

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
March 26, 2009  
1:38 p.m.

[1:38:48 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hawker called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair  
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair  
Representative Bill Thomas Jr., Vice-Chair  
Representative Allan Austerman  
Representative Harry Crawford  
Representative Anna Fairclough  
Representative Richard Foster  
Representative Les Gara  
Representative Reggie Joule  
Representative Mike Kelly  
Representative Woodie Salmon

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Dave Newton, Director of Student Services, Juneau School District; Peggy Brown, Executive Director, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault; Ann Gifford, Attorney, Juneau; Woody Wilson, Superintendent, Wrangell Public Schools; Nancy DeCherney, Executive Director, Juneau Arts and Humanities; Aaron Elmore, Artistic Director, Theater in the Rough, Juneau; Andi Story, School Board Member, Juneau School District; Barb Angaiak, President, NEA Alaska, Juneau; Kyle Pickett, Music Director, Juneau Symphony; Ryan Conarro, Theater Artist, Juneau; Sara Conarro, Arts Educator, Juneau; Ray DePriest, Director of Career and Technical Education, Mat-Su School District; Patricia Hull, Trustee, Juneau Arts and Humanities Council; Lorrie Heagy, Librarian and Music Teacher, Glacier Valley Elementary School, Juneau.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Tom Griffiths, President, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank; Ginger Baim, Executive Director, S.A.F.E., Dillingham; Michelle DeWitt, Executive Director, Tundra Women's Coalition, Bethel; Gayle Eastwood, Petersburg; Jessica Clark, Infant

Learning Program, Ketchikan; Jill Showman, President, Mat-Su Education Association, Wasilla; Billie Haan, Mat-Su School District, Palmer; Rebecca Blohm, Wasilla; Carl Crosman, Glennallen; Michael Johnson, Superintendent, Copper River School District, Glennallen; Candace Winkler, Alaska Child Care Resource Network, Anchorage; Eugene Paul, Holy Cross; Jessie Menkens, Anchorage; Nelson Augapak Sr, Vice President, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage; Leslie Hajdukovich, President, Fairbanks School Board; Nancy Wagner, Superintendent, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; Tom Morgan, State Director of Communities in Schools Alaska, Eagle River; Sarah Scanlan, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Anchorage; Judy Cordell, AWAIC, Anchorage; Pat Holmes, Kodiak; Stewart McDonald, Superintendent, Kodiak Island Borough School District, Kodiak; Amelia Topkok, College of Rural and Community Development Health Programs, UA Fairbanks; Bob Beach, Fairbanks; Don Shircel, Director of Client Development, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks; Dr. Norman Eck, Superintendent, NW Arctic Borough School District, Kotzebue; Brenda Stanfield, Interior Center for Nonviolent Living, Fairbanks; Stephanie Burglund, Anchorage; Jackie Stewart, Catalyst Business Consulting, Anchorage; Rhonda Hubbard, Fisheries, Seward; Britney Goodnight, Chugiak.

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 26th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 26th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

#hb199

HB 199 "An Act making supplemental appropriations and capital appropriations; amending appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
<a href="#">1:41:29 PM</a>	DAVE NEWTON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES, JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT	Voiced his support for education and special education funds. He stressed immediate and critical needs for special education funds, which he felt the stimulus package could meet.
<a href="#">1:43:32 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Asked if there were strings to the special education stimulus money.
<a href="#">1:44:08 PM</a>	Mr. Newton	Replied that the stipulations are similar to current Part B money. This is to offset local or state special education funds.

<a href="#">1:44:47 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Questioned what kind of special education programs would be implemented with the stimulus funds.
<a href="#">1:44:58 PM</a>	Mr. Newton	Emphasized critical understaffing in speech and language. He indicated the need in the area of assessments. In addition there are renewal issues in the districts in consistent materials and assessment of site levels in each school and mentoring for new teachers.
<a href="#">1:46:27 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Asked about his desire for hiring more people and wondered what would happened to them in 18 months when money no longer there.
<a href="#">1:46:36 PM</a>	Mr. Newton	Remarked that it depends on a number of different issues. In the mentoring, looking at using funds for structuring for next few years then existing staff after that. Speech and language will be student dependent.
<a href="#">1:47:36 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Questioned if Mr. Newton understood the stimulus money is one time money and no commitment from state to continue it.
	Mr. Newton	Replied he understood.
<a href="#">1:47:56 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Asked if his school district would sign a paper stating they would not come back to the state to ask for additional funds.
	Mr. Newton	Replied that he could not speak for the school district.
<a href="#">1:48:33 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Counseled that the legislature needs assurance that people understand this is one-time money.
<a href="#">1:48:49 PM</a>	Representative Fairclough	Agreed with Co-Chair Hawker on making sure this is a one-time appropriation. She voiced her concern on new programs being developed with this money. She asked how much money the Juneau school district received last year and what improvements had been made with that money.
<a href="#">1:50:04 PM</a>	Mr. Newton	Replied he would have to refer to the school district finance officer.
<a href="#">1:50:32 PM</a>	Representative Fairclough	Declared that any school district coming before the legislature asking for stimulus money to get this information.
<a href="#">1:50:58 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Suggested that school reinvestment began two years ago not seven years.
<a href="#">1:51:09 PM</a>	Representative Joule	Assumed that school districts grant money and not just rely on the state to run programs. He believed school

		districts are accustomed to getting short term funds and making the adjustment.
	Mr. Newton	Agreed.
<a href="#">1:51:50 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Concurred with asking for things like curriculum upgrades. He did not believe the legislature could ask schools to not come back in two years and ask for more money. Schools present their need and the legislature decides how much to fund.
<a href="#">1:53:00 PM</a>	Representative Kelly	Urged remembering FY09 and FY10 projections for \$2 billion deficits while spending stimulus funds. He believed the school district has grown dramatically in recent years and wanted assurances that schools did not think they had been handed a credit card to grow the budget further.
<a href="#">1:55:50 PM</a>	PEGGY BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT	Requested that federal stimulus funds be accepted for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Public Safety. She indicated the strain of economic distress and accelerated domestic violence. She requested stimulus funds to fill existing positions and provide employment and training in urban areas, rural villages, and small Alaskan communities. The money will not be used to expand services, but to absorb the impact of domestic violence in the state. She urged funding the Stop Grant and CDVSA. She appreciated the increase in law enforcement.
<a href="#">2:00:37 PM</a>	ANN GIFFORD, ATTORNEY, JUNEAU	Encouraged acceptance of all federal stimulus funds for arts and education. Many school districts are looking at cuts, which can be prevented by stimulus money. She also urged support for funding special education, especially for teacher training.
<a href="#">2:02:47 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Commented that the legislature can not compel the governor to receive or spend the money; it is 100 percent up to the governor to apply for, received, and spend the money.
<a href="#">2:03:35 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Agreed it is up to the executive branch but also up to the public to put pressure on the government.

<a href="#">2:04:15 PM</a>	WOODY WILSON, SUPERINTENDENT , WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He would like to employ a special education teacher to assist in long-range plans and to train regular education teachers for the next two years. He would like to reimburse the tuition for teachers to become endorsed in special education, to hire a coordinator for career-learning programs and to offer programs to smaller communities, to hire a reading coordinator, and use stabilization funds for career development. He declared short-time money could be used to replace equipment and improve the technology infrastructure. Wrangell is working on distance education; the stimulus money could be used for this. In addition, math and science coordinators could be hired. He noted increases in salary and health care costs.
<a href="#">2:12:00 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Asked if Mr. Wilson and the school board would be willing to sign an affidavit acknowledging the one-time nature of the funds and not ask for more money next year.
	Mr. Wilson	Replied that his school board, as elected officials, would have to answer the question.
<a href="#">2:13:10 PM</a>	NANCY DECHERNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUNEAU ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL	Advocated acceptance of all money for arts and education. The money asked for is very specific with stringent guidelines. She mentioned infrastructure as one use.
<a href="#">2:14:31 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Asked if all the arts money is under one grant item.
	Ms. Decherney	Replied that \$300,000 is in one grant.
<a href="#">2:15:12 PM</a>	TOM GRIFFITHS, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, KENAI PENINSULA FOOD BANK	Described concerns of the food bank in Soldotna. He related the project and mission to serve the hungry in the peninsula. He declared that food is provided to 65 different agencies and noted an increase of those needing help. He discussed a construction project.
<a href="#">2:18:13 PM</a>	Co-Chair	Did not believe the bill applies to

	Hawker	this type of request. He described a legislative clearinghouse for community organizations to find what direct funding might be available in the stimulus package.
<a href="#">2:19:28 PM</a>	Representative Fairclough	Provided the phone number for the Alaska Clearinghouse at 1-888-480-4321 on Friday.
<a href="#">2:20:07 PM</a>	GINGER BAIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, S.A.F.E., DILLINGHAM	Asked that state accept all the funds for public safety and sexual assault programs. She urged understanding that non-profits are used to the stipulations of one-time funding. She stressed that her organization is ready and able to accept the funds.
<a href="#">2:22:55 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Asserted that the governor does not make much time for the legislature so suggested that people reach out to her directly.
<a href="#">2:23:24 PM</a>	MICHELLE DEWITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TUNDRA WOMEN'S COALITION, BETHEL	Urged acceptance of funds for public safety. She has been inundated with requests for help from shelters. She reported that most grant agreements are one-year grants.
<a href="#">2:25:08 PM</a>	GAYLE EASTWOOD, PETERSBURG	Urged acceptance of funds for fertilizer for agriculture. Waste from fish processing can be turned into fertilizer providing new jobs as well as help for farmers. The quality of grain and feed would improve.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Referred her to the clearinghouse.
<a href="#">2:27:49 PM</a>	JESSICA CLARK, EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM, KETCHIKAN	Urged support for education funding. She believed there could be an increase in professionalism with training. She noted that money spent from birth-3 years pays off later in life; early intervention makes a big difference for young people. She indicated she is not in the position to say they would not be back to ask for more funds, but would like this money available now.
<a href="#">2:30:20 PM</a>	AARON ELMORE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATER IN THE ROUGH, JUNEAU	Encouraged support for arts and education funding. He believed arts and education makes people human and better citizens. He urged the use of the money to change young people's lives.
<a href="#">2:33:18 PM</a>	ANDI STORY, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, JUNEAU SCHOOL	Urged acceptance of the stimulus funds for education. She listed possible uses for the funding: staff development, including a science coach for

	DISTRICT	elementary teachers and training for reading and writing; capital funding, including for technology infrastructure; one-time expenditures, including for drug and alcohol counselors; and other programs that are slated to be cut. She commented that increases in education funding are still resulting in cuts in districts.
<a href="#">2:36:48 PM</a>	BARB ANGAIK, PRESIDENT, NEA ALASKA, JUNEAU	Thanked the efforts of the legislature for funding education in the past. She has contacted the governor to accept all funds for education. She appreciated the increased school funding, but pointed out that it has not enabled school districts to develop programs and staff development. The money will be re-allocated to other states if not accepted.
<a href="#">2:40:11 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Agreed money will be reallocated, but cautioned that taking the money could leave schools in a more precarious financial situation in future.
	Ms. Angaiak	Did not think that investing in training and curriculum materials could ever put school districts in a precarious situation.
<a href="#">2:40:56 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Referred to hiring new employees that would need to be paid after the funds ran out. He asked if NEA would be willing to demand that school districts put the money into curriculum development, maintenance, equipment, and training, and not use the money for expanding employment.
<a href="#">2:42:41 PM</a>	Ms. Angaisak	Reminded the committee that she has no way of compelling a school district to do what they do not want to do. She believed the funds were for these types of projects. Ms. Angaisak explained she did not have a way to control school districts actions. Co-Chair Hawker appreciated her non answer.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Indicated that he was extremely troubled that she could not give an answer to the question. He wanted commitment to utilizing this money for its intended use. He asked again if she would go to schools with his request.
<a href="#">2:43:03 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Disagreed with Co-Chair Hawker and believed the school districts have the most knowledge and ability to spend the

		money to best educate the children over the long run.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Stressed that the governor has the authority to spend the money and he was trying to coach those requesting money on how to get the governor on their side.
<a href="#">2:44:14 PM</a>	KYLE PICKETT, MUSIC DIRECTOR, JUNEAU SYMPHONY	Urged acceptance of the arts and education funding. He described the possibility of up to 30,000 arts groups folding in the country due to lack of funds. He stressed the importance of money for the arts. He explained how National Endowment for the Arts money is dispersed; small groups are not usually on the map. He stressed how the arts are supported by grants from state arts councils.
<a href="#">2:48:49 PM</a>	JILL SHOWMAN, PRESIDENT, MAT-SU EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, WASILLA	Testified in support of funding for education. The MatSu schools anticipate the elimination of four nurse positions; the stimulus money would allow them to stay on staff and prepare for the next two years. The schools need nurses to keep children safe. The money would also allow additional security staffing. The district is also looking at Title 1 funds and using funds for professional development.
<a href="#">2:51:51 PM</a>	BILLIE HAAN, MAT-SU SCHOOL DISTRICT, PALMER	Testified in support of funding for education. She would lose her job without the stimulus money and this would help her family, even if it was only for two years. She understood this was one-time money and urged the committee to accept the full amount.
<a href="#">2:53:19 PM</a>	REBECCA BLOHM, WASILLA	Spoke in support of using the education stimulus money. She detailed the benefits of funding special programs. She spoke of the use of Title 1 funds. She presently volunteers in the school, but the stimulus money may allow her to be employed, even if only for two years.
<a href="#">2:55:30 PM</a>	CARL CROSMAN, GLENNALLEN	Thought the stimulus money should be spent on self-sustaining renewable energy projects. He listed three potential projects.
<a href="#">2:57:48 PM</a>	MICHAEL JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT , COPPER RIVER SCHOOL	Urged caution for the long-term consequences of using the stimulus funds for the state and its children. However, he supported acceptance of education funds because it is temporary

	DISTRICT, GLENNALLEN	money. He noted that all children will pay the consequences of the bill in the future so it was important to allow Alaskan children to benefit from what they will one day pay for. His district focused on staff development, instructional technology, and enhancing summer and after school activities.
<a href="#">3:00:08 PM</a>	RYAN CONARRO, THEATER ARTIST, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of the one-time funding for the arts in the stimulus package. He spoke of the National Endowment for the Arts. He stressed that he was "job ready" and listed the benefits to students from arts programs.
<a href="#">3:03:08 PM</a>	SARA CONARRO, ARTS EDUCATOR, JUNEAU	Echoed support for federal economic stimulus money for the arts. She spoke of the benefits to children from the arts.
<a href="#">3:04:38 PM</a>	CANDACE WINKLER, ALASKA CHILD CARE RESOURCE NETWORK, ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of the early care and education program in the stimulus plan, particularly the child care development block grant fund. She did not see a problem with short-term funding. She described child-care programs and ways to use the funding, including training and distance delivery technology.
<a href="#">3:07:29 PM</a>	EUGENE PAUL, TRIBAL CHIEF, HOLY CROSS TRIBAL COUNCIL	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He also spoke in support of federal economic stimulus money for the arts, especially native crafts in the village. Funding is on a yearly basis and the stimulus money is needed in rural areas.
<a href="#">3:09:04 PM</a>	JESSIE MENKENS, ANCHORAGE	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education, especially for child care development block grants. She stated concerns about childcare assistance rates.
<a href="#">3:11:07 PM</a>	NELSON AUGAPAK SR, VICE PRESIDENT, ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES (AFN), ANCHORAGE	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He stated that AFN is in support of accepting all ARRA funds. He testified in support of acceptance of federal economic stimulus money for the arts. He noted the high rates of unemployment, especially for Native Alaskans. He asked for acceptance of federal stimulus funds to address unemployment, particularly in rural Alaska.
<a href="#">3:17:44 PM</a>	LESLIE HAJDUKOVICH,	Spoke in support of accepting education funds. She noted the district is

	PRESIDENT, FAIRBANKS SCHOOL BOARD	looking for ways to spend the money without expanding programs. Some programs could be extended that are now being cut. The point of the stimulus is to stimulate the economy. She noted that the district regularly uses one-time money; the district will look carefully at programs that will not expand future funding, such as teacher training and technology upgrades.
<a href="#">3:20:53 PM</a>	NANCY WAGNER, SUPERINTENDENT , FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. They are able to use funds without encumbering the future. Title 1 funds will go a long way to address some of needs, especially in special education. Funding graduation coaches for two more years will help many to graduates during the funding period. Funding will increase the skills of teachers.
<a href="#">3:23:37 PM</a>	TOM MORGAN, STATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS ALASKA, EAGLE RIVER	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He stressed the importance of reading and graduation results and urged funding for the imagination library.
<a href="#">3:26:12 PM</a>	SARAH SCANLAN, RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of accepting various stimulus funds. She provided an overview of Rural CAP services, and spoke to two stimulus allocations. First, she addressed \$3.9 million in community service block grant funds, which are available to Rural CAP as Alaska's only eligible agency, for moving low-income people toward self sufficiently. She assured the committee that no new jobs would be created to keep these programs. She addressed details regarding the \$18.5 million weatherization allocation. The stimulus funds address immediate short-term needs with long-term impact.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Assured her that the weatherization grants do not require statutory or regulatory change.
<a href="#">3:31:07 PM</a>	JUDY CORDELL, AWAIC, ANCHORAGE	Echoed support for federal economic stimulus money for sexual assault and domestic violence. The funds would be used for one-time purchases and building repairs.
<a href="#">3:33:16 PM</a>	PAT HOLMES, KODIAK	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education, health, public safety, and energy conservation. He

		addressed items that the governor did not want included and asked for a specific list. He urged looking at weatherization funding and funding for special education.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Referred to a list on the Office of Management and Budget website.
<a href="#">3:38:36 PM</a>	STEWART MCDONALD, SUPERINTENDENT, KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, KODIAK	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He emphasized that Title 1 and Title 6B funds go up and down each year and are outside the general fund budget. The funds also address unexpected needs for special education. The primary use for Title 6B money in the district would be to meet No Child Left Behind requirements in the area of special education math. Expenditures would focus on a two-year emphasis. Some money would be used in the developmental pre-school program. He assured the committee that the school board has given the mandate not to grow the budget.
<a href="#">3:41:51 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Appreciated the understanding of the temporal nature of the funds.
<a href="#">3:42:19 PM</a>	RAY DEPRIEST, DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MAT-SU SCHOOL DISTRICT	Spoke for the Mat-Su Superintendent of schools, who understands that the funds sunset in 2011. He believed the funds will enhance the drop-out prevention program, special education programs, the workforce youth program for job training, and early childhood education. The district is accustomed to dealing with grant funds and welcomes increased scrutiny of programs for financial audits. He thought the funding would benefit the economy in the Mat-Su region as well as students.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Noted the superintendent's letter was in the record.
<a href="#">3:45:40 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Wondered if there was specific money dedicated to vocational education.
	Mr. DePriest	Explained that money is in the stimulus bill for vocational education under the Workforce Investment Act Grant.
<a href="#">3:46:49 PM</a>	PATRICIA HULL, TRUSTEE, JUNEAU ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL	Encouraged acceptance of funds for the arts, specifically for the Alaska State Council on the Arts. She pointed out the experience arts and humanities groups have in dealing with short-term and changing funding. The funds will sustain arts groups through the

		financial crisis. Diverse groups come together through the arts and humanities; groups and individuals work together to make the community better. She listed individuals and groups who have contributed to the larger good and explained that often the largest expense is fuel.
<a href="#">3:50:05 PM</a>	LORRIE HEAGY, LIBRARIAN AND MUSIC TEACHER, GLACIER VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JUNEAU	Asked for acceptance of funds for the arts and education. She described her work with parents as a non-profit to work with young people to bring artists into the schools. After the first year, reading scores rose dramatically. She has collected data over four years, including test scores, that demonstrate how partnering arts and education significantly helps at-risk kids. Even if the money stopped in two years, it would have important impact.
<a href="#">3:54:41 PM</a>	AMELIA TOPKOK, COLLEGE OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CRCD) HEALTH PROGRAMS, UA FAIRBANKS	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. She described CRCD services through the university, including programs within rural high schools and a summer health academy. The program works frequently with short-term grants. She hoped the governor would accept the funds for the future well-being of the young.
<a href="#">3:58:14 PM</a>	BOB BEACH, FAIRBANKS	Urged funding support for veterans. He also wanted a metal smelter on the North Slope to make equipment from recycled metals.
<a href="#">4:01:00 PM</a>	DON SHIRCEL, DIRECTOR OF CLIENT DEVELOPMENT, TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, FAIRBANKS	Supported the AARA and urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. He described the division's education department, which addresses employment, training, and social services. The funds could greatly help for technology upgrades and teacher training. He expressed the need for rural school district funding.
<a href="#">4:03:48 PM</a>	DR. NORMAN ECK, SUPERINTENDENT , NW ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, KOTZEBUE	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education. The district is scheduled to receive over \$600,000 in Title 1 special education funding both this year and next, which would be used for reading and math materials for special needs students, to purchase technology infrastructure for distance learning, and for repairs and teacher housing. He understands the one-time use of the funds.

<a href="#">4:05:54 PM</a>	BRENDA STANFIELD, INTERIOR CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT LIVING, FAIRBANKS	Urged accepting money for victims of violence and sexual assault. The money could be used for staff training, outreach in the communities, public service announcements, and peer counseling groups. The center is also lacking a data system. She also urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education.
<a href="#">4:09:08 PM</a>	STEPHANIE BURGLUND, ANCHORAGE	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for education.
<a href="#">4:10:21 PM</a>	JACKIE STEWART, CATALYST BUSINESS CONSULTING, ANCHORAGE	Asked for acceptance of in the federal stimulus funds to address unemployment and job creation. She spoke of the weatherization program and the need to develop sustainable energy; fuel costs are hurting businesses significantly. She hoped for a vision for the state helping businesses. While working with the Southeast Small Business Development Center, she was the only person covering all of Southeast Alaska. The program has always been severely underfunded. She echoed support for federal economic stimulus money for all money allowed.
<a href="#">4:16:44 PM</a>	RHONDA HUBBARD, FISHERIES, SEWARD	Indicated her frustration with the ways the stimulus package is being used. She encouraged not taking funds for programs that can not be sustained. She believed education funding is a black hole with child nutrition programs and social issues. She did support funding for vocational training. She hoped legislators would take less of the funds and use funds in discretion. She supported sustainable programs dealing with alcohol addiction.
<a href="#">4:22:52 PM</a>	BRITNEY GOODNIGHT, CHUGIAK	Urged acceptance of federal stimulus funding for domestic violence and education programs.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Closed public testimony.
<a href="#">4:30:09 PM</a>	Representative Kelly	Wondered when the shovel-ready projects might begin.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Believed April 19 <sup>th</sup> would be the time it was known what was on the street. He expressed frustration for the record with being unable to meet with the governor.
<a href="#">4:31:55 PM</a>	Representative Kelly	Expressed concern about running down the clock and stressed the importance

		of putting people to work now during Alaska's short season.
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ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 PM.