their safety ensured, and the infrastructure necessary to live and travel around safely in the communities we enjoy. A \$3,000 PFD is greedy and unnecessary when it puts so many things of value at risk.

Thank you for the work you do.

Katie Kowalchuk
2583 Douglas Hwy #2
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Mary Zalar <zalar49@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:45 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001-PFD-Veto Override

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

THANK YOU to the House Finance Committee for the July 17th hearing in Fairbanks and the many others held this week and during the budget process.

I WISH the Governor would engage with our community as you do.

THANK YOU for meeting in Juneau for this special session so that Alaskans could observe and listen via Gavel to Gavel. I WISH the Governor would appreciate the importance of citizen engagement. I am pleased that the Governor has finally agreed to amend the special session and call all legislators to Juneau.

THANK YOU for the hard work you did to craft a reasonable, compromise budget.

I WISH the Governor would respect that process rather than do his own appropriations through the power of the line item veto.

THANK YOU for defending the well-being of our State. I hope that all legislators will appreciate how devastating and far-reaching the impacts of the Governor's vetoes will be to Alaskan residents, educators, institutions, organizations, vulnerable individuals as well as the State's economy, reputation, and stability.

I WISH the Governor would respect the separation of power in the branches of government and work with you to create a reasonable, compromise budget.

These are my wishes. I have little hope, however, that the Governor will suddenly reverse course and abandon the ideology or Outside interests that have guided him thus far.

Thus, I WISH that you pass NO PFD legislation unless the Governor accepts a compromise budget without the vicious line item vetoes. I support a reasonable PFD amount (\$1000--\$1500) and an override of the vetoes.

Thank you for listening to us. Thank you for working for and with us. Much depends upon your integrity, ingenuity, and commitment.

Sincerely,
Mary Zalar
1940 Becker Ridge Rd
Fairbanks AK

From: Swenson, Michael <Michael.Swenson@foundationhealth.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:48 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for AK House Finance Committee

Legislators,

As the Chief Medical Officer for the largest multi-specialty medical clinic in Alaska, I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you the potential impact to our medical community of proposed funding cuts to the University of Alaska.

1. The UA system trains the majority of our clinical support staff, including CNAs, CMAs, and nurses. We are currently facing a crippling shortage of personnel in all of these clinical support areas, which reduces access to our clinic and impairs our ability to provide good quality and efficient care to our patients. We need an ongoing supply of clinical support staff to care for our patients.
2. Fairbanks is a university town, and our lifestyle here depends greatly on the many benefits of UAF's presence here: arts, speakers, museum, community education, recreation. The lifestyle enhancement UAF brings is one of the major draws that attract good providers to our community, and that keep us living in Alaska.
3. Many of our current providers are from Fairbanks and attended UAF as part of their education. We are much more successful in recruiting providers who have some previous attachment to Fairbanks.
4. We have benefitted greatly from collaborative research efforts between UAF scientists and TVC physicians, specifically in areas that include diabetes, sleep disorders, and allergies. This collaboration has advanced our knowledge about unique characteristics of health issues that exist in the interior of Alaska.

5. University faculty and employees are solid, responsible citizens who are valued members of our community. Fairbanks and all of Alaska will suffer if these community members are forced to leave the state through the loss of employment opportunities.

Thank you for challenging the proposed draconian cuts from the Dunleavy administration, and for searching for other sources of revenue to support vital state services like the University of Alaska. A robust university system is vital to the economical and cultural future of our great state.

Respectfully,

Michael Swenson, MD, PhD, FACP

Chief Medical Officer

Tanana Valley Clinic

1001 Noble St., Fairbanks, AK 99701

Office: internal 5-2387, external 907.459.3558

Mobile: 907.687.5069



From: Surge Kulikov <surgekulikov@alaskaclubkink.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:52 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: Allow Me To Donate \$444 Million in Budget Cut Relief

Even after speaking to the committee members a second time, not a single message from any representative. There are ways everyone can live humanely. If this house bought buy the oil money? Church money? Are you getting paid to dismantle Alaska and create a civil revolt? Or are you just racists and bigots with power? This is free money morons! Half a billion! Money that can help you get re-elected on good merits. Now I am going to expose your incompetence to the world. Great job! Great job not giving a damn that is!

Greatly Disappointed,
Surge Kulikov

From: Steve Johnson <steve.johnson.alaska@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:54 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Representative.Colleen.Leonard.Sullivan@akleg.gov; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB 2001

Members of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing to voice my support for HB 2001. I appreciate your continued efforts to look out for the best interests of Alaska and Alaskans. As we've all seen, reactions to Governor Dunleavy's vetoes of the budget that won majority support in our Legislature have been clear: the cuts will hurt us. Businesses and economists, leaders of nonprofits and

commercial groups, former and current elected leaders and, overwhelmingly, the residents of Alaska have spoken loudly about the human and economic costs of these cuts. They are devastating.

HB 2001 is the corrective. Restoring funding to the entities compromised by the Governor's cuts while offering a reasonable--and affordable--PFD is an appropriate compromise for the moment. To continue to avoid this reality is to compound the damage that's already been done.

In the longer term, you must provide leadership on new revenue sources. Broad-based income and sales taxes for residents and non-residents alike are not only inevitable, they are the economically obvious solution.

Reducing the per-barrel oil tax credits is also necessary. The amount of taxes we are supposed to collect from those who move our resources to market is appropriate, but only if those taxes are actually collected and not waived. That one of the major producers in Alaska just posted a nearly-\$2 billion profit for the first quarter of this year suggests that there's room for further recovery of the value of our natural endowment.

Again, I appreciate your efforts to move us in the right direction. Please continue to hold the line and imagine our best future. My daughters--16 & 18 years old--want to make Alaska their home. Please don't tell them there's no future here.

Best,

Steve

Steven Johnson
3127 Wesleyan Dr
Anchorage, AK

From: Aurora Roth <rothaurora@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:00 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony - I support HB2001

To the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for working on behalf of all Alaskans and for providing the opportunity for public testimony and input.

I support everything within HB2001 and want to see the funding that was cut by the governor restored. I believe it is possible to have the critical educational, social, and medical services which were cut or reduced by the governor by having a smaller PFD and by ceasing our irresponsible tax breaks to the oil industry.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, but more accurately, I was raised at UAF. Both my parents were professors in the Computer Science and Mathematics department for over 20 years. UAF is more than just an academic and research institution - it is a vibrant, thriving, and vital community. I am deeply concerned that a loss of state funding to the University system will have catastrophic consequences for this community and for our state. A \$3000 PFD is not worth gutting the University.

I attended UAF as a graduate student, where I did research on climate change and glaciers throughout Alaska at the Geophysical Institute. UAF is a global hub of Arctic and climate research. If the University of Alaska system is forced to downsize, researchers based in Georgia or Oregon will be the ones leading science and policy efforts in the Arctic, our home, and Alaskans will take a backseat in these efforts. Now more than ever, Alaskans need home grown research and researchers to help us face the challenges of a warming climate.

I am currently working out of state as a scientist because I found a job I could not pass up. However, it is my plan to return to Alaska and work as a scientist in Alaska for Alaskans. I am afraid that my opportunities to do so will be severely limited if funding is not restored.

The above is how I am personally affected by the budget cuts, but I am also deeply concerned that medical and social services have been cut leaving the most vulnerable Alaskans stranded. The governor's budget does not represent Alaskan values because it was made by someone from Outside, Donna Arduin. Alaskans take care of each other, and the governor's budget is not taking care of Alaskans.

Please restore funding to the institutions and programs that have been affected by these cuts. Alaska depends on your doing so.

Thank you.

Aurora Roth
Proud Alaskan
UAF Alumnus, MS Geophysics 2016

--

Aurora Roth
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers (Why include this? Click [here](#) to learn more)
IRIS/PASSCAL
Staff Scientist/Polar Field Engineer

rothaurora@gmail.com (personal)

aroth@passcal.nmt.edu (work)

907-460-2193 (cell phone)

Check out the [tuition-FREE field science](#) and [outdoor education](#) program that I'm involved in!

[Inspiring Girls Expeditions \(inspiringgirls.org\)](http://inspiringgirls.org)

From: ACS Alaska <davidkara@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:03 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Please restore funds to the operating budget that were cut by Governor Dunleavy, including funding for ASCA, education, mental health and social services. Look at reducing tax credits for oil companies PFD amount and instituting a state income tax to help cut the budget deficit. Thanks, Kara Bakken-Clemens, Homer.

From: Mary Beth Loewen <marybethloewen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:05 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support HB2001

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governor's vetoes.

Issues of particular concern for me include the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the devastating cuts to the UA system. I am a UA alumni, as are my siblings, my parents, and my spouse. I now own my own business in Alaska, and I understand how important UA is in our state as an economic driver, in a time when we clearly and desperately need to diversify and broaden our state's revenue sources. Cuts of this magnitude to the UA system will, in a word, be devastating for our entire state.

Secondly, the Alaska State Council on the Arts brings a excellent ROI for Alaska. ASCA receives a modest amount of funding from the Alaska Legislature, about \$700,000 per year. This is 1-100th of 1% of all state spending. This money is matched dollar-for-dollar with federal funds. In addition, ASCA takes the states investment and secures significant private foundation funds for arts programs, communities, and artists. Without ASCA, we will lose the federal funds and the private foundation funds. Without ASCA we will lose the Artist-in-Schools program. Finally, ASCA's work with individual artists and teaching artists helps Alaskans become more economically self-sufficient, and able to support their families and communities, which is exactly what Alaskans need.

Again, I urge you to support HB2001, and restore the funding allocated by the legislature in their budget passed this year.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Mary Loewen
Lifelong Alaskan

--

Mary Beth Loewen
907-942-5273

From: Hal Dimarchi <hal.dimarchi55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:05 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support House Bill 2001 – Appropriations for the Permanent Fund

Hello,
My name is Hal DiMarchi. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, a student at UAF, and an employee of the on campus research organization ASF (Alaska Satellite Facility). I also support HB 2001 and I'm asking for your support for this bill as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hal DiMarchi

From: Janet Daley <janetgdaley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:15 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony to House Finance Committee regarding vetoes and HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

I wrote and sent most of this letter on March 12th to my Senate and House representatives. This was when you were working hard on the budget that was eventually passed and well before the governor's cruel and unthinking vetoes. I am tweaking a few words here to update it but continue to stand behind what I wrote back in March. The gist of my testimony is: PLEASE TAX ME, keep the services that support the quality of life here in Alaska for all citizens and do not further damage the University. I do not want a \$3,000 PFD. I want to be able to continue to live in Alaska.

As the Finance Director/Business Manager of a local consulting firm and a Certified Management Accountant, I know what it takes to create a budget. There are two sides to the budget equation: the expense side being the direct costs to produce the product or provide the service plus the indirect cost of overhead and the revenue needed to recoup those costs and provide a profit to owners/shareholders. When revenue is not covering costs you look at BOTH sides of the equation. You look at where you can cut costs without damaging the quality of the product or service AND you look at the revenue side to make sure you are charging enough for the product or service. When Alaska started into a recession several years ago, we as a business spent a significant amount of time analyzing our costs and revenues and determining how best to optimize them.

Unlike our business, the State of Alaska has only looked at ways to cut costs without looking at the revenue side of the equation. IT IS TIME. Look at new sources of funding, i.e., income and/or sales taxes and use of permanent fund earnings for the essential services that every Alaskan deserves. Start planning long-term, with an eye to making the state a robust and inclusive place to live, work and raise a family. Consider the economic and social impact of any service that has been cut by veto. Look at how a small investment by the state brings in grant and contract revenues from the federal government and other private sources, all of which gets plowed back into the Alaskan economy. Do not look at a single cut without considering what that service provides, which populations (particularly the vulnerable) benefit, how the service will be provided if it disappears and whether there will be a long-term impact. Make sure you look at the effect on the economy of the departure of thousands of workers and their families when jobs are cut. Please do not forget that many families require 2 incomes to keep their heads above water and the loss of one job may of necessity, push the family to leave. As people leave so too does the money they would spend locally which will have a negative effect on local businesses and services. My business is already preparing for the possibility of the addition of unexpected additional health insurance costs. As people leave, the insurance pool will diminish and costs will go up diminishing our profits. Since our employees are the owners of our business, this means they will have less money to spend to stimulate the economy.

Please also look closely at what this proposal does to the education of our children. Not all kids are "average". Some need special services, others benefit from advanced classes. No child does well in large-sized classes where they cannot get attention. All kids benefit from the availability of extra-curricular activities. Pre-K is proven to give children skills they need to succeed. Cutting Head Start programs and pre-K not only means that children's educational success will be jeopardized, it also means that working parents will not have a safe and stimulating environment for their kids when they are at work. Education is a right enshrined in the constitution of Alaska. Do not consider any cuts that would reduce the number of teachers, increase class size and cut educational programs. Cutting Thrive funds for Head Start will do nothing more than continue the cycle of poverty.

Do not look with disdain at the working poor. Do not view them as being drains on society. Embrace and retain Medicaid expansion. Many jobs, even some with certification requirements (eg. Certified Nurse Aides) pay low hourly wages. These people want to work and want to contribute but often rely on public services such as Medicaid and SNAP to supplement their income and be able to pay their rent and continue to work. Think about that. Think also about the elderly. It is already difficult enough to keep our elders at home in our state. Charging 3-4 times as much for services such as the Pioneer Home will ensure that families have to send their aging parents outside, away from their homes. Cutting Senior Benefits with virtually no notice is criminal. Do not assume that a PFD can replace those benefits as the PFD is a one-time payment while the benefits are needed and spent monthly.

The University of Alaska is the preeminent Arctic Research Institute in the world. The research programs have made numerous discoveries over the years. How do they do that? A relatively small input from the State brings in more than 5 times that much in research dollars and much of that is spent right here in Alaska by providing employment and purchasing goods and services. The university has already sustained significant budget cuts in 5 of the last 6 years resulting in closure of programs and loss of jobs (which as noted above means that many of

those workers have left the state). Further cuts at all, never mind cuts as dramatic and devastating as those proposed, will have dire consequences on the ability of the university to multiply the money provided by the State. The University also has many programs and services available to the public that make our communities better places to live. These include sports facilities and teams, the symphony, plays, dance and the arts, venues for lectures and other events. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has the only university-managed Rocket Range in the world. At the time I first wrote this letter, hundreds of people had driven to an Open House in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Range. While funding for the Range is primarily from NASA, the Range could not operate without the overhead provided by the University. I repeat that having an educational institution provides much more to the community than teaching students.

I will say up front that I am a proponent of income taxes. A small income tax is the price each citizen pays in most cities and states and all countries. It is the price one pays to receive the services that provide a social net for the vulnerable and poor, for a variety of human services, for arts and sports, quality education, transportation needed in our unique Alaska landscape, etc. I can vouch for the fact that when my company sends an employee outside to work on a project, we pay excise taxes to the state where that project is located and income taxes are deducted and remitted as required. Why do we not have the same in reverse? Many people come to Alaska to work on the slope. They come, work and take their paycheck in full with them when they leave without putting money back into our economy. Alaska is the ONLY state where there is neither an income nor sales tax. That is unsustainable. Why too has no consideration been given to stopping or cutting back on Oil tax credits given to the oil companies. Do citizens not come first?

Please think about the future of the people of the State of Alaska. You can allow these vetoes to result in a nothing short of cruel, one-sided budget based only on the volatile price of oil or you can think long-term and start implementing a fiscal plan that will make our economy stable, provide needed and expected services and continue to make the state the wonderful place to live, raise a family and grow old in that it was in the recent past.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Daley
3875 Geist Rd. Ste E113
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-347-415

From: W Scott Armbruster <wsarmbruster@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

17 July 2019, Fairbanks

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2001. I strongly support this bill, the reduction of the PFD to an affordable level, and the restoration of funds to programs originally funded in the Legislature's budget. Damaging the University and the Alaskan economy in order to maximize the PFD payment, as seen in the Governor's budget vetoes, is an incredible error of judgement and administratively irresponsible. Please restore a sensible budget that keeps Alaska functioning as a modern state with a healthy balance of educational and cultural opportunities.

(Note, despite my university email address, my view is not biased by financial connections to the University: I am retired from the faculty and receive no State-funded salary. However, I will be affected by an economic depression and loss of arts, culture, and information media in Alaska. If these effects are too severe, my wife and I will probably decide, sadly, to sell up and spend our retirement years in another state.)

Yours sincerely,

William Scott Armbruster
1444 Gus's Grind
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Stefanie Kondro <stefaniekondro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:25 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 Public Testimony

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governor's vetoes.

I am especially concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts. It was heartbreaking to see in the headlines this week that they closed their doors. I am a teacher in Kodiak that has seen firsthand the enormous positive effects that the Artists in Residents Program has provided local schools and students. The Munartet Project has been going strong in Kodiak four years now and my colleagues involved speak highly of it.

Alaska needs the arts to thrive.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Kondro
Kodiak, Alaska

From: Karl Olson <karl_olson@stanfordalumni.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:26 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing this email in support of HB 2001. Specifically I support a reduction, or even a total loss of the dividend to fund that which governor Dunleavy vetoed from the legislative budget of the last session. While I agree that the state needs be fiscally conservative and only spend money it has, I strongly believe that Dunleavy went too far in his cuts. I have received the PFD every year that it has been given, since the beginning, (about \$42,000) and that money has at times been helpful. But in the end, looking back I would say that the value of the University, and the other services cut are worth much more to the people of Alaska. Let's fund this budget, and then work to reduce in the gradual manner that Walker had been doing.

Thanks for your time and efforts,
Karl Olson
3365 Moonshine Run
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 978-8532

From: Amy Nichols <amynichols907@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:28 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Amy Nichols and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Linda Boyle David Boyle <pennyak@earthlink.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:44 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB2001 Testimony-Make part of the official record

Co-chairs Johnston and Foster, committee members, I am David Boyle and speaking for myself. I oppose HB2001 which now overrides Governor Dunleavy's vetoes and takes most of the statutory PFD from everyday Alaskans.

In the past few years the legislature has not been able to control the growth of government and those members who have been here during that time now own the unsustainable budget we have. Basically, this baseline budget process has rewarded many nonprofits and businesses via its "entitlement" methods. And as we all know, once an entitlement is given, it is nigh impossible to pull it back. And that is where you legislators are.

The pressures from special interests, nonprofits and government unions has pushed legislators into a corner in spending. (For those new to this process, I do not envy you). In the past, Alaska has won the PowerBall lottery through buckets of oil money flowing to the state coffers. Now we must contend with this flagrant spending and much bigger government. It's kind of like being dependent on opioids! It will be tough to wean many special interests from state funding but it must be done.

The challenge you have is to reduce spending and stop picking winners and losers. Some of you see your challenge as how can you reduce the PFD bucket to subsidize government and special interests, including nonprofits. The CEO of the Foraker Group testified that, "No Alaska business can exist without nonprofits". I am not sure many businesses would agree with that.

I presented invited testimony to the HFIN budget subcommittee in January 2014 regarding the unsustainable spending. Here is a summary of my presentation to HFIN budget subcommittee on the budget (2014):

"Finally, none of this will work if we don't solve the cultural problem that goes with the budget process. What is causing the budget problem, both operating and capital? A budget process is only as good as the culture in government. If you wonder what I'm talking about just look at Washington, DC and the broken budget problems. Runaway spending, pork doled out to special interests and supporters, and it seems as if everyone but a few, are oblivious to the deficit and debt problems. At least they can print money. Alaska cannot—not yet anyway. Alaska's spending problems are just a microcosm of the Nation's spending problems. We do not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. Hopefully, this will be corrected. Otherwise, the people of Alaska will eventually be connected to the spending through taxes of one sort or another and a dissolution of the PFD. Then they will start paying attention and so will legislators."

We do have an entrenched cultural problem in the budget process and only major structural changes to the process will correct this. You need to change the budget process from a baseline method to either a Zero-Based Budget or Priority Based Budget method. Only then will you be able to contend with special interests demanding more money.

Now, regarding the reductions to the University of AK system. You need to read the Fisher Report which was done in 2011. It had many recommendations including the following:

"Therefore, it is prudent for the University of Alaska to plan for the possibility that: (A) its general fund support from the State of Alaska might not keep up with price inflation; and, (B) its share of the state's budget might decline."

That was fair warning to the leadership of the University and its Board of Regents. But what did they do to implement the recommendations in this report—NOTHING. This shows a complete lack of leadership and fiduciary responsibility on their part. They were warned and did nothing.

Governor Walker was also warned about the devastating effects of Medicaid Expansion. But he didn't apparently care about the costs; he only cared about the political debt. Now we have able bodied Alaskans who get free health care even if they don't work. Just unfair to seniors. And this Medicaid Expansion will cut into the resources that those who truly need original Medicaid such as the single parent, child, indigent senior, and disabled. Is this what you want? I hope not.

If you are going to ask Alaskans to sacrifice part of their PFDs, then you must demand that ALL Alaskans contribute. Many in Alaska (unorganized areas) receive state services for free yet pay nothing, including K12 education. Is it really fair that organized borough taxpayers pay for their kids' education while unorganized boroughs such as Prince of Wales Island (5 school districts) pay none for their K12 system? Those in the unorganized boroughs are not connected to the cost of government. They have no skin in the game so inefficiencies abound.

Finally, because previous legislatures have failed to reduce the budget to a sustainable level you now have a formidable task ahead of you. I ask that you resist the pressures of the special interests and demand accountability for every dollar spent by the state. Only accountability and transparency will ensure that you can tell your constituents, "Every dollar was well spent".

Here is a quote from Milton Friedman regarding government spending that you should hold close:

"When you spend other people's money to buy something for someone else, the connection between the earner, the spender and the recipient is the most remote — and the potential for mischief and waste is the greatest. Think about it — somebody spending somebody else's money on yet somebody else. That's what government does all the time. Nobody spends someone else's money as carefully as he spends his own."

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I request that this testimony be made part of the official record.

Very Respectfully,

David Boyle

From: Andrew Pfeiffer <apop@noops.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:52 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Andy Pfeiffer and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: donis morris <donisandralthm@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:54 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB 2001

Finance Committee, Representative Claman & Senator Costello,

We are Donis Morris and Ralph Morris, long time Alaskans (over 50 years each) and Anchorage residents. We are writing to give our sincere support to the committee's efforts to FULLY FUND the essential services cut in the Governors heartless vetoes. We don't trust that this Governor has the best interest of Alaska and Alaskans at heart AT ALL. These cuts simply don't make sense on any level and don't represent the values of the majority of Alaskans. We believe he aims to weaken this state and these cuts will certainly do that. Please, put Alaskan's interests first and restore this funding. A big one-time dividend is not worth the cost of losing our University, our Arts Council, our early childhood programs, our ability to protect and care for our seniors and vulnerable populations, etc...

If the economic situation is truly this dire, how can the state even consider this drastic action while we (YOU!!!) continue to give tax credits to the oil companies? This is unconscionable. We're willing to do our part and "tighten our belts" (even support an income tax) but ONLY after the oil companies pay their fair share in taxes. The numbers are clear that they make more money in the Alaska market than any of their other markets. These tax credits need to be adjusted to a reasonable level or ended. Put Alaskans first and restore the funding, reverse the sweep, and protect the future of our state.

Thank you Finance Committee and Representative Claman for your continues efforts to right these wrongs.

Senator Costello, thank you for finally returning to Juneau to do the work your constituents trusted you with. You betrayed our trust last week and we're extremely disappointed and angry. After many failed attempts to reach anyone in your office, and no communication from you to your constituents, we feel unheard and unrepresented. It's not too late to listen and do the right thing though. We're hopeful that you'll choose to stand on the right side of history and protect our state from the further harm this governor's actions, and your inaction, have caused. We'll be watching closely and holding you accountable.

With hope for Alaska's future,

Donis Morris and Ralph Morris
2549 Discovery Ct
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-231-1300

From: Sacha <sacha242@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:57 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your continued work on trying to establish a functioning state budget that meets the needs of the people. I'm writing to voice my support for HB 2001 and for restoring funds to the areas the governor vetoed. The vetoes are a misguided effort to strip support from valuable state programs and public education, and the effects of the removal of funding from those programs will directly result in the continued downward spiral of our economic and community stability. Now is the time to come together to discuss increasing state revenues through taxes, through PFD restructuring, and through adjustments of the oil tax credit. I support all of those approaches and believe that we have much work to do in that arena before we strip state services to the bone.

As you know, the university has taken cuts 4 out of the last 5 years, but this year's cut appears to be designed to do nothing more than to act as a death blow to the university. If the intent is supposed to be to force large scale consolidation because of the impaired vision for our state's future, then there is a way to do that over a series of years that doesn't create instability like what we are now experiencing and which has resulted in the Moody's downgrade. The downgrade shows the governor's promises that his cuts will result in a stronger Alaskan economy are incorrect at best, and malevolent at worst. Please do not let this be the story of Alaska--a state with \$65 Billion in the "bank" who can't get its act together to function for its citizens. I recognize the challenges before us are not easy, but putting our heads in the sand and making drastic cuts that will force many to leave or suffer is not the right answer.

Please fight for our communities and restore funding for these valuable state services.

Sincerely,

Sacha Layos

1996 Red Leaf Rd.

Fairbanks

From: geoffry wildridge <wildridgelaw@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:02 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>

Subject: My written testimony in support of HB 2001

I am writing in support of House Bill 2001, which is an effort to restore sanity to state government in the wake of Governor Dunleavy's vetoes.

The list of the programs which will be devastated by Governor Dunleavy's vetoes is truly shocking. The Governor supports cutting government services for the sake of his perception of the fiscal "bottom line" and some sort of peculiar ideological purity—without regard for how much pain it inflicts. But as recognized by the budget adopted by the Legislature, Alaskans have values which conflict dramatically with those espoused by the Governor. They include caring about and supporting one another. And they include protecting and continually working to improve our quality of life. Most Alaskans greatly appreciate and want to maintain the programs that the Governor has now put at risk.

The list of programs which will be devastated by the Dunleavy vetoes is, of course, an extremely long one; and it is difficult to identify any now at risk which is unimportant to our State. The University of Alaska is of course deserving of strong support, not additional gutting through the funding cuts anticipated by the Governor's vetoes. As a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, I am particularly concerned with cuts which impact our local government, including the refusal to fund payment of school bond debt. The elimination of public radio and television funding is also of special concern, given their importance to our quality of life. And Governor Dunleavy's attack on programs comprising our state's "social safety net", programs which protect our most vulnerable, is appalling.

Governor Dunleavy's retaliatory attack on Court System funding, based upon his opposition to a ruling that didn't go as he wanted, is extremely troubling. Our justice system's integrity is under attack; and this should not be tolerated. Moreover, Dunleavy's cuts to Alaska Legal Services and Public Defender funding will effectively

deprive many underprivileged people from having meaningful access to our system of justice. Access to justice for all is the hallmark of a free society.

None of this is necessary. The prospect of a large PFD, part of the Governor's plan, is truly offensive. A large PFD payout is in no way reasonable, and eliminates the ability to maintain the programs we cherish. I am aware that some Alaskans, particularly those residing in rural Alaska, have come to rely on PFD payments. But no one reasonably anticipated a \$3000 PFD until Governor Dunleavy hyped it as part of his election campaign—a campaign which also falsely promised no cuts to important government services. This promise has now been shown to have been conspicuously untruthful, and difficult choices have to be made because of expectations generated by Dunleavy's falsehoods.

You should come down on the side of maintaining government programs for the sake of all of us. Money from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve should be used to fund programs now on the chopping block, rather than for excessive PFD payments. These programs are absolutely essential to our State's well-being. Large PFD payments to individual Alaskans are not.

I sincerely hope you and other members of the Legislature will stand up for Alaska by adopting HB 2001. Please do all that you can to reverse the impacts of Governor Dunleavy's vetoes and limit the amount of the PFD. This is clearly a time when you and your fellow legislators can make an enormous difference. We are depending on you!

Geoffrey Wildridge
1307 Chena Ridge Rd.
Fairbanks, AK. 99709

From: Chandler O'Connell <cmoconn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:12 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please support House Bill 2001 or find another way to reverse Governor Dunleavy's vetoes to the budget. Also, please re-appropriate funds to the accounts that were "swept," so that essential state services - such as the UA scholarships and the PCE program - can continue uninterrupted.

Thank you for your public service.
Sincerely,

Chandler O'Connell
608 Etolin Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835

From: shawn@shawnyoga.com <shawn@shawnyoga.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: OUTSIDE, The Dunleavy Roadshow

This is a great testimony:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_youtu.be_zHhLxvqZwyl&d=DwlCAG&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXD9ZA&r=a5pDORdnYs7kR4VjhUDiyLmbIkYX7D-bQzoi8NQbiql&m=uEleUFM8SF_ZJtWAaMx2wRa9pvc4to487H-1owgcttw&s=SM_Mz24ZqGoAjKI5RGZHuGkb1VQLAFcArlLyeGFeskE&e=

206 890-2704

Shawn@ShawnYoga.com

From: Sharlene Cline <clinehomer@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:30 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB2001

Dear House Representatives,

I urge you to restore funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. This agency is not only an advocate for the entire art community of Alaska, especially for underserved communities, but as a clearinghouse, it generates money for our state. For example the national art association matches state funding, as does private organizations. With out ASCA hundred of thousands of dollars are lost to our state. It's the business bureau for the art community. Would we consider eliminating the state business bureau?

Our university system is also another generator of income for our state bringing out of state tuition to our state, and income to all the support services around the universities, to name a few. This quick axe of income will put a tailspin to our economy. A far greater effect than the spending of PFDs. A greater loss that will take a long time to recover from its devastating effects.

Relying mainly on gas income revenue is not a long term solution. It's economically proven it's cheaper, and in some cases the only feasible means, to run universal services by a government. Will private citizens, with their full PFDs, hand over money to rural police forces? Elementary schools? University scholarships to underprivileged bright Alaskan students to give them life opportunities? Senior citizens who have helped shape our state and don't have other resources to take care of their basic needs?

Thank you for reflecting and reconsidering our priorities.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Cline
907-299-7664

From: Patton, Trisha L <tlpatton@anthc.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:41 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>

Subject: RESTORE THE FUNDING AND REVERSE THE SWEEP

Good morning,

To whom this letter may concern: house finance.

My name is Trisha Patton (28 years old) I am a Dental Health Aide Therapist instructor/ practitioner with the Alaska Native Tribal consortium, based in Bethel, Alaska. I am a mother of three boys; ages 7, 3, and 4 months. I have been

practicing dental therapy since December of 2011, where I have lived in the village of Toksook Bay, providing essential dental services for the village and the region for about 2.5 years. My husband, Gilbert McIntyre who comes from Eek, AK is employed with the State of Alaska as a corrections officer. As you can imagine with the job titles that we have, we make a fair amount of money to survive in bush Alaska, but with the budget cuts and potential increase of cost of living, living out here for ANYONE is unrealistic. We continue struggle to live out here due to cost of living already, how much more struggles do we Alaskans in the Bush need? The budget cuts will tremendously impact me and my family and has caused an extreme fear for our future. I can't imagine what other families who are not as fortunate with jobs or careers as we are, how must they be living already? Where will we stand financially? We are at the point of discussion to leave our homes to peruse other job opportunities out of state or out of bush Alaska, (and how many other families are doing the same?) to avoid the increase of the cost of living because we don't feel we will be able to survive and provide essential needs for our children. I feel that we are essential parts of our community with the services we provide within our careers. I urge the house finance committee to come together for the better of our people, restore the funding and reverse the sweep! Especially for Pre-K, power cost equalization, Medicaid, and the scholarships!

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

Trisha Patton, Dental Health Aide Therapist Instructor Practitioner
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
610 Akiakchak Dr. Suite 208 Bethel, AK 99559
P: (907)543-0987,(907)729- 5611 // tlpatton@anthc.org // www.anthc.org

From: Sonta Hamilton Roach <sontahamilton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:42 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Access to opportunity and equality (Rural)

Greetings Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Sonta Roach, and I am a resident and local teacher here in Shageluk. I also am a mother of three kids, a director on Doyon, Limited, a business owner of two successful businesses. My husband is a Tribal Police Officer, the Mayor, and business owner. I am writing to express my support of HB 2001 and furthermore, to eliminate the governors veto power authority (at a later date).

I have been disappointed in the legislative processes these past few weeks, and the inability to meet in an agreed upon location. The vetos are so significant and severe that not one Alaskan will go untouched, and for rural Alaska, families will have to pick up and move to urban Alaska, further progressing the outmigration of families and the demise of our villages.

Education - preschool programs, as research shows, is essential to a successful education. However, in rural Alaska, it is often a huge gatekeeper to success, and perhaps even a reason that one family might continue to live in the village. We work hard to keep preschool programs alive and well in our villages.

University - I am a graduate of both UAF and UAS, and I know they have already made significant cuts in their programs. In regards to ACCESS, our rural Alaska Native students need to have access to the universities, and with the three alternative University models the Board of Regents is proposing (with the vetos), our minority and remote/rural students will be most impacted and the ivory towers will be further inaccessible. We cannot dismantle the work that kept the breath in the Alaska workforce.

Health Care - We have people half way through procedures that are having their funding ripped away from them. This is not the Alaska I know. You think of a community, and communities and leadership take care of those most vulnerable. We cannot throw these folks aside, or create a budget on the backs of the most vulnerable.

The Arts - the Alaska Education Council of the Arts recently shut its doors. And in Shageluk, we have built a wonderful relationship with these folks over the last ten years in order to expose our students to the arts, in order to leverage dollars to create a wonderful cultural arts program for our students. This is a need, and it felt like we were really making a positive impact.

I ask you this -- how do you measure impact? How do you showcase to the governor or others the results of the programs? It cannot only be through testimony but actual qualitative and quantitative data. We all work hard in rural Alaska to keep our communities thriving, we work hard to protect the most vulnerable, and we work hard to create a future for our young children. Alaska needs to continue doing its part. There is no option.

Thank you, respectfully,

Sonta Roach

From: Richard Guritz <rickguritz1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:59 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Testimony

Hello committee members and fellow Alaskans:

I have lived in Alaska since 1978 and my wife is also a long-time Alaskan. I have been retired for 3 years and my wife is semi-retired. We have children and grandchildren who live in the state as well. I have never provided testimony to our state government before today, but then I have never been so worried about the future of our great state.

Governor Dunleavy's budget vetos would negatively affect our family in many important ways:

- our 15 year-old son and our elementary school-aged grandchildren would experience a dramatically lower quality of education, not to mention reduced opportunities for post-secondary education in their home state.
- our adult children will have fewer opportunities to grow in their careers and provide a good quality of life for their families. Why would people come to our state or remain in our state if we do not even offer the most basic services people expect?
- my mother, a long-time Alaskan who lives in the Pioneer Home and currently pays her bill (nearly \$7,000 per month) from her own savings would likely see this increase to \$15,000 per month (based on the letter she received from HSS)

These radical cuts in funding make no sense, especially considering the governor's plans to fully fund high PFD payouts to every Alaskan. My wife and I are in favor of:

- reducing oil tax credits and reducing dependence on oil revenue by diversifying the state's economy
- reinstating a state income tax
- reducing PFD payments or possibly converting the program to needs-based for lower income Alaskans.

We strongly support K12 and University Funding, University research which brings in \$5 for every \$1 of state funds, senior services such as the pioneer home, Social Services needed for mental illness and drug abuse within our state, Department of Transportation for critical road maintenance and improvements. The governors vetos make no sense! Please restore funding of these critical services.

Thank you for listening,

Richard And Susan Guritz
4005 Sam Court
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Amber Shumpert <amber.m.shumpert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 7:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for full PFD

Good evening,

As I understand it, there is to be a public hearing on Monday in reference to the PFD amount. I speak for my family of 6 in North Pole in favor of a full PFD as laid out in Alaskan statute.

We understand that there is a budgeting issue within the state. As a holder of an MBA, and a current PhD candidate in BA, I have a higher than average understanding of business, taxes, revenue, and budgets. Reducing the PFD, without public approval, is tantamount to theft, and is a clear, unapproved tax. Predictable, reliable, legal forms of revenue need to be secured in order to provide the modern state services that are expected, while still providing the residents of Alaska with the proper share of the mineral rights that were taken from them. The so-called free ride is indeed over, but that should come in the form of a sales tax as that is not only the fairest form of tax for all residents, but would generate even more revenue off our tourist industry.

The residents of Alaska are expected and required to follow the laws, regulations, and statutes put forth by our government. The same is expected from our government. Pay the full PFD as is required, and address the revenue shortage during your general session, as you are paid to do.

Respectfully,
Amber Shumpert & family

From: Chris Miller <clmillerak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:06 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

Dear Committee members,

Since I was unable to testify at your meeting I am writing you to give my view on the current budget issue. As a retired member of the Armed Forces I am first appalled by the way the legislature has conducted itself. The current divide in this nation has found its way to Alaska, and sadly the west coast politics seems to have also. I decided to retire to Alaska because this state was different. We didn't worry about what outsiders thought. That has obviously changed, the Governor ran on making large cuts to the budget and he won. Having attended UAF I can say that there are a lot of things that need to change. I don't understand why the budget for the UA system has not been looked at in its entirety to find potential cuts. You just keep funding it blindly and not to mention the system is failing. The loss of accreditation and the move of the School of Education should have been the first indicator. The UA President continues to receive his annual bonus even with this happening. I was once told that the student council at UAF had a budget of around \$140k a year. Is this a necessity? I highly doubt it! I have taken classes with professors that could care less that they are teaching a class because their research is more important. So when I hear that the youth will suffer I don't see that being a fact. The UA system can indeed find areas to cut. Next, the PFD is not yours to take as it is owned by the people. Routinely public testimony was denied and things done behind closed doors on how the PFD will be used. Are you trying to run the state as dictators? You ARE NOT there to do what YOU want. You are there to do what those you represent want. That

being said I do not understand why this has not gone to a vote of the people? I assume it's because you know what the answer would be. That tells me that the message some are putting out that the Alaskan people don't mind the PFD being taken is false. I can say that those who represent me have lost my confidence and my vote! I pray that the Legislature decides to act like adults and properly represent the people you WORK FOR and follow the Constitution and laws of this great state. The uncontrolled spending you feel must continue is going to cripple this state and eventually force a mass exodus of population because nobody will be able to afford to live here. I for one know if the proposed income tax becomes reality I will be looking elsewhere to live. I implore you to come to the decision of funding the PFD and putting any future changes to the payout on to a ballot. And find a way to streamline the UA system and remove the wasteful spending of the high oil production days.

Thank you, Chris Miller

From: Emily Wright <emilylwright@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:23 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB2001

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2001 and all the work you are doing to restore the budget. I fully support a reduced or eliminated PFD.

I just spent the past week traveling in DC at training for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. I am a City Prosecutor here in Juneau. When people found out that I, and my colleagues, were from Juneau, the first thing they exclaimed was how beautiful they hear Alaska is and that they want to come for a visit. The second ... they mention that they read on the news that we were having to close down our Universities, our homeless shelters, our mental health programs. And finally, the third thing they say/ask - will I stay?

It is absolutely heartbreaking to me that I have to hesitate or qualify my answer to the last question. I am a UAF and UAS grad, and I work to protect the people of Juneau and Alaska every day. My entire career has been dedicated to public service. The only place I want to live is Alaska.

As far as I am concerned, the Legislature has done a solid job the past five years grappling with declining oil prices. The budgets have been responsible, manageable, and supported by debate and public input. And what has Governor Dunleavy done - he has said your work is worthless, he knows best (his outside hatchet woman knows best). He bought votes with a promise of \$3000 plain and simple; and consequences be damned, he will try to deliver.

I implore you to stand up and fight for us as you have been doing the past weeks. Your work and your heart keeps me here. The answer to the question, I will stay in Alaska, for now. This is my home. Your voices and your words (in floor sessions, at town halls, at Board of Regents meetings) give me hope.

Please restore the budget and protect our Universities, our children, our elders... the list goes on and on.

Thank you for all the work you do.

Emily Wright
718 5th Street
Juneau

From: Emily Wright <emilylwright@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:23 AM

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Thank you for all the work you do.

Emily Wright
718 5th Street
Juneau

From: Jack Polster <kcajpolster@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 5:02 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB2001

I am adamantly opposed to HB2001. The purpose of the permanent fund was to provide a check for the earnings received from revenue received from common resources held by the people of Alaska. Enough money was spent by past legislatures (and much wasted) to satisfy the constituents who lived off the activity of the operating and capital budgets. The permanent fund was intended to allow an individual to use a portion of that fund for his or her personal needs (send a kid to college, purchase a boat for subsistence, etc). FOLLOW THE LAW. IT SAYS (by statute) THAT 3,000 SHALL BE GIVEN THIS YEAR. IF YOU DO NOT LIKE THAT LAW, THEN CHANGE IT. THIS IS A COUNTRY AND STATE OF LAWS. NOT ONE WHERE POLITICIANS MIGHT SIMPLY IGNORE THE LEGAL RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO APPEASE SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO TWIST THE ARMS OF PLIANT LEGISLATORS WHO LIVE FOR RE-ELECTION. JACK POLSTER

From: Robert Archibald <robert.e.archibald@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reverse Sweep Funding for DEC, SPAR

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

The Spill Prevention and Response Division (SPAR) within the Department of Environment Conservation is responsible for the prevention of oil spills and the state response should a spill occur. The SPAR division is a crucial first line of defense in protecting the state's resources and the economy that depends on them. The Division is already struggling with turnover and difficulty filling vacancies. The SPAR Division is funded 100 percent through a per barrel tax levy on crude oil and a surcharge on refined petroleum products. The revenues collected through those taxes are specifically designated to support SPAR operations. Some of the Division's fund balance has been swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve as required by law. If the legislature does not approve the "reverse sweep", SPAR and the state's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills will be severely impacted. The Legislative Finance Division estimates that if the reverse sweep is not approved, SPAR will have an approximate \$3 Million hole in its budget. That is very significant when the entire Division budget is \$17 Million. It will almost certainly result in layoffs. I strongly encourage you to ensure that these funds are transferred into the SPAR account as intended.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Archibald
Board President and Representing the City of Homer, AK.
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council

From: Charles Derrick <cderrickak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

I am fed up with the legislature continuing to spend to maintain the bloated state government and ignoring the governors call for a balanced budget. It has finally taken a governor who is not afraid to use his veto power to bring your spending under control.

Your call to use my permanent fund check to prop up your bloated spending is shameful. The legislature has used the verbal smoke screen that they need to develop a plan to make sure there are dividends in the future. The dividend amount is based on the annual income from oil royalties and thus is already protected for the future, unless we have no oil income. The only threat to the dividend is the legislature spending all the earnings to pay for the bloated government, leaving nothing for the dividend. Any change to the PFD formula must be approved by a vote of Alaska residents, but you know the majority would not allow it so you do not allow us the vote. Balance the budget and hands off the PFD formula and live up to that formula.

Chuck Derrick
891 Seldom Seen Rd
Fairbanks, Ak 99712

From: Breanna, Mike, Rylee & Coven Peterson Otto <peterson_otto@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 Testimony

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governors vetoes.

I am particularly concerned about the AK State Council on the Arts, the public school system, the University of Alaska system, Medicaid and senior citizens. I have been part of ASCA's programs as an artist and an educator and have three children in the public schools. It would be devastating to eliminate this program, sometimes the only avenue arts is integrated into public schools. They also offer many other programs to Alaskan communities as a whole. I'm also gravely concerned about what will happen to our public schools and University systems. I went to UAA as a UA Scholar; because of this program, I graduated without student loans. I then attended UAF for my Masters, enrolled in a distance program. If I had to move from Kodiak to a campus, I would not have received my Masters. Instead, as a born and raised Alaskan, I received it in School Counseling and now work in my community as an elementary school counselor. Finally, senior citizens should never have to bear the brunt of this budget crisis, nor should those with Medicaid.

I believe you will come together and do what is best for Alaska and Alaskans. I appreciate you listening to us.

Thank you,
Breanna Peterson

From: Kendra Takak <kendratakak@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:24 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Restore Headstart & fund UA system!

Thank you for allowing me to provide a testimony today. My name is Kendra Kookruk Nichols-Takak, I was born and raised here in Nome, Alaska. My husband Silas and I raise our daughters Jocelyn (10) and Emma (7) here in Nome. In the early 80's I participated in and graduated from the Headstart Program, a program that both of my daughters have benefited from – when attending our daughters Kindergarten Parent/teacher conference her then teacher said, this the most prepared we have seen student entering into Kindergarten. Both my daughters had the same teacher. Meaning the social and academic efforts at Kawerak's Headstart programs have a ripple effect on benefits – so without the Headstart Program, the Public Schools with need to shift focus to those efforts, **which will impact bench marks** and social interactions at the school.

I am also a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I am **9 credits** away from receiving my Master's Degree in Rural Development, 6 of those credits are from my thesis or project. So, I am **one class required** class away from receiving my Master's Degree in May 2020. I attend on-line and access the distance courses at the Northwest Campus here in Nome. My future at the school is uncertain.

My role in my community is assisting tribal members with Employment & Training opportunities, career coaching and guidance. The education I have received at UAF along with the mentorship from my peers has provided a wealth of knowledge for my community. I look forward to serving on State Boards or Commissions.

I know that you have a difficult task in front of you but Rural Alaska will be hit hard with the proposed cuts. Do what you can to restore funding from Headstart, the university system and senior/elder benefits. Quyaana!

Kendra Nichols-Takak
Nome, Alaska

From: Tara Schmidt <taraschmidt@umass.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB2001

UAA student.
Lifelong Alaskan.
I support HB2001 and an incremental approach to balancing the state budget.

--

Tara Schmidt
PC CARES Research Fellow
UMass Community Health Education
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Cell: (907) 304-2753

From: isabelleak@aol.com <isabelleak@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vetos-override

Vetos: I do not support Governor Dunleavy's massacre of the state budget and his \$444 million in additional cuts to the UA system, education, scholarships, health, social services, public broadcasting, elderly stipends, etc. I support a gradual reduction in the state budget so that the state does not go into a major recession. We all know that cuts will hit rural Alaska the most as it has in past years. I would encourage this to be minimized as much as possible as communities depend on state and federal funds and need time to adjust.

PFD: I also do not support the proposed \$3000 PFD. The PFD will not replace the loss of jobs and services these cuts will bring. A dividend of around \$1000-1400 makes more sense while keeping many existing services.

Bills: I am in favor of ANY bill that will override all of his vetos.

Public Broadcasting: It is a lifeline in rural Alaska. In most communities, they do not have the means to fully support their stations and state funds are a lifeline.

Services: Programs that have matching federal funds. Please capitalize on matching federal funds to further stretch our dollars without removing

PCE: In addition, PCE for rural Alaska needs to be reinstated. The PCE was created in lieu of major projects that reduced the electricity costs for road system residents. It is an endowment fund set aside for this purpose. Please do not raid it but use it for the specific purpose it was intended: to reduce electricity costs in rural Alaska to bring electric costs more in line with urban Alaska. We find each year the number of kw hours covered goes down, but the funds are there. Now I see it is being raided to cover the cost of the public safety bill.

Thank you for your time.

From: Coleen Turner <coleenturner3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:36 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please over ride the governor's vetoes

Good afternoon! My name is Coleen Turner and I have lived in Alaska for 38 years, and the recent events with the cuts in state services, along with a high PFD make me sad! Getting rid of the needed services for ALL Alaskans is a travesty, and it is one that you can fix. This new special session is an opportunity for you to fund needed services, UA, arts and so much more. The federal matches that will be lost by lack of state funding leaves money on the table.

I urge you to do the right think. Thank you,
Coleen Turner
141 Nilgrub Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: **Sue Steinacher** <502sue@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Subject: Comment on HB2001

To: Housefinance@akleg.gov

Cc: neal.foster@akleg.gov, "sen.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us" <sen.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am appalled at the cuts being made by the Governor. HOWEVER, I cannot accept a cut to the PFD if it is not also coupled with an income tax. To only reduce the PFD takes the same amount of money away from Alaska's poorest child as it does our wealthiest citizen. This is simply not fair.

What IS fair is the same way our government system makes it fair for fifty diverse states. Each state gets two senators AND each state gets a number of representatives according to their population size.

I have no problem with cuts to the PFD, where every citizen is cut by the same amount AS LONG AS every citizen also pays according to their ability to pay. This is the only fair way, AND it's the American way.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to my proposal. Now is the time to bring an income tax back as we also look to cut the PFD. But not one without the other.

Respectfully,

Sue Steinacher
Nome, Alaska 99762
907-443-7673

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:43 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Testimony (via email)

A cash payout to citizens cannot replace the services or reputation lost from Gov. Dunleavy's cuts...

The best and most fair long term solution IMHO:
- full restoration of services, and quickly!

- reign in tax-breaks for oil companies
- full PFD payments to Alaskans (no more AKLeg dipping!) - repaying lost amounts from previous years PFD snatches (over the course of a few years if necessary)
- modest state income tax (out of state workers must pay as well)

If restoring the Governor's cuts means a small or no PFD payout this year, then so be it, but those PFD "snatches" in years past (and potentially this year) should be paid back in full in a reasonable time frame. Don't rob from Peter to pay Paul... just add revenue in a modest and proportional method. You can always take taxes away later if we find ourselves to be too wealthy of a state.

This would be the most fair path forward. This would truly affect all Alaskan's proportionally.

Remember, the during the first session of Alaska's congress, they instituted a business tax, a poll tax, and established the Pioneer Home... Don't turn your backs on those who came before you, and please leave Alaska a better place for those who will come after us.

The Governor's "burn-it-down" strategy is a disgrace to our state. He's from Ohio, with an axe wielding budget director from down south (that won't even pay for her own trash service while living here in Douglas...!).

If you don't fix the Governor's problems now, they will compound 10 fold upon us all. We'll work on recalling this POS "Governor" - you work on fixing the policies he's defecated upon...

Sincerely, and most earnestly,

J. Austin Osterhout
Juneau, AK (since 2009)

From: Glenna Gannon <glennagannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Opinion Message: Re HB 2001

July 18, 2019
Public Opinion Message: To All legislators: Re HB 2001

A \$900.00 PFD is sufficient for Alaskans. It is more important is to fund; The UA budget (including student loans), PBS, Headstart, Medicaid, Public Arts, K-12 education, Violence/Homeless and Adult public assistance programs for our State and its citezens to have any kind of future.
Thank you for your consideration,
Glenna Gannon, MES.c

From: JnS Brodie <jns_brodie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Our Future Alaska

Hello Fellow Alaskans,

Please continue to fight for a small (or no) dividend and the capital budget as proposed by our Finance Committees who have spent a lot of time thinking and collaborating to create a good plan.

I have been an Alaska resident since 1974. My husband was born and raised in Alaska.

I moved to Barrow from California when I was 7 years old, a few years later we moved to Fairbanks where I attended elementary, middle school, high school and UAF. After college I moved to Juneau to pursue teaching, then Anchorage where I have remained and have been teaching K-6 for the past 29 years - an Alaskan for 45 years.

I have raised a family here. I have two girls who have attended our UA system. One of them just graduated from UAA with a degree in nursing. I would like her to stay. She is making decisions now based on our state's future. Our other daughter and granddaughter have lived out of state for a number of years. She and our son-in-law have been considering moving back to Alaska to pursue careers in engineering. My husband is also a UAF graduate and an engineer with an oil company. He is helping the engineers in our family make their best choices. At this time, no one in our family wants to make a commitment to Alaska. We need you to make the choice first. The choice is yours. Will we stay or will we go? Will we invest in new property in Alaska or will we have to consider selling before it's too late?

We are a fiscally conservative, professional family. We understand facts and figures and we do see a need to control spending and create a wise balance for our state economy with long term solutions. We do not want to see a recession in our state. I have no doubt most of the current vetoes were not thought through well and are going to badly hurt our future. These decisions will likely cost us more money in the end. We need a thoughtful plan, not one with random vetoes and no explanation from our administration regarding those vetoes. We hope to gain a better understanding from today's session and some answers from our governor.

A \$3000 dividend is a ridiculous amount and is going to come when we have lost jobs, homes, public safety, roads, heat, medical care, our university system, preschools (which will effect school-aged children), and quality professionals to careers outside of Alaska. None of this will be easily recovered and will have lasting effects on Alaska. It could take us 50 years to rebuild what we currently have. It is excessive, unnecessary and will hurt our state economy rather than help it. We need a forward thinking plan for our financial future, not a quick payout.

We need hope and confidence that our leaders are making smart choices. Our administration including our governor, commissioners, and OMB need to provide clear answers to questions about the impacts the vetoes will have on the people of our great state. I'm ready for a strategic financial plan. This isn't it. These vetoes do not create the future I want for our family and for our state.

A small or no dividend and the well thought out budget as proposed by our Finance Committees, please.

Thank you for voting wisely and for continuing to pursue what is best for Alaskans!

Shannon Brodie
jns_brodie@hotmail.com
907-349-4948

From: Julia S. Murph <jsmurph99@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarship

Alaska Legislature,

My name is Julia Murph and I am currently a sophomore at UAF pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. I am also an athlete on UAF's cross country team. Last semester, I earned my first B in my life in a math class crucial to my degree. Previous to this, I have only received A's dating as far back as 6th grade. The reason for this was the promise of reward for my achievements in the form of the Alaska Performance scholarship (APS). The APS has inspired me to work hard in all my classes because I believed that that hard work would enable me to achieve my academic and career goals. By not honoring that promise, Alaska's government has caused me to doubt the trust I have held in our government, and question if I would like to contribute to Alaska's success by entering an Alaskan work force upon graduation.

I come from a small fishing island in Southeast Alaska, and although beautiful, cost of living and travel makes it hard for students leaving for higher education to come back and add their new skill set to the needs of the town. Increasing the expense of an instate education, and decreasing the amount of available scholarships will further discourage students like me from staying in Alaska to work. Students are the future of Alaska, and making way for the future should be a top priority in every government.

Across cultures, the act of going back on a promise is held as a serious offence to a person's honor. I would be ashamed to live in a state where the honor of that state has been brought into question because of the promises they have broken.

I have always been proud to be an Alaskan. I don't want that to change. Please honor the promises you have made to me and the rest of the APS recipients. A bigger PFD is simply a band-aid for current times and does not begin to make up for the thousands of dollars lost in scholarship and education funding. This does not take into account the inspiration for hard work that the APS has sparked in countless students.

Thank you for the time and work you have given for the well being of Alaska citizens. I now ask you to consider the well being of Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Julia Murph

From: Kristin Donaldson <kristinmdonaldson@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:21 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB2001 - Written Testimony of Support

To House Finance Committee Members:

I appreciate this opportunity to give testimony.

Please support full funding for the University of Alaska and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

Reducing the permanent fund is one way to accomplish this.

Both of these entities benefit the state immensely and are necessary for a successful future.

The critical services CCHRC provides, regarding building and infrastructure, are invaluable to the state.

Funding CCHRC will effectively cost the state no money.

The energy savings in public buildings far exceed the state's investment in them.

Thank you for your time!

From,
Kristin Donaldson

From: bruce farnsworth <whenpoetsfly@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:25 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Pass HB2001 Intact!

-Dear Senators and members of the finance committee,

I'm a 42 year resident of Alaska, a super-voter, and, like most of my fellow Alaskans I am not a member of either of the two main parties.

Tens if not hundreds of thousands of Alaskans are following your every move. Hanging on every word you say. This level of citizen engagement is unprecedented and you know it. Many of you are thrilled. Many of you are terrified and unnerved by it. You should be.

You and your colleagues worked hard to debate and adopt a compromise budget that was truly austere. Maybe it was the best you could do given the politics of the situation at that moment. But for reasons that most Alaskans find baffling, you couldn't seem to come up with ideas to generate revenue, only programs and institutions to cut. As simple-minded as that approach was, at least you sent a budget bill on to the Governor for his input that left the state viable.

Now that you are all gathered in Juneau you can SAVE OUR STATE!

Everyone is saying compromise is the solution. This is probably the case. The thing is, you already did. You came up with a "compromise" budget and sent it to the governor. Leaving some of the governor's vetoes intact is not the kind of compromise we will support.

The kind of compromise we will support is contained in the current version of HB2001.

1. Restore your original budget.
2. Compromise on the amount of the PFD. While it is dangerous and probably irresponsible to pay out a huge dividend to all Alaskans at this time, the consequences of the vetoes are much, much more devastating to our state and our future.
3. Pass HB2001
4. Reverse the CBR Sweep

Do not get into a discussion about which vetoes to override and which to let stand. . That just pits Alaskans against other Alaskans. Override them all.

We are counting on you to take advantage of this opportunity to save our state and maybe save your job.

Respectfully Yours,

Bruce Farnsworth

From: Frank Keim <frankkeim@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:50 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re HB 2001

House Finance Committee
July 18, 2019

Re HB 2001

Hello Everyone,

For the record, I do **not** believe Alaskans need more than a \$900.00 dividend. The difference between \$3000.00 and \$900.00 dividends should be used to pay a part of our important social and educational needs, including: most of the primary UA budget needs (including student loans and grants), PBS programming, Head Start, Medicaid (including dental) extensions, Arts enrichment programs, K-12 teacher salaries and programs, and Violence/Homeless and Adult public assistance programs. These are basic components of the infrastructure of a civil and informed society.

Thanks.

Frank Keim
2220 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Laura M Forbes <Leadergreen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today, to be counted as an Alaskan citizen, urging you to pass HB 2001.

As I understand, this legislation is designed to:

1. Reinstate, by appropriation, state services cut by the Governor's 182 line item vetos, 2. Fund the PFD at a compromise level, and 3. Reverse the CBR sweep.

I encourage you to take this action, implementing the above, three items, as representative of me as an Alaskan.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Laura Forbes
Dean PI
Anchorage

From: Sue Sprinkle <suesprinkle@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001 is a good start

To all,

The Governor is willing to decimate all the good and decent things we love about Alaska; the arts, our elders, our kids, the list goes on. I can't figure out who he's trying to please because this won't make Alaska stronger, nor will it encourage business as corporations will want a place that people will want to live.

Why can't we learn our lessons? We must put some of our skin in the game. Pass this legislation, cap the PFD, bring in new sources of income (payroll tax), and gut SB21 (yet another piece of "bait and switch" legislation introduced by a deceptive Governor.

Thank you for listening to so many of us last night.

Sue Sprinkle
Fairbanks, AK

From: Ben Muse <ben.muse@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore money vetoed by the governor, especially for homeless programs

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to restore all the money the governor vetoed from the operating budget.

I especially want to ask you to put back the money meant to help communities to deal with their homeless people.

This includes the following grant programs: (1) Needs Housing Grant; (2) the Special Needs Housing Grant; (3) the Human Services Community Matching Grant; (4) the Community Initiative Matching Grant.

Communities all over the state are being forced to cut back homeless services.

This hurts people who are already in trouble. But if the overall cuts cause a recession, the number of people needing help will increase.

People who need help will become harder to track, and will move out of sight of the people who can help them; lives may be put at risk in bad weather.

Loss of these programs will create new problems for cities, towns, and villages if the need for emergency services and law enforcement increases. Local property and sales taxes may have to rise to make up for lost funding, and homeless people on the streets will cause problems for local businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

Ben Muse
Juneau

From: Jeff Dean <jhdean@jeffreyhdean.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

To the House Finance committee,

HB2001 addresses the cuts made by the Governor's vetoes, funds the capital budget, determines a PFD amount, and returns funding to programs including the performance scholarship and power cost equalizations.

I am your constituent in District 31. I was born in Alaska 62 years ago and have spent the majority of my life here. I have seen the benefits provided by the University system, The Alaska State Council on the Arts, and so many more of the programs that are being targeted by the budget cuts.

I am asking that you, my representative, advocate for what I consider important in Homer and pass HB2001 to restore funding to the programs, including the Alaska State Council on the Arts, that I believe are important for a healthy and vibrant Alaska.

Balancing Alaska's budget can be done without the devastating impact promised by the governor's vetos. Supporting the governor's vetos in no way reflects my vision for Alaska and failure to override them and refund these programs is nothing other than shortsighted with regards to all that is good. It is one huge step backwards for Alaska and one large step forward into barbarism.

Sincerely,
Jeff Dean

From: Barbara Powell <blpalaska@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comment on Bill

I believe the PFD should be set at a smaller amount, such as \$900. I am in favor of overriding the governor's vetoes. The cuts the legislature came up with before the vetoes are enough for one year.

Please recommend passage of the bill before your committee. Thank you.

Barbara Powell
1045 Eldorado Rd
Fairbanks, Ak 99709
PO Box 81254
Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Jennifer Headtkke <itsrantingraven@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Don't cut the funding!

To our State representatives:

I am writing you to voice my opinion and concern on the funding cuts within our state.

You are supposed to be representing us, as residents of our beautiful state.

Cutting education and the arts is wrong, it undermines the future for our kids.

Actions like these make life even harder here . . .

The programs offered for everyone are invaluable. There are many ordinary people here, who benefit from free media and enjoy public art in their communities. Small art councils provide much needed events, and are mostly done on a volunteer basis in our towns, like Seward where I head up our Mural Society.

We work hard to create art for everyone, and bring history to life. They are FREE!

These projects enhance tourism and communicate to everyone.

Working together on these things make life here special. The State should support that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Headtko

Seward Mural Society/Seward Arts Council

Seward Alaska

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

From: Mayor Kelty <mayorkelty@ci.unalaska.ak.us>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:29 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD amount veto override situation

House Finance Members,

I'm opposed to a \$3,000 PFD it is totally reckless as far as I'm concerned, and just pushes the deficit higher or more forces more deliberately cuts to state government which I also oppose which if allowed will further a-road the quality of life in Alaska. Many of my constituents in Unalaska have also told me that they oppose the \$ 3,000 PFD they support continued state services such education funding for early education and Head Start , K-13 and most importantly a University System that we can be proud of and not reduced to a Junior College.

Major concerns to me and many of my constituents is impact to senior benefits including Medicaid which is critical for travel needs to get to a hospital 800 miles away and costs \$1,100 R/T from Unalaska. We have concerns on the loss of Public broadcasting and the impacts to community located in the middle of the Bering Sea and sits on earthquake ring of fire; continued reduced funding for the Marine Highway System . Please adjust the capital budget to include the funding that the Governors vetos reduced. This is critical for this state to be place you would want you and your family to live in with a great quality of life.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Mayor of Unalaska

From: David Poppe <davidpoppe56@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work. I know the budget process is always contentious, and I appreciate anyone willing to place themselves in line for criticism in hopes of a public process and a budget we can live with.

I am against the severe cuts made by Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes and am writing to support any measure that can restore funding to our university system and other parts of our State that benefits from a collective sharing of the burden of providing services that cannot be done by the private sector.

I do not budget for a PFD check in my life. If I see that I need more money, I look for a job or sell something. I have cows, and I have a plan for what I want my cows to be able to do. If I was following the Governor's budget logic, I would be having to slaughter 44% of my cattle, setting back by ten years what I want my cow herd to be able to do. If I don't get hay made, (summer income from the sun) then I might be forced to slaughter my cows, including young calves not ready to be slaughtered.

I do not like that, to me, the Governor's budget looks to be a plan to crash our publicly backed universities, crash support for people living in rural areas, crash social support services that make life harder for many people living, working on the front lines to make our communities work.

I have read/listened to comments about the PFD being "my money." And I agree, it is. But Alaska is my State too. I pay so little in taxes. And I know we don't have a population large enough to support state government through, say, just an income tax. But to have the citizens paying nothing....

I heard Governor Dunleavy state that he wanted his budget to defund everything as much as possible, then if we see something that was cut that it looks like we need, then we can bring it back. I don't see how that can work, for once gone, people are gone, university employees, programs, research lost. The startup costs would be larger than the savings. Just sign me off as suspicious of the logic

It has been pointed out that the oil tax credits being paid out this year would have balanced the budget. The promise was that oil flow through the pipeline would be over 1 mbpd now. The tax credits did not do their work. Snookered by the oil lobby once again.

Thank you,

David Poppe

PO Box 95

Nenana, Alaska 99760

ps. Just have to say, the State needs to get off the oil "teat", our future for a livable planet requires keeping oil in the ground, gas in the ground, coal in the ground.
do

From: Marilyn (LoveINC) <prc@alaska.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:36 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I thank you for your time and commitment to work the hours necessary to attain a budget that would maintain support for health, well being, education and support of rural native communities. I am an Alaskan native and I'm the Program Coordinator for Love INC Juneau. As I review the current budget, I am fearful of the devastating effects to our state's people. As a service organization that works with partner churches and community agencies, to connect those in need to appropriate resources, I can only pray for you who have the power to make wise decisions for the health and welfare of

our people. Stand firm. Be encouraged. I believe that you can create a budget that benefits life, communication, education, healing and the protection of the vulnerable.

May God grant you wisdom and discernment, patience and perseverance, and abiding hope and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen

Marilyn Loney

From: travisrector . <travisrector@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:43 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore budget to original passed by legislature

I am writing to ask you to undo the vetos by Gov. Dunleavy and restore the budget originally passed by the legislature. Dunleavy's cuts would plunge the Alaska economy back into a recession, just as we were recovering from the previous one. It would cause a major brain drain in the state, and make it hard to recruit talent from Outside. Thank you for listening.

Regards, Travis
2441 Glenwood St.
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Patricia White <patriciawhite501@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:43 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Smaller PFD

I wish to add my comments to the issue of balancing the budget.
I want smaller PFD, other sources of income to the state, i.e income tax, less credits to oil companies.
I want University, good schools, arts and culture .

Thank you,
Pat White
6105 Thane Rd
Juneau

From: Melissa Griffiths <melissa.leeanne@googlemail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save our State: Restore funding

Dear Representatives,
You've heard hours upon hours of testimony and received thousands of emails. Thank you for taking the time to read one more comment from me.

I believe the House and Senate passed a budget that took into account both the financial realities of our state's revenues and the very real needs of Alaska's residents. It is my wish that the legislature work together to restore funding vetoed by Governor Dunleavy by whatever means possible.

Personally, I am willing to accept a reduced dividend. I'd be willing to pay taxes. As a society, a government — as a community — we can do more collectively. A \$3,000 dividend to me is not worth losing the services that keep Alaskans alive.

Cutting funding for senior services, homelessness and Medicaid will cost us lives. Cuts to education at every level will ensure Alaskans' futures are limited. We should strive to give our future generations better than what we have received.

And, though its importance may seem to pale next to matters of life and death like medical care and housing, funding for the arts is also very important. Art is one of the reasons I call Juneau home. It's the foundation of my small business. Art's therapeutic effects can save lives and its vibrance enriches our communities and contributes to a thriving economy.

Fiscal responsibility isn't slashing budgets, it's making careful choices. We should not allow ideology to send our state into a tailspin.

Sincerely,

Melissa Leeanne Griffiths
Douglas, AK 99824

From: Helene Masour <ymatusevich@alaska.edu>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:20 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: letter from Y. Matusevich

1. First of all, thank you the legislature for a very reasonable budget. You did a great job and people appreciate it.
2. I write as a mother and as a teacher. As a mother because my autistic son would have never improved were it not for Head start pre-school in Fairbanks, the only pre-school that accepted him. Head start accepts children no one else would: with disabilities, low income, at risk etc., and they do wonders with them. Children born disadvantaged already cannot be deprived even more by denying them the only venue still open to them! This program prepares thousands of Alaska children for school, for life, and eventually makes them contribute to Alaska as normal adults. Without this help my son would have not been what he is now.
3. I would gladly give my PFD, my job, my income if only my students, who are due to graduate, can finish their education. My students are almost all Alaskans, many from remote villages, and UAF is their only chance. My little French program has a 100% job placement (please, check our website) and UAF is for my students a way out of poverty and to the world. Over the years, they won thousands of \$ in scholarships nationwide. I can provide many examples of my students who made fantastic careers with UAF degrees, and the vast majority stayed in Alaska.
4. UAF is often accused of low graduation rate. This is unfair because of two reasons. One is a large % of military students who move. Every university with a large military population has this issue. The second is rural students and rural campuses. These two populations bring UAF graduation rate to where it is.
5. The proposed cuts are not cuts and should not be called cuts. When you cut the head, it is not a cut, it is a murder. UAF has been named one of the ten best small public universities in the WORLD, and it is a serious scientific institution important not only for Alaska but to the world. It is absolutely unique and irreplaceable.
6. The climate change is happening, Alaska is burning as we speak. We can pretend to ignore it until our house catches on fire. Then we will scream for help and ask scientists to come up with a miracle solution. UAF's International Arctic Research Center is the number one Climate Research center in the world and oil companies want to shut it up. But we don't have another Alaska and we don't have another planet. This is life and death, and closing UAF is suicidal! Even if you don't care for yourself, you have children, grand-children. They need to breathe, don't they? We hardly could breathe this summer, it is terrifying and this will only get worse. Please, wake up!
7. The city of Fairbanks. The banks already are no longer considering applications because of the imminent wide scale unemployment threat in the state. This one out of thousands examples of how state services, small

local businesses, and finance are all interdependent. Without its main employer, Fairbanks will be no more, since, unlike Anchorage, it is essentially a college town.

8. Finally, this is quote from one of my students, which is so powerful: "More than anything, this ordeal painfully proves that mass mobilization and politicization of people has little effect on final outcomes. The powerful minority is certain to find ways to circumvent normal proceedings and any acknowledgement of the majority's will. Perhaps this phenomenon is common knowledge, but it is a good life lesson for me nonetheless. Within a few short days, I lost a functioning government, a good university and a promise the state made to me."

Yelena Mazour-Matusevich, Fairbanks

From: Meghan Holtan <holtan.meghan@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Restore the funding HB 2001

Hello -

I am writing in support of HB 2001 to restore the cuts to the operating budget and designate a \$900 PFD. I am heartened by the work the legislature did to craft an operating budget during the regular session and now agreeing to meet in one location. The voices of Alaskans are being heard through their representatives. I hope you are able to come to some sort of compromise with each other. I realize you already thought you had done that with the operational budget, but it's only by doing this again that we can avoid getting to a place where thousands, if not tens of thousands of Alaskans are worse off. These cuts mean real and painful changes to people's lives. I see in my work the impact already as I hear of homeless providers coming together to figure out what will happen to the 100+ people who won't have even temporary shelter. I hear about Alaska Legal Services limiting new clients except for some seniors. They provide the legal tools that seniors need to age healthfully in their homes, instead of costly (to the state and federal government) nursing homes. With these funding cuts, we're not only cutting off resources to the most vulnerable but we're removing some of the main ways of connecting them to a path to independence and health. These are our neighbors!

I already watched in dismay as the State Council on the Arts closed. I worked for several years as a teaching artist in rural Alaska. The arts helped students realize their potential as individuals and as members of a community. This is a huge loss, and one of the more visible losses to come our way.

We need to ask ourselves as a community, is government for the benefit of all, or just a few? I urge you work towards a vision of Alaska that is inclusive of all our community members and where we take care of our neighbors in times of need and celebrate when we succeed.

Thanks,
Meghan Holtan
817 West 19th Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

From: Pat Fitzgerald & Robin Dale Ford <10planet@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:38 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Regarding Oil Companies, Vetoes, PFD, State Income Tax & HB2001

I was born in the Territory on Alaska 67 years ago so I know what it was like before the oil companies came here. That's where the pride of being an Alaskan began and it's good to see it show up again in the fight to save our state and its university. Let me state a larger picture of what is happening in Alaska (which I'm sure you all know.): The state has

made a lot of money off oil the companies have taken out of the ground and the oil companies made a lot of money from that oil too. We owe each other nothing in that respect.

But these very same oil companies not only hid from the American public what they knew about the burning of fossil fuels and it's cause of the increase of Co2 in our atmosphere but they also gave millions of dollars to spread doubt and disinformation about it to the public. This has been a direct cause of the dire place we find ourselves at today, facing the destruction of the planet as we know it. And, as predicted, we've seen it manifesting itself in the northlands before the rest of the country.

I won't go in to the particulars. The stories are in the news here every day. But I want to mention that beyond destroying the natural Alaska we have come to know and rely on, the Koch Brothers and their front group, the Americans for Prosperity, are now attempting to destroy our societal infrastructure as well. We owe Big Oil, Big Energy nothing. We've gone beyond paying our bills and we've wound up paying them more than we are getting for our oil. I therefore ask you to do what the people of Alaska think you will never do and stop the giveaway to the oil companies and instead use that money to pay down our debt.

As for the PFD I have always been in a position to use that money to pay property taxes, bills etc. but I've always considered it a giveaway and I can certainly do without it or with a reduced amount if that will keep it going and help the state budget. I very much want us all to pay an income tax and I'd like you to reinstate all the money our "oil" governor has vetoed. We hired you and pay you to, among other jobs, create a well-considered budget and I believe you have worked hard to accomplish that goal. And I think it should stand "as is".

+Reduced PFD

+State progressive income tax based on federal tax returns

+Reinstate legislature's budget

+Stop the giveaway to Big Oil

Pat Fitzgerald

From: Hilikka Bold <hilikka55@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:40 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: OUR Alaska

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My \$3000 cannot buy an education for my children.

My \$3000 cannot provide stability or adequate income for Alaska's teachers.

My \$3000 cannot supply health care for those who need it most.

My \$3000 cannot supplement affordable care for our pioneers, or subsidies for our struggling seniors.

My \$3000 cannot pay for food and shelter for the homeless.

My \$3000 cannot provide safety in our urban and rural neighborhoods.

My \$3000 cannot sustain the ferry system, the lifeblood of our coastal communities.

My \$3000 cannot fund our Arts Council.

My \$3000 cannot even touch financing Alaska's university system...

But together, as a state, we can support all of those things. That is the whole point of modern society, is it not?? And we have the means.

I am more than willing to contribute my PFD. I am absolutely OK with paying income tax. I understand that as part of an active, vibrant community, it's important to contribute. Our most vulnerable citizens should have a safety net. I am shocked and embarrassed that we are even having these debates, while we Alaskans have been given so much!

Furthermore, why is the state subsidizing the oil companies, providing excessive tax credits? This is absurd! Fixing the oil tax issue should be our government's #1 priority! Maybe it made sense in the past, but we are LIVING climate change, and our dependence on fossil fuels cannot continue. Defunding the university research programs, that are trying to tackle this very problem, is backwards and short-sighted. Every morning that I wake up, coughing wildfire smoke, I am reminded that we are contributing to the problem. It's time to think beyond the here and now. Our very existence depends upon it.

Distance yourselves from our corrupt, deceitful and destructive governor! Tackle the tough problems! Don't bend over to big oil. We, the citizens of Alaska, are depending on you to do the right thing, follow the state's constitution, and employ your moral compass. We elected you to do so.

And thank you to the legislators that are working tirelessly to SAVE OUR STATE!

Sincerely,
Hilkka Bold, RN
West Anchorage
Lifelong Alaskan

From: deborah holland <holland.deborah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PF/Sustainable Budget

Stealing is wrong. Thieves are criminals. What part of hands off my PFD don't you understand?

If we the people don't see some positive results in this session, I believe you will find that Alaskans are willing to stand their ground.

Listening to only what you want to hear is inexcusable. The people spoke when they elected Michael Dunleavy as Governor. You know exactly what the majority wants. Your little road shows with stacked decks in favor of your thievery did not fool anyone.

I sincerely hope, you will do the right thing here. Stealing is not the right thing, in case your Mommie didn't teach you. If you persist in taking money from the very people who pay your salary and per diem and calling your actions legal, while accusing the people of greediness because they insist on keeping what is theirs, I fear it will not end well.

Alaska is a cold dark place without those who finance the lights and the heat.

Deborah

From: John Earls <excaptain@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:17 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFD

Our state needs to rein in spending and NOT pass HB2001.

If you get your way the Permanent fund will be gone in the years to come because you just can't keep your hands off it as a way to pay for state government.

Then what do you do start taxing every working person in Alaska so you can keep growing government?

You folks are destroying this state by your greed for state government. Why don't you put as much effort in bringing business's to this great state and growing the population.

As far as UAA is concerned don't they own a lot of land looks like they could manage it for a better pay out.

As far as all the socialism you are supporting and crony capitalism stop it, we the people don't need that in our state government.

I'm for a full PFD (I use it to pay my property taxes).

Get rid of property taxes and you can keep your PFD until you spend it all.

John Earls

Homer, Alaska

From: Caitlin Palmer <caitlin@climbalaska.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:19 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please look ahead and get ALL matching Federal funds

Hello State of Alaska House Finance Committee,

Please work out the State budget to receive all federal matching grants. I can not fully express my immersive dissatisfaction with the proposed budget at this point.

I highly value public education funding. I highly value roads and transportation infrastructure. I highly value the Arts. I highly value services for those in vulnerable financial and medical situations.

Please find a way to make this work and revise much needed matching funds that help our state thrive.

Thank you,

Caitlin

Caitlin Palmer

Alaska Mountaineering School, LLC

Talkeetna, AK 99676

907-733-1016 office

907-841-1394 mobile

From: Laurie Murdock <kodiakweaver@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Override the Vetos

I am writing today to urge you to override the vetos. As an active member of the Kodiak Community, I see what the cuts will do to our community and all other communities just like Kodiak.

1. Our senior population is already struggling. Please reinstate the Senior Benefits Program
2. Our Kodiak Arts Council will close its doors with funding for the Arts. "Art Matters"
3. Our homeless shelter will probably have to close its doors without help from the state.
4. Our university system is a necessary part of life in our community.
5. Our children need to be well educated.
6. Our town and will lose some of its best and brightest because they will no longer be afford to live here.

This is just six of the reasons I oppose the governor's cuts in the budget.

Thank you

Laurie Murdock

3272 Mill Bay Rd, Kodiak, AK 99615

From: Susitna Valley PTSA <svptsa@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget for Education and Community Services

State of Alaska House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Parent Teacher Student Association of Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High School, a rural tilted 1 school in the Matanuska Susitna Borough, Talkeetna, Alaska. **We strongly urge you work out the State budget to receive all federal matching grants.** We are dissatisfied with the proposed budget and urge you to work hard to fund Arts, Education, Community Services and Health and Wellness Programs. All of these services affect our Alaskan students and teachers.

Alaskans need and highly value public education funding, the Fine Arts roads and transportation infrastructure, and accessible health and wellness services for Alaskans in vulnerable situations.

Please find a way to make the budget work to fund our community services that are required for healthy, educated communities. Our state deserves to receive the much needed matching federal funds that help our state thrive.

We await a positive response from you in the coming days.

Thank you for your hard work on this,
Caitlin

Caitlin Palmer

Sistine Valley School PTSA, President

Talkeetna, AK 99676

907-841-1394 mobile

From: Rebecca Traylor <wbusters@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:44 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony for Senate Finance Committee

After listening to the HB2001 Finance Committee hearing on July 17th from 2pm-7pm, I still have not been called for testimony via phone, so I am submitting my testimony in writing.

My name is Rebecca Traylor, I reside at 6884 Markgraf, Salcha AK. I am a 50 year resident of the state of Alaska. I was here before the pipeline/oil money/PFD and I will be here after.

As I was trying to find my inspiration for the content of my testimony, I happened to be watching the local news (Fairbanks) on Tuesday the 16th of July. They happened to be doing a "Man on the Street" interview regarding the Governor's Vetos. An older man said "People want things for free". I beg to differ. Not only was I personally insulted, but I find this feeling short sighted and extremely FAULTY.

I am a proponent of Independent Living and Home and Community-based services. This concept is a national movement that allows people to stay in their homes, receive needed supports, and effectively "Age in Place". As such, I currently qualify for Personal Care Attendant Services. I currently qualify for assistance for 37hrs per week. My PCA receives 30K per year for providing me services (funded by state money-Medicaid). If these services are no longer available and or should I meet the criteria for institutional care(waiver services), and be placed in Denali Center or Pioneer Home, that will cost of the state a minimum of 150K a year.

Or, I could have my grown children pick up the slack and take care of me. So, you would like them to quit their jobs robbing the state of employment dollars, jeopardizing their children's futures, and ultimately creating more people requiring funding i.e. food stamps, housing assistance, etc.

Surely by now, some of us will require mental health services. OH WAIT! Those have been cut. So instead we will have to visit the ER putting extra burdens on the already overwhelmed system and costing Medicare and Medicaid (tax payer money) thousands extra.

Want things for FREE do I? I give back!!! I have given back countless thousands of hours in volunteer time to non-profits like; Wallbusters- local Grassroots advocacy group which is known nationally for its outstanding work, Access Alaska- Our local independent living Center, DART- a group advocacy which provides services for disabled persons who experience violence against them, SILC- the Governors Statewide Independent Living Council which provides oversight to the independent living centers across the state.

Most people with disabilities give back more than they receive.

So Finance Committee, I believe these vetos are short-sighted.

Oh WAIT, so, what will you do when your older family members need services such as Meals on Wheels or Access Alaskas Loan Closet (where you can borrow equipment such as canes, wheelchairs and shower seats and find resources as well as someone to help you navigate the complexities of Elder care).

What if someone in your family experiences a sudden disability such as a Traumatic Brain Injury, car accident or what if your grandchild is born with a unforeseen disability that requires early childhood intervention services? OH WAIT, these have also all been CUT.

To me, this is not rocket science. I am not good at math, I am not an economist, but I can do this simple math. The services that are being vetoed will cost the state far more in the future.

If you don't believe me, run the math by a Rocket Scientist. IF you can find one, because OH WAIT, UAF services have been cut and I am not sure there is a Rocket Scientist left in this State.

All of this to give Alaskans a bigger PFD?? Surely you jest.

Do I like a big PFD? Sure! They allow me to afford "extras" like food and rent, treating my grandchildren to a night at McDonalds or buying Christmas gifts.

But not at the cost of the services I need monthly!

In closing, (I borrowed this from a sign I saw at a rally "we are not Line Items"). We are people, We are Voters, We are Alaskans we are your assets. The past (Elders who earned these services) present-- people whom need these services, and future, our children deserve a robust economy including the services that allow them to flourish.

I urge you to contact me personally or the statewide independent living council, to receive more information on the cost savings.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Traylor
(907) 490-2898
6884 MarkGraf Rd. Salcha AK, 99714
P.O Box 56005 North Pole, AK 99705
Wbusters@Hotmail.com

From: **Cecelia Esparza** <esparzacece@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 18, 2019 at 4:46 PM
Subject: HB 2001
To: <Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>

My name is Cecelia Esparza and I have lived in Alaska for 51 years. I am a graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have lived and worked the majority of my adult life in rural Alaska.

I am contacting you to ask that you fully restore funding to the vetoed budget items.

As much as I like having a PFD, I don't want it at this extreme and devastating cost. These essential services are worth far more to me. For example, I want kids to have access to the early education programs that were cut. I want to live in a state with a vibrant and fully funded Arts Council, where there is a strong and healthy University system in Alaska. I want to increase services for the homeless population and our elders, not decimate them. I want us to uphold our commitments to students counting on scholarships and rural communities in need of power cost equalization, a viable ferry system, etc.

I strongly believe that it is of utmost importance to provide services to Alaskans in need instead of a bigger dividend payment. We need to take care of Alaskans and build a future where we can thrive.

Thank you for your work to pass a budget that doesn't strip our state of these vital services and cripple our financial future.

Cecelia Esparza, P.O. Box 2164, Kodiak, Alaska

From: Juliet Shepherd <julietshepherd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:06 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: CS for HB 2001 Public Testimony

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of CS for HB 2001, effectively combining the Operating Budget (UA funding, Medicaid & Health, Senior Services, Education, etc.); Mental Health Trust Budget, Capital Budget; Sweeps and Reverse Sweeps, and the calculation of the payout of the Permanent Fund Dividend to pre-veto levels, passed by the

Legislature, **as the basis of further negotiation in order to reach the required 45 votes to fund essential services**, as identified in the Alaska Constitution, and the Permanent Dividend Fund, by the July 31st Federal match deadline.

This includes making a policy revision to the manner in which the PFD calculation is made, such that the PFD can be made only from the available POMV draw (vs. any other single/combined budgetary mechanism), subject to the 5.25% cap, and that the amount of the dividend payment be based on *surplus revenues* available *after essential state services have been paid*.

Though the POMV statute is silent on the split, in legislation passed in 1980⁽¹⁾, the Alaska Supreme Court has upheld that the purpose of the permanent fund earnings distribution statute is three fold, as follows:

“(1) to provide a mechanism for equitable distribution to the people of Alaska of at least a portion of the state’s energy wealth derived from the development and production of the natural resources belonging to them as Alaskans”;

This stipulation was included as it was understood that the state's natural resources would eventually diminish and “an equitable distribution” *provided that the formula remain sufficiently malleable to meet the needs of a changing economic environment*. During the regular session, the Alaska Legislature effectively passed a balanced budget *which included vital services which support maintaining a population in the state, through the issuance of a moderate PFD amount, of an “equitable distribution ...of at least a portion of the state's energy wealth ...”,* as specified in the statute. I urge the Legislature to honor this intent, revisit the manner in which the PFD calculation is made, and reach agreement on a responsible and sustainable method/amount for this year, and future years.

2) Encouraging persons to maintain their residence in Alaska and reduces population turnover in the state;

A clear focus of the Alaska Permanent Fund was to support an economic environment conducive to supporting a population. Prioritizing the campaign-promised \$3K PFD payout prior to the requisite allocation for essential state services, debilitates services vital to the future of a functioning state. It exceeds the POMV draw cap, and depletes the reserves to the point of unduly risking the future of the Permanent Dividend Fund. These actions serve to incentivize and reward a comparatively small percentage of the population at the expense of the overall well-being of the majority of the state's population. This will directly result in the loss of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of direct and related jobs in the Alaska economy, prompting otherwise content contributing residents to relocate out of state resulting in a significant *avoidable* population loss.

3) to encourage increased awareness and involvement by the residents of the state in the management and expenditure of the Alaska permanent fund;

Article 2 of the Alaska State Constitution also stipulates that the Legislature convene “*sitting as one body*”, and the state’s Capital is the location best suited for this public process to occur, and to do the state’s business, whenever possible. I thank the Governor for conceding to this.

The Alaska Constitution was intended to accommodate *an expanding future*, including through its broad, uncomplicated grants of power to the legislature.

Cutting the state’s university system by \$133M in state funds puts at significant risk the additional \$140M in Federal funds requiring a state match, and creates a trickle down scenario choking the University’s vast resources ***at a time vital to the future expansion of Alaska’s economy, both with the opening of the Northern Sea routes, and as the Arctic has recently become “[America’s first line of defense](#)”.*** ***This resident expertise will be vital to the futures of the State, and of the Nation, and is critical that it remain intact.*** Additionally, Cutting Health and Social services, including Medicaid expansion options, ***puts a disproportionate burden on the states population with the remaining available resources.*** All will suffer under this scenario. ***These actions do not support an expanding future for Alaskans.***

As a legislative representatives of the people under the Alaska Constitution, *it is now your challenge, and duty*, to find a way to work together to reach 45 votes to pass a responsible, veto-proof, budget that adequately funds essential services, and subsequently a right-sized PFD, during this Special Session continuing today in

Juneau. I support you in coming together to make necessary adjustments to move the state forward - and not send it irreversibly backwards.

I urge members to regain the integrity of the Legislative institution by upholding the constitutional separation of powers of the Legislature to enact the laws of the State of Alaska and appropriate the money necessary to operate the government. And, to avoid any further damage to the institution and to the state, I support the body to commit to a 45 veto-proof vote position on all future significant legislation, for the duration of this Governor's term.

I thank you for your service and wish you well on the task at hand.

Sincerely,

Juliet Shepherd
2279 Franklin St.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Sarah Nugent <mzt1999@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore Funding to ASCA

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governor's vetoes.

I am particularly concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts. I live in Kodiak, Alaska and I am a proud supporter of the Arts! I have had the pleasure of benefiting from a grant from the ASCA and the Rasmuson Foundation last year that supported my work as a dance teacher in the public school system. I and my students also benefit greatly from our local Kodiak Arts Council that is supported by ASCA. The Arts are such a huge part of my life, I cannot imagine a world in which they don't exist.

ASCA brings a excellent ROI (return-on-investment) for Alaska. ASCA receives a modest amount of funding from the Alaska Legislature, about \$700,000 per year. This is 1-100th of 1% of all state spending. This money is matched dollar-for-dollar with federal funds. In addition, ASCA takes the state's investment and secures significant private foundation funds for arts programs, communities, and artists. A full 55% of ASCA's budget is raised by their staff through partnerships with private foundations.

Every state and territory in the nation has a state arts agency. If ASCA is eliminated, Alaska will be the only state in the nation without an arts agency. Without ASCA, we will lose the federal funds and the private foundation funds. It will take years to rebuild the state agency's capacity, and rebuild the foundation partnerships.

Losing ASCA will be devastating to Alaska! I implore you to support the arts and and support HB2001.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nugent
(907) 539-8980

From: Kim Sibrel <ksibrel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:11 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore essential services

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governors vetoes.

I am particularly concerned about our state's University system. The defunding of this system not only kills thousands of jobs, likely forcing those Alaskans to move out of our great state, it is also detrimental to our future. With education, we cannot advance as a functioning society. Keep fighting the good fight for Alaska's future.

Thank you,
Kim Sibrel
Kodiak

From: Cindybea Edwards <cindybeaedwards@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001 input!!

In these days of confused situations, I am writing to let you know that I am one more voice that wants funding restored to services such as the university system, health care, the arts, education, and helpful services to Alaskans in need of a stable life again.

We are one of the thousands who would be willing to have a reduction of our PFD (even down to \$900) knowing that our quality of life will be higher with our collective community being stronger and less stressed.

We implore you to not drain our brains and rob our communities of the arts that keep mental health alive and overall goodness prevailing.

Thank you for listening to those you represent,
Cindy Edwards,
Sitka Alaska

From: Paul McCarthy <paulmccarthy1964@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD and override of the Governor's budget vetoes

Budget Committee members,

I was unable to attend the hearing in Fairbanks and want to weigh in on the above matter. The Governor's vetoes are ill considered and ignore the dramatic, neigh catastrophic, impact they will have on the state.

I urge you to include the vetoed amounts, as much as humanly possible, in the capital appropriation bill that you are considering.

Included is a copy of the letter I sent to the Fairbanks House delegation that outlines my concerns in greater detail.

The focus of this note is to comment on the PFD and its relationship to this budget crisis, one self-made by our Governor.

My wife, Lucy, and I came here before oil. We came to Alaska (and stayed) because it seemed a good place to contribute our talents, (along with then current residents and those who went before) to building a state that offered much opportunity for us and our children and where all worked to better our new state - economically, educationally, socially and arts-wise. We paid bot a school tax and an income tax!. It was not onerous.

Initially most people viewed the PFD as a nice benefit but gradually a minority of our resident caught a serious financial illness - entitlement. What was once a minor benefit has not lead some to believe that the State of Alaska owes them even at the cost of the common good. Their view: the hell with good schools and the university, the hell with care for seniors, the hell with the arts.

When our colonial fathers and mothers rebelled against English rule their cry was :
"No taxation without representation!"

""Some of our residents have now moved to a new mantra:

""Representation without taxation" and by the way "Give us \$3,000"

Those colonial fathers and mothers put their lives and their fortune's on the line. They risked and sacrificed a great deal. They would be absolutely ashamed and incredulous at the entitlement attitude exhibited by many in Alaska! It's a disease that even our Governor has caught! Perhaps we should name it the Koch Brother's syndrome.

I respectfully suggest the you statutorily limit the dividend to no more than \$1,000. I realize it can be an economic engine but it has become incredibly divisive! It needs to be throttled down or it will only get worse.

I also urge you to include the vetoed amounts in the capital budget. If necessary withhold any PFD appropriation until the Governor signs the capital budget. It's time to play rough with him. In my opinion he is absolutely untrustworthy. I truly believe he wants to make Alaska a Koch Brothers' plantation.

Paul McCarthy

790 Merlin Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

I respectfully request the you join other legislators to convene in Special Session and override the Governor's ill considered vetoes especially as it concerns the University of Alaska.

The Governor's vetoes of items in the budget forwarded to him by the Legislature was an egregious act. It will cause permanent and lasting damage to the University and its ability to provide quality instruction, research and public service.

The instructional effort will be crippled, degree majors will decrease and support for the regional campuses will be in jeopardy. More mobile and talented college-bound students will leave the state; they seldom return. Many very highly regarded faculty will seek positions in more progressive states. All this at a time we should be insuring that our students are competitive nationally AND internationally. In a way, we're not even eating our "seed corn"; we're throwing it in the mud.

Not only will the instructional mission of the university suffer significantly its research effort will also be severely damaged. UA occupies a leadership in Arctic and sub-Arctic research. Should we fail to maintain this effort much of the needed research will still be accomplished...just at other universities such as University of Washington and the University of Michigan. We will lose a place at the table and the funding as well. Alaska input will be lessened. This will be a tragedy for Alaska.

UA has and maintains a key role in economic development and is an important partner with the private sector. The instructional and research programs contribute to this effort UA is already an active partner with a number of individuals and companies in the private sector. Cuts of the magnitude made by the Governor will cripple this effort. UA has a critical role in long-term economic development of Alaska.

The Russians and the Chinese must celebrate every time we cut educational funding. They think they can win the technology race and are pouring money into that effort. What are we doing: cutting education.

A few notes about the vetoes:

- UA is slotted to take close to 32% of the reductions. Seems grossly unfair and unwise and will damage the university and higher education for years to come. It will destroy the work of thousands of staff to build UA over many years
- DHHS took approximately 22% of the reductions
- D Education and Early Development took essentially 10% of the reductions.

Combined these three units took close to 64 % of the reduction. Priorities?

If were trying to dumb down our students and citizens and discontinue caring for our residents especially seniors the Dunleavy-Koch vetoes seem to be a good start!

I encourage you to stand up to the Governor. You all have worked hard to develop and pass the budget. To do less cheapens the work and importance of the Alaska State Legislature.

Again, I urge you to convene a special session and reverse the Governor's vetoes.

Paul McCarthy
790 Merlin Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(cell) 907-322-2044

From: Rachael and Dale Nelson <dnelson@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Let me first thank you for all your work in the Alaska State Legislature. It is difficult to find consensus about political issues even in the best of times. Please note that I am in support of House Bill 2001. I would like to see restoration of essential programs and services that have been cut by the governor's vetoes.

I would especially like to see funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts. This \$700,000 line item is matched dollar for dollar with federal funds. In addition, ASCA is able to secure significant private foundation funds for community arts programs. Without ASCA, we will lose the federal and private foundation funds.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Dale Nelson
Kodiak

From: Maya <maya_e_@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support of HB2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut through the Governors vetoes.

Although I feel that many of the cuts these vetoes are highly damaging to our state, I am particularly concerned about cuts on the UA system. The \$130 million veto from the University of Alaska's FY20 operating budget will devastate one of Alaska's most important economic development institutions. These unprecedented cuts will cripple this institution, our state's economy, and future opportunities for Alaskans.

On a personal note, I am currently a student of the UAS Master's in Elementary Education program. This online program allows me to remain an active community member in Kodiak, while gaining my teaching degree. So far, this UAS program has been very high quality, and I am confident that it is producing excellent Alaskan teachers. I fully intend use this degree to give back to the community I love by having a teaching career in Alaska. By cutting the budget to the University of Alaska budget, we are undermining our citizens' abilities to invest in, and give back to our state. A cut to the University of Alaska's budget would be a loss to all of Alaska, not just to UA students and staff. The positive and lasting effects of the University of Alaska stretches to all Alaskan citizens, which is why I feel that Governor Dunleavy's veto of the UA budget threatens not only Alaska's economy, but it's future as a whole.

Thank you,

Maya Edgerly

From: mjamoreAustin55@outlook.com <mjamoreAustin55@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 Pass It

Dear Legislators,

Please pass HB2001 in order to protect Alaska's future. I understand that some people do not have enough money to get by, but we cannot sacrifice so many vital services, including a strong university system, so important to all Alaska's people. This is far better, even for those who struggle financially, than a big dividend. I have three children, and I am depending on a good public education for them so that they can grow up with skills that one day serve Alaska.

Moreover, it's really important to me that my kids have a nice place to live, a strong community in which people take care of one another and the facilities are well maintained. I am afraid that if we do not fund the budget at the pre-veto levels, Alaska will deteriorate quickly, and people will just come here looking for handouts of free money without any sense of responsibility for giving back to our state.

Please pass this wonderful compromise: Yes on HB2001.

Sincerely,
Martha Amore
3511 W. 32nd Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-952-4968

From: Ray Ball <ray.i.ball@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:19 PM
To: Finance <finregs@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Please vote yes on [HB2001](#) in order to save our state from the vetoes that are already damaging our state.

Best,
Rachael Ball

From: Veronica Howard <veronicahoward@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Yes on HB2001

I support reinstating the vital services cut by Dunleavy's vetoes. Please vote yes on HB2001!

From: Frank Mitchell <frank_w_mitchell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote Yes on HB 2001

overcome the veto.

Frank Mitchell
Anchorage

From: Holly Glasen <hmglasen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Holly Glasen and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Chris Coffman <chriscoff2002@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:27 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Pass HB 2001

Dear Representatives,

Please pass HB 2001, which designates a reasonable PFD while preserving valuable services that support Alaskans' security and well-being. Please restore the funding to all of the state agencies whose monies were vetoed by Governor Dunleavy, whose cuts would hurt thousands of vulnerable Alaskans, dismantle the university, and cause a recession.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Sincerely,
Chris Coffman
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Scott Mugrage <scott.mugrage@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sharon Jackson <Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Joshua Revak <Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Chris Birch <Sen.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche

<Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lora Reinbold <Sen.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Shower <sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Farm Bureau

Dear Alaska State Legislators:

This is a stressful time for many, as the budget vetoes are taking affect – programs and services are being shut down, employees are losing their jobs and we're all trying to come to terms with how much this is going to hurt Alaskans and the economy.

Looking at agriculture:

we will not have Alaska Grown in grocery stores – Division of Agriculture cannot do the GHP/GAP audits required – over 30 grocery stores around the state are ramping up to compete in the \$5 Alaska Grown Challenge

we will no longer know there are disease free seed potatoes – Division of Agriculture cannot do seed potato inspections (or any other inspections)

we will not be seeing a hemp industry any time soon – Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center cannot maintain the hemp plants they've been growing

Alaska is leading the nation in percent of growth in farms, percent of new and beginning farmers and ranchers and we had a 20% growth in the value of products sold between 2012 and 2017! Division of Agriculture played a key role in Alaska realizing this growth through the programs and services they provide – ie. promotion of Alaska Grown and developing markets, conducting product research, assisting farmers in navigating the more difficult retail and institution markets, inspections, grain seed cleaning, pest management.

With the June 28th vetoes we are faced with losing all these programs; there are not private sector options in Alaska to take over. Alaska is a young state; infrastructure and support industries for agriculture need to be built up, markets are still being developed and much research is needed that's tailored to Alaska's various climates instead of using outside studies to base decisions on.

Programs and services provided by the Division of Agriculture should be considered core services as these are essential in continuing to realize the growth we've been experiencing in agriculture. This industry has huge potential to contribute to stabilizing Alaska's economy – if we quit getting the rug pulled out from under us.

We greatly appreciate the work that went into the budget during session – making some significant cuts while protecting key programs and services to ensure a more stable future for Alaskans.

We urge you to support CSHB2001 or find another way to reinstate funding lost through the veto process. Let's continue the conversation of diversifying Alaska's economy instead of just cutting programs and services.

Respectfully,
Scott Murgage, President
Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.

From: kanaan bauser <kanaanbauser@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:34 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Approve House Bill 2001

I'm writing in support of House Bill 2001.

Please fund all items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

These cuts are dangerous for the state and should be reversed, regardless of the impacts they would have on the PFD.

Thank you,
Kanaan Bausler
Juneau

From: kippy lanz <kippy_lanz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote Yes on HB 2001

I vote Yes on HB2001

Alaska registered voter Kristin Lanz

From: Leanne Converse <cleanne@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vetos

I think you all need to have a little compassion for the poor, elderly, and children. I doubt that the extra permanent fund money will cover the loss to them of important programs. And the rest of us to whom the Permanent Fund is a nice bonus can darn well live without it. Alaska will be a hard place to live for a long time if you cut the University, Head Start, Family Planning, Elderly assistance and the like. Please do the right thing. Cut the Permanent Fund dividend and override the vetos.

Thanks

Leanne Converse
103 Barnett
Haines, AK

From: Jackie and Edward Debevec <akdebevec@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001 and Capital budget

July 18, 2019

House Finance Committee:

Please restore all funding of all vetoed items, especially funding for the University of Alaska, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, Alaska Education Grant, WWAMI programs, Medicaid recipients, public radio and television broadcasting, early childhood education, K-12, senior benefits, state Arts Council, matching block grants, homeless shelters, and court system.

Also, please fully fund the capital budget.

I support a PFD of a limited amount \$1-1,000. I support introducing an education, income, and/or sales tax to cover the cost of services and education. I support stopping the supplemental tax money going to the oil companies who will continue drilling in Alaska without it. I support raising the gasoline tax.

I already lost one job at UAF because of budget cuts in 2014 and am stressing about going through that again. Help me keep my Academic Advisor position at UAF where I interact with thousands of students who value their education and want to be contributing members of society in Alaska and Outside. We need these students now and in the future.

Thank you for listening to all of us and making good decisions about the budget and PFD to make Alaska a place where residents want to and can remain in a caring environment.

Jacqueline Debevec
3662 Hardluck Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Pete Hannah <mikado.kod@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 Support

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I am very much in support of HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut though the Governor's vetoes.

I am particularly concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Every state and territory in the nation has a state arts agency. If ASCA is eliminated, Alaska will be the only state in the nation without an arts agency. Without ASCA, we will lose the federal funds and the private foundation funds. It will take years to rebuild the state agency's capacity, and rebuild the foundation partnerships. This funding is essential to facilitating the behavioral health of our Alaska population and our quality of life we have depended on for the last half century of collaboration with the ASCA.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Margaret Bosworth and family

From: hilary young <hilarystarr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:24 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support of HB 2001

House Finance,

I am disheartened that the Governor's vetoes were not overturned. I am in full support of HB 2001 and would gladly accept a lower PFD so the other programs/services etc. could be funded. Please support this bill. It is essential to the survival of many people within our state.

Thanks,

Hilary

From: Anna Rix <annasrix@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:24 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 2001

Hello,

I am a lifelong Alaskan and I want to state my support for HB 2001 and other similar measures to restore the governor's vetoes. I support a reduction in the size PDF, \$929 or smaller, in order to fund essential state services.

Many of the vetoes by the governor send the message to young Alaskans that our best option for a bright future is to leave the state. We need to fund childhood education, public safety, mental health, health insurance, public radio, libraries, and the arts. Funding the elders of this state is necessary and we cannot turn our backs on the homeless. There is no reason to prevent the Ocean Rangers from using cruise ship taxes to ensure that cruise ships are following the regulations. Energy costs need to be subsidized for those in rural Alaska.

I am a current PhD student at UAF. The cuts to the UA system destroy the network and infrastructure that supports the critical research occurring throughout the UA system. Without the UA system and restoration of the UA scholarships, there will not be a talented local job pool for Alaskan jobs. The UA system is critical to allowing companies to hire and recruit Alaskans. Without UA, getting engineers, nurses, teachers, and many more occupations to come to Alaska and will local needs will be almost impossible.

The future of Alaska rides on overturning the governor's vetoes. Please overturn these cuts to keep Alaska going strong and to provide a reason for young people to remain in this state.

PDF distributes oil wealth to all of the people, providing services for all of Alaska. Using PDF money to provide essential government services is an appropriate use of the PDF. The PDF is a government hand out and a full PDF will not mitigate the disastrous budget created by the governor's vetoes.

The state budget as it stands, with the governor's vetoes, sends a clear message to young people, senior citizens, and rural residents that we are unwanted and have no future in this state.

Thank you,

Anna Rix

From: Helen Chmura <h.e.chmura@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:44 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB2001 Testimony

To the members of the House Finance Committee,

I support the amended version of HB2001 which restores money eliminated from the state budget under Governor Dunleavy's vetoes and issues a reduced PFD. I believe that investment in public education (Headstart, K-12, and the University of Alaska System) and in social support programs for the most vulnerable Alaskans is much more important than a large PFD.

Thank you for your hard work during this difficult time for Alaska,

Helen Chmura
3615 Rosie Creek Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Dawn Drotos <mergus_ak@yahoo.ca>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:56 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for House Bill 2001 Substitute

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to lend my support to the House Finance committee's substitute for House Bill 2001 that was introduced this week.

The substitute's funding for all items that were vetoed by the Governor, its inclusion of "reverse sweep" language, and its establishment of a reasonable PFD level of \$929.00 sound like necessary responses to the Governor's draconian cuts.

Ensuring that our most reliable form of public transportation, the state-run ferry, continues to provide year-round service is of the utmost importance. In communities like Haines, extreme winter weather often cancels air service and closes the Haines Highway pass. The ferry is the mode of transportation that residents can most depend upon in any season. Also, military personnel and families use the mainline ferries to travel to and from Alaska, especially during the winter months. Many Haines businesses depend upon the patronage of such travelers. Furthermore, a large percentage of our town's population is employed by the ferry system, and to suddenly and drastically reduce service could have serious detrimental effects on these individuals, their families, and our town's economy. Governor Dunleavy professed his support for the ferry system during his campaign, and for him to essentially pull the plug on it during his first year in office belies a hidden agenda that voters were not privy to prior to his election.

Education funding for our preschools, Head Start programs, grade schools, and universities is an investment in Alaska's future, an economic driver, and a source of Alaska state pride that is also necessary for the continuation of important research. Haines in particular would be negatively effected if the state reneges on matching funds for our previously constructed school complex.

The Power Cost Equalization endowment allows Alaskans in rural communities like Haines to be able to afford enough electricity to keep their homes livable throughout the year, especially during the winter months. I fear that many of my neighbors, some of whom are elderly or have young children, might risk their health and well-being attempting to cut back on electricity costs without the PCE subsidy, and urge you to restore funding for this program.

Public radio and television are invaluable sources of information, local weather, emergency alerts, communication and entertainment that are especially important in remote communities like Haines. Our local (public) radio station is the only one serving the three communities in our listening area, and the only daily source for weather alerts and local news. To jeopardize federal matching funds and risk reductions or eliminations in service over a manufactured budget crisis is irresponsible to Alaskans, who depend much more on public media than residents of other states.

Cuts in health care and senior support services would also have negative consequences for Haines, since our borough has the highest average age in Alaska and a large population of elderly residents who depend upon senior services (including transportation and subsidized housing) as well as the medical services of our local SEARHC clinic.

In my opinion, one of the most fundamental purposes of government is to lift up communities by accomplishing what individual members of society cannot achieve for themselves. If Alaska strips away support for public services like radio, ferry transportation, education, health care, and senior support, its residents will be left in many cases without any recourse. The negative repercussions of such actions could be felt for generations to come.

Discontinuing the oil tax credit would be one immediate way of increasing revenue for the state in order to fill budget shortfalls. I would also be in favor of a state income tax in order to stabilize Alaska's funding mechanism by tapping seasonal or transient workers who benefit from Alaska's infrastructure without contributing financially to its maintenance.

Please work across the aisle to pass the House Finance committee's substitute for House Bill 2001. Governor Dunleavy is but one part of our representative democracy, and his ill-considered campaign promise to provide an untenable PFD should not cripple our state now or in the future.

Thank you for the hard work you have committed to do on behalf of all Alaskans!

Sincerely,

Dawn Drotos
PO Box 555
Haines, AK 99827

From: Wicked Speedia <wickedspeedia@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:26 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Save Alaska, Support HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

I own a home and a small business in Anchorage. I've spent years working 80-plus hours to help build and contribute to my community's social and cultural infrastructure. The business I own with three other women brings people together in a neighborhood where many folks feel left out and unwelcome. Our business lifts up musicians and writers, teachers and students. Our regulars include elders and high school students. People without a regular bed to sleep on stop by sometimes to warm up or get some tea.

My kids grew up in this city and state. They used to talk about making this city and state where they contribute for the long haul, but they don't talk so much about that now.

The Governor's budget vetoes and partisan politics have cleaved this state's capacity for unity and know-how. Witnessing the legislature squabble over where to meet is disheartening when the outcome of this ideological stalemate

means folks with knowledge and skills will leave this state. Elders will go without dental care. Kids will go without an early start on reading. People will die on the streets.

It's absurd to treat a budget as an "either/or" enterprise and then to present two choices that hurt the same people. It's ridiculous to approach a budget as a binary tool aimed at choosing winners and losers, when in fact its meant to be the means of taking care of everyone while setting goals for the future. Using the budget to tell some people that their lives don't matter, that their jobs don't matter, that their kids don't matter, that their elders don't matter--well that's tell me that my family and business doesn't matter, either. That's telling me that my community doesn't matter, and neither does what we contribute.

We know better than that, because we see every day what we do for each other, with each other, and because of each other.

Please support HB2001. Override the vetoes, reverse the DBR sweep and fund the PFD at a reasonable level. Then pull the budget back out, all of it, and make sure that all the state's beneficiaries share the responsibility for its health.

Dawnell

From: Matthew Cooper <MCooper@fnsb.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:50 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore funding in the budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I was not able to attend the hearing in Fairbanks yesterday afternoon and evening - thank you for staying late to hear from our community. Our community voice was loud and clear - the governor's budget and vetoes are harmful and destructive on so many fronts.

I attach to this email a resolution adopted by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly addressing these issues. Although the resolution was adopted prior to the Legislature's failure to override the vetoes and therefore calls for an override, the sentiments expressed in the resolution still apply to the work that remains before you. I hope you will take the time to read the resolution.

If left in place, the governor's deep cuts will do irreparable damage to our state. Please stand up to protect all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Matt Cooper

Matthew Cooper
Assembly Seat I
(907) 978-7143
mcooper@fnsb.us

PDF-R

By: Matt Cooper
Andrew M. Gray
Shaun Tacke
Leah Berman Williams
Marna Sanford
Christopher Quist
Liz Lyke
Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

Introduced: 07/08/2019
Amended: 07/08/2019
Adopted: 07/08/2019
Immediate
Reconsideration Failed: 07/08/2019
Adopted: 07/08/2019

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 27

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE OVERRIDE FY20 LINE ITEM BUDGET VETOES AFFECTING THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

WHEREAS, Governor Michael J. Dunleavy vetoed \$444 million from the state operating budget adopted by the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Many of the vetoes directly and adversely affect the Fairbanks North Star Borough and other municipalities and jeopardize the future of our communities and state, including through the following vetoes:

1. Municipal Programs

- a. Reduction in the appropriation to the community assistance fund, which will reduce the community assistance grant to the Borough by approximately one-third or \$500,000;
- b. Reduction of fifty percent of school bond debt reimbursement, which amounts to an approximate \$4.5 million impact on Borough taxpayers;

2. Education

- a. A \$130 million reduction in state support for the University of Alaska, amounting to a 41% reduction in state support including the \$5 million reduction approved by the legislature;
- b. Additional funding for K-12 education (\$30 million statewide);
- c. Funding for Head Start (\$8.6 million statewide);
- d. Forward funding for K-12 in FY21;

- 44 e. Elimination of certain library programs;
- 45 3. Health Care and Public Assistance
- 46 a. Elimination of Medicaid dental coverage for adults (\$27 million);
- 47 b. Elimination of \$50 million in Medicaid services, in addition to
- 48 \$70 million cut by the Legislature;
- 49 c. Reduction of behavioral health treatment grants by \$6.1 million;
- 50 d. Elimination of senior benefits program (\$20.8 million statewide);
- 51 e. Cut to adult public assistance (\$7.5 million statewide);
- 52 f. Substantial cuts to the homeless assistance program (\$7.2
- 53 million) and special needs housing program (\$2 million); and
- 54

55 WHEREAS, These vetoes are at the expense of Alaska's future because

56 they erode the bedrock principles of our state and our community, including economic

57 opportunity,¹ public education,² a state university,³ and public health⁴ and welfare;⁵

58 and

59

60 WHEREAS, If enacted, these vetoes will set Alaska back decades, and the

61 state will not recover from their impact for decades to come; and

62

63 WHEREAS, The vetoes will directly harm the Fairbanks North Star

64 Borough and its residents in the following ways:

65

- 66 1. The University of Alaska fulfills the state's constitutional obligation to
- 67 provide for public higher education and is an economic driver in the
- 68 Borough and the state. The University proposes to cut an additional
- 69 1,300 to 2,000 jobs across the state if the veto remains in place.
- 70 Fewer employees and students means fewer Borough residents, fewer
- 71 property tax payers, and fewer dollars spent in the Borough economy.
- 72 The Borough's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- 73 recognizes the University of Alaska Fairbanks is a major educational
- 74 asset in the region, contributing to its low unemployment rate and
- 75 serving as a critical institution to its residents' economic and social
- 76 well-being;
- 77 2. As with the University, cuts to Medicaid and other assistance funding
- 78 will harm the borough by reducing the provision of services, thereby
- 79 reducing the need for professionals, with the same impacts noted
- 80 above. Residents may go untreated for medical conditions and mental
- 81 health, may go without housing assistance, and may go without public

¹ See, e.g. Article I, Section 1 and Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution.

² Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution.

³ Article VII, Section 2 and 3 of the Alaska Constitution.

⁴ Article VII, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution.

⁵ Article VII, Section 5 of the Alaska Constitution.

82 assistance, resulting in a high societal cost. These cuts are adverse to
83 the Alaska Constitution's mandate that the state shall provide for
84 public health and welfare;

- 85 3. Cuts to education, including Pre-K, K-12, and post-secondary,
86 mortgage the future of the Borough. Since the founding of our
87 country, and then our state, public education has been and should
88 remain one of the highest aspirations of government, for an educated
89 population is necessary to sustain the future of our nation, our state,
90 and our community;
- 91 4. Cuts to municipal programs merely shift the burden of State
92 obligations to local taxpayers. This shift increases the local property
93 tax rate, which negatively impacts the ability of Borough residents to
94 spend those dollars instead in the local economy; and
95

96 WHEREAS, The severity of the impacts of the Governor's vetoes on the
97 Fairbanks North Star Borough will materially impact the Borough; and,
98

99 WHEREAS, Such impacts may reasonably include: the loss of a substantial
100 number of jobs by Borough residents; Borough residents leaving the Borough and the
101 state; reduced real property ownership and thus property tax base, thereby shifting the
102 property tax burden to fewer residents; reduced spending in the local economy; a
103 reduction in the number of small and large businesses alike conducting business in the
104 Borough; and potential negative impacts on the United States Air Force decision to bed
105 down two squadrons of F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base; and,
106

107 WHEREAS, The time is NOW to put politics aside and take action in the
108 best interests of Alaska and her citizens, even if doing so creates political peril for those
109 willing to stand tall for Alaska and override the vetoes; and,
110

111 WHEREAS, Alaska is better served by the development of a long-term
112 fiscal plan that balances appropriate spending reductions with new revenues, maintains
113 an acceptable level of government services, is in alignment with the values of the
114 Alaska Constitution, and does not seek to unilaterally dismantle the state over the
115 course of one year; and
116

117 WHEREAS, The Alaska Legislature must fulfill its Constitutional duty to act
118 as a check upon the draconian actions of the Governor;
119

120 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star
121 Borough Assembly opposes the line item vetoes identified in this Resolution; and
122

123 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests that the Alaska
124 Legislature fulfill its duty to act on behalf of all Alaskans as a check on the powers of

the Executive Branch and override these line item vetoes as doing so is in the long-term best interests of the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly further requests that the Legislature and the Governor develop a long-term fiscal plan for the state that includes new revenues without dismantling the state that so many Alaskans have worked hard to pioneer, as this Borough and Alaskans across the state have repeatedly demanded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests the Clerk distribute a copy of this Resolution to each Member of the Alaska Legislature, with a copy to Governor Michael J. Dunleavy and Office of Management and Budget Director Donna Arduin.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF JULY, 2019.


Matt Cooper
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk
by Adena Benn, CMC, Deputy Borough Clerk

Yeses: Quist, Gray, Williams, Lyke, Sanford, Tacke, Cooper
Noes: None
Other: Lojewski (Excused), Wildridge (Excused)

From: Tribe Administrator <tribeadmin@ipnatchiaq.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:14 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: Resolution 19-13

On Wed, Jul 17, 2019 at 3:52 PM Tribe Administrator <tribeadmin@ipnatchiaq.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see attachments for the Native Village of Deering's Resolution Supporting the State Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget As passed by the Alaska Legislature and urging the Legislature to RESTORE funding to the Power Cost Equalization Program.

Thank you
Delores

--

Delores Iyatunguk - Tribal Administrator
Serving the Native Village of Deering
Deering IRA
P.O. Box 36089
Deering, Alaska 99736
PH. (907) 363-2138
FAX (907) 363-2195

PDF – CCF

WHEREAS, the vetoes will cause a statewide economic recession, loss of thousands of jobs, and immediate, irreparable harm to Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Governor has clearly expressed an intent to eliminate the Power Cost Equalization, Community Assistance, and other important programs, an action which will cripple Rural Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Deering supports the FY20 operating budget as adopted by the Legislature, and urges the Legislature to fund all of the programs vetoed by the Governor to prevent an economic recession and immediate, irreparable harm to Alaskans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Deering urges the Alaska Legislature to restore funding to the Power Cost Equalization Program.

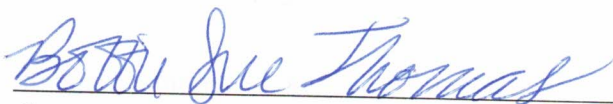
Certification

Passed and adopted at the duly convened meeting of the Native Village of Deering held July 17, 2019, by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstaining.



Tribal President

ATTEST:



Secretary

From: Jess Peña <jess.fairbanksarts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 12:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001, Restore Funding to ASCA

To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

To begin, thank you for the hours you spent listening to attendees in Fairbanks as well as those calling in. It is heartening to know that there are members of the legislature who are listening to the people of Alaska. In addition to the information below, I have attached my testimony presented to House Finance Committee in Fairbanks on July 17.

I am writing in support of HB 2001 and wish to share facts specifically pertaining to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. While the office doors shut as a result of termination letters for staff effective July 15 from the office of the governor, **ASCA as an agency exists in state statute**. The urgency of funding this agency and many other vetoed programs that represent major losses in matching and contributed funds as a result of state funding cuts is significant. **There is still opportunity to receive matching federal funds and private foundation contributions to ASCA if funding is restored.**

Compiled from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies:

A \$693,500 appropriation in state funds to ASCA would represent 0.014% (around 1/100th of one percent) of the state's \$4.9 billion general fund spending package. Without funding and an expert staff, ASCA's impact is undercut, eliminating:

- **Programs that support the economies of rural communities.** (64% of ASCA's grants are awarded to rural areas.)
- **Healing arts services for Alaskan service members and military families.** (Art-based treatments for PTSD and depression save more than \$1000 per veteran.)
- **Programs that boost the academic success of Alaskan youth and reduce school dropouts.** (Lowering Alaska's dropout rate could lead to more than \$31 million annually in economic growth opportunities and reduced dependency on the state's social safety net.)
- **Promotion of authentic work by Alaska Native artists.** (The Silver Hand program protects the livelihoods of Alaska Native artists and secures Alaska's position in a competitive global art marketplace.)
- **Activities that stimulate business for the hospitality, transportation and retail sectors.** (Arts attendees in Fairbanks alone spend \$9.3 million on other services.)
- Also lost is the **leveraging power** of the state arts agency. Without a state commitment to ASCA, the agency will not be eligible to secure a share of National Endowment for the Arts funds. Those dollars will be allocated elsewhere, leaving Alaskan taxpayers to foot the bill for the arts *in other states*.
- For every \$1 that ASCA awarded in 2018, grantees secured an additional **\$27 in local match**, private contributions and earned income.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

--

Jess Peña
Executive Director
Fairbanks Arts Association
907.456.6485 ext. 225
<https://fairbanksarts.org>
PDF J

My name is Jessica Peña, I am executive director of Fairbanks Arts Association. I am here in support of HB 2001 to restore funding to agencies, programs, and services that are of great value to the health and well-being of Alaskans and foster resilience, connection, growth, and excellence in our communities.

This is an image I like to use at Fairbanks Arts in our publicity; a joyful moment from an artists in schools residency funded in part by the Alaska State Council on the Arts. I'm not here to share facts and figures again regarding the multiple benefits of this small but impactful agency, or how financially the reduction of the state's \$700,000 allocation represents around \$3 million lost for Alaska, but that information will be available for you to read once more in your inboxes.



When I uploaded this residency's photos to my computer, this original image included self-harm scars on the wrists of a student. Through blurred eyes, I used a tool called the 'healing brush' in Photoshop to smooth them away and increase the student's anonymity. A director of the youth facility where this and many other

residencies took place once told me that, although the residents would sometimes act violently, they never did so while engaged in creative activities.

And, while parts of the facility have sustained damage, not a single one of the artworks *have* because of the pride and comfort found in them.

I have never shared the story of this photo publicly. I've kept it to myself because I dislike the idea of modifying a person's appearance or dishonoring their experiences. However, I do bring it forward now to honor the fact that this student is still around – and it's not a sob story, but one of resilience. One of *so many* in our state that feature the arts, culture, and creativity as key to resilience *and* growth: academically, mentally, culturally, and because of the nature of these conversations, I'll bring it up again... financially.

I keep this story close. Embracing the arts as a core civic value, with the 'healing brush' effect it has on our diverse communities, whatever we individually and collectively need those brush strokes to look like, drives my work within the arts & culture sector. I hope you'll keep it close too.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today and for truly standing tall for Alaskans.

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Andy Cizek
REPRESENTING: Conservatives of the Kenai Peninsula
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 2001
COMMITTEE: House Finance DATE: July 15, 2019

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

Gov't is too big + it needs to downsize! ^{decades of} ^{overspending}
Gov't is spending way too much for our economy!
Gov't needs to cut the fat ~~stop~~ for special
interest groups + not for the people group
as a whole - cut 20% off the top allow.
Please go by the ALASKA constitution Article
1 Sect. 1 + 2, Article 2 Sect. 9, Article 12 ^{Oath of office} Sect. 5, Art. 8 Sect. 7
The PFD will give seniors \$250⁰⁰/month as
well as everyone else who qualifies.
The justice system should not have been
allowed to change how the PFD is stated
in the AK constitution + Statutes.
What happens to all the taxes we pay in this
state? Every license, permit, utility bill,
groceries, gas, etc... (property) tax
What happens when the Gov't spends the whole
Perm. fund? Like at Gary Knapps town
hall meeting they all yelled! Tax you more!!!
we need to hold Gov't accountable for their
actions so they think things out better.
PFD's go right back into the economy + helps all!
no one should be above the law! That!
includes legislators + every other Public Servant!

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Linda LeVeque

REPRESENTING:

Self - 197 W. Corral Ave. Soldotna, AK

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Override Vetoes

COMMITTEE:

HOUSE FINANCE

DATE:

7/16/19

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

These cuts are devastating to Alaskan residents, especially those in our community that need help with most things, people with disabilities and children. I don't understand how anyone can approve of these changes with a clear conscience. These cuts are ethically and morally wrong. Please override these vetoes. Do the right thing!



July 17, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

The Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition (JSPC) would like to request funds vetoed out of the 2020 operating budget be restored. The vetoes have a significant impact on suicide prevention efforts in Juneau and throughout the state. As you know, the suicide rate in Alaska is extremely high. In 2017, Alaska's suicide rate was the second highest in the country, nearly twice the national average. Suicide is the leading cause of death among Alaskans ages 10 to 64, and the sixth leading cause of death overall in our state.

The JSPC has been in existence for over a decade. We have provided a variety of services to reduce the stigma surrounding suicide, educate the community and provide support to families and community members impacted by completed suicides. We have found through our work that suicide is correlated with, and influenced by, a number of factors including: childhood trauma, physical and behavioral health issues, poverty and homelessness.

The cuts to the operating budget will have a direct impact on the services and the safety nets that help to prevent suicides in our state. We are deeply concerned that one of the many results of these cuts will be an increase suicidal ideation as well as completed suicides, across the state.

We ask that you please restore the vetoed funds as to not undermine the web of support that is vital for vulnerable Alaskans and suicide prevention efforts in our state. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Jordan Nigro, Chair and Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition Members

Kevin Philp - Juneau After School Coalition
Melissa McCormick

Ashley Landi Jackson

Lynne Meleo

Juneau Youth Services

Julie Wegner volunteer

Taylor Smith - Sources of Strength

Walter Majors, Volunteer

Begun Roth, R.O.C.K. Juneau

Coalition, NAMI Juneau

Kristen F., Pastor
Resurrection Lutheran Church

To the Alaska State Legislature

Representatives Foster, Johnston, Wool, Josephson, Knopp, LeBon, Ortiz, Tilton, Merrick, Carpenter, and Sullivan-Leonard

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee on HB 2001, submitted on July 17, 2019.

I strongly support HB 2001 and am thankful that there is yet hope to save our state from the chaos and real harm that will result should the Governor's vetoes stand and the impasse continue over the PFD amount, "reverse sweep," and capital budget items. I cannot thank you enough for providing the opportunity in many, many hours of hearings in several cities including ours here in Fairbanks, for the public to address this bill and the issues that it attempts to address. This isn't the first time that you and other members of the Legislature have opened your meeting rooms and schedules, and most importantly, your minds, to listen to the concerns of the public over the state budget this year. And it isn't the first time that I and so many other Alaskans have spoken, written, attended meetings, testified, emailed, signed petitions, and rallied in hope against hope that we can hold up a brighter future for Alaska than that signified by these vetoes.

We are at a dangerous crossroad at this hour of our state's history. If the Governor's vetoes stand and no other changes are made, we will certainly face a darkened and diminished future, a future where fear and narrow self-interest has replaced our Alaskan spirit of generosity and resourcefulness. We will have become a state that refuses to face the future by properly financing the necessary collective functions of a modern society, especially in educating its people and preparing its workforce to meet the needs of the 21st century. We will become a place that is only attractive because what might be extracted from it, rather than because of what our people can give to the world – which is exemplified most beautifully by the wisdom of our Alaska Native cultures.

On the other hand, we truly face a difficult and uncertain economic future and a real need to re-examine our governance and spending priorities at this time. Those of us who have been around for a relatively long time can no longer assume that the way our government and state institutions functioned during our younger years are the best or the only way for the future. Alaska has seemed to many of us to be a place so large and bountiful that we were insulated from the rest of the United States and the world and their problems. But now, outside forces much larger than Alaska are assailing us with alarming rapidity: the destructive effects of climate change, ocean acidification, loss of sea ice, permafrost thaw; the global internet and its threat to our collective security and individual privacy; the turmoil in the global economy. No wonder that many Alaskans are feeling afraid, insecure, angry, questioning the status quo including those in our state institutions.

The presence of these powerful forces at our doorstep shows that the current crisis over our state budget is beyond partisan politics and cannot possibly be solved by retreating into the comfortable habits and partisan camps of the past. I am encouraged that many of you are recognizing that the only way forward lies in coming together and putting aside your differences to solve the larger problems. It was amazing to see the Legislature put aside partisan differences

during the regular session to pass a reasonable compromise budget, and then, in the face of the completely unreasonable vetoes, to come together again to vote against them with a nearly two-thirds majority. It is clear this is what the majority of Alaskans want! Please keep up the good fight! The work that you have already done – in listening to the people, in coming together for a common cause without regard to past differences, in finding alternative solutions, and standing up for Alaska – is nothing short of heroic. I am greatly encouraged by this, and I know that the resolve and unity that you are showing is a mark of lasting progress for a better future for Alaska.

I hope that the University of Alaska will stand, that we will not be turning back bright and eager young students or federal research dollars; that we will not be leaving our poorest citizens to die on our streets and in our parks; that we will not turn our backs on our mentally ill and disabled neighbors and relatives, and disgrace our elders. I hope and pray that our state will fulfill its obligation to educate every child, and that we will continue to value learning, creativity, and thoughtful communication enough to dedicate relatively small amounts of money to support our library system, arts organizations, and public broadcasting networks. We also need the ferry system, and to maintain the buildings, roads, and other public works that we have already built, and to invest in our future. And yes, we need to question old habits, find the efficiencies, and revitalize our Alaskan spirit of self-sufficiency and adaptability.

Thank you for thoughtful attention during these hearings, and for your service to all the people of our wonderful state.

Sincerely,

Jan Conitz

I am representing only myself and my family.

P.O. Box 72232
Fairbanks AK 99707
435 Todd Ct.
907-209-1769