

House Finance Committee  
Public Testimony

HB 2001

Emails received to

[HouseFinance@akleg.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@akleg.gov)

July 17, 2019

Part 3

**From:** Gail Priday <gail.e.priday@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaskans Need ASCA!

Please restore funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. To completely eliminate this organization is irresponsible and will have negative impacts to Alaskans. I was fortunate to work for the Fairbanks Arts Association a number of years ago. At the time I worked closely with teaching artists and schools to oversee the Artist-in-Schools program. FNSBSD students are so fortunate to have this experience. As a parent, I helped to arrange an artist residency at my daughters school. This was 7 years ago and still remains one of the most memorable of her educational experiences. As an artist, I was honored to have my artwork purchased by ASCA for the contemporary art bank two years ago. The exceptional artwork in our state offices and schools is not unnoticed. When I came to Fairbanks in 2001 I worked as a substitute teacher for a year, traveling to different schools most day. I was so impressed by the quality of artwork in the schools. This was one of the reasons I chose to make Alaska my home. I knew I wanted to live in a place where art was valued. These are just few small examples of how ASCA has impacted my experience in Alaska, but there is so much more. Please do not allow Alaska to be the only state without an arts council.

Sincerely,  
Gail Priday

**From:** Sarah Baumeister <sarahbaumeister@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:14 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** In Favor of HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Sarah Baumeister, I was born and raised in Alaska and have lived here for 34 years. I was previously an elementary school teacher ( in both public and private schools) but am about to start a doctorate program to become an occupational therapist. It's a three year program and when I finish, I want to stay in Alaska. This is my home and I want to contribute to my community.

The current fiscal crisis that the governor has created could very well keep me from staying in Alaska. I will have substantial student loans to pay off and will need to find a job that offers me competitive wages to pay off those loans. Without passing HB 2001, the state will be on track for a huge recession and finding such a job here could be impossible.

This is just one reason I think HB2001 should be passed, and admittedly it's a selfish one. More importantly, the most vulnerable members of our community ( the elderly, homeless, and youth) will suffer the greatest losses with the current budget cuts. It sickens me to think that we may inflict this adversity just so individuals can receive a \$3,000 PFD. That is truly selfish.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Baumeister  
PO Box 80211  
Fairbanks, AK  
99708

**From:** Lynn DeFilippo <ladefilippo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:18 PM

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

Subject: Support HB 2001

I support House bill 2001. Restore funding to the budget please!

From: joshua reuther <josh\_reuther@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:19 PM

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

Subject: I fully support HB 2001

I wanted to express my gratitude for all your hard work and energy this trying and emotional legislative session. I want to express my support for HB2001 and a lower PFD and keeping our core services in the state (University funding, k-12 education, Medicaid, Pioneer Homes, Homeless support, support for the Arts). Your original budget this session that was vetoed by the Governor was perfect, and while it cut back many services, they were responsible cuts. I can not say the same for our Governor's vetoes. I will also support the establishment of state sales and income taxes to keep our services at the current threshold and even to grow a bit more in their services as long as the Legislature keeps a good handle on their responsibility to efficiency and the core services that I stated above.

Thank you for your time.

A concerned resident of Alaska for over 20 years, and hopefully 40 more.

Joshua Reuther

**From:** Jessie Robertson <jessrobertson1978@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:20 PM

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

**Subject:** please reinstate funding for UA

Hello,

My husband and I are researchers in the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at UAF. Our lab is a small group but we do research that benefits the boreal forest and the community.

My projects over the past 10 years of working at UAF have put a lot of money into the local economy. For example, we have spent tens of thousands of dollars at ABS on solar panels and batteries for field sites, at Home Depot and Lowes for field supplies, and at Brown's Electric for wiring and other commodities. And, we're a small unit. I know that other much larger units have spent an order of magnitude more in the local economy.

We will likely both lose our jobs if the funding to UA is not restored. As private citizens who have built 2 homes (and sold one) and recreate around in the area, we have spent tens of thousands of dollars in the local economy to rent heavy equipment, get dirt and gravel, get wood and building supplies at Home Depot and Lowes, and countless other businesses have benefited from our activities. We've bought ATV's, paid for maintenance on our cars and ATV's, ski at Moose Mountain, buy coffee, go to the doctor, buy food and gas, etc etc etc.

We are afraid, every minute of every day, that our lives in Fairbanks will be obliterated. This is a career ending event, and everything we've worked toward for 10 years will vaporize. Data will never see the light of day, long-term field sites will be taken down, and our collective knowledge about the forest, climate change, and hydrology will be gone.

**Please, please, please reinstate the funds to UA.** If not for researchers like us, then for the students whose only affordable and culturally appropriate education is UA. UA understands this culture and the people, and UA tunes the programs for this culture.

Thank you, Jessie Young-Robertson (Forest Soils Lab, AFES, UAF), 907-474-5550

From: Pili Goddard-Vaughan <pilibone@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:22 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a voting Alaskan, that has lived here over 20 years, raised my 2 daughters, I am writing to limit our PFD in support of a budget that does not risk education as the victim.

If we cannot educate our children, teenagers, young adults, and adults, what do we run a state with? The people are what brought me to Alaska, and are our best resource. I am seeing a state that holds no future for my daughters or possible grandchildren if we cannot prioritize education.

A higher PFD does not serve myself as well as it could serve the entire state.

Can we please make decisions that work for the masses and for all of our future.

Thank you,

Pili Goddard-Vaughan LMT, CAMT II  
Advanced Healing Arts  
3600 Lake Otis Parkway suite 205  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907)441-6075

**From:** elizabeth hart <emhart19@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

House Bill 2001 7/17/19  
Elizabeth Hart  
204 N Third St  
Petersburg AK

I have been an Alaskan resident for 30 years. I chose to make Petersburg my home because Alaska is a great state, and an amazing place to raise children. My family also had job opportunities that enabled us to make a living wage.

Please pass HB 2001. Please reinstate funding to the University of Alaska, general education and preschool, Public Radio, Medicaid and the homeless services, and the Alaska Marine Highway. Our Permanent Fund Dividend is a privilege, not a right. The PFD is intended to be placed in the General Fund as needed, and distributed during times of prosperity as able. Our future as a state is in jeopardy; this budget is irresponsible, fear based, and reckless. I support a balanced budget, and I am willing to give up my dividend and pay an income tax to balance the budget.

The University of Alaska system is insurance for our future. Our schools need to be supported from preschool through graduate school. The Governor's vetoes eliminated funding that has already been promised to school districts, our students, and our university system. Our daughter recently graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where a significant portion of the graduating class was the first in their family to receive a college degree. The Alaskan youth we educate will give back to our state in the form of an educated workforce, well paying jobs, families that stay in the state to keep us strong. The incoming students were promised a scholarship that the State of Alaska is now recanting. Our university system is staffed by professional and dedicated professors who are unable to plan for the upcoming semester, starting in 6 short weeks. Let's keep them here and keep our state healthy by reinstating funding.

Please reinstate funding for Public Radio. The Public Radio system is the only emergency broadcast system for many rural parts of our state. It is a meager part of the state budget, the cut is simply mean-spirited. Our Public Radio station in Petersburg operates on a bare bones budget, and will now be unable to purchase supplies like paper towels and dish soap, and fuel oil.

Please reinstate funding to Medicaid and the homeless. These cuts serve to eliminate the safety net that help support our most vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens. These citizens have so much more to lose than a \$1500-\$3000 PFD. As we have heard, private organizations such as Catholic Community Services already provide many funds to feed and clothe the elderly, homeless, children, and our most vulnerable residents. These organizations cannot keep their current level of services without help from the State of Alaska. It is our duty to provide for our most vulnerable population, and the measure of a decent society.

I appreciate your efforts to create a reasonable balanced budget. Please do not cripple our state and future. Alaska is as healthy as it is due to previous administrations' foresight, and legislators' diligence. Please do not let the current administration endanger our future so dramatically. I support the bipartisan effort to create a responsible budget.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Hart

**From:** Sean E. Brewer <sean.brewer@k12northstar.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:24 PM

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

**Subject:** My humble view on Gov Dunleavy's line-item vetoes and proposed budget

Dear Representatives: Alaska has been my home since 2009, when the U.S. Army, in its wisdom, sent me to the 49th state to serve as the Command Sergeant Major of the Warrior Transition Battalion - Alaska. Working with and serving wounded warriors throughout Alaska was a high point of my 24+ year career, and I retired in 2013 knowing I'd found the place I wanted to spend the rest of my life, with an eye toward serving the community and enjoying the natural splendor of this unique place. Rather than "chase the money" as some of my peers opted (contracting), I wanted to do something more meaningful.

I earned my Masters in Secondary Education from the University of Alaska - Fairbanks (UAF) in 2015, and have been employed with the Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District (FNSBSD) since 2014 as a certified teacher. I earned my special education certificate shortly afterward, because I saw a need for caring, qualified educators with some life experience to reach some of the most challenging students. I teach a small group math class, a small group English Language Arts class, and a social skills class in service to these challenging

students. I also teach 7th and 8th grade history, government, and geography in a general education environment, and although it is hard work teaching multiple subjects, usually requiring early mornings and Sundays in the classroom, I love what I do and I love the challenge.

I've been tenured for nearly two years now, I routinely serve as a judge for National History Day and other community events, and I truly thought there was nothing that could make me leave this wonderful state...until Gov. Dunleavy's line item vetoes were announced. I'm not one who is prone to drama or hysterics, but the reality is that my wife and I find ourselves having to make plans for our future that no longer include Alaska, and our hearts are heavy. Here are some specific, direct effects that my family will feel if the budget is implemented in current form:

A. My step-daughter graduated from West Valley High School in 2019 as student body president. She had several options for college, but chose UAF in part due to the fact she had earned the Alaska Performance Scholarship. The Governor's suspension of the performance scholarship feels like a cheat to a student who has already earned it. The steady cut in programs to UAF, punctuated by the 41% proposed cut in state funding, is catastrophic - not just to the UA system, but to Alaskans' *faith* in that system. At this time, we do not anticipate my step-daughter will get more than two years of schooling at UAF before programs are cut to the point of austerity, or worse, accreditation becomes an issue. This, coming from a proud Nanook.

B. Cuts to the mental health budget, special needs housing, and homeless assistance programs will be felt directly and indirectly throughout the community, and in the classroom. Last year, I had no fewer than seventeen students - 12, 13, and 14 year olds - who were classified as homeless. Most (not a few, not some) had parents or guardians dealing with mental health issues, and I became very aware of the backlog and shortage in these services. I often helped these students and their families the best I could by sharing food (salmon, fresh vegetables), but I recognized my help was a drop in the bucket and not a real long term solution. If I didn't have my Army pension, I wouldn't be in a position to help at all. Now the governor proposes more cuts? Nothing short of insulting.

C. As local taxes increase and services are reduced, the notion of keeping our beautiful home becomes harder to envision. We live near UAF, and pay high property taxes relative to the overall Fairbanks area. We've never griped much about these taxes, but we do see a very real chance of property values falling due to a realignment of the university system, and frankly, my wife and I are at a point in our lives that we do not wish to gamble. At this time, again with heavy hearts, we are forming plans to explore the housing (selling) market in 2021 as troop increases at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base go into effect.

Even if all line item vetoes are resolved in a favorable manner, I'm afraid the damage may already be done. The cynicism of this governor, the failure to accept input from bipartisan committees and working groups (in other words, compromise), and the attacks against the things I find important - education, community services, the arts - all make it difficult to envision a future Alaska that has a place for someone like me.

Respectfully and regretfully,

Sean E. Brewer  
(907) 888-4022  
Certified Teacher, M.Ed  
Command Sergeant Major, USA (R)  
[sean.brewer@k12northstar.org](mailto:sean.brewer@k12northstar.org)

From: Jacqueline Martin <j54martin@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:26 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Please pass HB 2001!

To the members of the Alaska House Finance Committee:

I support passage of HB 2001, which would make appropriations and restore funding to Gov. Dunleavy's draconian and short-sighted cuts to the state budget. I am VERY concerned about what will happen to our state if his cuts are allowed to stand (and with his promise of more to come next year)! I have been a resident of Alaska for 41 years, have raised my children here, and love our community. The fabric which ties us together is being ripped apart by this governor's actions. Please restore funding; please pass HB 2001!

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Martin  
Resident, House District 4

**From:** Sarah Garland <dsarahgarland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support restoring funding for all the vetoed items

Please restore funding for all the items vetoed by the governor. The cuts he made were too large and too sudden. They throw our social safety net into turmoil and threaten the current and future economy of the entire state.

I am particularly concerned about the drastic cuts to the University of Alaska. Mr. Dunleavy didn't tell voters he had this in mind when he campaigned and was elected. It is not in the best interests of our state.

I support revising the tax structure and reducing the subsidies given to oil companies. Part of the Permanent Fund should be used to fund state services. And, I am willing to pay a state income tax, which I believe is more fair than a sales tax.

Thank you for your service,  
Sarah Garland  
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: bing carrillo <carrb@acsalaska.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:28 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB 2001

My name is Bing Carrillo. Born and raised in Juneau. I am 63 years old. Retired IBEW 1547 member. I am currently the Vice President of the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. I am also on the Partnership board for the New JACC.

I ask that you please support HB2001. Why do we have to be the only state in the United States that does not have funding for the Arts. Does not make sense to me. In addition, let's save our state from our current governors vetoes. If you are a true Alaskan, please don't let our state and all who live here down. Thank You - Bing Carrillo Note: You can have my PFD in order to make our state great again.

**From:** Pat Wagner <pat33wagner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** budget & pfd

The governor's line item vetoes were not just vetoes, but a blatant move by the governor to usurp the role of the legislature & judiciary. Legislators should have been angry enough at this attempt to override the vetoes, but instead, too many caved & wholeheartedly refused to do their job. The only bright spot in all of this is that almost all of our Fairbanks legislators are working together across party lines to try to remedy this disgrace.

The governor's budget will cause irreparable harm to all residents of the state. Our university is an economic driver for the whole state, but especially Fairbanks. The loss of jobs, students, programs, research capabilities, etc. goes on and on. We have a world class university at present, but that can easily be destroyed by these budget cuts - and that may be impossible to ever get back. It's hard to prioritize which of these cuts are the most devastating as they all interconnect in some way, and so the damage just spirals. Our property taxes will spiral, with social services and community services cut or gone, crime rates will rise. Our ability to get and/or afford medical care will be compromised. The cut to pre-K is one of the most short-sighted, as all studies say this is the biggest bang for your buck for future productivity and earning power. Who of the new arrivals to Eielson will want to bring their families when there is no importance placed on schools or the arts and no opportunity for spouses to find outside jobs? Just one more drag on the economy. The elimination of the State Council on the Arts will mean Alaska will be the only state without such an organization - disgraceful!

The idea that we should basically shut down the state in order to provide full (whatever that means) PFD checks to everyone in the state - rich or poor - makes no economic sense. The permanent fund was meant to be a savings account for that rainy day that is here. I favor a \$1600 PFD check and income taxes if need be.

The budget sweeps that have done away with fuel subsidies and scholarships, etc. should be reversed. These decisions should be up to the legislators, not the governor.

Please protect the state from these terrible decisions,  
Patricia Wagner

**From:** Chris Eversman <cheversman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:29 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** RESTORE all funds vetoed by Gov Dunleavy

Hello,

I am writing in support of a cut to the proposed \$3000 PFD in order to restore all funds vetoed by Gov. Dunleavy. In addition, the capital budget must be funded now so the state avoids losing federal funds and our infrastructure is maintained.

I am a lifelong Alaskan going on 33 years. I was born here, raised here, and I live, work, and play here. I want to raise a family here, but the Governor's vetoes will have lasting impacts on education, social, and medical services that will require me to leave my home state in order to find a suitable environment in which to raise my child. I am not alone. Without a restoration of all funds vetoed by Dunleavy, Alaska will undergo a staggering economic downturn from which we may never recover.

A PFD of \$1600, or of less than \$1000, is an acceptable price to pay to save critical state services.



Thank you for your time,  
-Chris

**From:** Carol Klopf <cklopf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House bill 2001

I had information that we could testify by calling in. I did call in, but nobody took my testimony or told me how or when I might be able to testify. I listened for a while and then gave up.

I have lived in Fairbanks for almost 60 years. I want to fully support House Bill 2001, with a permanent fund dividend of \$1600, or less. And please try to restore any of the vetoed funding that you can, especially for the university.

Everybody thought the PFD was a good idea. But it is a good idea gone wrong. People have got the idea that it is some kind of inalienable right. Even worse, that a fixed large amount is a right. That just isn't workable. The time might come (as it has) when there is just not enough money to pay it.

I think the citizens have even more of a right to have the benefits of a civilized society, if they are willing to pay for it. An income tax is the fairest tax. Other taxes have been suggested. Even the other oil rich states have taxes. Also we shouldn't be paying our precious public money to a rich private industry. We need to be winding down our use of petroleum, for reasons of the climate change. If you want to promote development, promote development of clean renewable energy. Alaska has a number of possibilities.

Carol Klopf  
2221 Eagan Ave, #117  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

**From:** Anne Hanley <hanleyanne@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** My testimony

Greetings House Finance Committee,

Never in all the 43 years I have been an Alaska resident have I felt so threatened and so disheartened. There is no budget crisis here. There is a crisis of confidence. We, unlike any other state, have \$65 billion dollars in the bank, the corpus of our Permanent Fund. We have options to deal with the downward trend of oil prices: Reinstitute an income tax and/or other forms of taxation; reduce or eliminate the Permanent Fund Dividend which was a nice perk when we could afford it, but has always been a handout; restructure oil taxes so oil companies pay their fair share. These are all reasonable measures which, working together with an efficient state government, can keep us spending within our means.

There is no need to dismantle state government in order to pass out free money. No one in the state has earned that dividend. The intention to share the wealth was a good one back in the early 1970's, but the people who thought up the idea of the Permanent Fund intended it to be mainly for supporting State government when needed. We need it now and we should use it for the purpose for which it was intended.

Crippling Alaska's economic drivers is the worst idea. A friend who is a research scientist at UAF asked: "When I'm applying for a grant and I come to the 'facilities' section meant be a statement of all the resources my university brings to the project, what am I going to write? I could have the most innovative idea in the world, but having nothing but caretaker support from my university puts me at a great disadvantage."

Remember that the first research pointing to climate change was done at UAF (polar ice cores and tree rings) and UA has been a leader in the field of climate change ever since. Are we going to just throw that all away? The Governor has abolished the Climate Change Panel. Where are we going to get the information we need to make plans to mitigate the effects of climate change?

I urge you to reintroduce funding for UA and the social services networks that connect us. If there's one thing this fake crisis has shown me is that when you start pulling threads out of our social network, everything starts to break down. We've spent over 40 years with the state, federal government, non-profits and volunteers all working to build things up. All the major business and civic leaders, educators, spokespersons, former governors that I've heard have said going into debt and dismantling state government services to pay out a \$3,000 handout to every person in the state will deal us a blow it will take decades to recover from. Governor Dunleavy has remained "unavailable" to refute these predictions or to tell us his plan.

Don't let this debacle happen on your watch. Put your differences aside. Red line the vetoes; reduce or eliminate the Permanent Fund handout. Save our State.

Sincerely,  
Anne Hanley  
1469 Goshawk Ln.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907-479-4671

**From:** amy gallaway <westlake365@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:32 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support HB 2001

Dear Representative Foster, Representative Wilson, and Committee Members,

My Name is Amy Gallaway, and I have been a high school teacher in Alaska for 20 years in the North Slope Borough, the Kenai Peninsula, and now Fairbanks. Thank you for continuing the work on Alaska's budget. I support HB 2001 because it fully funds the capital budget, reverses the governor's vetoes and most importantly returns funding to Alaska Performance Scholarship and Power Cost Equalization programs.

As a high school teacher and a past rural resident, I know first hand the incredible value of these programs, but it is the university and APS that I will focus my testimony on today. Cutting APS will result in a serious brain drain in Alaska and handicaps our most precious resource, our youth. Since Governor Parnell started APS, I have watched some of our best and brightest students stay in Alaska at much higher numbers. I have former UA graduates who now manage my retirement, fill my prescriptions and one who just fixed the wiring in my garage. APS is good for our economy and good for our future. Last year I know of at least 20 students who were accepted into out of state programs, but who chose to stay in-state because of our strong system and low tuition. Cutting APS like this is not only unconscionable, it is bad economics (as you know Moody just downgraded UAs rating specifically because of the governor's drastic cuts).

While I am no expert, I have taught American government and Alaska history for the last 15 years, and in that time I have read much of the writings of our founding fathers (both Alaska and U.S.). What is crystal clear to me is that our nation was founded not just on the concept of individual liberty and property rights, but heavily on classical republicanism and the common good. A strong university and public education system are a part of the bedrock of our state and our nation. Be enlightened statesman and do the right thing for all Alaskans-- the original legislative budget represented majority rule, the governor's budget represents the tyranny of the minority. Please support HB2001.

Thank you,

Amy Gallaway

[westlake365@gmail.com](mailto:westlake365@gmail.com)

**From:** Jon Miller <jonharveymiller1960@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:33 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I urge you to cut back drastically on Governor Dunleavy's proposed, and extraordinarily irresponsible \$3K-plus PFD!

Despite a low personal annual income, I am willing to see my own PFD zeroed-out if needed to maintain education, university, social services, arts, and industry-regulatory funding. These institutions and functions are the role of our government, and should take clear precedence over handouts to the public.

We have created a state with a high quality of life in Alaska, and Dunleavy's agenda is eroding this quality precipitously, foolishly, and unnecessarily.

Please reduce or even eliminate the PFD and fund critical public and governmental functions. If income- and sales-taxes are needed to fund high quality of life, environmental protection, and education, then so be it!

Thank you!

Jon Miller  
468 Line Dr.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 479-5629

**From:** Bjørn Olson <fatbikebjorn@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:37 PM

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

**Subject:** End the Per-Barrel Oil Tax Credit Program and Restore Crucial State Services

Alaska is warming twice as fast as the rest of the nation due to human-caused global warming. In order to arrest this crisis and to remain below 1.5° C pre industrial levels, we must end our dependence on fossil fuels. The IPCC's 5th Climate Assessment has warned we have little more than a decade to decarbonize our economy or we will miss this crucial target. We need to be addressing the negative externalities of burning hydrocarbons by making them more expensive and therefore less desirable to use, not subsidizing them.

The Dunleavy administration is currently giving away \$1.2 billion to the richest corporations on Earth. This is not only sacrificing other valuable state services - like education and healthcare - in the near-term, it is also, more importantly, sacrificing our Constitutional rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Here are three solutions to address the budget and climate crisis in Alaska:

1. End all subsidies to the oil and gas industry.
2. Place a revenue neutral price on carbon.
3. Invest in Alaska's astounding and largely untapped [renewable energy assets](#). By throwing our full weight behind all of our untapped renewable energy potential, Alaska will become a desirable place for businesses to invest, communities to prosper, and innovation to occur.

It is time to come together as Alaskans to fight climate change, defend our way of life and embolden the industries of the future.

# A "PFD" to Fight Climate Change?

## A simple way to encourage a low carbon economy in Alaska

One well understood method to address climate change is to place a price on the carbon dioxide we all produce. By making this greenhouse gas more expensive, each of us will be incentivized to become more efficient in our fossil fuel consumption. This method is a give-and-take approach where all Alaskans are compensated equally, are allowed free choice in their energy consumption and climate change—which is treating some Alaskans much worse than others—is addressed.



1  
Place a small and steadily increasing price on fossil fuels.

2  
Divide that money by the number of Alaska residents.



3  
Equally distribute the money\* back to every Alaskan resident — like the PFD.

\*The entire collection of money would be dispensed to Alaska residents, minus administrative costs.

This mechanism is designed to progressively reduce fossil fuel consumption, inject money into the economy, spur innovation, and grow demand for low carbon products. As a state with a lot to lose, it is crucial that we begin to address our contribution to the problem and lead by example.

**It's time to come together as Alaskans to fight climate change, defend our way of life and address the negative externalities of fossil fuel combustion.**

For more information please visit: [AlaskansKnowClimateChange.com](http://AlaskansKnowClimateChange.com)



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**From:** Aharon Sternberg <aharonsternberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

In regard to the above Bill. I am usually a conservative voter. I do believe that many cuts are necessary and I think there is a lot of waste. I am a doctor and have noticed a lack of enforcements of Medicaid and Welfare rules which caused terrible abuse of the system by many "clients".

HOWEVER -

I believe that this time the Governor went too far by cutting ESSENTIAL services.

To cut over \$130 M from the University budget is a fatal act. Again, there is some abuse and waste, but it hardly reach that level.

My suggestion -

1. Reduce University present budget by 10-15%.
2. Implement a Sale Tax of 3% or so as I believe EVERYBODY should pay something. Food and medications should be exempt.

Thank you for listening,  
Aharon Sternberg O.D.  
907-276-7306  
Box 433, 200 W. 34th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

From: Katherine Harrell P <[klharrell83@gmail.com](mailto:klharrell83@gmail.com)>  
To: [house.finance@leg.gov](mailto:house.finance@leg.gov)  
Cc:  
Bcc:

Date: Wed, 17 Jul 2019 15:30:15 -0800

Subject: Senior benefits and pfd

I'm a senior with a fixed income when you took 175.00 away I now can't make my rent or pay my car insurance I really don't want to drive without that as per law I have a 23 year old jeep and I allow myself 1 full up per month I also have an improperly healed broken ankle it was hard enough before I had to go to the pharmacy and ask people to pay for my prescription only 5.25 but I didn't have it my income now is 1154.00 before with the senior benefits it was 1329.00 only 19.00 in food stamps my jeep needs some work I was counting on the 3000.00 pfd to fix it as it's probably the last car I'll own what other resources do I have I've been here since 1961 oh and my rent is 675.00 I've been on the waiting list for senior housing for 2 years.

**From:** Barbara Short <barbshort@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:39 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please restore the draconian cuts to our state, our culture and our arts

I encourage you to restore all the vetoed funds--Dunleavy is our state into a pale example of what we know as a supportive, creative, caring place to live.

So many of the cuts make no sense at all...why cut the pollution monitoring vessel that costs us nothing? (Maybe because you don't care about our waterways?)

Why cut the Alaska State Council on the Arts? It costs us very little...and the small \$700,000 investments brings much more to all parts of our state. Why cut ASCA? (Maybe because you don't care about the economic and cultural impact on all parts of Alaska...communities of all sizes.) Alaska will be the only state in the U.S. that doesn't have a state arts council!

Why cut head start? Why cut senior services? Why cut rural support?

And why devastate our University?

I cannot imagine Dunleavy's thinking and I do not want to understand him...

Please overturn his cuts.

Thank you.

Barbara Short

(Our organization receives \$5000 per year to help us train teachers throughout the state on integrating arts and culture into their classrooms. It isn't alot but it helps...)

Barbara Short

Alaska Arts Education Consortium Executive Director

(907) 322-6669

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

**From:** Gerri Malarkey Dick <gerridick@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:42 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear Finance Committee,

I am in favor of HB 2001 or any other legislation that will return funding to Alaska education and social services. We need to work as a community, to individuals vieing for top dollar just for ourselves. We need to be a compassionate, caring state with a well educated work force. Thank you. Geraldine Malarkey, North Pole, AK

From: Marsha Sousa <marsha.c.sousa@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:43 PM

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

Subject: Restore funding

Dear Committee Members and Colleagues,

Please reject the Governor's ill-considered vetoes and restore funding for the coalition budget that the legislature put forward. In particular we need funding for the University, for scholarships that students earned and were promised, for

critical social services for our needy and vulnerable friends and neighbors, and for the arts which enrich us all. Reduce the PFD payout to something modest, and please initiate discussion to tax us. It's time for Alaskans to mature and pay our way for the valuable services we need and want. Thank you for all your hard work, the difficult discussions you are having, the creative solutions you are proposing, and the untold number of overtime hours you are putting in.

Respectfully,

Marsha Sousa  
3523 Kreb Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907-957-3250  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Rosita Worl <rosita.worl@sealaska.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Supporting HB 2001

Dear Senator or Representative,

I write to convey my support House Bill 2001. My position is rooted in the Legislature's constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

Article VII of Alaska's constitution obligates the Legislature to provide for the public education (including a state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans. Upholding these responsibilities should be the Legislature's sole concern. Prolonged focus on the location of the second special session or the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend, as various members continue to do, absolves individual lawmakers of their Article VII constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

For this reason, I urge the Legislature to reinstate the operating budget it passed on June 10 through HB 2001.

Sincerely,

Rosita Worl

**From:** Nathan Belz <natebelz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Testimony RE: Dunleavy Vetoes

As a tax-paying resident of Fairbanks in House District 4, employee of the University of Fairbanks (UAF), and your neighbor on Sunlight Drive I write this email to you (on personal time) to thank you for considering the restoration of funding vetoed by Governor Dunleavy.

I write to inform you of the consequences already being realized by UAF. Though the governor's rationale for the cuts included a presumption that research activities would be unaffected, we have already received notice of, not surprisingly so, reservation and hesitation from numerous funding agencies to continue to invest in us, some even

questioning whether or not to sever already existing contracts. UAF is Alaska's premiere research institution and these [proposed] cuts, as you have heard from so many, have already penetrated their way deep into our credibility.

If UAF should cease to exist, who would continue to conduct the research necessary to move our state and nation forward? We are leaders in arctic research, indigenous studies, rural planning and development among others. If UAF dissolves, there would be no more investment from world-renowned entities like National Science Foundation, National Weather Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

More personally, I am the assistant director of the Center for Safety Equity in Transportation, a USDOT funded university transportation center (UTC) and have served as interim Associate Director of the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium, a regional center established under USDOT. Our history in the UTC program and as the Alaska University Transportation Center, recognized by the Board of Regents as an arm of the Institute of other Engineering, has spanned over 15 years and accounts for over two million dollars in revenue annually. With the Governor's cuts, the trust we have worked so hard to establish with the USDOT would be lost. We regularly use these funds to match the AKDOT&PF research budget to extend their capabilities in making sure our roadways and transportation infrastructure remain safe and efficient. Our partners in the regional center have already showed reluctance to invest in us during the years remaining in our grant due to increases in overhead and loss of students to include on research projects. This is no doubt the case with other research entities on campus. These vetoes will be the end of research and higher education in Alaska, guaranteed, unless an appropriations bill restores the funding needed to keep our doors open at our current state (which is even marginal considering the cuts we have taken over the last decade).

I implore you to think about the thousands of students who will suffer as a result of these cuts, the hundreds of thousands we stand to serve over the years ahead, and the effect that will have on our state and our economy. We must work harder now than ever to protect the things we know to have the most important and sustained effect on the future of our state. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is one of those things. I feel the same about health care, K-12 education, the arts, and the myriad other line items vetoed by our short-sighted and narrow-minded governor.

We can fix this. I have trust in you to help fix this. Thank you.

--

Nathan P. Belz, Ph.D.  
1618 Sunlight Dr.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**From:** jocelyn reamey <giffjee@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Call to action

I do not support the Governors budget proposal to cut millions from programs that Alaskans need, especially young children and elders. Growing up in rural Alaska I was taught we take care of our children and elders first. He said in his inauguration that he wouldn't forget rural Alaska yet his actions say otherwise.

Please think hard and pray that you will all make the right decisions for the people of our state. This is my home and I want to see it protected by the people we elected.

You represent us, honor that responsibility and vote as we are telling you to do so.

Jocelyn Reamey



**From:** Chris and Mary Maisch <maisch@acsalaska.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:44 PM

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

**Subject:** HB2001 Veto Override

To Members of the Alaska State House Finance Committee and All Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mary Baarlaer Maisch of 2072 Red Berry Rd, Fairbanks, Alaska.

I am writing to testify for the full return of Governor Dunleavy's vetoed funding to Alaska's State Operating Budget.

It is clear that Governor Dunleavy and each of the "Wasilla 22" legislators have demonstrated a gross dereliction of duty in their responsibility to our state. They were elected to represent the best interests of Alaskan residents, but instead they are representing the best interests of themselves and their corporate sponsors.

I came to Alaska in 1981, and have lived here since, attending UAF, raising two children each of whom has attended UAF, and who still reside here. I have worked as an elementary educator for the past 30 years. My husband worked for Tanana Chiefs Conference, and currently is employed by the State of Alaska. We have a vested interest in the future of our state. We had planned to stay here through our "Golden Years," but with the current threat to Alaska's economy that Dunleavy's actions will undoubtedly precipitate, we must now consider other options. If the Governor and his cronies have their way, Alaska will be unrecognizable to those of us who have spent our lifetimes here. The potential losses are grim:

A skeletal, unaccredited University system

A lack of early childhood education opportunities

A lack of educators for the gray remains of a public school system

The loss of a generation of young people who will flock to opportunities in other states

A loss of access to comprehensive mental and physical health care

The loss of a state level arts advocacy agency

The loss of access to remote communities by a curtailed marine ferry system

The loss of public safety programs and personnel in urban and rural areas

The gains?

A \$3000 annual dividend check for those who stick it out? Good luck paying for your family's education, health care, safety, and transportation with that. Forget about your neighbors who are less well off than you.

I am willing and able to accept a reduced dividend check if a portion of it is required for the responsible operation of state government. I am willing and able to accept a state income tax if it will provide for the immediate and long term health and well-being of our state's citizens.

Please support HB 2001 and override once and for all the Governor's harmful vetoes.

Thank you for your hard work and service on behalf of Alaska's residents. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Mary Baarlaer Maisch

July 17, 2019

From: Linda Witt <wittlinda2015@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:45 PM

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

Subject: Alaska State Fiscal Crisis

We urge you to work with the Governor and Legislature to repeal all or most of the Governor's vetoes, to ensure funds for K-12 education and the University of Alaska in particular.

We are willing to accept a 2019 PFD

of an affordable amount, i.e. \$1600.00  
and will agree to a statewide income tax in the near future.  
Thank you,  
David and Linda Witt  
Fairbanks

**From:** Kellie Jones <mrsdj82@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget

Thank you for your recent proposed cuts. We appreciate what you are trying to do in balancing the budget for our great State of Alaska!

Keep on cutting. It hurts but it sure feels good to have a balanced budget. We will survive.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Dennis and Kellie Jones  
PO Box 1528  
Petersburg, AK 99833

**From:** Jan Dick <emtchr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee:

Please pass HB 2001 and do whatever is possible to restore funding to education and other services. I am a graduate of UAF. Two of my sons are graduates of UAF. One son is a teacher in Alaska. Without decent education, we cannot recruit and retain a quality workforce or have quality communities to live in. Thank you. Jan Dick, North Pole Alaska

**From:** andrea\_croll@yahoo.com <andrea\_croll@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB2001

Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2001. The cuts made by the Governor's vetoes are unacceptable. They deny us adequate representation, access to basic services, and millions in matching funds. They disproportionately target poor and/or rural residents, and they will bring hardship to Alaskans for many years to come via economic collapse and lack of essential services. As a 20-year resident of Fairbanks, I am particularly concerned for the UA system and the resounding effect such a major cut will have on our community.

I have much more to say about what an awful situation this is, but in the spirit of 'getting it done' I will cut my comments short. Please restore funding to all the line-item vetoes, and limit the PFD, as outlined in the original balanced budget. Other acceptable sources of revenue include adjusting the per-barrel tax credits claimed by the oil industry, or initiating an income tax.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Croll

2344 B-Line Ct  
Fairbanks, AK, 99709  
(907) 458-0067

**From:** hhpumkin@aol.com <hhpumkin@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 2001

Dear Alaska Legislation Members:

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition of the current bill on the agenda HB2001

As a person who generally doesn't have a lot of wealth, I, and many others look forward to our yearly stipend to address various needs. Whether that may be car repairs, home heating oil, property taxes, vacations to see family, holiday gifts, uninsured medical needs among other things.

Regardless of your stance on the activities and events surrounding the current session, I strongly urge you all to remember that the citizen's portion of the earnings from the Permanent Fund is just that: The people's purse, not the Alaska governments special piggy bank to tap at will.

That it is even being considered to balance the budget is a very poor reflection on the legislative body as a whole, and previous administrations-and you know this to be true. Find a reasonable path to align our income with our expenses, like nearly every household in Alaska must. A few years of correction and this temporary pain will be corrected as new revenue streams are allowed to flourish, the PFD continues to provide generous returns, and our government is sized to reflect the income to the residents you serve.

There are many ways for the affected groups to find financing to help them stay afloat in "tough times" including the "pick,click, give "portion of the dividend likewise the possibility of state or income tax, removal of oil credits, or a lottery would help contribute to our states financial needs

We've had our dividends cut the last 3 yrs, there are people like myself who would be extremely appreciative , if it wasn't cut a 4th time.

Thank you very much

**From:** david <swarming@mosquitonet.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:52 AM

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

**Subject:** public testimony on the budget

To: House Finance Committee

Re: Comments concerning renewed budget legislation

The university was built by hardworking Alaskans, long before Alaska was a state and long before oil began its enriching and corrosive influence on the public sphere. Those Alaskans believed that the territory and eventually the state needed to have its own center for advanced learning and research. A severe budget cut of the magnitude desired by the governor not only harms students working toward their degrees and risks stifling the Fairbanks economy with ripple effects throughout the region. It also dishonors the hard work of generations of Alaskans that went into building a leading center for Arctic education and research, recognized around the world.

And why should we care about the University's status as a leading center for Arctic research? The Arctic has become a critical site of geopolitical interest. China is rapidly buying up capital and political influence in Greenland in order to have access and clout in the region. Russia, our neighbor to the west, is flexing its muscles as a huge Arctic nation, as it seeks to dominate Arctic resources and waterways. The university of Alaska, with the international standing of its research, its scientists, educators and its graduates in strategic positions helps to keep Alaska and the U.S. in the game. Moreover, collaborative research and scholarly and student interchange across the Arctic can foster mutual understanding and lessen tensions. To relinquish the standing enabled by a major research university, is to allow outside and even foreign interests to have unmonitored and unwelcome influence on Alaska's economy and well-being because we lose our own, Alaska-based network for staying connected and informed. Your efforts to restore the full allocation for the university as well as for pre-school and K-12 education, healthcare, agriculture, public safety, etc. will benefit the state not only internally but in its relationship to global forces affecting all of our lives.

Sincerely,

David Koester

Ester

**From:** Philip Martin <pdmartin1004@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:52 PM

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

**Subject:** HB 2001

Dear Honorable Legislators:

I am emailing in lieu of in-person testimony at the Fairbanks hearing for HB 2001.

I support HB 2001. The destructive vetoes issued by the governor must be overturned, and funding restored to the levels approved by a majority of the legislature. The reverse sweep that would restore funding to programs like student loans and Power Cost Equalization should also be accomplished. The governor's vetoes are unacceptable – they would devastate higher education and the arts in this state for decades and do particular harm to vulnerable groups like children, elders, rural residents, and those who need assistance accessing medical care and the legal system. The totality of harmful economic effects would be felt by all of us, however, and could even throw the state into recession. The worst part of it is that none of those cuts are necessary, as the legislature's budget demonstrated. My personal preference would be to fill the budget gap through a combination of reduced tax credits for the petroleum industry and implementation of a graduated income tax. If that is politically impossible this year, then limiting the size of the Permanent Fund Dividend is the only solution to our immediate problem. Thank you for your efforts to reverse the destruction left in the wake of the governor's catastrophic policies, and please pass HB 2001.

Thank you.

Philip Martin

3813 Old Nenana Highway, Fairbanks 99709

House District 4