From: Elizabeth Walker

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:40 AM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** Reject HB 202

I 100% reject HB 202. Stop the PFD theft!

From: Sara Jokela

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 7:58 PM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** REJECT HB 202

Dear Committee Members,

This bill has come to my attention. I am shocked and saddened to hear that not only is this bill being fast tracked but it is being rushed through WITHOUT public comment.

This is the Alaskan's fund for our mineral rights. You have already stolen from us Why would you elected representatives continue to try to legislate without comment of the public?

Stop this political wrangling. Be people of good character.

Find a new way to run the finances of the state. Perhaps actually CUT the budget?!

Sara Jokela

Anchorage, AK

From: Todd Russell

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 9:49 PM

To: House Ways and Means; House Finance; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz

**Subject:** HB 202

I strongly oppose the proposed HB 202 bill, and will advocate against any Alaska legislator that support this bill.

Hands off the PFD.

Remember- you are our employees and work for us! Vote no on this ripoff of the Alaska people.

Respectfully,

**Todd Russell** 

Chugiak AK 99567

From: Vern Nusunginya

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 12:39 PM

**To:** House Finance

**Subject:** HB202

The opportunity to speak concerning HB 202 is by invitation only? I didn't realize that when I voted for someone to represent me that it was conditional. I don't believe that it should be.

When you consider this Bill sponsored by Representative Merrick, consider this. If you believe that every Alaskan wants a small PFD Distribution and will be happy with that decision you should support a smaller distribution.

Thank you, Vern Nusunginya Soldotna, Alaska May 10, 2021

From: Cory Splees <

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** HB202

Please reject this bill.

Follow the current law and stop raiding the PFD.

Cory J Sperry-Splees

North Pole, AK

From: Nina <

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:04 AM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** HB202

As Alaska's resident I100% reject this bill. The permanent fund was not created for the government to steal. Stop this bill and theft.

Nina Gardino

From:

Russell Biggs <r Sunday, May 09, 2021 7:10 PM Sent:

House Ways and Means; House Finance To:

Subject: HB202

I oppose this bill, in its entirety. -RB

From: Harry and Jean Holt

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:03 AM

**To:** House Finance **Subject:** Fwd: HB 202

----- Forwarded Message ------

Subject:HB 202

Date:Mon, 10 May 2021 15:02:13 -0700

From: Harry and Jean Holt <a href="mailto:hholt@mtaonline.net">hholt@mtaonline.net</a>>

To:housefinance@akleg.gov

Dear Co- Chairwoman Kelly Merrick, Co-Chairman Neil Foster and Committee Members,

We as Alaskans are in Total Opposition of HB 202 being shoved down our throats "Fast Tracked without Any Public Testimony" to Permanently Steal Our Entire PFD!!

We are sick of how Democrats and Rinos legislators are selling out to Special Interests with Bloated Budgets and Putting Our Statutory PFD at the bottom of the food chain.

This HB 202 is the latest corrupt bill since other bills are not working to eliminate what is rightfully each Alaskan's fair share of our mineral rights through the PFD. By trying to "Fast Track" without public testimony of these hearings in House Ways & Means, it will be allowed in House Finance Committee again with No Public Testimony is totally disgusting and disappointing. We ask legislators who still have a conscience to Stop This Insanity and Stop HB 202 and Vote NO!

Sincerely,

Harry and Jean Holt

Palmer, AK.

From:

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:15 AM

To: House Finance Subject: HB202 & HB104

I strongly oppose BOTH of these bill's! Learn to properly budget, control your spending, as I have done for my entire life!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:

Monday, May 10, 2021 12:18 PM

To: House Finance Subject: Stop your pfd theft

Stop stop. Not your money. Not your right to take the pfd. Stop thieves. Pam McCaul

From: Linda Romero

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 10:40 AM

**To:** House Finance; House Ways and Means **Subject:** Stop the theft of our PFD STOP Bill HB202

I 100% reject to bill HB202 and stop the PFD theft.

When did our elected official get to chose for us and have the right to steal from Alaskan citizens ...

Sounds like we the people need to clean the house and get TRUE Alaskans that listens to the people ... not decide for the people and steal from the people ... remember who you work for ... the Alaskan Citizens ... not yourselves ... hear our voices!!!

Linda Romero

From: Elizabeth Walker

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:40 AM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** Reject HB 202

I 100% reject HB 202. Stop the PFD theft!

**From:** Sybille Castro-Curry

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 3:59 AM
To: house.ways.means@akleg.gov

Cc:House FinanceSubject:Reject HB202

I am contacting you to please reject HB202 100 % and please protect our PFD.

I am a very concerned Alaskan.

Thank you,

Sybille Castro-Curry

From: Aaron Reeves

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 11:07 PM

To: House Finance Subject: Pfd theft

I 100% reject HB 202 and stop the permanent fund dividend theft.

From: Mark Mosquito <

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 8:33 PM

To: House Finance

**Subject:** PFD

I Mark Mosquito of resident of Wasilla, Alaska 100% reject HB202 and stop the PFD theft.

Wasilla, AK 99654

From: queen.cleos.lion <

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 8:30 PM

**To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson;

Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Shelley

Hughes; Sen. Tom Begich

**Subject:** Vote NO on HB202

Dear Senator,

I'll get straight to the point. I do not consent to your theft of our PFD funds. These monies were guaranteed to us as payment for our mineral rights and as such do NOT belong in the State budget in any way, shape, or form. The PFD has its own account that the monies are withdrawal from, yearly, to pay We The People. It is not paid with State tax monies. It is not a slush fund for you to abuse.

Please, vote NO on HB202. You were elected to represent the best interests of We The People, NOT the special interest groups many of you have sold your souls to. We are watching what you do. We are tired of being marginalized and taken advantage of. We will not tolerate this behavior much longer.

Represent The People,

Elaine Rasher

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: Jonathan

**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2021 6:53 PM

To: House Finance

**Subject:** Fwd: Reject Pfd thieves

I reject hb202 100% stop the pfd thieves

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jonathan <

**Date:** May 9, 2021 at 6:50:44 PM AKDT **To:** house.ways.and.means@akleg.gov

**Subject: Reject Pfd thieves** 

I reject hb202 100% stop the pfd thieves





### Comments on HB 202 & HB 37

#### Brad Keithley <bgkeithley@gmail.com>

Fri, May 14, 2021 at 12:44 PM

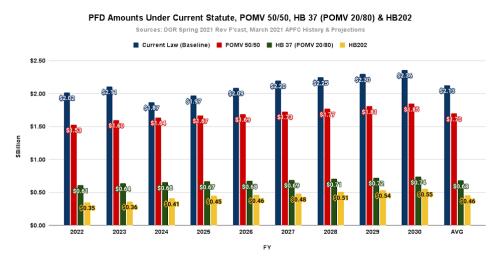
To: House Ways and Means < House. Ways. And. Means@akleg.gov>

Cc: Representative.lvy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov, Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov, "Rep. Andy Josephson" <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>, Representative.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov, Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov, Representative.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov, Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov, Rose Foley <Rose.Foley@akleg.gov>

On behalf of the Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets project, this is to provide our comments on HB 202 and HB 37. For the reasons outlined below, we oppose HB 202 and HB 37 as originally proposed. As discussed in III. below, however, we could support HB 37, if modified as proposed in that part.

#### I. Introduction

Both HB 202 and HB 37 propose significant reductions to the current statutory PFD. For reference, below we compare the PFD levels proposed by the bills, together with that proposed by the Governor this week (POMV 50/50), to the current law baseline.



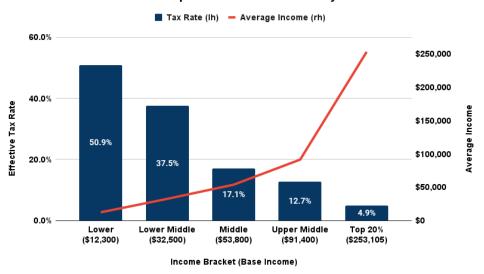
The bills propose the reductions in order to divert to government a significant portion of the revenues that otherwise would go to Alaska families under current law. The impact is far from even across all families, however. Some would forego a much greater percentage of their income than others. Put another way, under both bills some families would be required to contribute more (be taxed more) - much more as a percent of their income - to pay for government than others.

#### II. Distributional Impact

To assess their impact on Alaska families we have calculated by income bracket the percentage change in income (effective tax rate) for a family of 4 under each bill. The average base income level for each bracket is taken from the December 2020 ITEP Study (Appendix A). The percentages are calculated by adjusting the base income for the current law PFD and applying the cuts from that current law baseline proposed by each bill.

The results for HB 202 are as follows:

HB 202: Impact of PFD Cut on a Family of 4



As shown, the results are hugely regressive, with low income (Lower 20%) Alaska families contributing more than 10 times, middle income Alaska families more than 3 times and even upper middle income families more than double the amount contributed by upper income families.

HB 37 is structured somewhat differently. In addition to the reduction in the PFD, the statute also proposes an income tax which, while stated as a flat rate, is somewhat progressive in effect due to the inclusion of a standard deduction and exclusion of the PFD from income. Nonetheless, because of the size of the proposed PFD cut, the overall impact remains substantially regressive.

🗕 Average Income 🧧 Income Tax Component 🔳 PFD Cut Component (from Current Law) 50.0% \$300.000 42.8% 40.0% \$200,000 Effective Tax Rate 30.0% 42.8% 20.0% \$100,000 21.8% 10.0% 14.4% Top 20% Lower (\$12,300) Lower Middle Middle (\$53,800) **Upper Middle** (\$253.105) (\$32.500)(\$91,400) Income Bracket

HB 37: Combined Effective Tax Rate from PFDcut & Income Tax on a Family of 4

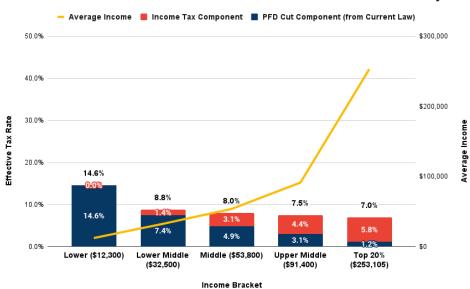
Low income (Lower 20%) Alaska families still contribute more than 7 times, middle income Alaska families nearly 3 times and even upper middle income families nearly 2 times the amount contributed by upper income families.

As we said when we presented to the Committee earlier this session (at p. 11), not only are such results inequitable, using PFD cuts (or in the case of HB 37, mostly PFD cuts) to close the deficit have the "largest adverse impact" of all the various revenue options on both the overall Alaska economy and Alaska families. For that reason we oppose both HB 202 and HB 37 as written. There are much more equitable and lower impact approaches.

# III. Proposed Modification of HB 37

Indeed, by amending HB 37 we believe the Committee could develop one such, more equitable/lower impact approach.

Our concern with HB 37 largely revolves around the size of the PFD cut. Reducing the size of the PFD cut (to POMV 50/50), offset by increasing the size of the tax component (to 6.5%) to maintain the same overall revenue level, would produce a much more equitable, lower impact result.



Modified HB 37: Combined Effective Tax Rate from PFDcut & Income Tax on a Family of 4

While still regressive, the disparities between income brackets would shrink significantly. Moreover, under such a modified approach, *all* income brackets other than the Top20% would see a significant reduction in their combined tax rate from that resulting under either HB 202 or HB 37, as originally proposed.

A middle income family of 4, for example, would see their effective tax rate decline from 17.1% (HB 202) and 15.7% (HB 37, as originally proposed) to 8.0% (Modified HB 37). An upper middle income family of 4 would see their effective tax rate decline from 12.7% (HB 202) and 10.8% (HB 37, as originally proposed) to 7.5% (Modified HB 37). Only upper income (Top20%) families would contribute more under HB 37, as modified, than the other options, but even then they would still be called on to contribute less than every other income bracket (the remaining 80%) is contributing.

Such a result is not only more equitable, it would substantially reduce the adverse impact of the proposed bill on both Alaska families and the overall Alaska economy.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

For all of these reasons, we oppose HB 202 and HB 37, as originally proposed. They create a hugely regressive and inequitable burden among Alaska families, leading to large adverse impacts on both those families and the overall Alaska economy.

We could support HB 37, however, if amended as proposed in III. above. By substantially reducing the regressivity of the original proposal, the bill would significantly lower the adverse impact on both Alaska families and the overall Alaska economy.

We also note that HB 37's income based, "flat" approach is critical both to the fairness and our support of a modified bill. Substituting a sales tax as the tax component, for example, would go in the opposite direction, increasing the regressivity of the impact. As we noted in our earlier presentation to the Committee (at 11), after PFD cuts, "sales taxes would be the next costliest measure for households with children." As explained in ITEP's 2017 study:

... general sales taxes tend to be regressive, impacting low- and middle-income families more heavily than high-income families when measured as a percentage of household income. This effect comes about largely because low- and middle-income families spend a larger fraction of their earnings on items subject to sales tax, while high-income families direct a large share of their income into savings and investments.

HB 37's balance, as modified, depends on maintaining a flat (to slightly progressive) counterbalance to the regressivity of the PFD cuts. Substituting a sales tax for the current tax component would simply stack one regressive approach on

top of another, doubling down on bad.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments.

Brad

**Brad Keithley** 

# **Managing Director, Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets**

Cell/Txt: 214-675-0038 Links: linktr.ee/bgkeithley

Mail: 645 G Street, Suite 100, No 796, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Web: AKforSB.com



From: Brad Keithley <bgkeithley@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:38 AM

**To:** House Finance

**Cc:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep.

Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Ben Carpenter;

Rep. DeLena Johnson

**Subject:** Comments on HB 202

**Attachments:** Comments on HB 202 & HB 37.pdf

On behalf of the Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets project, this is to provide our comments on HB 202. For the reasons outlined below and in the attached, we **oppose** HB 202. As discussed in part III. of the attached, we believe HB37 (if modified as proposed) offers a much better economically and more equitable alternative.

## Our reasoning:

- 1. We have a deficit.
- 2. Using PFD cuts to close the deficit has the "<u>largest adverse impact on the economy</u>" (link at A-15) and is "by far the costliest measure for Alaska families" (link at 1) of all of the revenue options.
- 3. Using PFD cuts to close the deficit also is the <u>most regressive</u> (link at Option C) and thus, inequitable, alternative, pushing the bulk of the burden off on middle and lower income Alaska families.
- 3. Yet, HB202 proposes to close the deficit *entirely* through that very mechanism.
- 4. There are alternative ways of closing the deficit which have a much lower adverse impact on the economy, are much less costly for Alaska families and much less regressive (inequitable). As we discuss in the attached, HB37 (as modified in part III of the attached), offers the best approach we have seen this session.
- 5. House Finance should reject the "worst of" approach proposed by HB202 in favor of one that has a less adverse, lower cost and more equitable impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

#### Brad

### **Brad Keithley**

**Managing Director, Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets** 

Cell/Txt: 214-675-0038 Links: linktr.ee/bgkeithley

Mail: 645 G Street, Suite 100, No 796, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Web: <u>AKforSB.com</u>

×	-	tagan kelebasa		

From: Aileen Cotter <a

**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 6:57 AM

**To:** House Finance

Subject: No to HB 202 & HB 37

The current PFD regime was intended to make Alaskans conscious of state expenditures, and to protect Alaskans from the boom-and-bust cycles of the oil industry, and to allow Alaskans to enjoy CONUS prosperity without leaving Alaska, thereby mitigating population and depopulation of local communities. This bill would increase the PFD when oil money is good and reduce it when oil money is lackluster. It would make business cycles more severe in Alaska.

Talking Points: 1) The solution is only statutory, and therefore can be repealed by subsequent legislatures- it is not the permanent solution that can withstand a court challenge should subsequent legislatures decide to ignore statute. 2) UGF dollars would be reduced by roughly 50%, 3) This bill makes the PFD payment hostage to federal policies and environmental groups that affect drilling and production 4) This bill would take public attention away from the performance of funds held the APFC & the state budget (which might be more a pro to some rather than a "con."), 5) from the perspective of peak oil theory, it would imply declining PFD payments. 6) Oil industry tax credits would have a major impact on the PFD payment, 7) it would accentuate the boom and busts and undermine the logic of the fund as conceptualized by its originators and undesirable for fiscal policy, 8) it goes into effect immediately and means this year's pfd would be less than \$500.

### HB 37: The imposition of an income tax

- A) This will simply drive assets out of Alaska into Washington State, where there is no income tax.
- B) The tax will cost more in administrative costs than in revenue
- C) Every single forecast of the Revenue from this tax is based on an Alaska before 2018. Alaska has lost a significant portion of their population (data from DOLWD) and the revenue estimates from an income tax greatly overstate the revenue collected.

From: Janet McCabe

**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 7:35 PM

**To:** House Finance

**Subject:** Testimony supporting HB 202 from Janet McCabe

# 5/15/21

# **Testimony to Ways and Means Committee in Support of HB 202**

I am Janet McCabe from Anchorage speaking as an individual in support of HB 202.

Adopting this bill will be a major step towards giving Alaska much needed fiscal stability.

For years, the legislature has disagreed about the percentage of POMV funds to use for dividends and the percentage to use for state services. As Governor Dunleavy has said, this the issue has "paralyzed the Capitol."

HB 202 solves the issue of the "percentage split" by drawing funds for the dividend from a totally separate source outside POMV revenues. HB 202 would make the dividend a fixed percent of annual mineral revenues.

The resulting stability will benefit and strengthen Alaska's economy, as you well know from listing to economist Moucine Guettabi.

Passing HB 202 is also an effective way to protect the Permanent Fund and POMV revenue, which is now the state's primary ongoing source of income.

Passing HB 202 this session would be an important and beneficial achievement. I would add - as some of the supporters in Ways and Means also argued - HB 202 needs to be accompanied by legislation establishing an additional source of revenue, i.e. taxes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Janet McCabe

From: Jan DeNapoli <j

**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 11:03 AM

To: House Finance
Subject: HB 202 & HB 37

Dear Representative,

We are writing in opposition to HB 202 and HB 37.

HB 37 would establish an income tax to take hard earned money from the people of Alaska and give that hard earned money to special interests--all because the Legislature and Administration have once again Failed to live within their means. We the people have to live within our incomes-without taking from others to do it. State government--the government of the people, by the people, and for the people must do the same! Please cut the unnecessary spending from the budget and stop wasting our money.

NO NEW TAXES!

HB 202 would fundamentally change the way the Permanent Dividend is "managed." It would exacerbate manipulation by the Legislature for the Fund's original intent and make it a political football rather than a market-driven process. Originally, each Alaskan was supposed to receive a portion of the earnings directly so that the politicians wouldn't spend it all (and then some) themselves. HB 202 would end up cutting "we the people" out of the process almost entirely. Vote NO on HB 202. The PFD must remain as it was intended.

Respectfully, Jan DeNapoli & Eric Cosmutto Two Rivers, AK

From: Michael Dale

**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 8:10 AM

**To:** House Finance; Rep. Kevin McCabe; House Ways and Means

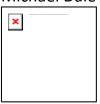
**Subject:** Stop the theft of our PFD - NO to HB 202 & HB 37

HB 202 & HB 37 are designed to take away the PFD from the citizens of Alaska. This is theft. Statutory PFD is the only way our PFD should be done. The PFD was set up for the citizens and since that first PFD, legislators have been trying ways to steal it from the public. We elected you to office to represent us and if you were to ask any Alaskan to their face if our government should take their PFD from them, the answer would be a resounding NO. HB 37 wants an 80/20 split, even that isn't acceptable. Leave the PFD alone. Statutory PFD or resign.

To be perfectly clear - VOTE NO ON HB 202 AND HB 37.

--

# Michael Dale



mr.msdale@gmail.com

From: Jan DeNapoli

**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 7:45 PM

**To:** House Finance **Subject:** HB 202 and HB 37

Hello,

I would like to express opposition to these 2 house bills.

HB202 Payment of the PFD from current royalties rather than the Earnings Reserve (Merrick)

HB 37 Income Tax (Rep. Wool)

I oppose HB 202:

The current PFD regime was intended to make Alaskans conscious of state expenditures, and to protect Alaskans from the boom-and-bust cycles of the oil industry, and to allow Alaskans to enjoy CONUS prosperity without leaving Alaska, thereby mitigating population and depopulation of local communities. This bill would increase the PFD when oil money is good and reduce it when oil money is lackluster. It would make business cycles more severe in Alaska.

1) The solution is only statutory, and therefore can be repealed by subsequent legislatures- it is not the permanent solution that can withstand a court challenge should subsequent legislatures decide to ignore statute. 2) UGF dollars would be reduced by roughly 50%, 3) This bill makes the PFD payment hostage to federal policies and environmental groups that affect drilling and production 4) This bill would take public attention away from the performance of funds held the APFC & the state budget (which might be more a pro to some rather than a "con."), 5) from the perspective of peak oil theory, it would imply declining PFD payments. 6) Oil industry tax credits would have a major impact on the PFD payment, 7) it would accentuate the boom and busts and undermine the logic of the fund as conceptualized by its originators and undesirable for fiscal policy, 8) it goes into effect immediately and means this year's pfd would be less than \$500.

I oppose HB 37: The imposition of an income tax

- A) This will simply drive assets out of Alaska into Washington State, where there is no income tax.
- B) The tax will cost more in administrative costs than in revenue
- C) Every single forecast of the Revenue from this tax is based on an Alaska before 2018. Alaska has lost a significant portion of their population (data from DOLWD) and the revenue estimates from an income tax greatly overstate the revenue collected.

Please vote to represent your constituents. Thank you. Jan DeNapoli Two Rivers.AK 99716

From: Moira Ireland

**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 12:15 PM

**To:** House Finance

Subject: HB 202

Hello - I am an Alaskan from Kenai, Alaska. I am greatly concerned with the fast track style of House Bill 202, without appropriate review OR comment from the public. I urge you to reject the "fast track" of this bill and insist on the minimum of sending it through the appropriate process that includes public consideration, comment and review. As an Alaska citizen, I do NOT support the proposed change to the PFD language or the proposed changes to the calculation of the PFD or use of the fund or interest earnings in HB202.

Moira Ireland

From: Thomas Jefferson

**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 11:29 AM **To:** House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** reject HB202

Folks,

The dividend does not belong entirely to you, I ask you to cease and desist in your efforts to loot our part of it. I was a citizen of Alaska when the fund was created, I remember clearly the intentions behind it.

If anything, the state should be putting more into the principle of the fund in order to grow it larger, faster. I would also suggest Alaskan citizens be allowed to invest directly into the fund with returns from our individual contributions being added to our individual dividends. The AK permanent fund is, after all, a mutual fund and perhaps it should be treated as such.

Please vote HB202 down. Open up Alaska, reduce burdensome, pointless regulations and let people do what we do best... pursue our own self interests.

Thanks for your time

Kenneth L. Wells



Come to the Dark Side.

We have cookies!

From: Francesca A

Thursday, May 13, 2021 11:22 AM Sent: To: House Ways and Means; House Finance

**Subject:** No HB 202

Stop the theft. Follow the original statute. Stop your spending. Balance the budget like adults.

Why is there no public testimony and why is this being fast tracked? Get your greedy hand off the people's royalties. You still have to pay our unpaid royalties. Stop the theft now!

Francesca Allegrezza. Sent from my iPhone