

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Lora Reinbold, Chairwoman
Session: Capital Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3926



Senator Mike Shower, Vice Chair
Senator Shelley Hughes
Senator Robert Myers
Senator Jesse Kiehl

Senate Judiciary Committee

Combined Public Testimony

SJR1

April 9, 2021

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:28:57 PM

I vote no on SJR1. If passed, it would decimate our ability to provide state services. Even if the 5 % POMV draw stays at or above \$ 3B, paying half of that for PFDs, would only allow \$ 1.5 B for our government. I hear no details being provided how we can function with an UGF cut of \$ 1 B or more. The rest of the country must be in disbelief about what we are attempting with this bill.

--

Ron Johnson
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Cc: [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Rep. Ronald Gillham](#)
Subject: SJR-1 Permanent fund
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:08:59 AM

Good afternoon

Just a message that I support SJR-1 regarding the permanent fund/dividends & amending the Constitution. Also this will put the issue to the people which is a very good idea. Thank you!

Dave Peck
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:16:21 PM

To whom this concerns,

My name is Shalena Wilson and I'm very upset what is and has been going on with our PFD's. It belongs to the people! Not politicians. Our PFD is not your piggy bank for special interest and pet projects. It's to help the people.

Out of all the bills concerning the PFD's SJR1 is the only one that does anything as far as making sure we get our PFD. Do your jobs! We are not disposable, do what is right! Give Alaskans their PFD's back!

Sincerely,
A very frustrated and upset Alaskan citizen.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: PFD SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 5:57:22 PM

I support SJR1.

The alaskan need their pfd.

Thank you
Marcie Conrad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Re: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:59:53 PM

Thanks for the heads up. I added my two cents worth.
Love, Bros

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 9, 2021, at 2:58 PM, Larry Johnson <aklarryak@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> I wholeheartedly urge you to reject SJR1. Alaska can hardly commit to
> promising a certain level of PFD funding when we are unable to adequately fund basic services in the present.
After more than 6 years of refusing to consider additional revenue sources such as income taxes (even for out of state workers), increased gasoline taxes, etc while persistently cutting state budgets Alaska is hardly in position to promise PFDs.
> Please focus upon the immediate problem of balancing the budget before guaranteeing PFDs.
> Lawrence Johnson
> Fairbanks
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:12:19 PM

To the Senate Judiciary

I am writing to ask the Senate to pass SJR1 for all Alaskans! The PFD is a lifesaver to my family and friends here in Alaska especially during these hard COVID times. Thank you!

Charmaine Johnston
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: PFD
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 10:03:18 AM

I am emailing in to say that my family of 6 who didn't qualify for the stimulus money could really use the pfd this year and years to come. We missed out on \$20k+ when our state was shut down and it is still affecting my family. Please pass SJR1, my family could use this money now more than ever.
Thank you,
Ashley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: pass the SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 6:18:38 PM

Please pass SJR1 My name is Ron Bernier I can be reached at [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR 1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:48:34 PM

I object to a constitutional amendment to protect the PFD. That's the obligation of all elected officials. Return to the statutory formula that served well for many years and cut government spending so that the budget is limited to the government's calculated allotment.

It has never been explained why the statutes no longer guided the actions of our legislators! Governor Walker was blamed, but each legislature has failed to act as the Constitution demands of elected representatives. Correct the problem, don't create another diversion.

Thank you, Pam Bickford

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Full pfd payout
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 12:30:07 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to give my opinion on getting a full pfd payout. I have a family of 5 and trying to feed the kids, paying rent, utilities and everything else that comes along with raising children getting a full pfd pay out helps our family feel better at raising our kids. It helps us to provide for our kids a little easier. Myself and children are born and raised Alaskans and we love to live in such an incredible place. That's why we put up with high costs of living. We appreciate the pfd because it helps make it worth living here and paying the high prices. I know many other families who feel the same way including my parents who are now almost 60, were born and raised in Alaska and appreciated the pfd to help raise a family of 4 in Alaska. It helps us to get outside, travel around our beautiful state and help support our local stores and other fellow Alaskans. So please help give us and the rest of the great Alaskans a full pfd. I know most of us could really use it especially after so many job losses in the last year. Thank you!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Cc: [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: Pass Resolution SJR1 (Restore and Protect The Permanente Fund Dividend)
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 9:30:10 AM

Hello my name is Krista Burton, I live in Anchorage and I've been an Alaskan my whole life. I'm sending this email to let my Legislators know that many Alaskans depend on the Permanente Fund Dividend. The PFD was never intended to be a slush fund for government and rightfully belongs to the people of AK. The peoples shares of the PFD need to be returned and restored. The overreach by Governor Walker and many legislators in 2018 with passing SB26 went against the Constitutional protection of the PFD.

Please PASS RESOLUTION SJR1 and protect the original PFD formula in the Constitution.

Respectfully,

Krista A Burton

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: PASS SJR1 - Public Comment - Petition attached: 13,800 signers agree
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 12:06:18 PM

ATTN: Chair Reinbold and Judiciary Members,
Co-Chairs Stedman and Bishop and Finance Members,
This comment urges **PASS SJR1** to protect the Fund and PFD for now and the future!

Permanent Fund Defenders submits this comment. We are an Alaskan group that includes founders of the Permanent Fund system and Alaskans across the state. We send Judiciary and Finance this petition on behalf of 13,800 signers who support enshrining the original PFD formula in the AK Constitution.

The PFD is a constitutionally-based benefit for Alaskans and it is a key part of protection for the Fund.
The successful Fund system needs protection not mismanagement by politicians.

Thank you to Judiciary and Finance Members who are working for fair and comprehensive solutions for our fiscal problems - beyond looting the PFD and our savings to pay for the government.

Juanita Cassellius
Permanent Fund Defenders Board
[REDACTED]

Petition at: [CHANGE.ORG](#) - <https://www.change.org/p/defend-our-pfd-and-fund-now>

DEFEND Our PFD and Fund NOW



[Permanent Fund Defenders](#) started this petition to [Alaska Legislature](#)

Thanks for signing this petition if you are an ALASKA RESIDENT. Please include where you live in Alaska. If you are not, your help for this cause is welcome with a donation to Permanent Fund Defenders. Go to www.gofundme.com/pfdak Many from around the world have offered support, thank you for helping Alaskans defend our Permanent Fund and citizen rights in the Commons!

ALASKAN VOTERS: Sign this petition and contact your Legislators to save our

PFD and Permanent Fund. Demand YOUR vote to lock the PFD securely in the Constitution safe from politicians.

As the Owner State, Alaska's resource wealth belongs to all Alaskans. Legislators are planning AGAIN to restructure and spend the PFD and Fund earnings without public consent. This theft endangers the Fund and blocks the rights of Alaskans.

We have other solutions to Alaska's fiscal problems including getting a fair share for our resources, budget reform, and raising revenues in ways that Alaskans choose.


Alaska Legislators, as our elected representatives, we urge you to do everything in your power to protect the public interest for Alaska voters and Permanent Fund shareholders through the following actions. We strongly support these votes:

OPPOSE THE PFD AND FUND RESTRUCTURE: VOTE NO on any plan to restructure and spend from the PFD and Permanent Fund without public consent. Don't allow this!

SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL PFD GUARANTEE: We support a public vote for a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee our full PFD, according to the historic formula. The PFD will never be safe without this.

PFD cuts are a regressive tax. Every \$1000 of a PFD brings 12-25,000 people above poverty and it will lift the economy out of the recession with a billion dollars in economic activity. <http://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Permanent-Fund-dividends-keep-thousands-of-Alaskans-above-poverty-line-report-408114335.html>

AN ADVISORY VOTE ON THE PFD was Governor Knowles' and Legislature's plan in 1999. They said then, it's the right of Alaskans to decide on changes to the Fund and PFD. It still is: <http://www.web-ak.com/pfd/knowles.html#letter>
TIME FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR OUR PFD. These raids will continue until the PFD has guaranteed Constitutional protection. The PFD connected to the performance of the Fund makes the public watchdogs on the government from spending down the Peoples' Fund. Preserve this successful model of wealth sharing in the Commons for today and future generations of Alaskans. <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2016/12/17/do-alaskans-have-a-constitutional-right-to-the-pfd/>

From: 
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: Pass SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:43:13 PM

I expect you to pass SJR1.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Protect the PFD in the constitution!
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 1:25:08 PM

I would like to add my voice to the conversation about enshrining the FULL PFD into the Alaska constitution. My children are 4th generation Alaskans. Our family will be here for generations to come. The state legislature has been dipping into my children's pockets over the last few years. I believe this has been happening because many legislators we have elected and put in office have deceived their voters by deciding not to do their jobs and cut the budget. They instead are taking the low hanging fruit-our PFD. It's easier, but it is not the right choice. PLEASE consider making the right choice and enshrine the FULL PFD in the Alaska constitution.

Jessica Cox
(Alaskan)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Public Testimony Response for SJR 1, Guarantee Perm Fund Divided
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 4:48:11 PM

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Nate Craig, a 10-Year resident of Alaska. More than anything I ask that you to pass this bill and continue to move it forward to enshrine this action into our constitution as the PFD must be protected for the rights of Alaskans. By passing this legislation, It will hopefully avoid current and future legislature members from using these funds as a excuse to avoid right sizing our Government and to start spending at more acceptable threshold; allowing "All" Alaskans to be free to live their lives to the fullest extent.

Fact is we all come from different walks of life and we all have the ability to make our own choices as free individuals. The PFD from my research and interpretation was created to share the resources for both state and residents. We can argue as to how residents use these dividends, however my ask in this public testimony is that residents should not be denied those resources due to the inability of those not willing to make hard decisions and right size the government to an acceptable scope and size.

Over the last five years Alaskan residents have been told that they must receive a reduced dividend based upon the needs of the state to continue business operations. However what has become true and evident is that the funds stripped away from Alaskan residents were simply put back into the PFD fund it self and rebuild what was frivolously used by our leadership. Limited funds were actually used to support Government operations and now a surplus resides unused.

In the news media, we have recently herd that the federal stimulus has subsidized any need to produce a full PFD dividend this year. My ask is that members of both the House and Senate do not conflate the two issues. This simply comes down to trusting our legislators to do the right thing and stop taking and start giving back the shared resources as they were originally intended. Those not wishing to participate in the PFD dividend should be encouraged to not complete their annual application as is their God given right.

Finally, if Legislators are not willing to listen to it's constituents plead year after year, I only ask that you take into consideration the University of Alaska Institute of social and economic research to which they continuously state the damage that is caused by stripping away PFDs. The PFD helps with employment, health, low poverty, and income inequality. Beyond the damaged economic impact that has been caused to its residents and business owners, it has eroded the trust and confidence that we have in leaderships ability to effectively lead and represent Alaska. Passing this bill is this first step to ensure that a right sizing of spending. Trust must be earned, not unilaterally given. Please note that I as most of my Alaskan brothers and sisters were unable to call in as we have jobs to support our families and therefore I ask you take this email as my testimony today.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Nathaniel (Nate) Craig

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: pass sjr1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:01:43 PM

Alaskans are watching. Please pass sjr1.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:52:23 PM

To- Alaska State Legislature Senate Judiciary Committee,

Respectfully, I fully support SJR1 and firmly believe we need to put the full PFD in the constitution. This impacts the lowest income families the greatest. While I am blessed to no longer be in poverty, I remember a time when I was a single mother. My sons father was murdered in the Fairbanks area and PFDs are what bought school supplies, winter gear, fuel and enabled me to stock up meat for the winter. MANY people NEED this. Putting money into the hands of the individual and back into our economy will stabilize it and ensure Alaskans in need get their help right before the winter. It also increases business and helps small businesses who have suffered greatly this last year.

It is also important to figure out the state budget and get organized with out this. Too much time and energy has been spent fighting over the PFD. It's not going to fix all the issues and should not be looked to as the rescue plan for the legislatures.

It is the right of Alaskan residents to be receiving their PFDs in full every year just as it was originally intended.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nina Delain of North Pole Alaska

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*Nina Delain

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:07:38 PM

Please listen to your Constituents, and vote for SJR1. If you can't protect what we want by budgeting the way you are hired and supposed to do, then you need to protect us from yourselves.

Sincerely,
Carrie Doores
AK resident of going on 39 years

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Public Testimony: SJR1 Vote Yes
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 7:12:39 PM

Hello,

Please Vote Yes on SJR1.

With the way the PFD is calculated it will ensure future generations will have the PFD. If we take out too much at once this will deplete the fund and cause the PFD to be in a critical condition in which it will not last as long as it would if we just keep the original way of calculating.

Regards,

Rachelle Griffitts
Anchorage, AK Resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Save the PFD
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 5:11:49 PM

Please, pass SJR1! I'm an Alaskan resident, born and lived in Alaska all my life!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Judiciary](#)
Cc: [Finance](#)
Subject: Lisa M John/SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:11:09 PM

Thank you for all the time and effort you all put into helping Alaskans... no words for the appreciation.

I support SJR1 and I hope and Pray it is passed. It will pass if it is fair I know that. Let our voice be heard. I shared this on my fb page and I encouraged others to email you all.

Thanks again and here's to 2021!!!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Comments on SJR 1 (CONST AM: GUARANTEE PERM FUND DIVIDEND)
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:09:57 PM

This is to submit my comments on SJR 1.

I support SJR 1, with two proposed amendments.

First, I would modify Section 2, proposed (b)(1) by substituting for the percentage to be applied to the average market value of the fund (set at 5% in the current version), the following: "the average of the real rates of return realized on permanent fund investments over the preceding ten fiscal years." The purpose of this amendment is to establish the draw rate based on actual experience, rather than setting a fixed number (e.g., 5% or 4% or any other fixed number). My concern is that while a fixed number may seem reasonable currently, it may not remain reasonable over time. The better approach is to tie the rate to actual experience.

Second, I would strike proposed (b)(2), so as to leave (b)(1) as the only calculation required to be made. The purpose of the amendment is to make the amounts which are to be paid out in dividends and available for the general fund more consistent. Because there can be significant variances in any given year between the amounts to be determined under (b)(1) and (b)(2), the amount available as dividends and government may vary significantly by year, undermining the goal of consistency and predictability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Brad

Brad Keithley

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR 1 is wrong for Alaska
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:59:36 AM

Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I do not support SJR 1. Alaska has a history of not tying the hands of future generations and future legislatures, and yet SJR 1 proposes to do just that. Go with the residual dividend and have the difficult conversations every year about how much we spend on state services and how much we spend on dividends.

For some guidance on the Permanent Fund and what it was created for, you might go back and read the election pamphlet and what the voters were told back in 1976. The article linked below mirrors my own memories and research related to the Permanent Fund and the associated dividend program. Another good source for understanding the public ownership of natural resources in Alaska is Walter J. Hickel's book "Crisis in the Commons: the Alaska Solution."

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2016/08/10/who-owns-alaska-not-you-our-wealth-was-meant-to-share/>

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 6:57:25 PM

Pass SJR1

Since Judge Morse gave Walker the false impression to cap the PFD against Alaskans wishes, this is the opportunity to give it back to the residents of Alaska.

Jesse Kvale
Palmer Alaska

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Judiciary](#)
Subject: public testimony SJR1
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 7:51:39 AM

To whom it may concern,

Sick and tired of all the political thievery.

Our PFDs belong to us. We have rights.

Certain representatives don't care one bit what we think and ill keep fighting to put them up for everyone to see.

It belongs in the constitution just the way 8t was written.

Stealing from us now in a pandemic really shows where your agendas lie.

Its not with us.

Mad as heck,

Lynnette Hardin

--

Sent from [EmailForOutlook](#) for mobile

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:00:06 PM

Pass SJR1, the Alaskan people are hurting and need the full statutory pfd. I only worked 9 weeks last year due to Covid shutdowns, I was a 1099 working when I did work, until last year I was a regular employee. . So I am not able to get any of the payroll protection money and could only draw unemployment before I was contracted as a 1099 employee, I have started a business but it is not even producing a living wage, there is more going out then is coming in with this business. I need a full pfd this year. The special interests groups that are petitioning and begging for this money should never come before the Alaskan people. Honor the law, Honor the constitution, Honor your oath of office Pass SJR1.

Rodney Mays Glacier View, Alaska

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Rodney Mays
Caribou Creek Custom Leather
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 4:14:53 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing in support of SJR1 and hope to see it move forward.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Colby Mazzolini

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1 Public Testimony
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 1:19:42 PM

I would like to voice my support for SJR1. It is not perfect and I share in the POMV % skepticism, but also, I believe that Senator Bill Weilechowski (sorry for butchering that Bill) has the best interests of the state at heart with this resolution.

Our elected representatives have played hot potato with our PFD for far too long. It has become an easy money grab thanks to the courts ruling and Gov. Walker's overreach.

I want my children to have the option of living in a thriving private economy here in Alaska in the future. But if we continue to draw down our savings, grow government, and delay making hard decisions regarding our state's fiscal situation, I fear they will not have this option.

By removing the PFD from the equation we will be helping to force the hand of our elected officials to be leaders and make the tough decisions now (that could have been made 5-10 years ago) that will direct Alaska on a more sustainable path moving forward.

The people deserve to have the final say in this decision and SJR1 assures this will take place.

Thank you for proposing SJR1 Senator and I appreciate the opportunity to voice my support for it here today.

Be well,

Nick Mazzolini
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Judiciary](#)
Subject: PFD
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 9:01:29 AM

Please pass SJR1 and leave our PFD alone and pay back what we were short changes.

James McDevitt

Soldotna AK

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Pass SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:30:38 PM

Hello,

I wanted to write to ask that SJR1 be passed and the people get the chance to vote to protect the traditional formula for the PFD. The state has already squandered \$16 billion from savings and has used some of the residents portion of earnings to cover their mismanagement of their half of the earnings. The residents' portion of the fund needs constitutional protection from the state, as evidenced by our decreased PFD's in recent years. It is time to put this issue to rest and get the state's hand out of our pockets. This will force the state to balance the budget and live within its means like the residents have to do.

Thank you for your time,

Alex McDonald
Fairbanks, AK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 9:27:02 AM

To whom it may concern,

Good morning. I am writing in support of the SJR1. Please do consider passing the bill SJR1. A lot of Alaskans are suffering because of the pandemic specially the average Alaskans that are earning enough not to qualify for government aid but don't earn enough to have to tap on their credit cards to stay afloat. A lot has been drowning in debt not because they want to but because they have to to get by. No savings for rainy days. The PFD is their only hope to atleast ease the burden they are in right now. Please hear the cry of most of the Alaskans that has been hit badly by this crisis. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Sincerely,
Val M.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 12:39:54 PM

I SUPPORT SJR1 ! And would like for this Bill to PASS ; For the GOOD of the people of the State of Alaska .

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:25:40 PM

I support SJR1. We need a permanent solution for the permanent fund dividend.

Kyle Felt
1011 First St.
Kenai AK 99611

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1 testimony
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 1:26:05 PM

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

I am emailing again as I am not able to call in comment today. I am emailing to urge you to please pass SJR1.

It is time to protect our PFD in our state constitution. It is time to put this issue to a vote of the people that it has so egregiously affected over the last several years.

Please, do the right thing for Alaskans. Please pass SJR1, let the people decide.

I thank you for your consideration.

Cheryl Shupe



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Support SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:45:01 PM

Hello, my name is Alan Skinner. I am from Fairbanks and I am communicating on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I testify in support of SJR1 and including the PFD in the state constitution. For too long the burden of closing the budget gap has been shouldered by families and lower income Alaskans. The PFD tax is the most regressive form of taxation and the politically expedient practice of arbitrarily reducing the annual payout needs to stop.

According to the Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy, in 2018, the lowest 20% of Alaskans had a household income of less than \$25,000 with an average of \$15,400. Their income was reduced by 7% taxation when accounting for sales/excise taxes and property taxes.

The PFD wasn't included in their analysis. However if the PFD income and reduction were included, it would have been an effective tax rate of 22.4%—the highest combined tax burden on the lowest income earners in the nation.

With talk of expanding the PFD reductions to a \$0 PFD, the time is now to eliminate the excessive tax burden on the lowest income earners who will be taxed at a staggering 60% effective tax rate in 2021. We can all agree that a 60% tax on 20% of Alaskans is abusive and despicable, especially when it is the lowest income earners. The next 20% doesn't fare much better with a \$0 PFD, since they would be subject to an overall effective tax of 30%—still completely unreasonable. We need a comprehensive solution that allows all Alaskans to avoid excessive reduction of income. We need stability in our economy and we need to take the legislators' hands and minds off the low-hanging fruit of the lowest-income earners and look to creating an Alaskan economy that ensures our best days are yet to come.

Stability begins with reversing a misguided attempt to collect the most money from those with the least power and influence. The PFD was in place to avoid the situation we are in. SJR1 is overdue and should be put into law.

Thank you,
Alan Skinner

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Cathy Felt](#)
Subject: PFD
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 4:42:39 PM

Hi my name is Mike Davids

I believe you most enshrin the full PFD in the Constitution.... Because Hammond said that part of the PFD was given to the people to stop Politicians from pilfering the found.....

I believe in SJR-1 and we need a permanent solution for preserving the PFD program from greed and over spending...

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: Public testimony for SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 12:49:36 PM

Wanted to give my support for SJR1! We need our legislatures to listen to the people. We want our pfd protected in the Alaska constitution and we want a fiscally responsible, smaller government. The spending is out of control and needs to be reigned in.

Thank you.

Kathy Steadman (Soldotna)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:19:55 PM

Hello,

Please pass SJR1!

Respectfully,

Sandra Syrup
Anchorage

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#); [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: Constitutional Amendment
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:27:36 PM

Of three voting members in this household we strongly support the passing of this amendment and enshrining the PFD in our states constitution.

We also support those in office who sign onto this bill.

Sincerely,
Timothy Wilson, Shalena Wilson and Arnold Vaughn

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Cc: [Senate Finance](#)
Subject: Pass Resolution SJR1 (Restore and Protect The Permanente Fund Dividend)
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 9:57:22 AM

Hello my name is Carl, I live in Anchorage and I've been an Alaskan my whole life – I was borne here.

The PFD was never intended to be a slush fund for government and rightfully belongs to the people of AK. The peoples shares of the PFD need to be returned and restored. The overreach by Governor Walker and many legislators in 2018 with passing SB26 went against the Constitutional protection of the PFD.

Please PASS RESOLUTION SJR1 and protect the original PFD formula in the Constitution.

Respectfully,
Carl Sollenberger

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Subject: SJR1 Testimony
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:21:43 PM

I understand you all have the power to divert PFDs to fund govt. But that doesn't make it right. Just as I have the power to spend down my children's college 529 plans for my expenses, instead of increasing my income and cutting my budget.... doesn't mean that is the best course of action.

Please don't take money that would go into my kids 529 college savings plans, all so u don't have to put the work into finding the right and ethical solution to our budget woes.

The PFD program is one of the best programs ever created in the United States. I'm not sure raising a family would have been possible for us here in Alaska without the PFD program, especially when my children were small. I want my children to have the ability to stay here to raise a family too, if they so wish. The PFD program has the ability to help unlimited generations of Alaskan Families. It's worth preserving!

I understand all the special interest groups, and high income individuals that want money and don't want to pay for it thru taxes, but cutting the PFD is a tax. It's a tax on me, on my kids, a Family tax, disproportionately punishing our most vulnerable. We low and middle income families don't have anyone lobbying for us in Juneau. It's u representatives that r supposed to be working on our (us regular people) behalf.

Please don't take it (PFD) just bc u can.

I support an income tax. A flat income tax takes less money out of my family's pocket and would require everyone contribute an equal share of their income... including non resident workers. I'm willing to pay, just not thru a PFD tax.

I support SJR1. We need a permanent solution for the permanent fund dividend.

Catherine Felt
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