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March 13, 1997

Nonask Representative Mark Hawley
Finance Committee Co-Chief
House of Representatives
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Hawley:

It has come to my attention that the Finance Sub-Committee is considering a reduction of \$1,000,000 in the Child Grant Program. I urge you not to support this recommendation. The Child Case Grant program provides support and incentive for child care providers to enroll children who they would otherwise be unable to do because of the financial limitations of parents. The majority of child care facilities that provide services operate on a shoestring budget. Corporate child care centers subsidize their child care facility because they believe it is important and they care about children and families.

In this time of "Welfare Reform" it is important that child care is accessible for the working poor, as well as those who will be, and all, transitioning off of the Welfare rolls. If we as a State do not make child care a priority, children

will be staying home alone, as in the past when there was a focus on "latch key" children.

We are the richest and largest State in the nation. It would certainly be an example to other States if Alaska would take the leadership role in caring for children and families in Alaska.

Respectfully,

Debra Whungot
7701 Lass Circle
Anchorage, AK 99517
Phone & Fax : 907-349-6758

March 20, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley:

I am writing to remark on the upcoming proposal eliminating funding for Resource and Referral Programs, which I am currently using. This Program insures my two and a half year old son Seth is receiving the best care possible. From a wonderfully warm caring, educated child care provider. Who educates herself with the Grant Money provided to help better herself and the care she provides to Seth ,Philip, Trevor, Aly, Jacob currently and many other children in the past.

I am a working single mother, I receive no Child Support at this time. I really depend on this Program and my child's care provider to help me ensure that my son grows to be a responsible, productive, caring, citizen of Alaska. I am currently working for the ACPE , I receive a net total of \$1380.00 per month, I pay \$800.00 per month for rent for a modest two bedroom apartment, in Juneau, we have electric heat which in the winter is quite a hefty expense averaging \$120.00 per month, my child care costs with the Program are \$125.00. This leaves me \$255.00 to pay other monthly expenses as well as groceries. I see no way possible to be able to afford the added expense of paying the entire cost of his very reliable, nurturing and caring ,child -care. I do not by any means ever get ahead. I live paycheck to paycheck month to month. I do not have a nest egg on which to draw, I do have the means to provide the daily necessitates for Seth and myself.

Seth's care provider receives less than a State File Clerk. Each job is important in it's own right however, the job of a child-care provider has impact on children in their formative years which are the most important . The care received or neglect from an unlicensed day -care can determine who and what these children will become. We need to compensate these people who care for the future Alaska State Employees, State Representatives, Governors as well as blue collar workers in Alaska. Good grown-ups start as happy well cared for children. It is our responsibility as **Good-grown ups** to see that we glve them every chance to live up to their potential. As well as the expectations held by lawmakers.

I do not have the opportunity to stay at home and care for Seth and be an income earning, productive, tax paying citizen. I am able to work and therefore feel I should. If I am forced to pay for Seth's entire child care that would calculate to 1/3rd of my net pay I would not be able to pay my other monthly expenses. Therefore, would more than likely have to apply for state-aid (AFDC) I do not take advantage of the Child Care and Family Resources Program, I

utilize every avenue to insure that Seth has the foundation of self that will prove that he will be a wonderful adult.

Until, he reaches adulthood I must be the voice that speaks for him. I am sure that he would want you to know that he is receiving the best possible care from Michelle Zeiger, since his Mommy is unable to be with him during the day. If the Program were cut he would be very disillusioned by the adults who make these choices of cutting funding where the future of potentially great Alaskans could be compromised. PLEASE consider the future of Seth and many other children who have parents that choose to work and provide their children with licensed professional child care.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER

Sincerely,

Sara L. Buckley
789-4626

message:

PROPOSED CUTS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND DISABLED. I REALIZE THE HUGE TASK OUR LEGISLATORS HAVE IN TRYING TO PRODUCE A WORKABLE BUDGET, BUT SURELY THE PEOPLE WHO SO DESPERATELY NEED HELP SHOULD NOT BE MADE TO SUFFER. MEDICAID CUT, AND THE LOSS OF THE FEDERAL MATCH MAKES LITTLE SENSE. DENYING PEOPLE THESE SERVICES WILL ONLY ADD UP TO MORE EXPENSE AND PAIN LATER ON. THE SAME WITH CUTS TO ALASKA WORK PROGRAMS. I THOUGHT WE'D FINALLY COME UP WITH ASSISTANCE TO HELP PEOPLE CLIMB OUT OF THE WELFARE RUT? FOSTER CARE - TRY RAISING KIDS ON \$20-\$40 A DAY. WHY SHOULD A FOSTER PARENT HAVE TO TAKE MONEY, LOTS OF IT, FROM THEIR OWN POCKETS, TO CARE FOR THE KIDS. WE CAN'T ATTRACT PEOPLE TO DO FOSTER CARE NOW. UNLESS WE CAN DO BETTER THAN MAKING MORE CUTS, WE, AND THE KIDS, ARE IN TROUBLE. WHEN I LOOK OVER ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS, I'M DISMAYED. PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO TURN THESE PROPOSALS AROUND AND PUT THE FUNDING BACK INTO THE PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT DISABLED AND POOR INDIVIDUALS.





Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative

204 N. Franklin, Suite 1 • Juneau, AK 99801 • Phone 907-586-2360 • Fax 907-586-2331

March 22, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hanley:

I understand that the House Finance Committee will be taking up the Department of Commerce, Division of Trade and Development FY98 budget in the next several days. On behalf of the Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative ("CVFC"), we would like to support continuation of the division's budget at existing levels.

Our primary concerns are related to the division's trade staff and fisheries development support staff functions. As an organization participating in the western Alaska community development quota program, CVFC is working hard to bring economic development through the private sector to western Alaska. Not only will this have a favorable impact upon the people who live in the more remote areas of Alaska, but it will also assist the State's policy of moving people from welfare to work. There is not another program in western Alaska that is providing the level of opportunity for western Alaska residents to work in the private sector.

As we become more involved in the fishing industry, we see the impacts of foreign competition and the world market. What happens in the Far East, Russia, Chile, and northern Europe, directly affects our ability to gain the full benefits of the CDQ program for Alaska. However, it takes more than our resources to make this work. That is where the Alaska Department of Commerce's programs come into action. We believe that there needs to be a partnership between government and industry to keep markets open and provide new opportunities around the globe for fisheries products. Over the past several years, our organization has been contributing its part through the payment of State corporate income taxes. Beginning in 1998, a portion of the new federal tax on CDQ revenues will be passed to the State to support their oversight responsibilities. We hope that the State will be able to continue supporting these programs and economic development in Alaska through the activities contained within the Division of Trade and Development. We ask for your support in funding these programs at current levels.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman A. Cohen".

Norman A. Cohen
Executive Director

THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALASKA

28 5 John Street #2
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone (907)163-6154
Fax (907)586-9018

March 21, 1997

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear House Finance Representative,

On behalf of League of Women Voters members throughout the state, I urge you to protect the funding of programs which promote the self-sufficiency of Alaskan families and individuals. Specifically, we request increased funding of the HESS FY98 Operating Budget related to child care benefits, Alaska Work Programs, and Medicaid in order to assist families to get back into the work force and stay off of welfare.

Based on years of study, the League of Women Voters has taken a position that one of the goals of social policy should be to promote self-sufficiency and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. The League believes that job training, basic education, child care and health care (Medicaid) are required in order to accomplish this goal. Adequately funded child care benefits, for example, help the working poor of Alaska to stay off of welfare since the cost of childcare without assistance outweighs their wages.

Of prime importance is the economic well-being of our state. Alaskan economists have warned that, since Alaska's economy is driven by state spending, sudden and drastic cuts in state spending will hurt the overall of economy of our state, possibly bringing on a recession. Another concern involving our state's economy is the loss of federal dollars if cuts in Medicaid are made. And, if we do not meet target work participation rates, we will lose significant block grant funds.

Please protect the funding of the HESS budget so that Alaska's welfare reform efforts will succeed. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Mills, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska



March 20, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I have reviewed the summary of House Finance Subcommittee recommendations for FY98 reductions to the budget of the Department of Health and Social Services.

United Way of Anchorage has been supportive of welfare reform and believes it can have positive outcomes across all sectors of our community.

Reform is a catalyst that has promoted a new spirit of cooperation between the public and private sectors. Examples include the welfare summit held in Anchorage in November, the collaborative funders group initiated almost a year ago, the Anchorage Planning Initiatives Coordinating Committee and the community-based Anchorage Healthy Future Project.

Commissioner Karen Perdue has provided vigorous leadership to promote inter-sector collaboration and seek creative ways to promote local leadership development in community health and community development. The COMPASS program is a good example of pilot programs to promote local empowerment and increased responsibility at the local level.

Anchorage's nonprofit and private sectors will continue to do all they can to help people impacted by welfare reform. The past year's collaborative planning for capacity-building successful outcomes depends on programs that are being significantly reduced. There is no way our local efforts can make up for all that is being cut.

We urge you to make slow and steady changes in funding. Drastic cuts such as those proposed are likely to overload the private sector's ability to respond.

We will continue to do our utmost to support positive efforts to help people successfully navigate the difficult transition from welfare to more independent lives.

Sincerely,

Bernie Washington, President
Board of Directors,
United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage

1057 West Fireweed, Suite 101 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-1736 • (907) 263-2000

Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau
Box 415
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(907)-983-3854 Fax
<http://www.skagway.org>

March 20, 1997

Mr. Mark Hanley
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hanley,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed budget cuts directed at the Division of Tourism and the ATMC. As you are well aware tourism funding has been going down for the last several years. If these drastic cuts were to take place it would put Alaska in dire straights in terms of our ability to attract visitors.

There seems to be a misconception that this marketing is only done to help the large well known operators. Those folks will survive and prosper regardless of what the state funds. The only people being hurt are the mom and pop businesses along our highways and in rural areas of the state. There are some businesses and locations that can only support a vacation planner ad and the benefits derived from this program. If you cut the DOT and eliminate the chance for small business to reach out to a worldwide audience the state as a whole will be shortchanged.

Tourism is a growth industry and a major employer. My town runs on Tourism. If we do not have the support of the State we will suffer financially and jobs and families will be lost in our community. Tourism is worth over 1 billion dollars in economic impact to the state. Maintaining and increasing the Tourism budget is a wise investment.

Sincerely,



Steve Halloran
Tourism Director
City of Skagway

FAX: 465-2418

TO: LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: JOAN ROBERTS, PHONE # (home) 789-9861 (work) 586-5258

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM

MY DAUGHTER IS A DAY CARE PROVIDER. THE CUTS BEING PROPOSED WILL MEAN THE CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE QUALITY PUZZLES, WOOD TOYS, OUTSIDE GYM TYPE EQUIPMENT, PLAY HOUSE ITEMS, ETC... TO LEARN, PLAY, AND GET ALONG WITH OTHER CHILDREN IN A GROUP SETTING BEFORE GOING OFF TO KINDERGARDEN OR FIRST GRADE.

IT WOULD MEAN THAT MY GRANDCHILDRENS TOYS WOULD HAVE TO BE SHARED WITH THE DAY CARE CHILDREN.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO COME IN AND PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS THAT WERE GIFTS OR ITEMS YOU HAD SAVED YOUR MONEY FOR? I THINK NOT. CHILDREN ARE HARD ON TOYS.

THE GRANT PROGRAM LETS MY DAUGHTER GET EDUCATIONAL TYPE ITEMS FOR THE DAY CARE CHILDREN TO USE THAT WILL HELP THEM BECOME SOCIAL PEOPLE.

SOMETIMES THE DAY CARE SETTING IS THE ONLY PLACE THEY GET THIS TYPE OF TEACHING AS HOME LIFE IS NOT THE GREATEST FOR MOST OF THE CHILDREN IN THE JUNEAU AREA.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE CUTS, CUT SALARYS OF THE TOP LEGISLATERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO MAKE UP FOR THE SHORTFALL. ARE THEY GIVING THEMSELVES RAISES THIS YEAR???

DO NOT CUT THE CHILDRENS FUNDING. THEY NEED IT MORE THAN THE POLITICAL GROUP TRYING TO CUT THE FUNDING.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

JOAN ROBERTS,
A CONCERNED MOTHER OF A DAY CARE PROVIDER

March 20, 1997

RE: House Finance Subcommittee Recommendations for the Department of Health and Social Services FY 1998 Operating Budget.

The Honorable Mark Hanley, Co-Chairman
House Finance Subcommittee

Dear Representative Hanley,

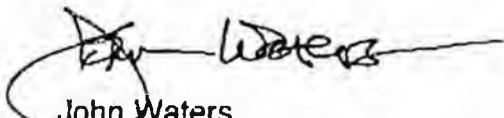
I am requesting your Subcommittee reconsider the significant cuts you are recommending to the 1998 HESS budget submitted by the Governor. Your suggested cuts to Medicaid will only add to the numbers of the currently estimated 27,000 uninsured Alaskans. It will also place a greater burden on our health care system and increase the cost of health care and health insurance for individuals and businesses in Alaska. Taking access to physical and mental health care away from poor people will not make them well. We will end up paying more for their care in emergency rooms and more frequent and/or longer hospital stays. During this time of difficult budget decisions it also may not be prudent to severely cut a program in which we receive one federal dollar for each Alaskan dollar we spend.

Last year the federal and state governments in acted welfare reform. To make this initiative successful requires welfare recipients have adequate child care and assistance to find and keep work. In each of these areas you have proposed budget cuts that make the possibility of achieving meaningful welfare reform more difficult if not impossible.

I am opposed to the deep cuts you are proposing to the programs and services that aid the poor people of our state. Please reconsider the merits of the Governor's budget which is a more balanced and humane approach to reducing spending without risking economic and social harm to poor and middle class Alaskans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Waters
1007 Evergreen Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4306

A. W. BRINDLE
H. A. BRINDLEPROCESSOR OF
CHOICE ALASKA SEAFOOD
SINCE 1912

Wards Cove Packing Company

PHONE (206) 323-3200

89 E. HAMLIN STREET
P.O. BOX C-5030
SEATTLE, WA 98105-0030

Day Fax (206) 323-9165

March 19, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Senate/State Capitol - Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Fax: (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

I am writing to express my support for the budget as submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). I find it ironic that the legislature would consider cuts in the funds provided to this essential agency. Ironic because the Department of Fish and Game administers a source of revenues to Alaska second only to petroleum.

Wards Cove Packing company has been processing salmon in Alaska under present ownership since 1928, and has operations from Ketchikan to Western Alaska. Over the past several years I have watched with concern as ADF&G has taken several cuts to their budget. In a consequence, that agency has had to abandon programs that have produced the harvest, escapement, or other life-history index data that managers rely upon to make management decisions. As the budget and programs have been reduced, there has also been an increasing appeal from fishermen and their families for supplementation from the private sector.

The private sector has supported several management programs in Bristol Bay, the most prominent of which is the University of Washington Fisheries Research Institute test fishing program at Port Moller. The data generated by Port Moller provide in-season run estimates that are remarkably accurate, and provides huge benefits for managers, fishermen, and the resource. This example, however, is also unique because the industry has a long history of support in that region. Recently, the private sector has been asked to support a new sea urchin fishery in Southeastern Alaska. ADF&G Has advised that, due to budget restraints, this 3 million pound per year fishery would not proceed without supplemental contributions. As funding for ADF&G is reduced, so are opportunities for new or emergent fisheries.

The seafood industry is vitally important to the Alaskan economy. It is the largest private sector employer in the state, with one-sixth of the states' employment attributable to fish harvesting or processing. Alaska has seen more salmon in recent years than at any time in recorded history, but maintaining the impressive number of returning salmon is no small accomplishment. Prudent fisheries management will ensure the continuation of this vital resource into the new millennium.

ALITAK • CHIGNIK • SEAFRESH • CRAIG • ALASKA BOAT • EGEGIK • EKUK • EXCURSION INLET • HAINES • HOONAH SEAFOODS • KENAI
SEATTLE • PORT BAILEY • NAKNEK TRADING • RED SALMON • WARDS COVE • ICY CAPE INTERNATIONAL SALES
SOUTH NAKNEK • SEWARD

Page 2

While Alaska is enjoying the results of prudent resource management, Canada and the Pacific Northwest states faces serious problems with their salmon resources. The Department of Fish and Game is primarily responsible for the success of salmon fisheries in Alaska, and further reductions in the Departments budget can only reduce their ability to manage these indispensable resources. I urge your support for the budget as submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alec W. Brindle
President

AWB/cp



WILLIAM RANSOM WOOD
PRESIDENT (EMERITUS), UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



RECEIVED

MAR 20 1997

March 11, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
716 W. 4th, Ste. 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Dear Representative Hanley,

This is an open plea for strong support of the University of Alaska's Plant Pathology Laboratory budget request.

The Alaska Seed Potatoes Export Program conceived and set in place by a non-profit group, Alaska Agricultural Development and Marketing, Inc., endorses that request.

The Alaska Seed Potato Export Program has pried open a window of opportunity on the huge Asian market.

This is not just for potato growers, for if the present project can successfully be continued and expanded, the export marketing program will be open to other production from Alaska as well.

Alaska cannot afford to by-pass so promising an opportunity to invest modestly in its own future. All of us know far too little about what will grow in the great north land. We know far too little about how to protect from contamination and market successfully what can thrive here.

The University's Plant Pathology Laboratory, the mission of which is advancement of knowledge, is not in competition with any other government activity. It is a necessary partner if others are to function properly in carrying out their long-term missions in the best interest of resident Alaskans.

The cynical will always lay claim to a larger slice of the State's fiscal pie. Given the support it merits on its own, however, the Alaska Seed Potatoes Export Program, made possible by the stringent check on virus diseases of the potato by the Plant Pathology Laboratory, will in time increase the size of the fiscal pie.

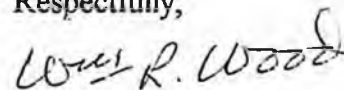
It is a sound investment, considerably overdue, and not at the expense of anything else. As small as the Potato Project is, it is a beginning. To abandon it now and try to restart it later will cost ten-fold more. Such postponement, Ernest Gruening would have noted, could be termed negligence or folly.

Encouraged now, the Seed Potato Project should increase production for export and in a few years approach self-sufficiency while adding to the state's economy.

We all eat potatoes, the only crop other than fish that provides more than fifty percent of the product Alaska residents consume each year.

The request submitted is not a large one, not in a billion plus budget, but the thrust of the Alaska Seed Potatoes Export Program is major.

Respectfully,



Wm. R. Wood
President (Emeritus)
University of Alaska



March 20, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-chair
Full House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hanley:

As the General Manager for the Anchorage Hilton hotel, I am outraged with your subcommittee's budgetary recommendation to eliminate the Division of Tourism (DoT) and cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council (ATMC) budget. This will produce the most anemic tourism marketing program in the last decade. The results will be devastating, particularly to small businesses, which comprise 90% of our industry. I have no choice but to view your proposal as a direct attack on tourism.

At a time when legislators have pledged to promote a climate ripe for greater economic development, this recommendation goes 180 degrees the other way. Frankly, I find it sadly ironic that the subcommittee on Commerce and Economic Development could come up with such a scenario.

Over the years, tourism has proven to be one of Alaska's best investments. The visitor industry provides extraordinary opportunities for Alaskan entrepreneurs to start and succeed in small business ventures. As the state's second largest employer, tourism provides thousands of jobs in every single region of the state. Through business and visitor assessments, the visitor industry does pay its fair share -- to the tune of over \$124 million injected into state and local treasuries each year. The few million dollars the state has contributed to tourism marketing and other programs has yielded a remarkable return.

The opportunity for small business start-ups and more jobs will suffer under your proposal. A bed and breakfast in Fairbanks, a cultural tour in Kotzebue, a rafting enterprise in Eagle River...none has the means to reach a national travel market alone. They, like local convention and visitors bureaus, rely on the effort of the ATMC and DoT to lure travelers to Alaska.

Alaska's Cooperative Marketing Program, executed by the ATMC, is considered a model for public-private ventures. Yet, your proposal unravels the ATMC success story in two ways:

- Additional \$600,000 in cuts to the ATMC budget. This reduction will further erode critical promotional elements, including vacation planner production, as well as national TV, magazine and newspaper advertising.

- Transfer of division responsibilities. Since corresponding funds are NOT transferred with these programs, operating costs will eat away at dollars meant for marketing. The net affect of cuts and unfunded transfers is \$1 million less in marketing power for Alaska.

What about the Division of Tourism programs that will be lost? In a recent survey conducted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, tourism businesses statewide expressed how important these programs were to their livelihood.

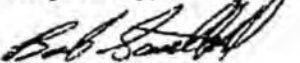
- Developing international contacts through overseas promotion was viewed as extremely important. Your proposal guts international marketing in key markets like Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Responding to calls and requests for travel information scored high on the importance scale. While this program would be transferred to the ATMC under your proposal, there is no corresponding funds to cover personnel or fulfillment costs.
- Visitor research was also considered very important by tourism businesses, as these statistics provide the basis for developing viable business plans and making sound tourism business decisions. Research is eliminated under your proposed budget.
- Creating business leads through participation in travel trade shows and national tour operator familiarization trips were deemed to be critical functions. Again, these elements disappear under your plan.

In a nutshell, you're not hurting larger companies with the budget proposal, you're hurting the small operators. Given the lack of state budget shortfall (in fact the state shows a \$100 million budget surplus) I cannot find any compelling reason to whittle away at programs that have contributed to economic development.

If reorganizing is the goal, then the industry and government should sit down and find workable solutions together. Thoughtful reorganization does not belong in the budget process. It belongs in a forum where affected parties can deliberate on the best course of action. AVA has along history of working with the state government to promote economic prosperity through tourism programs and promotion. I am available for discussion on this or any other issue that impacts Alaska's visitors industry.

If you or your committee members have any questions as all, or need additional information, call me directly at 907-255-7118.

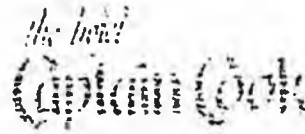
Respectfully,



Bob Southall
General Manager

cc: House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development
House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Bill Elander - ACVB
Tina Lundgren -AVA

BSO/jmu



WALTER J. HICKEL, JR.
PRESIDENT

P.O. BOX 102200, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-2200
PHONE (907) 278-6000
EXECUTIVE FAX (907) 278-4857

March 20, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE

Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Vice-Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Mark:

The Hotel Captain Cook was notified that Rep. Vic Kohring, Chairman of the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development, is proposing that the Committee eliminate the Alaska Division of Tourism and reduce the state tour budget by \$3.5 million.

I was amazed to hear of this scenario and quite frankly, to read of this situation, as we should remind ourselves that Alaska receives over 1.4 million visitors annually and tourism generates over 17,000 jobs.

I oppose any cuts to the state tourism budget and would recommend that we increase the money spent for tourism promotion, as we do compete for tourism dollars with other destinations who are aggressive in attracting this industry to their area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter..

Sincerely,
THE HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

Walter J. Hickel Jr.
President and General Manager

cc: Bill Elander

Kenaitze Indian Tribe I.R.A.

P.O. BOX 988
KENAI, ALASKA 99611
(907) 283-3633
Fax (907) 283-3052

March 20, 1997

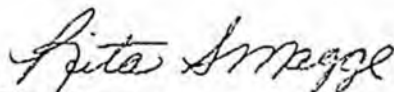
Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mark Hanley:

As advocates for our Tribal Members and other Alaskan Natives/Native Americans residing within our service delivery area, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA strongly opposes the proposed Department of Health and Social Services budget cuts for fiscal year 1998.

Although we feel there is a need to trim the budget and downsize state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform. We are therefore asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will not only allow DHSS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities, but will also assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support. Without these reinvestment dollars, it will be extremely difficult for DHSS to meet the challenges imposed by welfare reform.

Sincerely,



Rita Smagge
Executive Director
Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA

State Capitol
Representative Mark Hanley,
Chair, House Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Honorable Mark Hanley,

My name is Valarie J. Romanc, I am an Inupiaq Eskimo and a resident of Kotzebue, AK. I am writing to express my concerns of proposed funding cuts that will directly affect our local as well as regional school children.

Loss of \$8 million in federal funds for special education:

The Special Education needs in our district are important and necessary for the future children of this region. Loss of these funds will only cause more work toward regular education teachers that are not qualified to educate these special children.

Loss of \$4.4 million in Carl Perkins funds for vocational education:

There are many high school kids in the NANA Region that are being trained in welding, wood shop and mechanical aspects they will use once they have graduated. Losing these funds will be detrimental to the economic well-being of this region in regards to the demands for high school graduates with these skills of trade.

Elimination of all statewide student assessment, including statewide student achievement testing at grades 4, 8, and 11, and statewide student writing assessment at grades 4, 7, and 10:

The elimination of all statewide student assessments creates hardship on the school that would like to see these children placed into a program that best fits the needs of those students.

As far as achievement testing is concerned, how will the school system identify children that are in need of special education? Will they be ignored and forced into a program that does not meet their needs?

All students statewide must continue to enhance their skills in writing because when they have graduated, the real world demands an individual to have strong writing skills that are adequate for their personal and professional growth.

Elimination of statewide involvement in school accreditation:

Cutting this involvement only states that we do not wish to be a part of the national scene in whether or not our children are being taught by professionals that work in a school that is recognized as accredited. Most scholarships that are distributed to high school graduates require that they attend a school that is nationally recognized as an accredited school.

Elimination of the student leadership program:

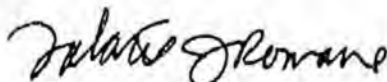
Leadership is important and begins when an individual student cares enough to participate in endeavors such as student government. Many of these students go on to college and return to their communities to become leaders. Eliminating the student leadership program will deter these best and brightest students to be lost in the shuffle of government cutting. Were you once a student leader?

Elimination of the Rural School Vocational Program:

Rural Alaskans have albeit suffered the most from budget cuts. Since President Clinton passed the new welfare reform bill, this will force the private sector of businesses to absorb the new workers that are entering the workforce. *But, before they can enter the workforce, they need job training.* Cutting the Rural School Vocational Program would hurt Alaskans more than help them. As a former student of the Alaska Technical Center (formerly Kotzebue Technical Center), I must admit that it has helped me tremendously in obtaining and keeping a job. If this training entity is cut, we will be forcing many rural Alaskans to become indigent. The Alaska Technical Center will be able to absorb the new trainees that will be seeking trade school skills.

In an era of declining oil production, we must think of the future Alaskans who will ultimately be seeking employment in rural Alaska as well as urban Alaska. Your egalitarian conscience in these matters will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Sincerely,



Valarie J. Romane
P.O. Box 1183
Kotzebue, AK 99752

cc: Senator Al Adams
Representative Reggie Joule



Alaska Science & Technology Foundation

Investing in our future, one idea at a time

TWO PAGES TOTAL

Alaska Science & Technology Foundation: Creating Real Jobs, Real Economic Growth and Real Opportunity for Alaskans

For more than eight years, the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation has worked to create jobs and opportunity for Alaskans by providing seed and venture capital to Alaska entrepreneurs. ASTF projects already are beginning to pay tangible dividends in terms of new technologies developed, jobs created, new knowledge used to benefit Alaskans and repayments returned to the foundation by successful ventures. In 1996, ASTF actively managed 119 projects with \$12.4 million in ASTF funds matched by \$29 million in other funds.

Here are just a few examples of economic returns on those ASTF investments:

- A 1994 investment by ASTF in Alaska Power Systems to develop a device for the remote monitoring of power generation equipment has led to the creation of 60 jobs, with 10 more jobs expected to be added by the company in the coming month. Alaska Power Systems has signed an agreement with Emerson Electric to market that company's equipment worldwide, and discussions are now underway with AIDEA, the Municipality of Anchorage and private investors that could lead to an additional 100 manufacturing jobs in Alaska by 1999;
- Eight jobs at the new Alaska Wood Products mill in Tyonek exist today because of a preservative process co-funded by ASTF, and developed by former UAF professor Kevin Curtis, now of Forest Products Development in Wasilla. This production process, using Native-owned white spruce, has led to orders for three local bridges, as well as railroad ties for the Alaska Railroad. Now that the preservative process has proven effective on hemlock, a Southeast mill is being planned as well as an additional mill in the Interior;
- At least \$1.6 million in income has been received by Integrated Power Technologies, an Anchorage-based company that has now repaid back to ASTF \$70,000 of its original \$293,000 grant, which launched the company. The firm now employs four full-time engineers conducting research and development to produce surge protectors for worldwide distribution;
- Marlene Cameron of Wasilla began her birch sap business in 1991 with \$93,756 from ASTF. In the next few months, she intends to sign an agreement with the Matanuska Susitna Borough to lease up to 150 acres of land in Willow for construction of a full scale birch syrup production facility and commercial kitchen. Cameron estimates the new facility will employ scores of full-time and seasonal workers, some of whom will come from the Mental Health Services organization in Wasilla. Cameron says her partners are major producers in the national maple syrup industry who will invest heavily here, bringing now revenue to the Alaska economy;

- **35 Alaskan oil service firms will be working with ASTF**, the Alliance and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation to compete for business on Sakhalin Island, Russia. This project will put in place the security necessary to provide electronic commerce links for those 35 firms, bringing new revenue to the Alaska economy;
- With contributed labor, ASTF will provide the missing link in connecting classrooms to the world. ASTF has said that schools with clear connectivity plans can receive up to \$10,000 per school from ASTF to cover the costs of hardware (routers, wiring, etc.) necessary to wire classrooms to each other and to the Internet. Schools, through active PTA involvement, will cover the cost of computers and other equipment and are getting lots of help from NetDay, an organization committed to wiring schools throughout the state by organizing parents, teachers, PTAs and volunteers;
- A project of Arctic Alaska Seafoods, North Pacific Processors and ASTF has produced year-round processing jobs in Kodiak, and a demand for pinks when no other processors were buying. The Kodiak firm is processing 1.5 million pounds of chunk-style flake pink salmon into a retortable pouch with sales now generating a royalty payback to ASTF, bringing new revenue to the Alaska economy.

ASTF and the University of Alaska

Currently, only 20 percent of ASTF funds support projects at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses. But those projects play an important role in Alaska's economy. ASTF-funded projects are significantly different than other projects funded by university or federal funds. ASTF requires the participation of the customer or end user of the science or technology being developed as well as clear practical plans to achieve a direct benefit to Alaskans. ASTF does not pay overhead or indirect expenses of any grantee. Since the University contributes those costs, it is a co-investor in every ASTF project at the University. In effect, projects at UAF, UAA, and UAS must meet standard ASTF criteria including:

- Solid technical work and economic feasibility
- Cost sharing
- Practical benefits

Recent examples of University projects realizing a direct Alaska benefit:

- Gour Choudhury of the Fisheries Industries Tech Center has developed a process to turn arrowtooth flounder, an underutilized fish dominating the Gulf of Alaska, into food products. International Seafoods of Alaska has licensed the process with intent to produce a number of food products from arrowtooth at their Kodiak plants.
- The classic practical guide to arctic construction, *Building in the North*, by late UAF Professor Eb Rice, has been updated by engineering professors at UAF and UAA. Free copies are available from ASTF to any interested Alaskan.
- UAF Engineering Professor Tom Kinney is working with a Sitka foundation firm to develop a better anchor system for new construction and to fix permafrost-damaged buildings that would otherwise be abandoned.

#

March 20, 1997

Dear Ma. Hanley,

I am writing this in a feeble attempt to understand why our current Legislature is proposing such a drastic cut to our children's welfare.

As a director of a licensed child care center in Anchorage I am appalled by the proposed cuts to child care assistance, the child care grant program, and the elimination of state matching funds to resource & referral agencies.

My center received approx. 13,000.00 dollars last year from the Child Care Grant Program. This monies was used to hire staff and also to help our staff make a living wage.

Our center only gets CCG monies because we agree to accept DCA attendance clients. Generally these families cannot pay the difference between what their subsidies program pays & what we charge.

Often times they leave our programs owing us money. We absorb the cost because we are here to provide a consistent, stable place for children.

It is apparent that current funding does not meet the needs of families & programs. If we cut funds more will we be known as the state that leaves our children & families by the wayside.

Please help us maintain current funding.

Thank you,

Mandy Mundell

Phone - 276-8953

fax - 258-9188

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co. Chair
State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: 800-465-4935
fax: 907-465-2418

The Finance Sub-Committee is considering reducing the amount of the Child Care Grant by ONE MILLION DOLLARS! Please reconsider!

1) Quality Child Care is important to me because

it means that our children are getting a better start to a better future!

2) The Child Care Grant is important to Alaska's children because it provides for families to choose quality programs even when times are tough.
a. Keeps the cost of child care down for all children by ensuring QUALITY care.

b. Improves the quality of care for my children by providing a way for all children to be part of quality programs; ~~and~~ keeping costs down; providing more culturally diverse centers; ~~proving~~ socio-economically training for teachers etc.
I would like to know what your actions are regarding Child Care issues

Reducing this grant can cause families, programs and teachers to suffer - reducing the quality of our programs in turn reducing the quality of our children's education... IS THAT WORTH IT?



University of Alaska
System Governance Council

RECEIVED
 MAR 20 1997

Providing coordination and communications for the faculty, classified and APT staff, and students of the University of Alaska System

March 5, 1997

Marie Scholle, Chair

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Wendy Young, Member
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 Student Association

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Betty Dupée, President
 Statewide Administration Assembly

Serving the System Governance
 Council

Pat Ivey, Executive Officer
 System Governance

Representative Mark Hanley
 Alaska State Legislature
 State Capitol, Mailstop 3100
 Juneau AK 99811



Dear Representative Hanley:

I would like to thank you, on behalf of the more than 30,000 faculty, staff and students of the University, for taking the time to meet with us during our February trip to Juneau. I realize that your schedule is full, and that sometimes it is hard to meet with constituents.

We realize that you believe you have a mandate from your constituents to cut state government while protecting education and providing for the economic future of your district, your constituents, the state and its citizens. We are trying desperately to keep the university in a position to continue to offer quality programs and to prepare students to be productive members of the Alaskan work force without gutting academic programs and adversely impacting university students and employees further, some or many of whom may be in your district. This has become nearly impossible.

The university general fund budget has declined over 30 percent in the past decade while the demand for programs and university resources has increased exponentially. It is education that positions citizens to be productive members of the work force, thereby securing our economic future. By the year 2000, two thirds or more of the jobs above minimum wage will require at least some college education. Yet the legislature continues to under-fund higher education.

We were told by nearly every legislator that we spoke to that unless constituents change their mandate to cut state spending, cuts to the university operating budget will continue. Legislators advised that the only way they can change their position is to convince the constituents to change their mandate. Their advice was well-taken. Closing the university, as recommended by some Anchorage legislators, is not an option.

I will be back to Juneau in April, and I hope you will have time to speak with me again. If there is any information I can provide which may help you in your budget decisions, please let me know.

We are very proud of the University of Alaska and we will exhaust all our efforts to see higher education in Alaska remain strong.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Scholle

Marie M. Scholle, Chair
 System Governance Council
 and Staff Alliance



ASSETS, INC.

Vision • Action • Results

Diana M. Strzok, Executive Director

March 20, 1997

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that there has been a proposed budget cut of 13 million dollars in state general funds. Included in this overall cut, there is a proposed 6.9 million dollars that would drastically affect the state Medicaid program.

As a provider of Intensive Rehabilitative Services to individuals who experience mental illness, I am gravely concerned of the ramifications that these budget cuts will have on this population. As you may be aware, there is a continual influx of institutionalized individuals discharged into the community which increases the need for community based services. If these budget cuts become a reality, individuals will suffer greatly because the support services, including case management, provided by mental health clinics/agencies will not be available due to the necessity to downsize. This downsizing may result in an inadequate number of staff available to provide the current quality of support necessary to keep individuals and the community safe. In addition, individuals will lose current services due to the lack of funding. If services are lost, this could result in re institutionalization, incarceration, or homelessness of the individuals.

Past budget cuts have left social service agencies over burdened, under staffed, and having a great difficulty meeting the needs of the individuals they serve. There already is a lack of funds available to hire the necessary staff to meet the needs of the individuals.

The cost to the state at this point is far less than it would be if individuals were not able to access services for their continued support and success in the community. The average cost per day at a state institution is \$1000 compared to \$100 for Intensive Rehabilitation Services.

It is my hope that when you cast your vote for this proposed cut that you will vehemently oppose any budget cuts that will affect Rehabilitation and case management services for individuals that experience mental illness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly A. Barber".

Kimberly A. Barber
Clinical Associate, Assets Inc.



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035
(907) 276-0700 Fax: (907) 276-3887 e-mail: rdc@aonline.com

Founded 1975

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Becky L. Gay

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MAR 20 1997

March 14, 1997

Representative Pete Kelly, Chairman
House Finance Subcommittee on Education
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kelly:

RDC and the Alaska Miners Association are writing to urge your support of a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 for the Department of Education's (DOE) Alaska Minerals and Energy Education Program for fiscal year 1998. The appropriation would help ensure that the long-standing public/private partnership between the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF) and DOE continues.

AMEREF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works with the Department of Education to support the Alaska Minerals and Energy Education Program. AMEREF has worked with DOE for more than 15 years to deliver the Alaska Resources Kit, an Alaska-specific interdisciplinary set of lessons, activities and support materials on Alaska's mineral and energy resources. The kit is a helpful "tool box" of user friendly ideas for teachers, as well as a dynamic hands-on program of activities for students.

The Alaska Resources Kit is one of the most balanced sources of mineral and energy information designed for teachers and students. AMEREF has introduced more than 7,000 educators to the kit through teacher training courses and presentations at conferences. Approximately 150,000 students have been exposed to its materials over the past 15 years. At their most formative age, children today are inundated with information on why

America must preserve the earth's resources, but very little on why it must develop them responsibly. As a result, children have little or no understanding of mineral and energy resources and their essential role in society, leaving parents complaining their children are receiving environmental indoctrination rather than education.

With coordination by DOE, and support from school administrators, educators throughout Alaska developed and continue to review, revise and use the kit's five major modules. Scientists and other resource managers from the private and public sector provide relevant input and contribute their time in helping develop and modify the educational materials within the kits.

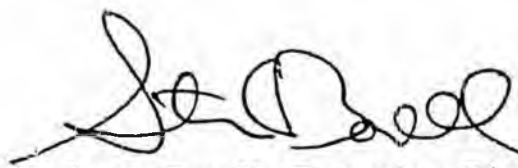
If Alaska's partnership in resource education is to survive, it is imperative that both government and industry commit to adequately fund the program. This partnership has thrived since 1982, and the continued popular acceptance of the program reflects its success with teachers and students.

Representative Kelly, be assured that your support of AMEREF serves as a wise investment in resource education and the children of Alaska -- our future decision-makers and leaders. Through an effective and long-standing partnership, AMEREF and the State of Alaska have made a big difference in promoting a better general understanding of natural resources and the public benefits they provide.

Sincerely,



Becky Gay, Executive Director
Resource Development Council



Steve Borell, Executive Director
Alaska Miners Association

cc: House Finance Subcommittee on Department of Education members
Representative Gail Phillips
✓ Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Therriault

LAW OFFICES OF
ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
ANCHORAGE AND STATEWIDE OFFICE
1016 WEST SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 200
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1883
TELEPHONE (907) 278-6282
FAX (907) 278-7417

**ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
1997 PROGRAM PROFILE**

The Corporation: Alaska Legal Services Corporation was formed in 1966 as a private, non-profit corporation to provide legal services to the poor. It is governed by a statewide 15 member board of directors in consultation with local client councils.

ALSC operates six offices with a combined staff of 18 attorneys and a total staff of 32. Offices are located in:

Anchorage Bethel Juneau
Barrow Fairbanks Ketchikan

ALSC Clients: To be accepted as a client, personal income must be at or below a figure which is tied to the federal poverty guidelines.

Maximum Income Guidelines

One person \$12,075/year
Two persons \$16,175/year
Three persons..... \$20,275/year
Four persons \$24,375/year

For each additional family member add \$4,100/year.

The Need: Alaska needs to provide legal services for low-income persons. Society encourages citizens to settle their differences in an orderly manner, which is why we have a court system. There is no justice if justice is available only to those who can pay for it.

There are also special considerations in Alaska. Outside a few urban areas, there are only a handful of private lawyers available. Many persons are denied legal help unless government acts to provide legal services in these areas. In addition, large numbers of rural Alaskans have found themselves thrust into contact with a legal system that is not familiar. ALSC is the predominant source of legal advice and representation for these people: nearly 40% of ALSC clients are Alaskan Natives.

Services Provided: Census figures estimate that between 60,000 and 70,000 Alaskans live at poverty levels. ALSC handled 3,961 requests for service in 1996 and has approximately 800 open cases. This number of cases only scratches the surface of the needs of the client population. Ninety percent (90%) of the services provided by ALSC are routine matters dealing with divorce, adoption, child custody, landlord-

tenant disputes, public benefits, unemployment, wills and probates, and Native Allotments. Although a few controversial cases tend to get the headlines, the bulk of ALSC's services address immediate -- and often life-threatening -- crises in Alaskans' lives. The success rate of the agency is high. Of the 109 cases which have gone to the Alaska Supreme Court, ALSC has won 86.

Cost-Effectiveness:

ALSC is one of the most cost-effective agencies in existence anywhere. Private lawyers charge at least \$125.00 an hour plus expenses -- and up from there. For approximately \$70.00 an hour, including expenses, ALSC lawyers provide a broader range of services than private lawyers provide for the much higher figure. We keep six offices open around the state so that legal services are accessible to all; we do considerable village travel where no private lawyers ever go; and we act as a referral agency for persons we cannot help directly.

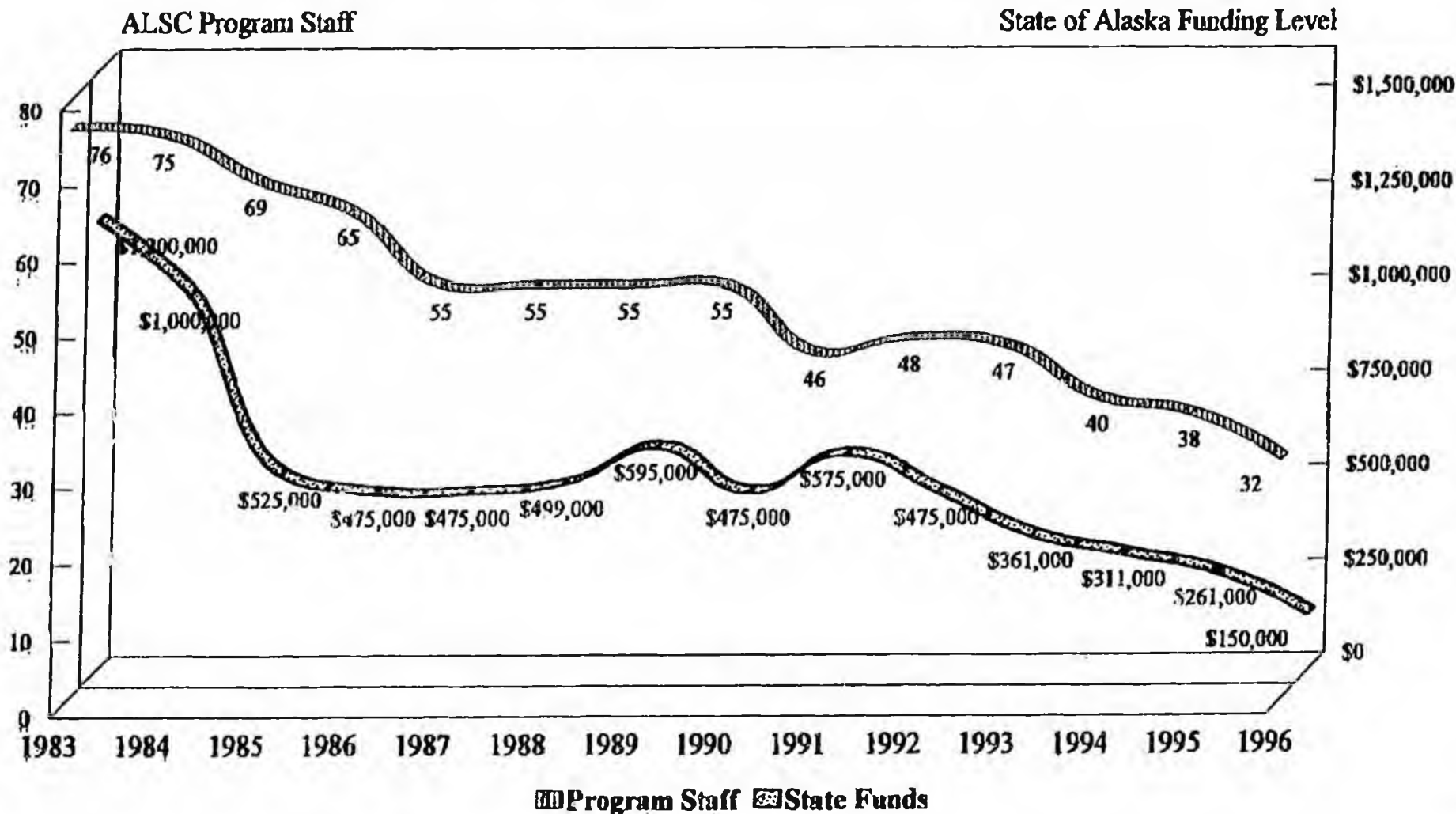
Funding:

ALSC's budget for 1997 is \$2.36 million. Current federal funding for the program is \$956,275.

Summary:

ALSC is in the business of providing quality legal services to low-income individuals and groups. ALSC offers thirty years of accumulated expertise in providing vital legal services to the poor.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation State Funding and Staffing Trends



1996 Appropriation Consists of \$100,000 from Community and Regional Affairs
and \$50,000 from Health and Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

P.O. BOX 111200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1200
PHONE: (907) 465-4368
FAX: (907) 465-3627
OFFICE ADDRESS: 450 WHITTIER ST.

February 5, 1997

Robert Hickerson, Executive Director
Alaska Legal Services
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1963

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FEB 10 1997

ALASKA LEGAL
SERVICES CORP.

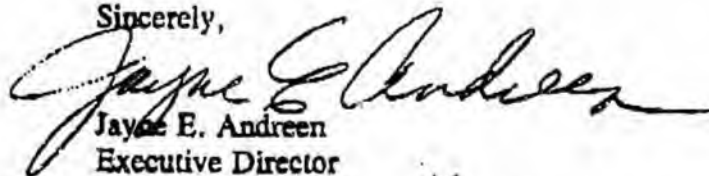
Dear Mr. Hickerson:

I am writing on behalf of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to express our support of Alaska Legal Services budget line in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

As you know, the Council provides grants to locally based domestic violence and sexual assault programs. These programs provide advocacy, shelter, counseling and crisis intervention to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The victims that they serve are too often in need of legal representation and consultation when faced with the criminal and civil justice systems. Most of their clients do not have sufficient financial resources to obtain private counsel. While some of the programs have volunteer attorneys who are willing to provide part of the needed consultation and pro bono services, the demand far exceeds the availability. Our grantees consistently report that Alaska Legal Services have provided a significant portion of these services in the past. The budget reductions over the past few years in Alaska Legal Services have resulted in the decrease and in some areas, the elimination of these services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Council commends Alaska Legal Services in its on-going work on behalf of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.


Sincerely,


Jayce E. Andreen
Executive Director

cc: Council Members

B-4 Thursday, January 2, 1997

Anchorage Daily News



Fulker A. Cowell
Publisher

Kent Pollock
Editor

Michael Carvey, Editorial Page Editor

Gerald E. Grilly, Publisher, 1984-1993
 Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1971-1983
 Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1967-1971
 Founded in 1948 by Norman C. Brown

Legal work

Lawyers do it for free

The flak that attorneys receive about how they make their living is unwarranted, at least in one respect. The Alaska legal profession deserves a gold star for the high rates of participation among attorneys offering free legal assistance to poor people.

Thanks to more than 950 attorneys who donated their time, more than 1,300 low-income Alaskans were helped in 1996 by Alaska Legal Services' Pro Bono Program. That's an impressive number. Only the volunteer-oriented state of New Hampshire, says Legal Services executive director Robert Hickerson, has Alaska beat.

The amount of free legal work done by attorneys is actually greater than ALS rates indicate. Some lawyers do pro bono work for churches, community groups and individuals that is not tracked through Legal Services' offices.

The pro bono work by hundreds of lawyers — both for Alaska Legal Services and independently — was not done in a vacuum. It was complimented by groups and organizations pitching in to help the cause. That cause — to offer legal aid to poor people who cannot afford their own — is a basic tenet of this country's judicial system.

Free legal help is all the more important in these trying times for Alaska Legal Services. Federal and state budget cuts have forced the closure of four of ALS' 10 offices. Two of the remaining six — Barrow and Ketchikan — remain open because they are locally financed. The Bethel ALS office, serving the state's poorest region, is likely to close next if further cuts are made, Mr. Hickerson says.

If government is to serve all people, free legal services for poor people tangled in the legal system must be a basic function of government. By voluntarily completing pro bono work, almost 1,000 attorneys with business in Alaska are doing their part to ensure justice for all.

March 20, 1997

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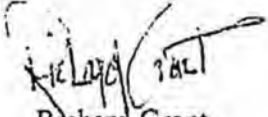
MAR 20 1997

State Representative Vic Kohring
State Representative Beverly Masek
State Senator Rick Halford
State Representative Mark Hanley
c/o Alaska State Legislature

Ref: Enclosed Fax

I do not write to my legislative representatives very often unless your actions or inactions are more important to me because they affect me personally. And because you don't have the time to answer every piece of correspondence you receive, however I encourage you to read the enclosed fax very carefully. It affects all Alaskans in one way or another, young and old, in all walks of life. The impact statement originated in the Division of Land and is in response to projected budget cuts, some of which are being carried out now due to the last round of funding reductions. I think you will find as I did the consequences of this document will affect other agencies as well, their employees and families far into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.


Richard Grant
P.O. Box 873178
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
376-8454

FY 98 HFSC - DNR BUDGET RECOMMENDATION IMPACT STATEMENT

Land development Component - (\$217.9) GF

The Division of Land is the critical path through which almost all resource actions must pass!

A reduction of \$217.9 in the Land Development Component for the Division of Land has drastic and wide ranging impacts not only to the public served, but to the services and revenue generating ability of other DNR Divisions, departments, as well as local governments. The reduction of \$217.9 will become even more dramatic when considering a \$388.0 vacancy factor in personal services coupled with the \$399.0 cost of implementing the RIP program. The division took advantage of the RIP program to allow more costly personnel to be replaced by cheaper personnel, to give the division a chance to restructure, and to streamline its operations in an effort to reduce processing delays. The combined impact of the HFSC reduction, vacancy factor, and RIP liability to the division is in excess of \$1,000.0. This translates into a reduction of 15-20 employees added to the more than 70 positions the division has lost since 1992. This will force us to consider the implementation of the following options:

GENERAL IMPACTS

The largest impacts will be to the oil and gas industry, mining industry, the sagging timber industry, and general public including recreation and tourism. Small and large projects, both public and private, will be stalled. The result will be to delay job creation and commercial projects if DNR Division of Land personnel do not exist and the time delays are significantly longer than the present processing schedule.

The unauthorized use of uplands and tidelands will multiply since the division cannot respond in a timely manner to granting authorizations. The revenue losses from leases, permits, and material sales processing delays will be significant, especially when considering the reoccurring annual fees.

IMPACT TO SERVICES

1. Elimination of the Northern Region Office located in Fairbanks. The Office will be reduced to an application intake office with limited capability to address land and resources management responsibilities and issues unique to northern operations. Other services will be curtailed or centralized to Anchorage. Leases, permits, rights -of- way, and material sales applications will be forwarded to Anchorage for processing.

Direct impacts to Northern Region

- Delays in or failure to issue leases/permits for guides and commercial ventures on state land. This will increase unauthorized use on state land and potentially lead to damage of the state's natural resources. Revenues generated by these authorizations would be lost.

- Delays in or failure to issue surface leases/rights-of-way/permits for oil and gas exploration and development. Developments such as Alpine, Badami, and North Star require permits from the Division of Land. Failure to authorize these uses could lead to costly delays in this major Alaskan industry and revenue generator.
- The positions associated with Northern Region tasks have gained years of experience in dealing with the Arctic environment, as well as developed a cooperative working relationship with industry permitting and environmental staff. This experience would be lost through elimination of most of the positions or by loss of individuals choosing not to relocate to Anchorage.
- Lease administration and monitoring and compliance functions would suffer from the loss of expertise. Discontinuity in management of these leases would be harmful to the environment, as well as in the loss of a good working relationship between the division's staff and the lessees. Such discontinuity in the past has led to major and costly (million dollar) contamination cleanups being required, such as the Forward and Child's pads cleanups.
- Cross-country travel permits would be delayed or unauthorized. This increases the potential for damage to Alaska's resources and would delay mineral exploration, oil and gas exploration, and the use of state lands by other developers.
- Material sales would not be issued in a timely manner or would fail to meet deadlines of contractors/industry. Of special merit are million cubic yard sales that would not be conducted for north slope oil and gas development of new fields or expansion of existing ones.
- RS 2477 Project Support and Continued Research would not occur. The Northern Region has housed the research program for the last four years. This staff is junior to other resource officers and would be laid off as a result of a major office reduction. This expertise would be difficult to replace and its loss would seriously hamper the state's ability to assert its rights.
- Field personnel with long-term knowledge of the region would be lost.
- Golden Valley Intertie right-of-way would not be issued timely. This multi-million dollar construction/operation is expected to start construction in 1998. This would be delayed.
- MFS Fiber Optics Right-of-Way from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay would not be issued timely. Delay of this major communications project would be detrimental to the pipeline communication upgrade, as well as potential ripple effects to communities that may be able to tie into this new communication system.

- Delay in authorizing material sales and rights-of-way for DOT/PF construction projects slated for this summer. Several authorizations are pending, including the Dalton Highway upgrades, Elliott Highway upgrades, and associated waysides for travelers.
- Cooperative efforts between the state, federal government, municipalities, and local interests groups would suffer. The region is involved in several programs that are responding to public access needs; of special note are:
 - Nenana River Canyon public access and TRAAK proposals
 - Denali North Access feasibility study
 - Dalton Highway coordination group (a group of citizens, municipal leaders, and agencies)
 - Alaska Trails System participation
 - Other cooperative land use management programs are:
 - Reindeer permits on the Seward Peninsula
 - Alaska Guard training site on the Seward Peninsula.

These cooperative efforts would be hindered without participation of the Division.

2. Elimination of the Southeast Regional Office located in Juneau. The office will be reduced to an intake office with limited capability to address land and resource management responsibilities and issues unique to the Southeast Region. Other services will be curtailed or centralized to Anchorage. Leases, permits, rights-of-way, and material sales applications will be forwarded to Anchorage for processing.

Direct impact to Southeast Region

- Extended delays or no leases/permits issued for the timber industry (private and US Forest Service). Failure to provide timber for the sawmills and creating value added jobs to replace the 500 jobs lost in Ketchikan due to the pulp mill closure. Congress and the USFS have agreed to provide enough timber from federal lands to keep the sawmills operating for the next three years, which retains the 500 remaining jobs after mill closure. The division's reduction will have a negative impact on this situation by being unable to authorize the multiple requests by the USFS.
- Upland lodge operators in the Yakataga area, who have clients booked from the US and Europe for the 1997 summer season, will operate in trespass without any revenue return to the state.
- Material contracts to the City of Petersburg could not be issued for the road construction leading to the Cabin Creek Reservoir. This multi-million dollar city project is essential to meet the high water demands of the fish processing plants during the peak summer season.
- City of Skagway is in immediate need of a landfill site which could be accomplished through a municipal land entitlement. A city RFP is presently being advertised to

create an incinerator building on state land. Existing landfill capacity will be reached in 1997 and an approved site is critical by this fall.

- Lack of a tideland authorization to the City and Borough of Sitka for a facility to export water to Korea could result in a multi-million dollar loss of annual revenue to the city.
- Delay of authorization for the proposed Tongass Coast Aquarium in Ketchikan will result in the loss of jobs to help replace those caused by the mill closure.
- No authorizations could be issued to DOT/PF, Alaska Marine Highways, for the Auke Bay ferry terminal expansion, and the nearby 1.5 mile road bypass, both to be out to bid this spring.
- The Goose Creek Phase II Subdivision at Thorne Bay would be delayed or shelved. The city is fronting the survey money because DNR's Phase I did not fulfill the demand for commercial land. DNR could be faced with repayment of survey costs to the city. KPC mill closure has added increased interest in additional land to diversify the economy.

3. Elimination or reduction of Central Office and Southcentral Region programs.

Central Office

- Eliminate appraisal assistance to other divisions and departments including EVOS work in support of on-going projects.
- Eliminate lease reappraisals. As leases require reappraisal, rentals will remain the same as no reappraisals necessary to establish the fair market rent will be completed.
- Eliminate survey assistance provided in support of activities of other divisions and departments.
- Eliminate all title analysis work done in support of departmental activities.
- Reduce intake and review activities necessary for the state to receive its land entitlement from federal government.
- Reduce support to Attorney General's Office on state's rights issues.
- Eliminate graphics support services, including maintenance and preparation of easement atlases which identify access on state owned lands.
- Eliminate processing of interagency land management transfers to other state agencies, such as DOT/PF.

Impact to Southcentral Region

- Eliminate shorefishery and mariculture/aquatic farming programs.
- Reduce land use permitting activities.
- Reduce land leasing program activities.

Impacts to Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands Management

- Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHT) lands are managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on behalf of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. The Trust Land Office (TLO) within DNR is responsible for all aspects of AMHT land management unless the TLO delegates responsibility to other DNR divisions pursuant to a written agreement.
- Accordingly, the TLO has contracted with the Division of Land (DOL) for assistance in protecting Trust Land values and generating revenues from the Trust surface estate. The DOL currently assists the TLO in the following areas of AMHT land management:
 - Application receipt and adjudication
 - Lease and contract administration
 - Title research and maintenance
 - Field inspections
 - Decision document preparation
 - Public notice
 - regulatory enforcement
 - Entitlement acquisition

Budget reductions projected for the Division of Land for FY 98 will undoubtedly have an impact on TLO management of AMHT lands. Impacts will likely include:

1. Increased costs due to contracting with third parties
2. Reduction in response time to applications
3. Less field presence
4. Postponement of entitlement acquisition

Additionally, the TLO, like the private sector, relies on the DOL for certain regulatory actions. The effects of a DOL operational fund shortfall will affect the TLO as it will affect the private sector - if the DOL is unable to respond to regulatory actions as before, projects will be delayed.

4. Public customers will experience prolonged delays for land authorizations and even greater delays for activities requiring field work, surveys, appraisals, and title work.
5. Services provided to other state agencies will be reduced causing delays to resource use such as oil and gas leasing, DOT/PF road construction, large mining development projects evaluation and authorization, receiving title to state land from the federal government, assistance with timber sales, agriculture contracts, and mental health lands application adjudication.

Impact to Division of Oil and Gas

- The Area-Wide leasing program was established through legislation passed last session. This program accelerates the leasing program and when fully implemented in 1999 it will mean that virtually all available state land on the North Slope, in the Beaufort Sea, and in Cook Inlet will be available for lease on a yearly basis. This program helps Alaska to remain competitive in the international marketplace. The Division of Land does much of the title work for these lands. Since drilling cannot commence until clear title is established, it makes little sense to create a bottleneck in an otherwise very streamlined program.
- If the Special Masters' decision is upheld by the Supreme Court (decision expected this summer), Alaska will come into possession of the lagoonal areas around ANWR. Naturally, we would like to get these lands into our Area-Wide leasing program as soon as possible. First the lands have to be surveyed. Budget cuts contemplated by the House Budget Subcommittee will delay this work.

Impacts to Division of Mining and the Mining Industry

- Conveyances for Potential Large Mines will be delayed a few years. DMWM works with national mining firms to accelerate conveyance to land with significant industry activity. Our goal is to allow large mines to come into production on state, not federal land. These conveyances are dependent on the Title Section within Division of Land. If conveyances slow down, we can expect that land title for some important mineral prospects will be set back by two or more years. This could delay future production where important mineral properties await state conveyance.
- Conveyances for Alaskan Placer Miners delay causes some placer miners to go bankrupt. BLM's recently proposed regulations will require placer miners on federal land to put up a large cash bond. If enacted, the regulations will eliminate the ability for most placer miners to operate on federal land. We expect these miners to quickly plead for state to accelerate Tentative Approval (TA), which would allow them to operate on state rather than federal mining claims. The conveyance work for the many small placer claims requires significant work by the Title Section within Division of Land. This will almost certainly not be possible in light of the proposed cuts.

- Assertion of RS2477: Some of Alaska will Become Off-limits to Development. We assume that budget cuts of this magnitude will slow or stop Division of Land from asserting state management of RS 2477 access routes. These routes can be critical for access to some state and private land. Without them, the land becomes essentially inaccessible for development.
- Material Sales: Delay. To the extent that the proposed cuts delay material sales by Division of Land, the cuts may also delay mining operations that are dependent on the sales for building roads or other facilities. Off-site material sales occur for a number of the larger mines. Both Fort Knox and Usibelli Coal Mines have used state material sites for their development.
- Land Classification: Delay. Large mining projects frequently require off-lease development. Where a land-use plan has not been completed, state law requires a site-specific plan to proceed land classification before the lease can be issued. Lack of staff can delay these activities.
- Mineral Opening Orders: Delay. We expect that the few mineral opening orders that the state processes each year will be significantly delayed.

Impacts to Division of Forestry

- The Division of Land supports the Division of Forestry and the forest industry by providing surveys, title searches, site-specific plans, and rights-of-way for timber sales and permits and leases for log transfer facilities and other development sites. This year for example, sorely needed timber sales to local operations on Wrangell Island would have been delayed without planning support from the Division of Land. Division staff also provided surveys for spruce bark beetle timber salvage sales on the Kenai Peninsula, and work with Forestry staff on access authorizations on a regular basis.

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1997

LAW OFFICES OF
ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
ANCHORAGE AND STATEWIDE OFFICE
1018 WEST SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 200
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1863
TELEPHONE (907) 278-6282
FAX (907) 278-7417

March 20, 1997

Honorable Mark Hanley
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mail & Telefax

Re: Alaska Legal Services Corporation - House Finance Committee

Dear Representative Hanley:

Mr. Hanley, as Co-Chair of the House Finance Committee, you will soon be reviewing and approving a recommended budget for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs (C&RA). The House C&RA Sub-Committee Budget includes, in the Office of the Commissioner budget line, a \$100,000 grant for Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC). This is the same amount received by ALSC during state FY'97, and a reduction from the \$261,000 received in state FY'96.

Enclosed are four attachments which may assist you in reviewing this appropriation: (1) the Program Profile which describes the programs services; (2) the State Funding and Staffing Trends graph which details the downward trend in state support; (3) a letter of support from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and, (4) an editorial praising the work of the ALSC Pro Bono Program.

In the past three years, ALSC has closed offices in Dillingham, Kodiak, Kotzebue, and Nome. The offices in Bethel and Ketchikan are currently hanging by a thread. Unfortunately, the federal share, which was reduced by almost \$1 million in 1996 and 1997, could easily be reduced again. Please keep these facts in mind when reviewing this relatively small part of the State of Alaska budget.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



Robert K. Hickerson
Executive Director

/rkh

Attachments: (4)

Alaska Native Coalition

on

Employment and Training

320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300

Juneau, AK 99801

(907)586-1432/Fax (907)586-8970

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MAR 20 1997

Aleutian-Pribilof
Island Association

Association of Village
Council Presidents

Bristol Bay Native
Association

Central Council
Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes Alaska

Cook Inlet
Tribal Council

Chugachmit

Kawerak, Inc.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Kodiak Area
Native Association

Manililaq Manpower

Metlakatla Indian
Community

Orutsaramuit Native
Council

Tanana Chiefs
Conference, Inc.

ANCET Officers

Sharon Olsen, CCHITA
Chairperson

Alexie Morris, AVCP
Vice Chairperson

Connie Hogue, KANA
Secretary

Ruthie Monroe, MM
Treasurer

March 19, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHSS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive full appropriation of the \$6.6 million in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to double current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,



Sharon Olsen
ANCET Chairperson

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1997

March 18, 1997

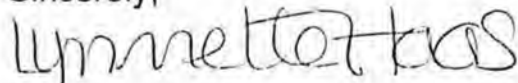
To : Mark Hanley

I am writing to you regarding the budget for Developmental Disabilities. I am concerned that this may be an area that you will consider cutting programs. I am the parent of a severely disabled child. I know that without the programs available for my daughter, our family would have given up hope. I ask that when you consider the Health and Social Services budget, please don't forget those individuals out there that are disabled and can't do much for themselves. Remember my job is 24 hours a day, and even though it is difficult, I am willing to do it, but I can't, if programs for my daughter, Katie, suffer cut-backs. Please remember her when you make important decisions.

I would like to bring to your attention that this area received a 19% cut back in 1987 and we have never regained any of that money back. In fact, we have eroded the present programs available, by having more people needing service. When you think of that fact, we have taken a cut each year, and still we have a waitlist.

Thank-you for you time. I don't envy your job!

Sincerely,



Lynnette Haas
Soldotna

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	3/19/97	# of pages	1
To	Representative Hanley	From	Frances Andringa		
Co./Dept.		Co.	Politician		
Phone #	907 465-4935	Phone #	276-6661		
Fax #	907 465-2418	Fax #	276-5042		

March 19, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hanley:

The Finance Sub-Committee is considering reducing the amount of the Child Care Grant by One Million Dollars!

Please reconsider!

Quality Child Care is important because all children deserve a safe, nurturing, caring environment.

Quality Child Care is important to me because I have three children and our family is in a position where I must work. Many other families are in the same position. Our children's safety and well-being should not be put in jeopardy because quality child care is not available.

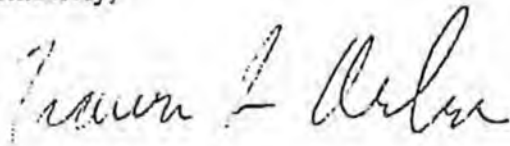
Quality Child Care should be readily available to all children regardless of their parents ability to pay for it. Cutting the Child Care Grant will cause costs for quality programs to rise, eliminate incentives for quality centers to accept children who receive subsidy, and diminish the quality of child care.

Quality Child Care is a basic necessity and there are not enough **quality** programs available in Alaska now. Cutting the Child Care Grant will be detrimental to our children and families. Please Reconsider!!

I would like to know what your actions are regarding Child Care issues.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Frances L. Andringa
3534 Sherrie
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
907 337-4646

Shishmaref Emergency Services, Inc.

P.O. BOX 72147
SHISHMAREF, AK 99772-2147
PHONE NUMBER: (907) 649-2150
FAX NUMBER: (907) 649-2161

March 11, 1997

To: Senator Al Adams

State Capital

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Ref: Proposal

From: Robert C. Iyatunguk
S.E.S. , S.A.R. President

Enclosed is a copy of the recent S.E.S.,S.A.R. proposal. We as a search and rescue organization have been busy this season with ten search operations since November of 1996.

As volunteers, the organization needs these snowmachines for future search operations. On just about every operation, we have had to send for a request for replacing broken equipment with the hope that in the end, the state would grant our requests. This reason being so because the searchers that goes out to do the searches has been volunteering thier own as well. These snowmachines that the volunteers use on search operations has been put to use such as hauling ice, hunting expeditions, and other numerous activities that is normal to every day "bush" life. We could mention the other equipment such as sleds and other personal equipment that is needed in search operations but right now we want to focus on the snowmachines since they are the equipment that usually needs to be fixed during or after a search operation.

If the proposal is granted and we do get the snowmachines, the organization will make sure that these equipment are well cared for and put under lock and key, only to be used when search operations do occur.

The S.E.S. Board needs your support on this important matter. If you or your staff have any questions or more information, please feel free to contact our office at the address given on our letter head. Thank you for your time and attention.

Gov. TONY KNOWLES

cc. to: Senator Al Adams
Senator Jim Duncan
Senator Mike Miller
Senator Drue Pearce
Senator Bert Sharp
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Gail Phillips
Representative Brian Porter
Representative Gene Therriault
Trooper SGT HARRINGTON

SHISHMAREF EMERGENCY SERVICE - SEARCH AND RESCUE

PO Box 72147

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772-2147

October 1, 1996

Senator Al Adams
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99803

Dear Sir:

Below is the proposal you requested that I submit to your office. In it, we are requesting \$42, 825 for purchase of six 1997 Polaris XLT touring snowmobiles for emergency services on the Seward Peninsula (Wales, Brevig Mission, Teller, and Shishmaref vicinity) and Nana Region going toward Cape Espenberg, Deering, Buckland, and Kotzebue.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO:

The Search and Rescue was first formed in Shishmaref in 1974. Over the years, the name changed to Shishmaref Emergency Services. Throughout this period, the work has been done by conscientious volunteers year-round by land, sea, and air.

Each year averages between 56 - 60 individuals are rescued on the Seward Peninsula alone. Of these rescues, the majority are done in the winter through the use of snow mobiles.

After a call has come in, the person is described, information about last known whereabouts, health condition, etc. is gathered. The state troopers are notified and authorization is requested by SES for a search. Once this is approved, we are alerted to "Search Readiness" irregardless of weather conditions. The search procedure goes on from this point 24 hours a day for as long as it takes.

There is a 24 hour rotation of teams called a "Six Pack" This group is consisted of Team Leader, Assistant Team Leader, Radio Technician Operator, Assistant Radio Technician, Emergency Trauma Technician and Assistant Emergency Trauma Technician. This six-pack may break into smaller teams as required to cover more ground in less time. Radio connection is maintained with the home base, local and regional medical personnel, and law enforcement agencies. such as with the State Troopers, Civil Air Patrol, Coast Guard, and Army Air National Guard.

When the individual is found, the SES team notifies the home base headquarters and works with all necessary to assure a medically sound plan of rescue.

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SYSTEM:

For years, individual volunteers have used their snow mobiles and personal equipment to do search and rescue. In each case, there is always the possibility that the persons who are helping - may end up being a part of the problem because of the breaking down of their own machines. In reality, this has happened several times.

SHISHMAREF EMERGENCY SERVICE - SEARCH AND RESCUE

PO Box 72147

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772-2147

In addition to near-abortion of missions and costly delays, there is always the possibility that the emergency health status of the person being rescued may end in serious medical difficulty or death because of malfunction of equipment. For this reason, it is necessary to have six adequate snow mobiles in excellent repair and readiness to be used in emergency efforts for two search-and-rescue teams of three persons each.

Storage and maintenance of equipment will be done under the supervision of the SES Board of Directors and the City of Shishmaref. The snow mobiles will be stored in the City garage under lock and key to assure readiness.

We seek your response as soon as you are able to provide it. Should there be any questions, please feel free to call me at (907) 649-4811. Thank you for your time and understanding on this important issue.

Sincerely

Robert C. Iyatunguk
Robert C. Iyatunguk
S.E.S. S& R President

cc City of Shishmaref

REP. REGGIE JOULE
P.O. BOX 673
KOTZEBUE, AK
99752

SHISHMAREF EMERGENCY SERVICE - SEARCH AND RESCUE

PO Box 72147

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772-2147

BUDGET

Item Description	Requested Funds	Other Sources of Funds
6 1997 Polaris XLT Touring Snow Mobiles @ \$7,674.45 each,	\$46,047	
Freight @ 450 ea x 6 machines	<u>2,700.00</u>	
Subtotal Amount:	48,746.70	
Maintenance (Plugs, Oil, belts etc)	-0-	Total Amount reimbursed by State Troopers
Gas	-0-	Same
Per Diem Expenses (food, replacement of arctic clothing, etc)	-0-	Same
Repairs	-0-	Same

DISTRIBUTED BY
REP. MARK HODGINS

PETRO MARINE SERVICES

Petroleum Marketing to the Marine Industry

March 17, 1997

RECEIVED
MAR 18 1997

The Editor
Anchorage Daily News
P.O. Box 149001
Anchorage, AK 99514

FAX: (907) 258-2157

Dear Editor,

In response to your March 12th editorial "DEC's Mission," as a "dissatisfied individual" I offer an opposing viewpoint.

I would like to commend Rep. Mark Hodgins for taking a strong leadership position by pointing out that there are some serious and significant problems with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. As President/CEO of an Alaskan petroleum marketing and distributing company with a presence in 18 communities in our state, I have regrettably concluded the underlying problem with ADEC can be summarized in an eight letter word . . . ATTITUDE. From my perspective, an attitude that transcends administrations reveals the department is essentially managed by upper level, non-appointed career bureaucrats who seemingly relish in flexing their broad range of authority.

In your editorial, you note Rep. Hodgins has stated that ADEC's mission has served more to harass people than to protect the environment. He is quite correct! However, past legislatures must also be held accountable for passing a maze of environmental regulation most of which was driven by emotion in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez tragedy. Accordingly, it is essential for everyone to realize there is a cost to meeting regulations, whether irrational or otherwise, and that this additional cost is being borne by the end-use consumer throughout Alaska.

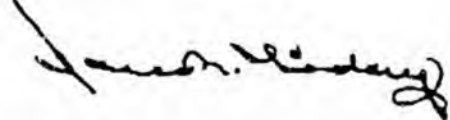
You counter Rep. Hodgins' proposal by generalizing on his assessment of ADEC as being representative of a few dissatisfied individuals. Obviously, the news media does not generate the regulatory oversight that we in the fuel business do. Even for those of us who accept environmental stewardship as a reasonable obligation, when consistently exposed to an endless array of arrogance, over zealousness and intimidation a change in style and philosophy seems appropriate. Clearly, ADEC does not need a task force to study it nor a self-serving report card on "how great thou art."

Page Two
Letter to the Editor
March 17, 1997

As a constructive suggestion, the department should adopt a more cooperative and less confrontational approach to dealing with business and industry, similar to the manner exhibited by the Department of Natural Resources.

Rather than ridiculing Rep. Hodgins maybe a bit of praise is in order for providing ADEC with a long overdue "wake-up" call.

Sincerely,



Dale R. Lindsey, President/CEO
Harbor Enterprises, Inc.

PETRO MARINE SERVICES

Petroleum Marketing to the Marine Industry



Fairbanks North Star Borough

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1000

March 18, 1997

The Honorable Vic Kohring
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kohring,

It is my understanding that the House Finance Subcommittee for DEC is considering a recommendation to delete funding for the entire Solid Waste Division in the Department. I understand they wish to eliminate one program completely, rather than crippling a number of programs. If the Solid Waste Division is not funded in DEC's budget, the impact to the Fairbanks North Star Borough will be severe.

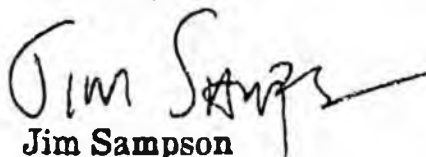
By deleting the State solid waste program, the Fairbanks North Star Borough will be forced to operate under US EPA regulations. Flexibility for landfill design and closure will be lost. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is currently in the process of constructing a new landfill adjacent to our existing landfill. This new landfill uses a less costly alternate liner design that DEC can accept. Using the EPA Subtitle D required liner will cost us an additional \$14,000,000 over the life of the new landfill.

We have also proposed an alternate cover for closure of our existing landfill. If we are required to follow EPA Subtitle D rules, the cover material will cost us an additional \$1,000,000. Additionally, we are required to monitor the groundwater for the existing site. EPA rules will cost the borough an additional \$4000 per testing event and will increase the number of required tests annually.

Although you may be reducing the general fund operating budget by \$800,000, you are in fact costing the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents \$15,000,000 over the life of our landfill project. I respectfully

request that you restore funding to DEC's budget that allows the State to regulate solid waste. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jim Sampson
Borough Mayor

cc: Commissioner Michelle Brown, DEC
Representative Gene Therriault
Representative Mark Hanley
Representative John Davies
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative Jeannette James
Representative Al Vezey
Representative Tom Brice
Senator Mike Miller
Senator Bert Sharp
Senator Gary Wilken
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

Dear Senators & Representatives,

Re: Proposed cut to The Alaska Division of Tourism

We, being self employed business owners dependent upon Tourism, wish to express our concern over this proposal.

Have you really given any thought & consideration to the effect this radical move to, virtually eliminate, the Tourism budget. This would put many small operators out of business, cause others to loose jobs, reduce revenue to the state and heavily impact all Alaska Business, most especially in communities almost totally dependent on Tourism.

The promotion to the European market renders many highway travelers.

How will you help the people this proposal will put out of work. Please reconsider this Proposal.

cc:

Vic Kobring

Mark Hanley

Drue Pearce

Georgiana Lincoln

Strene Nicoli

A.V.A.

Paul & Geneva L. Smith

Snowshoe Motel & Gift Shop

P.O. Box 559

Josh Alaska 99780

PR. 907-883-4181

FAX: 907 883-4512

3-19-97

Senator Hanely,

I oppose your operating budget recommendations, funding cuts for The Dept. Of Health & Social Services for FY98. The results of your recommendations will adversely affect poor and disabled people in the state of Alaska. It is an outrage to cut programs for people who are trying to survive day by day and make their lives better.

My 15 year old son is challenged with Autism. Everyday it is a struggle for him to fit into the mainstream population here in Sitka, but with the help of programs, you are recommending for funding cuts, he is learning to be a contributing member of our community.

Again I disagree with your recommended budget for FY98. It will do no good to cut funding to programs that help people in need. It will only cause the need for more spending in the future.

Thank-you,

/s/Daleen Scott-Baer
102 Sunset Dr.
Sitka, Ak. 99835
747-7825

c.c. Rep. Ben Grassendorf
Senator Robin Taylor

HEALTHY FAMILIES - MT. VIEW

3701A Mt. View Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907)278-1234



F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: 3/19/97

TIME: 4:29 PM

TO: Mark Hanley, Chair PHONE: 907-465-4939
House Finance Subcommittee FAX: 907-465-2418

FROM: Pat Beaugard PHONE: 907/278-1234
Program Coordinator FAX: 907/278-1240

RE: Funding for Healthy Families Alaska

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

Message

Enclosed are letters from program participants.
Please take time to read these & consider
the families with newborns who would be at
risk if funding is cut!

Dear Legislator,

I am the Grandmother of an infant who is receiving services through Healthy Families Mountain View. I would like to take this chance to tell you about some of the helpful things they have done.

They run a lending library of books which are very helpful in the raising of my grand son. They also have a lending library of the more expensive Fisher Price toys which are educational and hence too expensive for my daughter to afford on her own.

The weekly visits from their friendly staff help guide my daughter in the paths of good parenting.

I would like to take more time to tell you of their wonderful support but the baby is crying & I must go.

Please consider continuing their funding

Sincerely,

Mary M Carroll-Herring
Johnathon Herring's Grandmother

To: Legislator

I'm writing in testimony that Healthy Families PROGRAM. I feel they are a big help to myself as well, as many young moms in the program. we need help and support with new things in life like understanding what's go on in there new life with new responsibility of their own.

I speak in behalf of Jackie in Mountain View, she has been a great help to myself and my children, her guiding me in the right direction with my everyday problems is something that take understanding, friendship and alot more. Healthy Family program is important to me and my family as a single parent and also very effective.

* PLEASE, do not cut funding for this program

Thank you,
Ernetta Carmack
3031 Birchwood #3
Anchorage, AK 99518
582-6583

RECEIVED

MAR 19 1997

Pam Fritz
Family Child Care
2410 Hastings Lane
Anchorage, AK 99504
338-7789

March 15, 1997

Mark Hanley, Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: **CHILD CARE GRANT FUNDS**

Dear Representative Hanley,

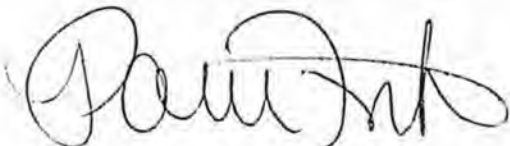
I am a National Accredited Family Child Care Provider. I have earned my Child Development Associates credential from Washington D.C. and have graduated UAA with my Early Childhood Certificate. I am a strong advocate for quality care and for family child care providers.

I am a family child care provider and a recipient of the Child Care Grant Program since 1991. These funds are important to me and the children and families I serve. These funds have allowed me to purchase educational supplies for the children. I have been receiving a check in the amount of \$70-100 each month to use for curriculum items such as, toys, paper, crayons and books. These funds have allowed me to keep informed on the latest teaching techniques and have enhanced the quality of the children early care and education.

Family child care providers are professional (very) small business owners. Generally in the business of caring and educating young children for no profit, no insurance, no paid leave time, no retirement. Most providers have chosen this business for the love of the children. These recent **welfare reform** issues are not taking from us the providers, they are taking from the children who benefit from the programs and from the families with child care expenses eating most of their paychecks. As provider, we have also just experienced of about 50% in our Federal Food Program. If the **Child Care Grant Program is cut** everyone will feel a **drastic loss of quality and major increased rates**.

I personally would have to raise my rates per child \$70-80 per month. To maintain the same expenses as before the cuts.

These Alaskan kids deserve your support.



STARBRIGHT

3531 East Tudor
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 562-5679

Honorable Mark Hanley
Co Chair, Finance committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811
March 19, 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley:

It has come to my attention that 2.2 million dollars is going to be cut from the Child Care Grant Program. Whether this is rumor, or an exaggeration, please let me tell you how this will affect my business. Recently, with budget cuts, the subsidized parents who are on DCAP, Jobs, and other grant programs have had policies for reimbursement changed. In the past, I have already taken a beating by enrolling subsidized parents, because very often they can not pay their percentage of the tuition not paid by these grant programs. Now, the subsidies are based on a daily "attendance" rate which means that when they are not here, I am not paid at all. The problem is that I still have to provide the services, teachers, etc. whether they are here or not. Because many of these parents are high-risk, their children end up ill more often, they lose their jobs more often, or they have personal problems that prevent them from getting their children in. In other words, there is also a high turnover rate. I'm losing money on these people. Why should I let them attend my childcare? I believe in supporting families and scholarshiping needy people who are trying hard. But the burden is becoming unbearable. I can not continue to operate a quality program if we keep losing the small subsidies we are presently getting.

I can not understand how our government considers subsidizing early childhood programs an expendable item. The average preschooler's tuition is 6000.00 dollars per year. Even with the minuscule Child Care Grant program, I only receive an annual contribution of approximately 250.00 per preschooler. Tell me how this is justified? How can both parents (if there are even two) afford to continue bearing the burden of this cost. Childcare for two children is a luxury at 12,000 per year. But wait a minute! It's a necessity to low and middle income parents. To parents coming off of welfare, there is no way for them to work without it.

The people and government of this country need a wake up call! Society has made a transition. Read the statistics. Both parents need to work (especially the poorer ones), so why isn't the government (and the populace) contributing to the costs of early childhood education? We pay taxes that provide every citizen with an elementary education. We provide public high school education. Taxpayers also subsidize colleges. What about subsidizing, or better yet, paying for the care and education of our youngest children? The ages from 0-5 are the most important developmental years of a child's life.

Most parents can not afford to stay home to take care of their children. You want to get single parents off welfare? You better be able to offer them childcare. And not substandard child care. Research shows that if children attend high quality programs, and receive quality parenting at home, that they will not be damaged. They will continue to develop physically, socially, and



"Where excellence in teaching makes the difference!"

cognitively at an acceptable level. But children who come from low socio-economic and at-risk families are very vulnerable. These children must be provided with a quality program that offers enriching experiences to help them grow into productive, happy individuals who can eventually contribute to our society.

I guarantee, neither I nor other programs can afford to offer the quality care that is needed if you keep cutting the little money that we have. What we need is more money, not less. I hope you are not alive when this generation of children grows up to run the country. Maybe the legislators should think about the generation of teen gangs that we have running the streets these days. Nobody was home to take care of these kids. Maybe if they had been offered the quality childcare and before/after care that they needed (and still need), they wouldn't be so screwed up.

At any rate, the point is, you legislators want to get folks off welfare? Don't cut money away from the very programs that have been helping to achieve this.

DON'T TAKE AWAY ANY MORE FROM THESE FUTURE GENERATIONS!

The wealth of a country (and state) is the level of education of it's future generation.

Let us keep our minuscule subsidies, and please work harder to get us more money.

Sincerely,



Kim Borgatta
Director of a quality program and proud of it.

22-423

(u)

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

March 17, 1996

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

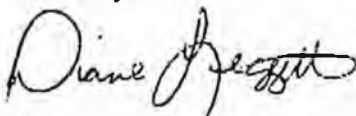
Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHHS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive *full appropriation of the \$6.6 million* in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to *double* current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,



Diane Leggett
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

March 18, 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I can't believe what I am reading about the FY98 budget recommendations coming from the House Finance Subcommittee for Health and Social Services.

Have we lost all sense of reason and humanity? Apart from this not making any sense in terms of health; safety; concern for the good of the community of our State; humaneness; child protection; family preservation; our being compassionate, civilized people; and on and on and on... IT ALSO MAKES NO DOLLARS SENSE!!!

What do we think will happen to folks who cannot get prostheses, medical equipment and supplies, etc, etc? They become less productive, increasingly dependent - DO WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE COST OF CARE IS AT THAT LEVEL? Custodial and nursing care? Hospital vs in-home? That doesn't even address the human cost - the self-esteem, dignity, self-worth, the added stress to families. What about the literal pain and suffering related to not being able to obtain dental, and other services? Why the needless isolation of those needing hearing and vision services?

WHAT DO WE THINK WILL HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS UNABLE TO OBTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - ALREADY CUT TO AN UNACCEPTABLE LOW? Don't we realize that these services now help to keep families intact as their caregivers for each other - barely - and for many this is not nearly enough. WHAT ON EARTH DO WE THINK THE COST OF OUT OF HOME CARE IS? OF EVEN ONE DAY OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION? Again, not even to chance to think about the emotional cost... somehow I feel that these arguments will not sway those proposing such measures.

Must Alaska enter the Dark Ages? Must we sell out our sense - and our sensibilities? Do we truly care more for fish and oil than women and children? I fear the answers to these questions today. And I fear that many have no shame or embarrassment in their answers.

Are we so proud of how we lead the nation in child physical and sexual abuse and neglect, that we want to dramatically reduce the number of child protective service workers? This is so appalling. This is so sad.

We should be doing everything we possibly can to protect our citizens. If we won't do it because it's the right thing to do, then, please, do it because it makes money sense. Those supporting these recommendations must be held accountable for the social, medical, emotional and financial cost to us in the future - the immediate future, and then it will only worsen with time.

I have always enjoyed and been proud saying I'm an Alaskan. Today I am not.

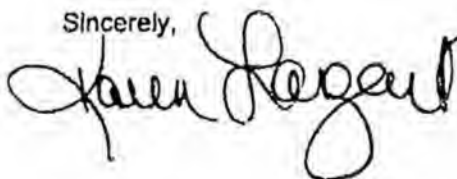
And, on top of it all, Legislators want a raise?????????????????

How can we even think about opening our envelopes to pull out our Permanent Fund Dividend checks and exchange them for 4-wheelers and Hawaii trips, when do things such as this.

And, WE ARE NOT A POOR STATE. WE ARE A WEALTHY STATE (no, I do not even want to hear a rebuttal of that). But we have a very, very weak soul.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PREVENT THIS.

Sincerely,



Karen Largent
17420 Mountainside Village Dr. Anchorage 99516



Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Richard P. Raugust, M.D.
Eric M. Tallan, M.D.
Bruce G. Whipple, M.D.

Audiology
Arthur F. Larson, M.S., CCC-A

March 17, 1997

Rep. Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am writing this letter as a concerned physician on behalf of Alaskan Medicaid recipients. I have been informed that the legislature is currently considering modifications to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services budget that would eliminate 4.65 million dollars from the current Medicaid budget. As you know, this results in an additional cut of 4.65 millions dollars of federal matching funds, resulting in a total cut of 9.3 million dollars. The cost of providing patient care is ever increasing, as technology advances and new treatments become available. Thus, in an environment of increasing medical costs, not only is the Medicaid budget not being increased or maintained, but is facing further cuts.

I would like to bring to your attention certain features of health care in Alaska, which are unlike any other state in the union:

- 1) Alaska has a large subsistence and seasonal population that cannot afford, or do not receive health care benefits.
- 2) There are no so-called charity hospitals that receive state monies to provide care to the indigent.
- 3) There are no teaching hospitals staffed by resident or student physicians to provide care to the uninsured population.
- 4) Alaska's Medicaid population consists primarily of children. As a result, the private sector is called upon to provide care to all uninsured and Medicaid patients without the assistance of government subsidy or the use of resident physicians or medical students. Moreover, if further cuts are made, the majority of those beneficiaries who will be affected are children.

Finally, I would like to point out my concern that lobbyists of nursing homes, hospitals, and other well-organized institutions

Representative Mark Hanley
March 17, 1997

Page 2

will likely protect their portion of the Medicaid budget, forcing these cuts onto the physicians who provide the actual care, and the administrators that oversee and regulate hospital and nursing home services. I thus hope that you will reconsider the Medicaid cuts that have been proposed and the way in which these cuts are to be made.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Tallan, M.D.

EMT:ecr

cc: Bob Labbe
P.O. Box 110660
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0660

Howard L. Hedges
P.O. Box 779
Homer, Alaska 99603-0779
(907)-235-2701
e-mail: hhedges@capaccess.org

March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building Room #507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(FAX): 907-465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

I have just received the news of the proposed cuts to the FY 98 Operating Budget and how that relates to the state Medicaid program.

Year after year it seems that the House and Senate Finance Committees do not think through the results of their actions when cutting budgets. This latest proposal appears to be the most irresponsible course you folks have ever taken.

I am a recipient of Medicaid services through the State of Alaska. I was uninsured at the time of a diabetes induced stroke in 1993. Once our family resources were depleted I qualified for Medical Assistance. I was not able to secure medical insurance because the diabetes was considered a preexisting condition. I have checked into health insurance in anticipation of the HSS committee actions and the ONLY insurance I can get is through the state...\$705 per month with a \$5,000 deductible. Presently my monthly medications and supplies total over \$1700.00; medications & supplies I need to keep my diabetes and other complications somewhat stable allowing me to stay alive. I have an insulin pump that would be relegated to a role of a \$4000.00 paperweight. I could get insulin but would have no way to introduce it into my body. At various times in the year I am shackled to an oxygen tank due to respiratory complications from the stroke. As it stands if these cuts go through, I will not be able to procure the regulator, tanks, and nasal cannulas necessary to deliver the oxygen into my body.

Your ISS Recommendations indicate the termination of the Hold-Harmless provision which enables low income citizens to participate in the Permanent Fund program. These dividends do not go for vacations to Hawaii or Mexico. Our family has used past dividends to buy fuel oil for our heating system and to pay for services and equipment not covered under the Medicaid Options list.

These cuts will only serve to put a greater strain on the state's finances as progressive diseases take a greater toll without close management. Since euthanasia has not become a state option (yet) the long-range financial impact of warehousing the chronically ill and disabled will be enormous. Give me the opportunity and resources to manage my disease and disability which in turn will save the state money!

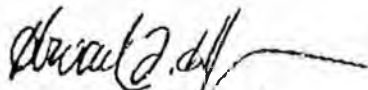
I understand the need for cuts in the state's operations but these cuts go to a part of the population that has absolutely no recourse in securing care. Eventually the greed of the population will have to be addressed. There are people out there screaming for the legislature not to touch the Dividend. How many of these screamers are there and how many have no health insurance? What programs will there be to assist them through a

Hedges letter Page 2

catastrophic event?

I ask you to revisit your recommendations while looking at the points mentioned above. Your proposed cuts will literally kill hundreds of human beings. That is not a note of speculation but an eventual truth.

Sincerely,



Howard L. Hedges

cc: Representative Gail Phillips
Senator John Torgerson
Senator Jerry Ward

Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training

320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300

Juneau, AK 99801

(907)586-1432/Fax (907)586-8970

Aleutian-Pribilof
Island Association

Association of Village
Council Presidents

Bristol Bay Native
Association

Central Council
Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes Alaska

Cook Inlet
Tribal Council

Chugachmit

Kaverak, Inc.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Kodiak Area
Native Association

Manililaq Manpower

Metlakatla Indian
Community

Orutsaramuit Native
Council

Tanana Chiefs
Conference, Inc.

ANCET Officers

Sharon Olsen, CCTHITA
Chairperson

Alexie Morris, AVCP
Vice Chairperson

Connie Hogue, KANA
Secretary

Ruthie Monroc, MM
Treasurer

March 19, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHSS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive full appropriation of the \$6.6 million in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to double current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,



Sharon Olsen
ANCET Chairperson

March 18, 1997

To: **Representative Mark Hanley**
Finance Committee Co-Chair, AK State Legislature

Re: Child Care Grant

Dear Mr. Hanley:

As you know, the Finance Committee is considering reducing Child Care Grant monies. While we all know the State must trim its budget, please don't make any cuts to such an important grant.

Quality early education with full-time parenting makes a big difference in a child's life ... so it stands to reason that it makes a big difference in our society. But in today's economy both parents often must work to pay the mortgage and put food on the table. This means that many middle-class families can neither provide full-time parenting *nor* afford good pre-school education. This also means the gulf between the upper-class and the rest of the population grows larger with each generation, and that the fabric of our society changes as more children are raised by strangers in group facilities. **Our children, and society, lose out from the beginning.**

But at the very least, the Child Care Grant helps to provide quality care and education for all children by helping off-set costs for child care programs. **With this financial assistance, reputable child-care with high standards is within the financial reach of low and middle class families.** Without it, we are consigned to over-crowded facilities which can't offer high enough pay to attract reputable teachers or to keep them very long.

Let me give you a first-hand example. My husband and I pay \$550 a month, plus special activity fees and lunch fees, to put one child in a pre-school child care facility on a full-time basis. Its a very good school that meets the same standards as some of the higher cost facilities. However, at \$550 a month, we are spending 20% of our take-home pay on child-care. If this school loses the funding available through the Child Care Grant, it must either decrease its standards or raise the tuition. Either way, our child will lose because we could not afford to stay if tuition was raised. **As it is, we are borrowing from our future (ie, we have no savings) to pay the tuition. And we are not alone; this is the situation for many of our friends today.**

Please, help our families and support our society's future by keeping the Child Care Grant at its current allocation. Thank you. And I look forward to hearing from you on how you intend to act on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathy Curtis-Johnson
P.O. Box 241503
Anchorage, AK 99524
907-243-7338

13-211
4



O.T. KIDS, Inc.

PO Box 1118

Homer, Alaska 99603

U.S.A.

SUSIE AMUNDSON, MS, OTR/L
Executive Director

MARTIN ZELLER, J.D.
Business Manager

March 19, 1997

Mr. Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I write to you as a concerned citizen from the Homer area and as an occupational therapist. In a nutshell, occupational therapy is a service with individual with disabilities to allow them to function more competently within their environment and with others. Currently, I have no Medicaid/Medicare clients on my professional caseload but I am very concerned about these recipients. My letter serves as an advocacy for people on Medicaid/Medicare.

Today I heard from a colleague that the state legislature is contemplating further cuts to Medicare/Medicaid programs. The reduction of service for visual, dental and hearing needs occurred a couple years ago leaving families with young and old members in dire need of these services. Although you and I and all of the legislative members can run out and get glasses, dentures, and hearing aids at any time -- many others in Alaska cannot. For them to function in the every day world, these are not extravagant necessities.

The proposed cuts to mammography, prosthetics, medical supplies and equipment, and rehabilitative services are ghastly. American women have the highest rate of breast cancer in the world (*Health, March 1997*) and mammography is the number one best detector of this disease. Although the services of prosthetics, medical equipment, and rehabilitative services may seem like options to the legislature, they are not if one has a disability. They are necessities and they allow individuals to be more independent in the world so less health care and assistance funds are not needed later. Let's have Alaska be forward thinking!

I propose no cuts to the Medicare/Medicaid program -- only a reinstatement of visual, dental, and hearing services. If we need more money in the state, how about a state income tax to the residents and the many Outsiders who work in the oil industry, commercial fishing, and seasonal tourism? Let them help us with our economic development and social responsibilities. I'm willing to pay!
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susie Amundson

phone (907) 235-0688
fax (907) 235-7564

world wide web
<http://www.alaska.net/~othkids/>

Puffin Heights Montessori School, Inc.
founded in 1982 by Debra Ward

"K Street" (907) 272-5999 "E Street" (907) 258-6036
FAX: 272-5284

1000 West 20th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Fax: 907-465-2418

Dear Representative Mark Hanley

Yesterday I sent a correspondence to you with reference to a proposal by the Finance sub-committee to cut the Child Care Grant Fund by one million dollars. Today I learn I was incorrect. Actually, the proposal is to close the Children's Cabinet and Resource and Referrals entirely, and to cut the Child Care Grant Fund by 2.2 million dollars. These actions are unconscionable. I am interested in a statement on your position in regard to all Programs for Children. We are already struggling to maintain quality standards for Alaska's future generation. Sub-standard conditions which now exist in many programs for children will increase and standards for a safe environment will be overlooked. Soon we will be warehousing children. When dollars used to subsidize and encourage quality programs to accept children whose family is on subsistence decrease, child care costs will increase and programs which now accept Day Care Assistance and other similar programs subsidies will discontinue enrolling families on such programs.

Who will care for these children?

As a small business owner and advocate for quality child care, it is difficult to imagine the absence of Resource and Referrals. I urge you to rethink this proposal and look forward to learning your position on Programs for Children.

In continuing concern for children.

Leslie Ward Barrera
Owner/Director

Affiliated with the American Montessori Society

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: 800.465.4935
fax: . 907.465.2418

The Finance Sub-Committee is considering reducing the amount of the Child Care Grant by ONE MILLION DOLLARS! Please reconsider!

1) Quality Child Care is important to me because *Every family with children deserve the best care they can receive! Children & families must have quality in order to grow and function in their jobs.*

2) The Child Care Grant is important to Alaska's children because

a. Keeps the cost of child care down for all children by

funding programs that provide quality providing care for lower income children

b. Improves the quality of care for my children

provides for training for staff

I would like to know what your actions are regarding Child Care issues.
Thank you

Mary L. Smith

I would also remind you that every child deserves a trained teacher to fulfill his/her potential, -

②... needs a safe, nurturing environment

Why are we the only country who doesn't care about our young & our old? How do we still take their lives!

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: 800-465-4935
fax: 907-465-2418

Rosemarie Brakham
Puffin Heights Montessori Sch!
1800 W. 2nd
Anch. Ak. 99503

The Finance Sub-Committee is considering reducing the amount of the Child Care Grant by ONE MILLION DOLLARS! Please reconsider!

1) Quality Child Care is important to me because

Children are our future and we need to give quality programs to children of your age to better the child's life and our own. Every child has a right to a quality education, it should not be a privilege & I believe if the proposed cuts happen it will become a privilege.

a. Keeps the cost of child care down for all children by

b. Improves the quality of care for my children

I would like to know what your actions are regarding Child Care issues.
Thank you

I am a Montessori teacher at Puffin Heights Montessori Sch in Anchorage - Our program is well-rounded, meeting the physical, academic, cognitive and spirit of the children. In conjunction with my Montessori Credential I have taken many classes @ Chief Ave Connection which is funded by the state. These classes have helped me immensely in the classroom, working with young children.



Era Aviation, Inc.

March 18, 1997

VIA FAX: (907) 465-2418

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Reference: House Finance Committee

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am very concerned with the Proposed Budget from the House Finance Sub-Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. As I understand it, this sub-committee is recommending the elimination of the Division of Tourism.

As you may be aware, Era has become very involved and dependent upon a healthy tourism industry in Alaska. Over the past five years, Era has invested in excess of \$20 million into equipment and facilities to expand our tourism related business. This investment has created many jobs.

Era will be adversely affected by the loss of this agency by:

- The loss of a coordinating agency for the efforts of large and small tour businesses.
- The elimination of the international marketing will seriously hinder Era's efforts to attract customers, both for our helicopter flightseeing business and our new airline service to Whitehorse, Yukon.
- Our Denali and Valdez flightseeing bases will be hit especially hard with the elimination of the highway marketing.
- The elimination of funding for the state to participate in North American Tour Operator marketing will result in loss of valuable leads and recognition for Alaska's tour product.

House Finance Committee
March 18, 1997
Page 2 of 2

In this time of increased competition for the tourist's dollar, both from other states and foreign countries, we cannot back away from Alaska's tourism industry. This is the time to increase spending on state advertising campaigns, not cut it. We have seen too many industries crippled, regulated to near-death, or simply leave the state. Tourism is a growth industry and it needs to be supported and encouraged by the state. I feel that the elimination of this agency would be a devastating mistake.

Yours truly,



Bryan Blixhavn
Senior Vice President
Marketing

BB/bjc



ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/19/97	# of pages	1
To	MARK HANLEY		From	A.N.H.C.	
Co./Dept.			Co.		
Phone #			Phone #	263-5170	
Fax #	465-2418		Fax #	263-5575	

March 18, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) has been named as an important component in Governor Knowles' economic plan for the state and also in Mayor Mystrom's economic plan for the community of Anchorage.

Once built, the ANHC will create over 100 direct jobs, and an annual payroll of \$1.6 million guarantees a number of indirect jobs in association with the ANHC's staff as well as the tourism dollars it will attract. It is projected that summer visitors will spend \$550,000 or more in the gift shop during the first season of operations, and that the existence of a unique attraction like the Alaska Native Heritage Center will encourage visitors to plan for a longer stay in Anchorage, thus creating additional revenues for a variety of local businesses. Furthermore, the ANHC plans to use summer revenues to provide educational programs for all Alaskans, mentorship programs for Native at-risk youth, and job training for positions in the tourism industry.

None of these benefits can occur if Alaska does not maintain a well coordinated plan for tourism development and continue to provide aggressive marketing for our potential visitors.

I urge you to keep the funding for the Division of Tourism and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council at or above previous levels during this delicate transitional period in our State's economy.

Sincerely,

Rick Feller,
Acting President/CEO

March 18, 1997

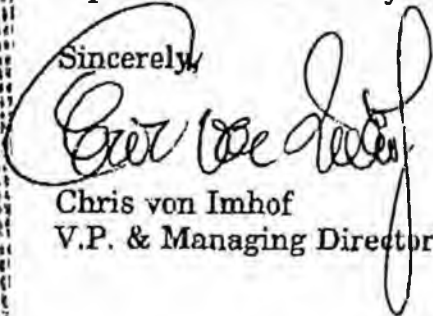
Subject: Division of Tourism Budget

Dear Legislators:

On behalf of The Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel and Alyeska Resort, 450 employees, I would like to state that the Alaska Tourism Industry is a clean renewable resource. It is one of the largest employers in the state and contributes substantially in tax dollars to the state and local economy.

- The tourist industry is very competitive throughout the world; and in order to get our share of the market both the private and public sector need to build an aggressive state tourism promotion program.
- Alaska is losing out to competing destinations. While other states and countries are increasing tourism marketing budgets, Alaska has essentially slashed tourism promotion to less than half of what it was in FY 94.
- It is small businesses, who cannot reach a national travel market alone, that will bear the brunt of massive cuts to tourism promotion.
- This proposal is absolutely contrary to legislators' pledge to promote economic development.
- Eliminating tourism and business development programs will deal a heavy blow new and existing small businesses.
- Most tourism businesses are operated by conservative republicans who need your support.

Sincerely,



Chris von Imhof
V.P. & Managing Director

Thank you

Westmark Juneau

March 18, 1997

House and Senate Finance Committee and Subcommittee Legislators

Dear Legislator,

I am extremely concerned that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development is recommending a budget that will eliminate the Division of Tourism and cut the Alaska Tourism and Marketing Council by over \$1 million.

The tourism industry in Alaska is vital to the overall success of each community. Tourism is a growing segment of Alaska's economic base supplementing declines in other industries such as timber and fishing. If Alaskans wish to have a bright future, we need your support in marketing the state as a visitor destination. All states compete for visitors and if Alaska does not promote itself it will consistently lose market share to other states who have stable promotional programs.

All communities would suffer from these proposed cuts. Local businesses provide solid opportunities to the residents of their respective communities. Tourism opportunities also provide the youth in the communities with a solid career path. Reducing the tourism promotion budget would inhibit these opportunities.

Local businesses do not have the financial ability to market themselves. What these businesses need is a larger effort for promoting the state that ultimately develops interest in these individual products and services.

I ask that you do not reduce funding for the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, nor eliminate the Division of Tourism. The tourism industry needs more support, not less. This industry will continue to become more vital to residents of Alaska in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Butcher

General Manager
Westmark Juneau



Era Aviation, Inc.

March 18, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2418

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley:

We have just been advised that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce and Economic Development is prepared to recommend a budget that will eliminate the Division of Tourism in its entirety and effectively cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council budget by over \$1 million.

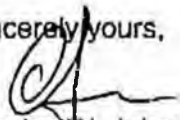
Era Aviation, Inc. has long been active in the oil and gas industry, the fishing industry and most recently, over the last ten years, the tourism business. Our tourism related activity is the only real growth portion of our business lines in Alaska. Over the last couple of years, tourism has actually generated more revenue for our company in Alaska than the oil and gas, and fishing business combined. Era employs over 570 people during the winter season and over 600 during the peak summer season. A significant portion of the jobs we provide to Alaskans are directly related to the tourist business.

The State of Alaska competes not only with tourist destinations in North America but world-wide for our fair share of the tourist dollar. It is imperative that the State of Alaska continue to be actively involved in the promotion of the tourism marketplace. The subcommittees' recommendation is in direct opposition to the legislatures pledge to promote economic development. The elimination of the tourism and business development programs will hurt the small tourism operators and reduce Alaska's ability to compete with other states who are increasing their tourism budgets.

I urge you to reconsider your position and not only retain the existing funding and the Division of Tourism, but consider additional funding in order to foster and develop one of the few growth industries that we have in this state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Charles W. Johnson
President



March 19, 1997

To: Mark Hanley
Legislator
1-907-465-2418

From: Robert Candopoulos
President
Saltwater Safari Company, Inc.

Re: Proposed House of Representatives action on tourism funding

I have recently been notified of the proposed Alaska Division of Tourism elimination. Obviously, I am opposed to any foolish maneuver that would that would negatively impact our state's economy. I am sure that our distinguished House of Representatives just isn't thinking clearly right now and that in time they will come to their senses and realize that tourism is the only industry that Alaska has which has shown a steady increase since statehood. Tourism is Alaska and we all had better realize that or we will drive this state into a vast wasteland. Oil, timber and commercial fishing are the irregular heart beats of this states economy, but tourism beats strong in this state and in the hearts of all Alaskans who are proud of this great land.

Let's quit wasting time and money on stupid proposals such as this and let's start focusing on delegating more money and more power to our state's tourism industry. Alaska is years behind in properly promoting and advertising to the world what we have to offer as a destination place. I can't understand why our House of Representatives would want to push our state further behind by cutting our Division of Tourism. The Division of Tourism is the one organization at the helm to providing our economy with future growth, which will benefit everyone in Alaska.

I personally would like to know what reasoning skills this subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development implemented, which enabled them to come up with such a pointless and ridiculous proposal. They certainly do not appear to be looking out for this states commerce nor do they appear to be looking out for our economic development. On the contrary, they appear to be focused on destroying a booming industry and driving our state into an economic ebb. How would that ever benefit Alaska? Furthermore, I would like to know exactly whom I should credit with this brainstorm come election time.

I hope that my message is heard and I hope that the subcommittee for Commerce and Economic Development will live up to their designated title and find ways to enhance our state's economy. In the mean time, they should learn to embrace organizations that keep Alaska on the right track.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Candopoulos
President
Saltwater Safari Company, Inc.



Alaska Cabaret, Hotel,
Restaurant & Retailers Association

3400 Spinnaker Road, Suite 9 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 274-8133 • Fax: (907) 274-5640
Toll Free in Alaska: (800) 476-2021

Date: March 18, 1997

To: Alaska State Legislature

From: Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association (CHARR)

Subject: Proposed FY98 budget, eliminating the Alaska Department of Tourism.

Dear Representative:

Please consider the consequences of Representative Vic Kohring's proposal to eliminate the Alaska Department of Tourism from the budget for FY98. The tourism industry is one of Alaska's largest employers. The legislature should support, not cut, an industry which creates Alaskan jobs.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Whitehurst
Interim Director, CHARR



FAX MEMO

DATE: March 18, 1997
TO: All Legislators That This May Concern
FROM: Alaska Premier Charters, Inc., Wild Strawberry Lodge
RE: \$3.5 million Budget Cut that would eliminate the Alaska Division of Tourism

Thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns regarding the proposed budget cut of \$3.5 million to the Division of Tourism..

All of us at Alaska Premier Charters, Inc., are outraged by this proposal. This amounts to nothing less than an attack on the visitor industry...Alaska's most promising growth industry. Doing this would mean Alaska will be losing out to competing destinations. While other states and countries are increasing tourism marketing budgets, Alaska has essentially slashed tourism promotion to less than half of what it was in FY94!!

It is small businesses such as ourselves, that depend on the tourism promotions that the state of Alaska has provided. We need the help of the Division of Tourism.

This proposal is absolutely contrary to legislator's pledges to promote economic development. Eliminating tourism and business development programs will deal a heavy economic blow to both new and existing small businesses such as ourselves.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES/EFFECTS THAT THIS WOULD HAVE on the resident businesses of Alaska such as ourselves.

Sincerely,

Theresa Weiser

Sitka Hotel

118 Lincoln Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-3288 ~ Fax (907) 747-8499
<http://www.sitkahotel.com>

March, 19, 1997

Attn: Representative Mark Hanley,

It has come to my attention that the House Finance Committee is considering major cuts in the state's funding for tourism support activities. One of these proposed cuts is to eliminate the Division of Tourism entirely. While I understand the drive for a leaner state budget in the face of declining oil revenues, this particular cut doesn't make sense.

With the supply of oil on the North Slope in obvious decline, the state needs to seed all the growth it can in sustainable industries. Based on 1994 data, tourist to our state spent what averages out to over \$1,400 per resident Alaskan. The State, and consequently the State's budget, should not ignore such a major contributor to the economy.

On a smaller scale we have already seen one of the pillars of our local economy collapse when our pulp mill ceased operations several years ago. With that went 400 well paying jobs and a huge chunk of the City's tax income. With the fishing industry under the pressure of declining stocks and international competition, tourism plays a critical role for Sitka.

The State needs to think long term about where it's money is going to come from in the future. When the pipeline has slowed to a trickle and if the fish stocks collapse, like they have off New England's coast, where will the tax base be? In that scenario the State would have to cut the budget with a chain saw, instead of the scalpel currently being used.

Please take the time to realize that the money spent on tourism support is seed money designed to grow a healthy, viable in the long-term economy.

Sincerely,

Alec Wahlman
Manager - Sitka Hotel
118 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK 99835



**CARLSON'S
COMPANY**
"A COMPANY OF TALENT"

P.O. Box 240965, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0965, Phone-FAX (907) 258-2454 email: ccarlson@alaska.net

March 18, 1997

Representative Vic Kohring
Chairman
House Finance Subcommittee

Dear Representative Kohring,

I find myself once again writing you, not on behalf of the film office, but on what I believe to be more misinformation being dispersed by the Director of Tourism. Bill Elander, the President and CEO of the ACVB, faxed a letter to me that contains the following information. That you, as the Chair of the House Finance subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development, are proposing to:

Eliminate the Alaska Department of Tourism. In addition to the loss of the Division it would also reduce the state tourism budget by \$3.5 million dollars. Further that, "if this proposal passes the House Finance subcommittee and the full house and senate, the following statewide tourism programs would be totally eliminated:"

- International marketing in Australia and the United Kingdom
- Tourism North (highway marketing)
- Research
- Tourism Planning & Product Development
- Travel Agent training
- North American tour operator marketing

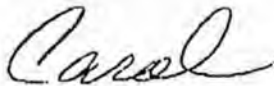
Here is my understanding of what is actually being proposed, please let me know if I am right. That indeed, the Division, as we know it, will be eliminated and their will be a \$1,000,000 reduction to tourism. That funds will be distributed to Department of Trade and Development for international marketing, which could include Australia and the United Kingdom. That, in reality, there has not been money for research since 1993. That the idea of travel agent training and North American tour operator marketing is something new that Tom Garrett wanted and that, previously, this has not been funded by DOT.

I am a long standing member of the ACVB. I believe in a strong tourism industry. I believe that each division, and agency within that division, should be looked at carefully. I do not believe it is right for information to continue to be released

that is incomplete, inaccurate or just plain untrue. The real truth on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

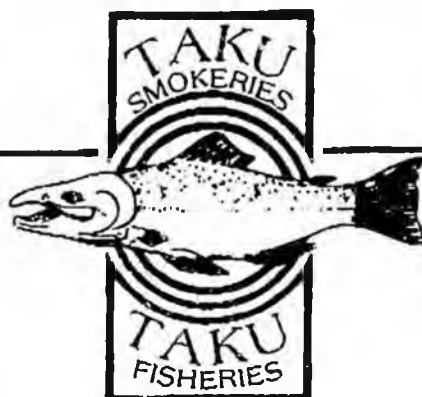
In closing, I will only say that I applaud all the work and research you are doing in this area and when all is said and done, I hope we will have a strong film office in tact as well as a strong tourism force, whether that be under ATMC or the DTD. Thank you for listening.

Most Sincerely,



Carol Carlson

cc: Representative John Cowdery
Representative Joe Green
Representative Carl Moses
Representative Joe Ryan
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Representative Mark Hanley, co-chair, Full House Finance Committee
Representative Eldon Mulder, vice-chair, Full House Finance Committee
Representative Gary Davis
Representative John Davies
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Gene Therriault, co-chair, Full House Finance Committee
Representative Terry Martin
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative Ben Grussendorf
Senator Drue Pearce, co chair Full Senate Finance Committee
Senator Bert Sharp, co-chair
Senator Randy Phillips
Senator Al Adams
Senator Sean Farnell
Senator John Torgerson
Mr. Bill Elander, President & CEO-ACVB
Alaska Visitors Association



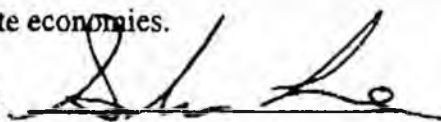
March 13, 1997

TO: House Finance Subcommittee
on Commerce & Economic Development

FROM: Taku Smokeries/Taku Fisheries

RE: Alaska Division of Tourism Recommended Budget Elimination

We at Taku Smokeries/Taku Fisheries, although in the seafood processing industry, recognize the importance of tourism and its contribution to the economy of the state of Alaska. This action, recommended by the House Finance Subcommittee to eliminate the Alaska Division of Tourism's budget, is a direct contradiction to the pledge by legislators' to promote economic development for the state. We encourage the subcommittee members to revisit this recommendation and its devastating impact to the local and state economies.

Sandro Lane 
President, Taku Smokeries

cc:

House Finance Subcommittee
Vic Kohring, Joe Ryan, Joe Green, Ethan Berkowitz, Carl Moses, John Cowdery

House Finance Committee
Mark Hanley, Gene Therriault, Eldon Mulder, Terry Martin, Gary Davis, Pete Kelly,
John Davies, Carl Moses, Richard Foster

Full Senate Finance Committee
Drue Pearce, Bert Sharp, Dave Donley, Sean Parnell, Randy Phillips, John Torgerson,
Al Adams

550 South Franklin Street
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 463-4617



Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

1057 W. Fireweed Lane Suite 101

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone (907) 272-1626 - FAX (907) 277-9232

March 21, 1997

STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mark Hanley:

On behalf of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (as advocates for homelessness) we are pleading and appealing that you take a look at our concerns regarding the impact several proposed reductions from the social service budget (DHSS) for the fiscal year of 1998 will have in Alaska and rural communities.

We understand and realize that legislators and state government have to reduce the budget. The affects however, would be of great devastation to the people in Alaska that the Department of Health and Social Services are assisting.

If further cuts are made to Medicaid, public assistance, Alaska Work Programs, child care, General Relief, foster care, DFYS probation, child and healthy family programs the impact will create a larger number of homelessness.

If we do not take full control on welfare reform now, there will be no safety net for families and individuals to fall back on due to not having the tools to work with or to survive. Shelters are already overflowing with families, singles, and single men (and women) with children. Employee's are already one pay check away from becoming homeless.

Our plea is that the Department of Health and Social Services budget is reinstated so that this nightmare does not manifest in total disaster.

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Crawford".

Donna Crawford
Chairperson, AKCH2



March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska
99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

RE: PROPOSED CUTS TO TOURISM BUDGET AND PROGRAMS

We were distressed to hear that the Alaska Legislature is considering entirely eliminating the budget for the Department of Tourism and drastically reducing funding to the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.

We have witnessed the implementation of very effective marketing initiatives by the ATMC that have attracted millions of dollars in cooperative marketing contributions from the visitor industry. The Department of Tourism continues to play a pivotal role in coordinating industry activities, communications and state-wide visitor services.

While it would appear that large corporations such as Alaska Airlines and Holland America will continue to have a presence in the market on their own, the proposed cuts will devastate small business and small Alaskan communities. These businesses rely on the activities of the Department of Tourism and the ATMC to maintain a marketing presence. The small business sector continues to create jobs and stable economic growth in the North.

The rural Alaskan travel experience significantly influences Alaska's popularity as a visitor destination. Competing destinations have been increasing their marketing activities and budgets, and we have been able to keep pace by attracting significant industry contributions. Maintaining these partnership contributions from the industry will require continued financial commitments from the State of Alaska.

The Yukon is a very small market and we have limited financial resources. Alaska's marketing investments dramatically impact our visitor industry. It is said that "when Alaska sneezes, the Yukon catches pneumonia!" We are catching a cold . . .

We urge you to reconsider planned budget reductions to the Department of Tourism and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.

Yours truly



Pat Cayen

Chairman

KLONDIKE VISITORS ASSOCIATION

cc: Honourable Piers MacDonald, Government Leader
Yukon Territorial Government

Honourable Dave Keenan, Minister of Tourism
Yukon Territorial Government

Barry Bellchambers, President
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon

Bob Engelbrecht, President
Alaska Visitors Association

David Karp, Executive Director
Alaska Tourism Marketing Council

Klaus Roth, Co-Chair
Yukon Tourism Marketing Council



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES SKAL CLUBS

NORTH AMERICAN SKAL COUNCIL
SKAL CLUB OF ANCHORAGE NO. 289
P.O. BOX 104021
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-4021



March 21, 1997

FAX TO: All Legislators

FROM: SKAL club of Anchorage
Raymond F. Petersen
President

RE: Proposed budget for Tourism

Dear Legislator,

The SKAL Club of Anchorage is a member of the International Association of SKAL clubs, an international organization of tourism professionals.

At our monthly meeting last night it was unanimously resolved that:

1. We are opposed to any cuts in the tourism budget.
2. It is our feeling that it is irresponsible to cut state funding that promotes the only major growth industry in the state, and the industry with the most potential for growth.
3. We know that, small tourism businesses in particular depend on the marketing programs provided by the Alaska Visitors Assn.
4. This proposal will cost Alaska jobs. Jobs that will go to other tourism destinations with which we compete. Alaska tourism companies do not compete with each other so much as they compete with other tourism destinations.

Our member list is following. This was a unanimous resolution.

Raymond F. Petersen



Anchorage School District

4600 DeBarr Road
P.O. Box 196614
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614
(907) 333-9561

SCHOOL BOARD

Debbie Osslander
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Karin Gillespie
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Kelly Hanley
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Peggy Robinson-Wilson
Past President

Dave Wardal

SUPERINTENDENT

Bob Christal

March 21, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley,

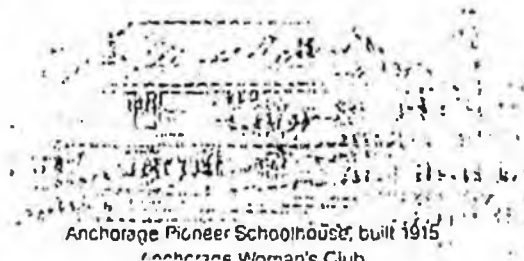
I am gravely concerned regarding the proposed cuts to the Health and Human Services budget. Having worked with homeless families in Anchorage for the last four years in the educational arena I have seen the impact of reduced services on children. With continued reductions I fear the situation can only grow worse.

I understand the need to downsize state spending and know the difficulties you are faced with in choosing what programs and departments will bear the brunt of these cuts. But, please consider carefully how severe cuts will affect children, especially our most vulnerable population. Less money for child care will not only effect affordability but, more importantly quality and accessibility. These young children are Alaska's future and without the supports to nurture and prepare them to be productive citizens our society will ultimately suffer.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss my concerns any further. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Snyder-Rea
Early Childhood Teacher
Anchorage School District
Child In Transition Program
(907)278-4537



Anchorage Pioneer Schoolhouse, built 1915
Anchorage Woman's Club



Southcentral

COUNSELING CENTER

4020 Folker Street - Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 563-1000
FAX 563-2045

March 21, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I have reviewed the proposed budget reductions for the State Medicaid Program and the impact analysis by DHSS.

The impact of the reduction of services through the elimination of Medicaid options would be devastating for people who suffer severe mental illness. If the department eliminates additional options, the targeted case management (Substance Abuse and Mental Health) and the rehabilitative services (Substance Abuse and Mental Health) options would be lost.

1,071 severely mentally ill adults and 295 severely emotionally disturbed adults received services from our organization in FY96. Of those numbers, 699 received rehabilitation services and approximately 1200 received targeted case management services, both supported through the Medicaid Program. These groups are very high risk for hospitalization and other intensive care when not appropriately served in the community. The services which have been developed for them over the past 7-10 years have allowed for reduction of size of the state mental institution, API.

During FY96, Southcentral Counseling Center also served 602 children in treatment programs. Approximately 150 severely emotionally disturbed children receiving targeted case management and rehabilitative services supported by the Medicaid program.

The services funded through the Medicaid program have been developed as a vital part of the infrastructure of the community mental health service system. The options most at risk serve the highest risk populations which are successfully being served in our community. Please use caution with any funding scenario which places this program at risk.

Sincerely,

Ken Taylor
Executive Director



Operated by Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc. (ACMHS),
a nonprofit organization

TOTAL P.002



William Booth, Founder

THE SALVATION ARMY

Emergency Services

546 East 15th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
276-1609
277-2593
FAX 272-8546



Serving Alaska Since 1898

March 20, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages 1

To Rep. Mark Hanley	From Major Katrina Grundahl
Co. State Capitol	Co. The Salvation Army
Dept. Legislature	Phone # 907-272-3355
Fax # 907-465-2118	Fax # 907-272-8546

Dear Representative Hanley:

Welfare Reform is needed but a Blueprint for Welfare Reform was developed by a state wide community process. The members of the Legislature are seemingly ignoring this plan. Legislative action is denying provision of the tools to help people become independent.

Congress mandates - "get a job, get off Welfare." The State legislature then implements a budget that insures failure for people trying to meet the federal mandate by cutting case management capabilities and childcare. The end result is inadequate availability of childcare, no jobs, which leads to loss of ATAP, less foodstamps, no Medicaid, and no funding at all to replace cuts to legal immigrants.

If the Legislature does not reinstate funding to the Health & Social Services budget- the end result will be citizens of our State facing crisis as never before.

As a representative of a Non profit, there is no way that a safety-net composed of all the non-profits in the state will be big enough to catch the elders, the families, the children that will be impacted.

What the is future without increased funding? I do not even want to envision the result.

Sincerely:

Major Katrina Grundahl
The Salvation Army Homeless Services



MEMBER UNITED WAY OF ANCHORAGE

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

An Alaska Regional Development Organization and USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
The Honorable Gene Therriault
House Finance Committee Co-Chairs
State Capitol Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

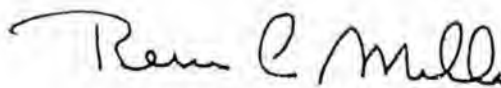
Gentlemen:

In the record of your hearing on the operating budget scheduled for 22 March, please include and consider the comments below.

During their recent meeting here in Juneau, Southeast Conference's Board of Directors discussed proposed elimination of funding for Alaska's solid waste management program from the Department of Environmental Conservation's budget. The Board instructed me to convey to you that, on the one hand, they agree the operating budget must be reduced and they applaud approaching reductions on a program rather than an across-the-board-levy basis. On the other hand, however, Board members are troubled by programmatic reductions legislated without thoughtful study of the consequences, in particular, in this instance, of the impacts on the State's smaller rural and Bush communities. While elimination of other programs in the Department of Environmental Conservation may be even less desirable, the Board nevertheless urges care, lest operation of the Law of Unintended Consequences* make the cure worse than the disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Berne C. Miller
Executive Director

**Law of Unintended Consequences* - Down the road sometime, something really bad will happen that you neither anticipated nor want, and that leaves you in a fix you could have avoided had you thought about it.



ASSETS, INC.

Vision • Action • Results

Diana M. Strzok, Executive Director

March 20, 1997

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that there has been a proposed budget cut of 13 million dollars in state general funds. Included in this overall cut, there is a proposed 6.9 million dollars that would drastically affect the state Medicaid program.

As a provider of Intensive Rehabilitative Services to individuals who experience mental illness, I am gravely concerned of the ramifications that these budget cuts will have on this population. As you may be aware, there is a continual influx of institutionalized individuals discharged into the community which increases the need for community based services. If these budget cuts become a reality, individuals will suffer greatly because the support services, including case management, provided by mental health clinics/agencies will not be available due to the necessity to downsize. This downsizing may result in an inadequate number of staff available to provide the current quality of support necessary to keep individuals and the community safe. In addition, individuals will lose current services due to the lack of funding. If services are lost, this could result in re institutionalization, incarceration, or homelessness of the individuals.

Past budget cuts have left social service agencies over burdened, under staffed, and having a great difficulty meeting the needs of the individuals they serve. There already is a lack of funds available to hire the necessary staff to meet the needs of the individuals.

The cost to the state at this point is far less than it would be if individuals were not able to access services for their continued support and success in the community. The average cost per day at a state institution is \$1000 compared to \$100 for Intensive Rehabilitation Services.

It is my hope that when you cast your vote for this proposed cut that you will vehemently oppose any budget cuts that will affect Rehabilitation and case management services for individuals that experience mental illness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely:

Rudy Bush
Clinical Associate, Assets Inc.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEPENDENT LIVING

POST OFFICE BOX 35097 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-5097 • TEL. 907-789-9665 VOICE/TDD • FAX 907-789-9747
ALASKA 800-478-7245

March 21, 1997

Senate and House Finance Committee Members

Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently received a legislative alert and summaries outlining the real and terrible effects the budget cuts proposed by the Majority will have on Alaskans if these unconscionable budget cuts are implemented as proposed.

Frankly, I am appalled. Borrowing from a quotation from Howard C. Baldwin, it is important to have no illusions about the power of money; but it is silly to dismiss it as worthless. Money, as we all know, is not worthless. It means many good things. It means education for all children. It means access to health care for the poor, the elderly, and for people with disabilities. It means job placement and training services for these same people. It means providing services to Alaskans with significant disabilities in rural and remote areas. It means keeping people with disabilities in their home communities and not in institutions. These are all significant tools in the support and empowerment of people and their lives.

As Baldwin also states: "money alone cannot build character or transform evil into good. . .it cries for full partnership with leaders of character and goodwill." I simply fail to see how any of the proposed budget cuts demonstrate any character or any goodwill by our elected leadership in the legislature.

The proposed budget cuts will have serious and dramatic impacts on the population groups that can least afford to be impacted. The consequences of your actions will be lifelong for many who will be affected if these budget cuts are incorporated as proposed. There is absolutely no logic to proposing funding reductions for programs which receive federal matching funds. In reducing the funds for programs such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services, the real impact of any reductions

Senate and House Finance Committees

Page 2

in funding is **twice** what the budget reduction proposal outlines! In reducing the funds for programs such as the Independent Living component of the budget, services to Alaskans with disabilities in rural areas will be severely impacted! In reducing the funding for Medicaid, one result will be that Alaskans with disabilities will be forced to leave their home communities and live in acute care facilities---at a cost to the State of Alaska far exceeding the savings from any proposed reduction in funding! Other cuts as proposed set up a vicious circle of dependence, prohibiting poor, elderly, and disabled Alaskans from exercising their rights to independence and improving the quality of their lives. The logic in these, and other cuts, is notably absent.

Some estimates indicate that if the proposed budget cuts are pushed through, poor Alaskans and persons with disabilities will take the brunt of the proposed cuts. Where is your leadership? Where is your conscience? Why increase the hardships imposed on an already vulnerable population? Why not be proactive and fund programs that increase the tools available for people to live active, committed, healthy, and productive lives?

I urge you to rethink your priorities, and develop real, proactive, intelligent, and long-term solutions for the problems affecting real people in the State of Alaska. This is a far greater challenge than simply proposing budget cuts. Each poor, elderly, and disabled person who will be affected by your decisions is a real person, with a real life story to tell. Take the time to think of the real people behind the numbers in your budget maneuvering. If you think of the real people, I am certain you would not take any steps to cut these vital and necessary programs.

Sincerely,



Constance E. Anderson
Executive Director

Cc: Governor Tony Knowles
Senator Jim Duncan
Representative Kim Elton
Representative Bill Hudson

City of Tanana
P.O. Box 249
Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7159
FAX: (907) 366-7169

March 21, 1997

Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

FAX# (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

The City of Tanana opposes Budget cuts as proposed by the House Majority in HB75.

Further cuts to Municipal Assistance of State Revenue Sharing, as suggested by the Governor, could force Tanana to dissolve the municipal government. Since the City of Tanana maintains Tanana City School District, dissolving the first class would force Tanana's school into one of the REAA's, thus losing the local mil contribution and ultimately costing the state much more than the current Municipal Assistance and State Revenue Sharing programs do. In Tanana's case, any further cuts to basic support of the municipal government is likely to make overall costs go up, not down.

Other budget items important to Tanana include:

*Senior Residential Services - Your recommendation to keep these programs at current levels is good, but not enough. Cutting funds to Department of Social Services for licensing of assisted living programs and for optional medicaid services will also cause serious harm. Since Tanana's senior residential program is currently operating at a loss (which has to be supplied by the municipality) cutting any portion of support to the elders could mean losing the services entirely.

*Health and Social Services - Cuts to this department would mean inability to match federal funding for the innovative community programs to solve children's health and education problems with local solutions (as, COMPASS). Statistics about the problems and their impact could be quoted, but the bottom line is that Tanana is a participant in that program and has spent extensive community time on planning solutions which we will be unable to implement if the funding is cut. Besides leaving us in the lurch, this would certainly add to suspicion and lack of trust in the state government!

*Education - Cuts that would render the Department of Education unable to match federal funds for various programs in the schools would be a serious blow to education. Specifically, Tanana needs to preserve the match for federal funds in special education and vocational education. Tanana also supports continued funding for the parent and family involvement initiative, and for the student leadership program. Tanana endorses expanding Head Start services.

*Department of Environmental Conservation - Tanana cannot afford to comply with federal enforcement of solid waste disposal laws. Without the State solid waste disposal program, it is likely Tanana could not maintain any solid waste disposal system at all. That has serious negative implications for public health and well being.

*Department of Community and Regional Affairs - The Rural Utility Business Assistance program is extremely important to Tanana's current struggle to maintain a safe public water supply. Tanana residents haul their own water from the public watering point and uses outhouses. Tanana is working hard to build a better system, with ways to support maintenance and operation into the future. Cutting the RUBA now would make it extremely hard to finish what we've started.

*Public Safety - Tanana has been eligible, but unfunded, for a VPSO for years. The Municipal government cannot support full police coverage. When a tragedy happens that requires Trooper assistance, it can take days for a response. There are absolutely no funds for prevention efforts.

*Division of Energy - Maintain funds for Power Costs Equalization.

Sincerely,

Mary Edwin

Mary Edwin
City Manager

For more information, call, fax, or deliver your P.O.M. to any LIO.

Please PRINT the information below.

MR. MRS. MISS. MS.	First name <i>William</i>	M.I.	Last name <i>Gumlickpak</i>	Jr. Sr. III
Mailing address <i>P.O. Box 10</i>				Zip code <i>99636</i>
Residence (if not) address if different from mailing address <i>New Stuyahok City</i>				Zip code
Daytime telephone number <i>693-3171</i>		Group affiliation (if applicable)		Signature <i>William Gumlickpak</i>
				Date

Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees		House members		Senate members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	H or S	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austerman (aus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adams (ada)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barnes (bar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danley (don)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Duncan (dun)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brice (bri)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ellis (ell)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bunde (bun)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green (gre)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (l&c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowdery (cwo)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hafford (haf)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Croft (cro)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoffman (hof)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (rts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davies (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly, T. (kel)
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis (dag)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leman (lem)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dyson (dys)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lincoln (lin)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elton (elt)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mackie (mak)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miller (mil)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Green (grn)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parhel (par)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Grusendorf (grs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearce (pea)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hanley (han)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phillips, M. (phi)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hodgins (hod)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharp (sha)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taylor (tay)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ivan (iva)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Torgerson (tor)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward (war)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Joule (jle)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilken (wik)

CAUCUSES

Anchorage (aga)

Bush (bus)

Fairbanks/Interior (int)

Matru (mat)

Majority (mjr)

Minority (mnr)

Fill out the boxes below **OR** enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	OR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify)
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Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

<i>I, William Gumlickpak oppose the</i>	5
<i>House majority proposals that will</i>	10
<i>cut the revenue sharing funds</i>	15
<i>in the rural villages</i>	20
	25
	30
	35
	40
	45
	50

TOTAL P.03

TRIBAL CHILDREN SERVICES

P.O. Box 107
Togalak, Alaska 99678
907-493-5431
Fax 907-493-5932

March 21, 1997

House Majority
Budget Cuts for FY98
Juneau, Alaska 99811

House Majority,

I just finished reading the proposed budget cuts that you all plan to make, and I became so disgusted to realize you would put your state people through all this. I don't understand where you want this state to go by taking away correctional officers from all the organizations. Do you really believe that this state can get away from crime if we take away the officers? Where exactly are you living?

Is there anyone there from Rural Alaska, and where is your voice? They should know that there are no jobs out here, and yet you leaders are going to reduce funding in the Division of Energy. I know for a fact that the fishermen of Bristol Bay are not the rich fisherman everyone believes they are. We have one opportunity to make our money for the whole year, and if they mess up, where do you think they turn to. I would like to know if that makes sense to you. How are the people of Rural Alaska going to become self-sufficient when there are no child care facilities, job training programs, and no jobs period?

I am in the social service field of work and the problems people face are so disturbing. It hurts me to think about what will happen to all my people in my community now with welfare reform, and now all these budget cuts you people want to make. Sorry if I sound rude, I am just very upset. I pray that the Lord will direct you people to a safer solution to this budget.

Respectfully,

Kristy Kritz
Tribal Children's Service Worker

Cheryl B. Hull

9210 Gee Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801-8824

Phone: (907) 789-3321

e-mail: dbhull@ptialaska.net

To the House Finance Committee:

I am writing this letter to let you know how appalled I am with the recent announcement of your decision to cut the budget of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation so deeply and without any apparent thought as to the consequences of your proposed actions.

With the new welfare reforms coming into place, you are putting an already vulnerable population of Alaskans at risk. More than ever, people need an opportunity to get necessary training to qualify for jobs. DVR, through its funding of independent living centers and its many other programs, helps those who are disabled to lead full lives. You appear to be trying to eliminate one avenue after another for many of the people of this state; people who, through no fault of their own, have need of the services thus far provided by DVR.

Proposed cuts from DVR's budget will dictate the number of federal dollars that will go away as well. How will rehabilitation of injured and/or disabled workers happen? How will they feed their families, keep a roof over their heads, and provide a safe environment for their children? How will those who are disabled acquire the technology and training they will need in order to keep their lives together and lead productive lives. I wonder if you even care about these constituents of yours. They don't have a big lobby--yet. You have only proposed cuts. What solutions have you offered? To date, I haven't heard any.

Your proposed cuts make no sense whatever. When several of the disabled community testified at a recent Health and Social Services hearing, one senator said that if we felt that the budget was being cut on the backs of the disabled, we should let all of you know. Well, ouch! Cuts to DVR, welfare, Medicaid--where will you stop? Who do you think is going to be affected by your overly sharp and bloody knife?

I'm telling you that you are not only cutting the budget on the backs of the disabled, but also on the backs of Alaska's elderly, the backs of women and children of this state, and the backs of people who work here. So far as I can tell, the only ones whose "welfare" is being considered at all is big business. The rest of us will just be getting the business.

I know that I have never felt more frustration or anger at such shortsightedness. Sixty people are elected to the legislature, and only a handful of you can see the wisdom of long-range planning, of multi-year budgeting. Talk about wasteful spending. This constant yearly battling over nickels and dimes is time consuming--and I'll bet it costs more than \$60 million. If you really want to save that \$60 million, then plan ahead. I will assure you that you need not be a rocket scientist to figure out this one.

Cheryl B. Hull

DATE: March 21, 1997

TO: Senate and House Finance Committees

FROM: Al B. Castillo, Parent Advocate *AC*
PARENTS, Inc.

RE: House Majority Budget Cuts for FY98

In response to the proposed budget reductions for FY98, I disagree with these proposals since the reductions would have an adverse impact on the individuals and families struggling today just to barely meet the everyday requirements of being able to function and cope with everyday living. Items such as health care needs; available day care assistance to find and keep full-time employment; training opportunities for the special needs adult population; foster and residential care programs are just a few of the areas we as a state need to reinvest in and continually support to allow all our state residents the opportunity to become self-supporting or independent with minimal assistance. Those with the more severe cases requiring on-going medical or personal assistance could conceivably end up in state or private environments thereby costing the state unneeded expenses when the available services operating today are already serving those purposes.

On their behalf, the residents effected by these reductions I implore you to reconsider and roll back these cuts not only to their previous levels but to increase the funding, especially for Medicaid so the much needed services cut two years ago, i.e., eyeglasses, hearing aids, occupational therapy, will become available once again for those who need it the most.

For future consideration, perhaps if the Alaska state residents were given an opportunity to contribute a nominal amount each year from their PFD's, say \$25.00 to \$30.00, towards a specific fund to disperse to these programs, would this help alleviate funding budget reductions?

Thank you for allowing my comments on the FY98 budget proposals.

Alaska Garden & Pet Supply Inc.**dba, Alaska Mill & Feed Co.**

114 North Orca • P.O. Box 101248 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • Phone (907) 279-4519 • FAX (907) 276-7416

March 19, 1997

Senate Finance Committee
Senate Finance Secretary
State Capitol
Fifth Floor Room #532
Juneau, Alaska 99801


Attn: Chairman Rep Mark Hanley:

I am writing to urge you to take the necessary action that will result in adequate funding specifically appropriated for the MADE IN ALASKA (MIA) and Silver Hand Programs to be included in this year's budget either by direct grant or line item.

For the past three years under private sector management, the MIA program has been improved and expanded at an unrealistic savings to the state. That inequity now threatens the very existence of the program at a time when we need it the most. It is important to my business and the overall health of our state's economy that this program remain strong. The best way to ensure that is for you, as our leads, to commit to a more equitable partnership with the private sector in sharing the cost of it's administration. Your commitment in this funding will send a clear message that you not only understand the importance of the in-state "value-added" industry, but you are also willing to stand up and be counted as leaders in supporting the protection and growth of that industry while maintaining a fiscally conservative approach to state spending.

In closing, I would ask that you listen to our Program Manager Steven Rouse and review testimony submitted to the Senate Finance sub-committee on Economic Development. He will illuminate further the real need for these funds and the likely potential for other programs to be privatized. If you are concerned about the waste in government, don't waste the chance to insure the survival of the MADE IN ALASKA program.

Sincerely,



Ken H. Sherwood
President

KHS:sdw

March 17, 1997

Dear Representative,

My name is Dave Maddux and I am a registered voter in the State of Alaska, residing in Fairbanks. I am writing this letter because of my deep concern about the budget cuts that the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management (SALRM) in the University of Alaska system, has sustained over the last 5 years.

I find it very difficult to fathom why a university, founded as a land-grant institution, would allow the gutting of the very school that helped it to attain that status. The chancellor of the Fairbanks campus, which is where SALRM is based, seems intent on the total destruction of this school.

In the past 10 years, 7 faculty positions vacated in SALRM have not been filled, due to budgetary constraints. Since 1992 this school has seen its budget decreased and given away to other schools, until an emergency allocation had to be found from the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) so that the school could operate for a few more years. Now ASTF has decided to reduce that allocation by \$500,000 per year until it is non-existent. There are no university or state plans to replace these funds.

SALRM is the *only* school within the UA system that trains its graduates in specifically *Alaskan* issues. These include boreal forest management; non-traditional agriculture such as reindeer and sled-dog nutrition; and resource management issues particular to Alaska, such as pollock harvest, whale population dynamics and resource extraction. All of the programs offered within this school are directly related to Alaska and its resources. No other school within the UA system can make this claim.

It is imperative that a *permanent* source of funds be allocated to the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management in such a way that the short-sighted administrators at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks cannot once again drain this school's budget away. It is senseless that our state government and land-grant university administration gives such low priority to the research and education concerning management of these resources, especially when our state is so rich in natural resources.

As a resident of the State of Alaska, I am asking you to find a solution to this serious problem. It is crucial that you become involved in this University of Alaska problem, because it is ultimately a problem that the state should be very concerned about. Our state government has an agreement with the federal government to have the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in Fairbanks. Without matching funds from the state, the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management will lose its federal funding, thus effectively shutting down the School

of Agriculture and Land Resource Management and the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Is it in the state of Alaska's best interest to lose this?

This is an issue that will affect the state from Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay. The School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management needs your help immediately! I would appreciate a response from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dave Maddux
P.O. Box 81091
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
(907) 479-3847
fax (907) 479-3847
Email → dmaddux@polarnet.alaska.com

Erika Weld
2253 Bridgewater
Fairbanks AK 99709

March 18, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am contacting you as a member of the Alaska visitor industry and co-worker at a small locally-owned tour operator. Frankly, I am shocked by the actions coming out of committee Juneau!

I was born and raised in Alaska and during my lifetime I have seen the growing importance the visitor industry has on our state's economy. Unfortunately, tourism marketing funding has been neglectfully abused by the legislature and taken serious cuts the last several years, resulting in fewer visitors to our state.

I have personally witnessed this decrease in visitation and it distresses me greatly. Our competing destinations invest serious funds to tourism marketing and realize the substantial positive impact that a thriving visitor industry offers.

The \$3.5 million cut to tourism proposed by your committee is outrageous and will definitely hurt small businesses, NOT large package tour companies.

Please continue to look for solutions that will not decimate those who the legislature so often claims to protect, the small business owners of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Erika Weld

March 18, 1997

Linda Foster, C.P.A.
Controller
PO Box 111829
Anchorage, Alaska 99587

Mark Hanley
Full House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska



ALYESKA RESORT

RE: Reducing the budget for tourism

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I strongly object to the proposed legislation that will reduce the promotion of Alaska tourism. Tourism is the third largest business in Alaska. Our resort has recently invested a great deal of money in hopes to make Alaska not only a summer destination for tourists but also a winter destination resort. We will need the support of our legislators to promote tourism in Alaska in order for our business to succeed. We employ approximately 450 employees year-round. Our employees will need to be reassured that their legislators support them in their efforts to make a success of our resort. Please do not approve the reduction of the budget for Alaska tourism.

Sincerely,

Linda Foster, CPA

Linda Foster, C.P.A.
Controller

P.O. Box 248

GIRDWOOD, ALASKA 99587

TELEPHONE (907) 754-1111

FAX (907) 754-2200





Era Helicopters

Era Aviation, Inc.

VIA FAX: (907) 465-2418

March 18, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Reference: House Finance Committee

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am very concerned with the Proposed Budget from the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce and Economic Development. As I understand it, this subcommittee is recommending the elimination of the Division of Tourism.

As you may be aware, Era is very involved in the tourism industry and dependent upon its growth in Alaska. In the past five years, Era has invested in excess of \$20 million into equipment and facilities to expand our tourism business and create jobs for Alaskans. I feel that the elimination of this agency would be a devastating mistake.

Elimination of the state international tourism marketing efforts would seriously hinder Era's efforts to attract customers, both for our helicopter flightseeing business and our new airline service to Whitehorse, Yukon. Our Denali and Valdez flightseeing bases would be hit especially hard with the elimination of the highway marketing. The elimination of funding for the state to participate in North American tour operator promotions will result in loss of valuable leads and recognition for Alaska's tour product.

In this time of increased competition for the tourist's dollar, both from other states and foreign countries, we cannot back away from Alaska's tourism industry. This is the time to increase spending on state advertising campaigns, not cut it.

Tourism is Alaska's premier growth industry and it needs to be supported and encouraged by the state.

With best regards,

Donna Harris
Director, Tourism Sales and Marketing

March 18, 1997

Full House Finance Committee

Legislator	Fax	Legislator	Fax
Mark Hanley, co-chair	465-2418	Gene Therriault, co-chair	465-3884
Eldon Mulder, vice-chair	465-3518	Terry Martin	465-2293
Gary Davis	465-3835	Pete Kelly	465-5241
John Davies	465-3519	Carl Moses	465-3445
Richard Foster	465-3242	Ben Grussendorf	465-2278
Vio Kohring	465-3818		

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

On behalf of the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) and our Board of Directors, I would like to express our outrage at the recommendation that the Alaska Division of Tourism be eliminated, and that the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council's budget be cut by over \$1 million in the State's FY98 budget. This \$3.5 million cut to tourism amounts to nothing less than an attack on the visitor industry.

This proposal is contrary to the legislators' pledge to promote economic development, and would deal a heavy blow to both new and existing small businesses in Sitka by eliminating tourism and business development programs. Our community's small businesses will bear the brunt of these massive cuts in tourism promotion as they cannot reach the national travel market alone.

Alaska is quickly losing ground to competing destinations. While other states and countries are increasing tourism marketing budgets, Alaska has essentially slashed tourism promotion to less than half of what it was in FY94!!

As the visitor industry is Alaska's and Sitka's most promising growth industry, I urge you to reject this budget proposal. We strongly encourage the committee to increase funding to the state's tourism industry in order for Alaska to remain competitive.

Sincerely,



Anne Hickok
Executive Director

P.O. Box 1226
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Ph:(907)747-5940
Fax:(907)747-3739
e-mail:
scvb@ptialaska.net



SITKA
CONVENTION AND
VISITORS BUREAU

Delta/Greely Community Coalition

P.O. Box 780

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Delta Junction City Council
Delta/Greely School District
Delta Chamber of Commerce
Delta Community Corporation
Delta Chapter, Farm Bureau
Retired Military/Civilian Representative
Civil Service Representative



Cleeta P. Barger, President
Doris Fales, Vice-Pres.
Linda Spears, Sec./Treas.
Tel: 907-895-1041
FAX: 895-4219

March 18, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley,

The Delta/Greely Community Coalition has been informed that the House Finance Subcommittee is recommending a total of \$3.5 million in budget cuts to the Alaska Tourism Industry. For over the past two years our community has been trying to cope with the purposed realignment of Fort Greely. With this pending realignment and the significant loss of jobs to our community, we feel that this proposed budget cut is another slap in the face to our already struggling economy.

Tourism will be a big factor in our ability to progress into the 21st Century without the military in the picture. The elimination of the business development and tourism programs will impact our community in ways that we can not afford at this time.

We simply ask that you vote against this recommendation, not only for the community of Delta Junction, but for the entire State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cleeta P. Barger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CLEETA P. BARGER
President

Samantha Wilson
PO Box 10853
Fairbanks AK 99710

March 18, 1997

Dear Representative Mark Hanley:

Thank you for your service to our State. As an individual who makes her living in small business, I can appreciate the difficult task of reducing state spending and balancing our budget while keeping in mind the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to you by the citizens of Alaska.

I have recently learned that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development has put forth a recommended budget. As I understand it, the budget put forth by this committee cuts tourism marketing funding by nearly \$3.5 million. As you may or may not be aware, this budget will have a devastating impact on the visitor industry. I am confused at this attack on the emerging premiere industry in our state.

The visitor industry contributes over \$52 million dollars to state coffers in the form of taxes, fees, and local bed taxes. This revenue is a result of **MARKETING**. Without marketing dollars, the result will be decreased revenue, lost jobs, and suffering for Alaskans turning to the visitor industry to replace jobs lost in other industries such as logging.

Please do not be misled, these cooperative marketing dollars primarily benefit small business, **NOT** large package tour companies. If the intent is to cut benefits to large companies, perhaps state subsidies to mining, petroleum, and fisheries could be reduced.

The cuts to Alaska's tourism marketing program decimate our investment in the future of tourism and destroy our ability to compete as the world class visitor destination we should be.

Please take these factors into account during the coming days of legislative activity.

Sincerely,

Samantha Wilson

Samantha Wilson

To: Members of the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development.

From: A Concerned Business of Alaska

In regards to the action proposed by the House to reduce the ATMC's marketing budget and eliminate the Alaska Division of Tourism we hope that you will consider all of the possibilities first. Please refrain from being hasty.

As long standing members of the Homer Chamber of Commerce, the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council and the Anchorage Convention & Visitor's Bureau we know the importance of the hard work and effort we all provide for Alaska and it's economy. Each of us are partners in the larger business of Alaska. All of us depend on the vital surge of tourists during the summer, it is our lifeline in a long dark year. Proposing to cut the budget of marketing Alaska would be to the detriment of all Alaskan businesses.

As each of us prepare for the upcoming busy summer, the period of time where we can be made or broken, we tend to lose sight of those activities and organizations that brought our business to us. We cannot toss aside the agencies's, that have developed Alaska's Tourism, so casually. Living in the continental U.S. amid all the distractions that are offered, it is so gratifying to know a place exists that is a haven, a place like Alaska. Don't blind yourselves to the necessity of the Alaska Division of Tourism or the budget of the ATMC.

Please, for all of us, reconsider your recommendation.

Sincerely,

The Management
Best Western Bidarka Inn
575 Sterling Highway
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-8148



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 561-5733 • Fax: (907) 561-5727

1996-97

Executive Officers

President

Bob Engelbrecht

TEMSCO Helicopters

Juneau, Alaska

1st Vice President

Tom Tougas

Kenal Fjords Tours

Seward, Alaska

2nd Vice President

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Waterfall Resort

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John Litten

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Anchorage, Alaska

Treasurer

Bill Pedlar

Holland America Westours

Seattle, Washington

Past President

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Princess Tours

Seattle, Washington

Board of Directors

Bob Berta

Southeast Stevedoring

John Binkley

El Dorado Gold Mine

Dennis Brandon

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Robert Dindinger

Alaska Travel Adventures

Bill Elander

Anchorage CVB

George Erickson

Alaska Railroad Corporation

Laurie Herman

Alascom, Inc.

Chris von Imhof

Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel

Terry Latham

Tundra Tours

Top of the World Hotel

Linda McLaughlin

Delta Air Lines

Gary Odle

Alaska Highway Cruises

Arne Olsson

Hotel Helsingland

Vicki Parrish

Fairbanks Princess Hotel

Brad Phillips

Phillips Cruises & Tours

Walter Porter

Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc.

Justin Ripley

Windsong Alaska Properties

Mitch Usibelli

Sourdough Cabins

Brad Walker

Alaska Airlines

Tina Lindgren
Executive Director

March 18, 1997

Representative Vic Kohring, Chair
House Finance Subcommittee on
Commerce & Economic Development
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Kohring:

As the statewide representative for the state's visitor industry, the Alaska Visitors Association is outraged with your subcommittee's budgetary recommendation to eliminate the Division of Tourism (DoT) and cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council (ATMC) budget. This will produce the most anemic tourism marketing program in the last decade. And the results will be devastating, particularly to small businesses, which comprise 90% of our industry. We have no choice but to view your proposal as a direct attack on tourism.

At a time when legislators have pledged to promote a climate ripe for *greater* economic development, this recommendation goes 180 degrees the other way. Frankly, we find it sadly ironic that the subcommittee on Commerce and *Economic Development* could come up with such a scenario.

Over the years, tourism has proven to be one of Alaska's best investments. The visitor industry provides extraordinary opportunities for Alaskan entrepreneurs to start and succeed in small business ventures. As the state's second largest employer, tourism provides thousands of jobs in every single region of the state. And through business and visitor assessments, the visitor industry does pay its fair share -- to the tune of over \$124 million injected into state and local treasuries each year. The few million dollars the state has contributed to tourism marketing and other programs has yielded a remarkable return.

The opportunity for small business start-ups and more jobs will suffer under your proposal. Led & breakfast in Fairbanks, a cultural tour in Kotzebue, a rafting enterprise in Eagle River ... none has the means to reach a national travel market alone. They, like local convention & visitors bureaus, rely on the effort of the ATMC and DoT to lure travelers to Alaska. On page 3 of this message, we've outlined how Alaska's tourism promotional efforts have eroded over the years, and the detrimental affect this has had on small businesses in particular.

Alaska's Cooperative Marketing Program, executed by the ATMC, is considered a model for public-private ventures. Yet, your proposal unravels the ATMC success story in two ways:

- *Additional \$600,000 in cuts to the ATMC budget.* This reduction will further erode critical promotional elements, including vacation planner production, as well as national TV, magazine and newspaper advertising.
- *Transfer of division responsibilities.* Since corresponding funds are NOT transferred with these programs, operating costs will eat away at dollars meant for marketing. The net affect of cuts and unfunded transfers is \$1 million less in marketing power for Alaska.

What about the Division of Tourism programs that will be lost? In a recent survey conducted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, tourism businesses statewide expressed how important these programs were to their livelihood.

- Developing international contacts through overseas promotion was viewed as extremely important. Your proposal guts international marketing in key markets like Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Responding to calls and requests for travel information scored high on the importance scale. While this program would be transferred to the ATMC under your proposal, there is no corresponding funds to cover personnel or fulfillment costs.
- Visitor research was also considered very important by tourism businesses, as these statistics provide the basis for developing viable business plans and making sound tourism business decisions. Research is eliminated under your proposed budget.
- Creating business leads through participation in travel trade shows and national tour operator familiarization trips were deemed to be critical functions. Again, these elements disappear under your plan.

In a nutshell, you're not hurting larger companies with the budget proposal, you're hurting the small operators. Given the lack of a state budget shortfall (in fact the state shows a \$100 million budget surplus) we cannot find any compelling reason to whittle away at programs that have *contributed to economic development*.

If reorganizing is the goal, then the industry and government should sit down and find workable solutions together. Thoughtful reorganization does not belong in the budget process. It belongs in a forum where affected parties can deliberate on the best course of action. AVA has a long history of working with the state government to promote economic prosperity through tourism programs and promotion. Our door is always open for any discussion on this, or any other issue, that impacts Alaska's visitor industry.

If you or your committee members have any questions at all, or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (907) 789-9501; or call the AVA office at (907) 561-5733.

Sincerely,



Bob Engelbrecht
President

cc: House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development
House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

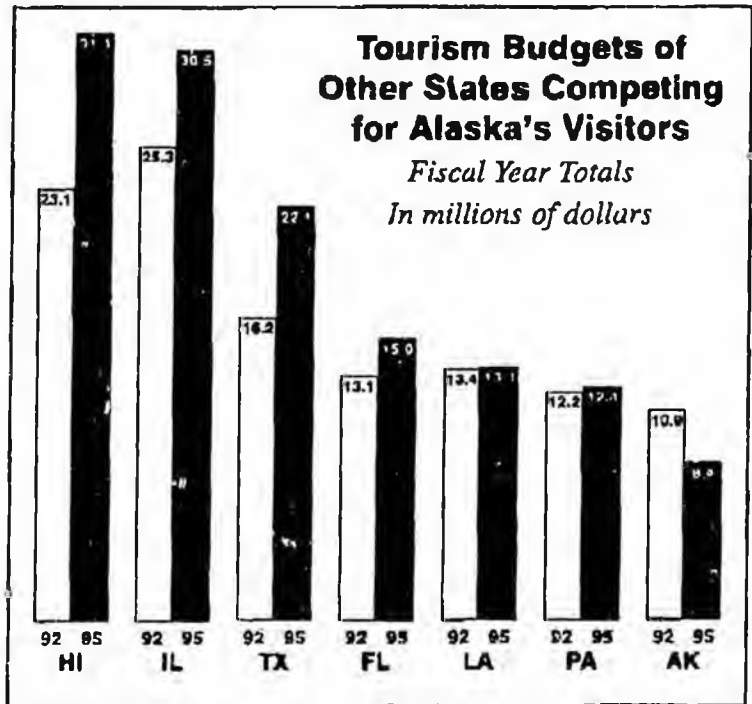
The state needs to stop the erosion of Alaska's position by restoring at least a portion of the amount spent on destination marketing; or watch Alaska revenues and jobs suffer as other states and destinations that are willing to invest aggressively in tourism promotion take over our market share. Alaska may be open for business, but we need to close the sale.

1. This year in a statewide AVA survey, many Alaskan tourism businesses reported a loss of income from highway travelers. U.S. Customs border crossing numbers bear this out. There was a decline of privately-owned-vehicle passengers crossing between May and August compared to last summer.
2. Alaska IS LOSING GROUND due to increased competition from other states, countries and new destinations.

As we know, Alaska's most direct competitors are foreign destinations. Below is a list of our major foreign competitors, and the amount they spent promoting visitation during the latest-available reporting periods.

Europe	\$555,830,000
Caribbean Nations	\$164,200,000
Australia	\$100,000,000
Canada:	\$92,000,000
Mexico	\$70,000,000

With the demise of a national travel promotion agency for the United States, America's individual states and destinations must go it alone in the marketing arena. Overall, states across the nation are increasing their tourism budgets. The graph below shows a few examples of the level of investment others are making in tourism, and why Alaska is losing ground.

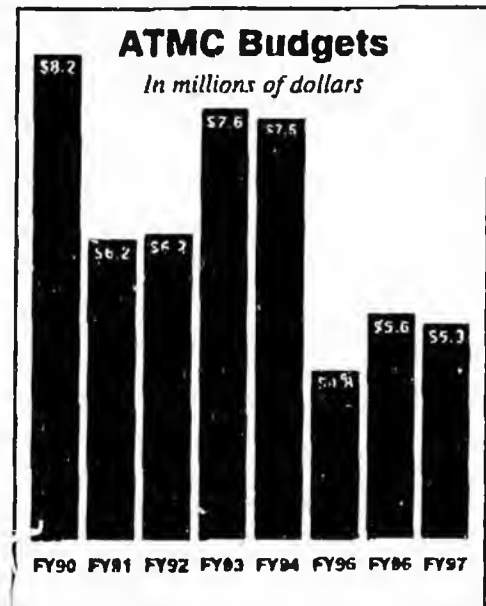


3. Alaska has disappeared from the top ten list of desired vacation destinations, according to a national poll of American adult travelers conducted each quarter by the Tourism Industry Association of America. In 1995, Alaska ranked 7th on the "wish list" for summer travel.

4. Alaskans statewide are increasingly turning to tourism as a way to replace jobs lost in other industries, such as timber. Many of these new businesses will not survive without a growing pool of visitors.
5. Alaska has decreased promotion. State tourism marketing funds have declined by nearly 50% since 1989.

Given an average 7%-per-year inflation in the cost of media buys, Alaska's dwindling advertising budget now buys 40% less than five years ago.

This has left very little to conduct television image advertising, which is proven to be one of the most effective mediums to generate interest in a destination. Without the state's ads on national television most of the Alaska travel commercials are those placed by cruise companies.



ALASKA WELCOMES YOU!, INC.®

ACCESSIBLE ALASKA ADVENTURES®

P.O. BOX 91333, ANCHORAGE AK 99509-1333
1-907-349-6301 1-800-349-6301 FAX: 1-907-344-3259

Email: alaskaupdate@compuserve.com

Web site address: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/alaskaupdate>

March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Fax: 1-907-465-2418

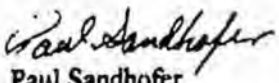
RE: PROPOSAL TO CUT \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE TOURISM BUDGET.

Sir:

A proposal is being considered by the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development to cut \$3.5M from the State Tourism budget. The State of Alaska cannot afford to cut back on expenditures on the renewable resource of tourism. Furthermore, this proposal is absolutely contrary to the legislators' pledge to promote economic development. Consider the effect tourism has on the State. Approximately 200,000 Alaskans are employed either directly or indirectly in the tourism industry. Alaska tour businesses are in direct competition with California, Hawaii, Canada, Chile, the Caribbean, and other vacation destinations for the tourist dollar. Have you seen the vacation publications put out by the states of California and Hawaii? Tourism is a renewable resource. The State should nurture this resource through an effective, aggressive, advertising campaign throughout the United States and the world; otherwise the flow of tourists into Alaska will dry up. This proposed \$3.5M cut is unacceptable and does not represent responsible government fiscal behavior. The tour industry is an Alaskan renewable resource - the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development, and the House Finance Committee, should be promoting its tremendous fiscal resources, rather than demolishing its base.

Small Alaskan operators do not have the necessary funds to advertise effectively on a national or world-wide basis. Tourism generates millions of dollar throughout the State, but this cannot continue if the State annihilates small Alaskan-owned and operated tour businesses by eliminating State funded advertising campaigns. [Please note, other Alaskan-renewable resources require state-assisted programs to remain in business.] Eliminating tourism programs will impact, not only Alaskan-owned tour businesses, but will have a major domino effect throughout the State, affecting both private and government sectors. If you think that unemployment is a crisis factor in the fishing and lumber industries, imagine the impact of 200,000 Alaskans whose tourism-related income has suddenly dried up. One-third of Alaska's population is employed in the tourism market and they will most assuredly be impacted by such a cut. They will remember how they lost their earning capacity. While Alaska Welcomes You!, Inc. does advertise, on a very limited scale, it would certainly help our business if the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development, and the House Finance Committee, would not reduce the State of Alaska's national advertising by decreasing the State Tourism Budget.

Respectively,


Paul Sandhofer
President

11-249

ALASKA GETAWAYS FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED®

BUSH AIRVENTURES, INC.

"THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE"

2301 MERRILL FIELD DRIVE SUITE A ANCHORAGE, ALASKA USA 99501

PHONE: (907) 279-9600 FAX (907) 279-9606

<http://www.alaska.net/~flybai>

email: flybai@alaska.net

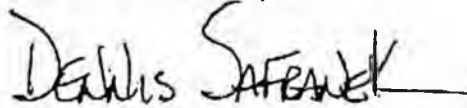
March 18, 1997

Dear Alaska Legislator,

We at Bush Airventures earn our living by providing quality service to tourists anxious to experience Alaska. For many of these, the initial contact is through information disseminated by the Alaska Department of Tourism. Please consider the impact that elimination of this Department would have on ALL Alaska businesses, whether specifically tourist-related, or not. From Hotels to Bed & Breakfasts; from Airlines to Taxi Cab operators; from Department Stores to the Corner Grocery, all would suffer serious economic impact from a curtailment of tourist business. It should be clear that cutting the promotion of tourism is an extremely unwise decision for the State of Alaska. Tour operators and businesses such as ours should not bear sole responsibility for developing the Tour Industry income to the State.

Sincerely,

Bush Airventures, Inc.



Dennis Safranek, President

10 321

SCENIC FLIGHTS-TOURS-MT. MCKINLEY-COLUMBIA GLACIER-HARDING ICEFIELD-WILDLIFE SAFARIS-FISHING
HUNTING-KAYAKING-TREKKING-ROCK CLIMBING-RAFTING-MUSHING-SKI PACKAGES-CABINS-LODGING
STATEWIDE AIRCRAFT CHARTERS-WHEELS/SKIS/FLOATS-DROP OFFS-VACATION PLANNING-MORE...



March 18, 1997

TO: Alaska State Legislature
RE: Proposed House of Representatives action on tourism funding

Dear Senator/Representative:

While we appreciate the Legislature's attempt to reduce state spending, we are adamantly opposed to Representative Vic Kohring's proposal to adopt a budget for 1998 that would eliminate the Alaska Department of Tourism. Tourism has helped our state become less dependent on oil revenues and we feel it is imperative that statewide tourism programs not only continue, but be supported by our Legislature.

Sincerely,

Diane Thompson

Diane Thompson

Ulmer, Inc. DBA



1704 East Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone (907)258-7822 FAX (907)258-0909 Alaska Toll Free (800)478-8376

ALASKA FLIGHT TOURS

Ref. ELIMINATION OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

I am writing you because of information I received about Vic Kohring, Chair of the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development, proposing that the Alaska Department of Tourism be eliminate.

The Department of Tourism is responsible for the great growth in Alaska. The Whole World has been informed about our Great Outdoors, Mountains and Glaciers. This is not just a renewable resource it is always here for the seeing. No where in the world is there beauty like Alaska, everywhere you look, in the flat lands and the mountains. We have to have Alaska Department of Tourism to get the word out. We can not do it by ourselves.

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in Alaska and last year I believe the budget was cut and many companies were off over 30% including our company. Even though we spent more than twice as much in advertising than the year before.

We receive over 75% of contacts through the Alaska Vacation Planner.

If you want to kill many jobs and destroy many business than eliminate the ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM. Also shut down the Pipe line because Tourism is a money pipe line to Alaska and that is what effect it would have on many families and business, like the late 1980s some of us are still trying to out live. I believe Alaska will be harmed greatly by this proposal by Vic Kohring.

Disappointed in Vic Kohring

Lavern (Vern) Ulmer
President

24-1139

JoAnn & Monte

To: Representative Mark Hanley
Date: March 17, 1997
**Re: House Finance Subcommittee
for Commerce & Economic Development**

Dear Sir,

For over 20 years now JoAnn & Monte have made our livelihood as a small business here in our great state of Alaska. We have struggled for years as singer/songwriters chronicling the love and amazement we Alaskans feel towards our home.

In 1990 we joined the cast of "The Great Alaskan Opry" and were introduced to the visitor industry for the first time. After 7 years of learning the ups and downs and ins and outs of this industry we are finally poised to have a truly successful season.

As members of the Alaska Visitors Association and the Anchorage and Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureaus we have come to understand that the heart of the visitor industry here in Alaska is not just the big cruise companies and hotels, but the hundreds of Mom & Pop operations that depend on the Division of Tourism and The Alaska Tourism Marketing Council to encourage all of those people in the Lower 48 who have dreamed of visiting Alaska to finally do so. We have no other way to reach these people and certainly are in no position to compete with other destinations that are increasing their advertising budgets even as we watch ours get slashed.

As Alaska looks forward to dwindling natural resources we, as Alaskans, must find a way to more than survive here in the Northland, we should be able to thrive! We as individuals and as a company are strong believers that the visitor industry is our most promising long term economic base. It gives us the opportunity to live here in this land that we love, share it with people who are excited about our natural beauty and, when managed properly, leave this land much as we found it. It's a win-win-win situation.

We note that the name of your subcommittee is Commerce & Economic Development, but if you slash this budget you will be doing Alaska and Alaskan business people throughout the state a serious disservice, as well as going against all the pledges we heard regarding economic development in the recent election. Remember, you will hurt businesses large and small by this move, but certainly small business will feel the brunt! Please do not slash the budget!!!

Songfully,

JoAnn Malloy & Monte Davis 14-295

P.O. Box 92499, Anchorage, AK 99509-2499, (907) 278-8313, Fax: (907) 278-8314



**TUNDRA TOURS, INC.
TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL**

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

March 17, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I have learned with much astonishment that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce and Economic Development is recommending a budget cut that will eliminate the Division of Tourism and cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council budget over one million.

As a small hotel and tour company in rural Alaska, I view these budget cuts as very detrimental to maintaining present market share and most certainly will effectively eliminate any future growth. Whereas we rely on the Division of Tourism and the Alaska Marketing Tourism Council to market Alaska nationally and internationally.

In light of these budget cuts along with Senate Bill 5 and Senate Bill 23, it is clear these proposals are contrary to the pledge to promote the travel industry and economic development throughout the State.

If this industry is required to suffer these dramatic setbacks as proposed, I therefore will be forced to position our company for no future growth as to new product development and dramatic staff reductions.

Small business in Alaska will suffer the most to the \$3.5 million cut to tourism. This is most unacceptable and I urge you to kill these budget cuts for the survival of the most promising growth industry for Alaska.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Latham".

Terry Latham
General Manager
Top of the World Hotel/Tundra Tours Inc.

SANTALAND RV PARK

22714 Nicholas Drive
P.O. Box 155317 • North Pole, Alaska 99704
Phone: (907) 488-9123 • Fax: (907) 488-2668
Toll Free: 888-488-9123



To: House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development.

From: Joyce Miller, George Miller, Terry Schlotfeldt.

RE: The 3.5 million in cuts and the elimination of the Division of Tourism.

This recommendation does not represent the small business person. We work with a limited season and need all the help we can get. The cuts you made last year were differantly reflected this past summer.

Small businesses can not afford the National advertizing that the corporations are able to do. We need to work together to achive the best for all.

WHY are we closing the doors to the tourism industry when our oil continues to decrease?

WHY are we catering to big businesses that do not have a home base in Alaska. A big portion of this money leaves the state.

With all the professed help to small business by our leaders we won't have to worry about our businesses much longer, we will all be closed.

North Pole is working very hard to build our town and what made this possible was the Division of Tourism working with us. When you eliminate this it will be extremely difficult to promote any industry in our town.

This should not be a state where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. It was our votes that helped elect you to your present positions. Please take a minute to think about our needs as small businesses.

Thank you for your time.



ALM Alaska Lodging Management, Inc.

P.O. Box 7247

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-247

Phone 907-488-110

Fax 907-488-750

March 17, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I was appalled to learn that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development is recommending a budget that would eliminate the Division of Tourism and reduce the ATMC budget by over \$1,000,000.

It is extremely difficult to understand the thinking here. Alaska currently receives over one million tourism related visits each year. These visitors bring in excess of \$1 billion to our state's economy. The figures have increased year after year. As oil revenues decline, tourism as a renewable resource, will play a more important role in creating jobs and enhancing the economy.

On a more personal note, my business depends on tourism. Though the hotels that I operate are not large, we still spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in our marketing efforts. This is not enough. Because most visitors to Alaska travel here in the summer period, most of our businesses are seasonal. Seasonal destinations are more expensive. This, coupled with the remoteness of Alaska, means that the traveler must pay more to visit than they might at many other destinations. Without a coordinated nationwide marketing effort, our businesses cannot continue to compete. Our tourism related businesses, which pour some \$120,000,000 annually into local, state and federal coffers, need the support of our Alaska Department of Tourism and the ATMC to effectively market the state.

We pay our fair share. Shouldn't the State participate and pay their fair share? The House Finance Subcommittee recommendation is certainly not one that promotes economic development of the State and my business. Unfortunately, the issue has become one that I take very personally and one that has an impact on my very survival. I hope that you and your fellow legislature understand the impact of the proposed budget cuts. I can assure you that I, as well as the hundreds of other visitor industry businesses around the state will be carefully watching how the votes stack up on this very important issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Alaska Lodging Management, Inc.
President

March 18, 1997

Vic Kohring, House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development

Fax 907 465 3818

Mark Hanley, Full House Finance Committee

Fax 907 465 2418

Drue Pearce, Full Senate Finance Committee

Fax 907 465 3872

Joe Ryan, Legislator

Fax 907 465 4588

Gene Therriault, Legislator

Fax 907 465 3884

Bert Sharp, Legislator

Fax 907 465 2070

Re: FY98 Budget Cuts
Eliminating the Alaska Department
of Tourism and cutting the Tourism
Budget by \$3.5 Million

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my dismay and displeasure at the above proposed budget cut. In speaking for myself, I feel I am expressing the needs and limitations of hundreds of beds and breakfasts operating all over Alaska. We are not "small business"...we are "itty bitty" businesses who work harder than you can believe to make our ventures viable and who simply do not have a budget to accommodate much advertising. We look to the State to 'sell' Alaska to the world for us. What is your problem? Tourism is a growing industry that brings Mr. and Mrs. Average Visitor to our doors; where they spend money in a hundred different ways: shopping, accommodations, transportation, eating, fishing, sightseeing, etc.....and THEN, they go home. And who is in control of all that? You are and we are. To eliminate a supporting Alaskan Department of this industry without offering something else to support this vigorously growing industry is ridiculous. Individually we are small. Together, we are huge. We need you to hear us.

Amy Springer, Owner/Operator
Kachemak Kiana Bed & Breakfast
Established May 1990, Homer, Alaska
Fax 907 235 8349



March 18, 1997

The State of Alaska
House Finance Subcommittee for
Commerce and Economic Development

Attention: Mr. Vic Kohring, Chair
Mr. Joe Green
Mr. Carl Moses

Mr. Joe Ryan
Mr. Ethan Berkowitz
Mr. John Cowdery

Gentlemen:

In 1996 Cardinal Travel Tours Inc. contributed, in terms of direct spending, some \$850,000 to the economy of Alaska. Indirect spending by our clients contributed approximately \$250,000. With our growing success in selling Alaska is due in no small part to our own efforts in developing a viable tour product, we could not have done so without the initiatives developed by the Division of Tourism. International tourism marketing efforts by this team of professionals and their tourism partners have made Alaska the place the world wants to visit.

It was with utter dismay that I read an advisory note from the Alaska Visitors Association today concerning the subcommittee's intention to seek the elimination of the Alaska Division of Tourism and the slashing of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council's budget. It appears obvious that the subcommittee has not sought input from the tourism industry and is determined to develop a strategy that will see Alaska take a back seat to other national and international destinations.

I am reminded of something I read that begins "Success is a journey, not a destination..." Your recommendation would see the visitor industry in Alaska retreat into oblivion rather than moving forward. This recommendation may well send a message to the world that you are no longer open for business and, in today's fickle consumer market, it will be years before you will regain the consumer interest and confidence that the State of Alaska enjoys today.

I urge you to reconsider your recommendation and focus on the journey rather than the destination!

Sincerely,

CARDINAL TRAVEL TOURS INC.

Alida W. J. Hume
Manager

cc. Alaska Visitors Association

TOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Paul Smith, President
PO Box 389, Tok, AK 99780
(907) 883-4181 off 4512 fax

March 17, 1999

Dear Vic Kohring, Joe Green, Carl Moses, Mark Hanley, Eldon Mulder, Gary Davis, Richard Foster, Drue Pearce, Randy Phillips, and Al Adams, Joe Ryan, Ethan Berkowitz, John Cowdery, Gene Therriault, Terry Martin, Pete Kelly, Carl Moses, Ben Grussendorf, Bert Sharp, Sean Parnell and John Torgerson;

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Tok Chamber of Commerce represents all aspects of the business community located on the interior highway system. We as a group benefit greatly from the work done through the Division of Tourism.

Eliminating the Division will seriously effect all businesses here in a negative way. The tourism industry here in Tok supports about 250 jobs and makes it possible for the urban tour operators to take the large group tours.

The big operations from other states do not necessarily need the state to help. Both the large and small businesses need to work collectively and we all need the assistance of the State Division of Tourism to keep this renewable, low impact industry healthy.

Tourism is without question, the only growth industry in this area, other than government agencies. If there is to be a future here, it will be in the tourist industry.

Please do what you can to keep the Division of Tourism strong.

Sincerely:



Paul Smith, President

March 18, 1997

Representative Eldon Mulder:
Vice Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Mulder:

First, allow me to extend an *atta-boy* to you, Representative Kott and Senator Randy Phillips for conducting a legislative hearing March 1 in Anchorage. Shamefully, I have never attended one of these constituent forums before, and so was quite impressed with the open atmosphere and overall responsiveness of our representatives. Frankly, I am much more comfortable with one-on-one communication, but it was clear that most attending constituents felt otherwise ☺.

I did in fact have some tourism-related issues I thought I might discuss at the hearing ... the signage bill being one of them. However, it looked like this topic was well covered, and I was glad to see you put at least some "billboard" fears to rest. I did also want to discuss funding for critical state tourism programs, but the forum didn't seem conducive to such a specific topic, at least not in my mind. I would like to take this opportunity to delve into this subject, especially in light of a House Finance Subcommittee's recommendation to sever the Division of Tourism (DoT) and to further slash the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council's (ATMC) budget.

I am trying to grasp the reasoning behind these subcommittee budget recommendations ... What are these people thinking? Here we have what is a self-proclaimed pro-economic development legislature, and yet outrageous cuts are being proposed to programs that have a long history of generating economic development through tourism promotion, coordination and small business assistance. Compared to the overall state budget, it's not as if the DoT or ATMC siphon off huge amounts of state money. In fact the state's investment is puny, embarrassingly small.

Alaska is not a poor state. We *can afford* to invest in our future. Oil money has seen to that. But oil money will run out someday, and we need to *act NOW* to foster a more diversified economy. Tourism is not the cure-all, but it is a significant contributor, and can be even more so if we nurture it through adequate marketing, responsible infrastructure development and an economic environment that makes entrepreneurialism a viable option for Alaskans.

The bottom line: Alaska needs to put more -- not less -- money into tourism, right now. When the subcommittee submits its final recommendation to the House Finance Committee, I ask that you reject its proposal to eliminate the DoT and further cut ATMC funding. I also ask that you champion *increased* funding for these vital tourism programs.

I would appreciate knowing exactly where you stand on this subject. Please call, write or fax your thoughts at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Stephenie Brady
7110 Chester Court
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907) 333-5851 (home)
(907) 333-9635 (fax)
(907) 561-5733 (work)



March 18, 1997

To: Full House Finance Committee
Re: Division of Tourism

To Whom it May Concern,

As a small tourism related business in Alaska, we find it very concerning that the House Finance Subcommittee is recommending a budget that will eliminate the Division of Tourism.

We cannot advertise worldwide without the help of the Division of Tourism. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in Alaska right now. Please rethink this one. Here are some key reasons:

- * The \$3.5 million cut to tourism amounts to nothing less than an attack on the visitor industry, Alaska's most promising growth industry.
- * Alaska is losing out to competing destinations. While other states and countries are increasing tourism marketing budgets, Alaska has essentially slashed tourism promotion in half.
- * It is small businesses like us, who cannot reach a national travel market alone, that will bear the brunt of massive cuts to tourism promotion. This is neither acceptable nor responsible.
- * This proposal is absolutely contrary to legislator's pledge to promote economic development.
- * Eliminating tourism and business development programs will deal a heavy blow to both new and existing small businesses.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Doug and Stephanie Green

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "Doug A. Green" and the second is "Stephanie Green".

393 W. Fiverside Drive, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • Telephone (907) 262-4292 • Fax (907) 262-7332

FAX**Date** 03/18/97**Number of pages including cover sheet**

TO: Rep. Vic Kohring, Chair
House Sub Committee -
Commerce and Econ. Dev.
State Capitol Building -
Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone 907 465-2186
Fax Phone 907 465-3818

FROM: L. Alan LeMaster,
President
Gakona Junction Village,
Inc.
P. O. Box 222
Gakona, AK 99586

Phone (907) 822-3564
Fax Phone (907) 822-3696

CC:

REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please Comment

Rep. Kohring:

Once again we see that your office has submitted a bill attempting to tear apart the guts of the infrastructure that dedicated legislators for thirty years have worked hard to build.

We just learned that you have proposed a budget to virtually eliminate the Alaska Division of Tourism. As you know this Division functions to lend support to the small businesses across Alaska involved in the visitor industry in ways that we could never do without the assistance from the state.

That, sir, is exactly the function of the state. To help industries and people do what they as private entities cannot do for them selves. We depend on the state of Alaska to function for us in the same way they function for the fishing industry, the logging industry, and the oil industry. Tourism is responsible for the support of over 20,000 people in this state that work hard, invest their money, and pay millions back to the state in the form of fees, taxes, permits, and licenses. It is unconscionable to take away the very foundation around which our success is generated, our marketing arm.

I urge you to withdraw from this outrageous attack and look for the areas in government that are a waste, and non-productive in the lives of the citizenry. A suggestion might be to look at the overstaffed DEC, the legislators exhorbinant salaries or the waste in the our bloated educational system and DOT & PF, (\$90,000 teacher, staff and administration salaries. Shameful)? **To see that my message is heard I am sending copies of this to all the sub-committee members as well as the members of the House Finance and Senate Finance Committees and the directors of the visitor industry associations, both local and state.**

Please keep abreast of the decisions of the sub-committee as soon as they are voted upon.

Regards,

L. Alan LeMaster, President



Westmark

HOTELS

ALASKA/YUKON

March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Fax 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

I am very alarmed and concerned to find out that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce & Economic Development is recommending a \$3.5 Million budget cut which will eliminate the Division of Tourism and lower the budget of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.

This will have a tremendous negative effect on the tourism industry in Alaska, which is the most promising growth industry for our State.

We will lose out to other competing destinations within the United States and throughout the world.

Alaska is considered an exotic vacation destination and is competing with other major world vacation destinations. If we, as the State, do not promote consistently in this competitive market we will definitely see a decline in our visitors.

This will hurt many small, in-state operators; which, year after year, provide employment for many Alaskans and have, for the most part, a big investment in their businesses.

Without the support of the State to market Alaska, these small businesses would not be able to reach their market on their own.

If Alaska claims that we are open for business, then let us be serious about it and provide the needed support to an industry which provides economic growth, employment to Alaskans and is environmentally friendly.

My hope is that you will sincerely consider a budget that will continue to support the tourism industry. Many Alaskan's livelihoods depend on our visitors, not only businesses but employees alike.

Your attention to my concern is very much appreciated.

Sincerely

Gerd Krause
General Manager
Baranof Hotel

Delta Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 987
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
(907) 895-8068
Fax (907) 895-5141



March 18, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley,

We have just learned of the proposed elimination of the Division of Tourism and cuts to the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council budget totaling \$3.5 million. In a time where the Legislature should be looking to promote economic development, attacking the visitor industry is not sensible. This industry is a promising growth industry for our state.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is comprised of 72 members, a number of which are tourism related businesses. Our community is currently dealing with the realignment of our military neighbor, Fort Greely. Tourism holds a lot of potential for the recovery of our economy. Eliminating tourism and business development programs, provided by the ATMC and DoT, would hurt existing businesses as well as potential new ones.

It is not possible for the tourist-related small businesses to reach the national travel market alone, the DoT and ATMC help reach this audience through their marketing programs. Alaska is losing out to competing destinations, tourism marketing must be a priority.

As a community in need of economic development, we urge you to vote for the visitor industry, not against it.

Sincerely,

Cleeta P. Barger

Cleeta P. Barger
President



Visitors &
Convention Bureau, Inc.

March 18, 1997

House Subcommittee and Full Finance Committee Members:

This notification is in response to the Proposed House Of Representatives action against tourism funding. Reductions and eliminations of this magnitude to Alaska's tourism division would be extremely devastating. It is my hope that you will thoroughly research the tourism impact in Alaska. I strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts regarding tourism funding. Please see that my voice is clearly understood.

Sincerely,

Kim Booth, Director of Kenai Visitor & Convention Bureau

We understand that there will be cuts to the budget this year but to totally eliminate the Division of Tourism and further slash the ATMC's budget, while giving the ATMC more responsibilities is an ATTACK on the industry. Please understand these drastic measures will hurt every Alaskan not just those directly employed by the Visitor Industry.



March 17, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
House Finance Committee

Dear Rep. Hanley:

It has come to my attention that the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce & Economic Development is recommending a budget that will eliminate the Division of Tourism entirely, and effectively cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council budget by over \$1 million.

I have to express my outrage in this recommendation. To further cut the tourism industry in Alaska is a death sentence to the small businesses and the industry in general. Alaska is losing out to competing destinations, while other states and countries are increasing tourism marketing budgets, Alaska has essentially slashed tourism promotion to less than half of what it was in FY94. Alaska should be increasing there budget to stay in the market not cutting and crippling it's most promising growth industry.

As a business in Sitka, Alaska your proposed budget cuts will deal a devastating blow to the City of Sitka and all small businesses in Alaska for future tourism. Small businesses do not have the dollars to be able to reach a national travel market alone, and we will bear the brunt of massive cuts to tourism promotions. This is neither acceptable nor responsible.

Please do not propose these budget cuts and hurt the local economy and quality of life in Sitka.

Sincerely,

Valerie Burns
General Manager



White Pass & Yukon Route
"Scenic Railway of the World"

P.O. Box 435
Skagway, Alaska 99840

1-800-343-7373
(907) 983-2217
(907) 983-2734 (Fax)

March 18, 1997

-VIA FAX-

Mark Hanley
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

The White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad has been operating tours since the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush. We understand fully the value of tourism and the many benefits it provides to our company and our community.

I understand major budget cuts are being considered towards the Division of Tourism and the ATMC programs. Please! In the essence of economic development it is crucial that the State retain at least the current funding for these very important tourism programs.

Alaska is a large geographic destination, we are competing against other countries for our precious visitors! The large tourism budgets of Canada, Australia, Europe and many more are able to convince many of "our" potential visitors from choosing Alaska.

HELP! We rely on the State programs. It would seem absurd to cut the budgets of programs that have already been slashed to the core. Alaska's tourism programs have been streamlined already! Please retain the tourism funds so desperately needed for an effective marketing program.

Thank you for your consideration. This industry is so very valuable - we cannot just keep reaping the harvests of it with out investing in it.

Sincerely,

Tina Cyr
Director of Marketing

Pacific & Arctic Railway & Navigation Company
British Columbia-Yukon Railway Company
British Yukon Railway Company

To: House Finance Secretary
Re: Made In Alaska Program
March 21st., 1997

I urge you to support a full \$50K in General Funds Appropriations to the Made In Alaska Program.

MIA represents an "Honest Face" in retail sales and is very appealing to the tourist trade. MIA connects and promotes the many faceted talents that abound in Alaska. It is one more thing that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Candus Mowery
POBox 3086
Homer, AK 99603

TOK CLINIC

P.O. BOX: 289
TOK, AK 99780
(907) 883-5855

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: 3-21-97

TO: House Finance Committee

COMPANY: Alaska Legislature

FAX NUMBER: 465-2278

FROM: Francis Grafft, Tok

FAX NUMBER: (907) 883-5245 Tom Dean, Tok

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3

MESSAGE: Letter Ref. Tourism

Letter Ref. Wolf Project

Francis Grafft
P.O. Box 694
Tah, AK 99780
March 21, 1997

Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee

I am currently a laundry worker for the Westmark Tah. It is only open in the summer, for the tourist. I work very hard all summer long and make just barely enough to get by. Mainly because all my bills from the winter is paid in the summer. After all the bills are paid, there is not much left. Is this what tourist jobs is all about?

Yes, the owners of these hotels, gas stations and R.V. Parks make all the money and still claim they can't pay their workers a whole lot. You see them build nice houses and drive nice cars, it's no wonder they are all for tourism. We have a few like them here in Tah.

My point is that you can not expect us to keep working for such low pay and then barely make it through the winter because the tourist are gone along with the work. We need some real jobs. At my job, I hear a lot of tourist complaining of high prices and not coming again, even when I go to the local grocery store. They are generally not happy with what they are getting and especially the high prices. What happens when there are no more tourist, what about my job?

I am for elimination of the Division of Tourism and cutting the budget of the Alaska Tourism Market. The state needs to work on providing some real jobs with decent incomes and not spend so much on promoting tourism. My life can't depend on this seasonal job forever.

Sincerely;

Francis Grafft.
Francis Grafft

Tom Dean, Box 742, Tok, Ak. 99780, Ph. 883-4737, March 21, 1997

Senator Bert Sharp
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator Sharp:

This letter is to urge you to oppose the funding, by the Legislature, the proposed wolf sterilation project amongst the 40-Mile caribou herd.

My family are hunters, nearly all of the meat we eat is wild game. I am in favor of fewer wolves and more caribou. I am apposed to this program for two reasons.

#1. This program was sold out, by the biologist involved, to the animal rights people and antihunters.

In local meetings on the plan, the people of Tok were strongly apposed to certain parts of the plan, yet our objections made no difference in the final proposal.

The hunting quota has been cut to 1/3 of the previous limit although the biologist own research showed that hunting had no significant bearing on heard size.

#2. The cost, \$800,000. For an experimental program that might not even work and no real consequences if it does or not. The state is supposed to be short of money.

I am the Chief of Tok Area EMS, the ambulance service for the upper Tananna Valley, more than 20,000 square miles.

Emergency services in Alaska are in trouble. There are not enough troopers and dispatchers. Fire Departments and EMS services are down grading and disappearing.

State funding for EMS support, such as Interior Region EMSC, has stayed flat or decreased for several years making their ability to help us less and less.

State funding for EMS capital equipment has been nothing for 3 or 4 years.

Let's get our priorities in order, people first. Adequate emergency services should be a priority at all levels of government.

There is a private bounty program in effect for wolf control in the 40-Mile area, it does seem to be working and it costs the state nothing. Let it work.

Sincerely,



Tom Dean

nsw



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES SKAL CLUBS

NORTH AMERICAN SKAL COUNCIL
SKAL CLUB OF ANCHORAGE NO. 289
P.O. BOX 104021
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-4021



March 21, 1997

FAX TO: All Legislators

FROM: SKAL club of Anchorage
Raymond F. Petersen
President

RE: Proposed budget for Tourism

Dear Legislator,

The SKAL Club of Anchorage is a member of the International Association of SKAL clubs, an international organization of tourism professionals.

At our monthly meeting last night it was unanimously resolved that:

1. We are opposed to any cuts in the tourism budget.
2. It is our feeling that it is irresponsible to cut state funding that promotes the only major growth industry in the state, and the industry with the most potential for growth.
3. We know that, small tourism businesses in particular depend on the marketing programs provided by the Alaska Visitors Assn.
4. This proposal will cost Alaska jobs. Jobs that will go to other tourism destinations with which we compete. Alaska tourism companies do not compete with each other so much as they compete with other tourism destinations.

Our member list is following. This was a unanimous resolution.

Ray F. Petersen

Stephenson, Karla, Director of Travel Agency Sec.
 AAA Travel 01
 10801 Montgomery N.E.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111
 Phone: 505-291-8700 Fax: 505-291-8617

Vaughan, George, VP/Owner
 Dollar Rent-A-Car 01
 P. O. Box 8181
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87119
 Phone: 505-842-4284 Fax: 505-842-4213

Yant, Tracy, Retired
 Aledin Travel Agency 04
 6401 Prairie N.E.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
 Phone: 505-837-1390 Fax: 505-883-0038

Dart, Susan R., Director Sales & Marketing
 Sheraton Anchorage Hotel 01
 401 East Sixth Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2890
 Phone: 907-278-8700 Fax: 907-278-9142

* Elender, Bill, President
 Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bc. 01
 1800 A Street #200
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5162
 Phone: 907-278-4118 Fax: 907-278-5568

Elsson, J. Mark, Vice President
 US Travel Systems 01
 P. O. Box 17310
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508-2310
 Phone: 907-541-2434 Fax: 907-788-0181

Peterson, Raymond L., Retired
 Northern Consolidated 04
 510 L St Apt 903
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Phone: 907-272-2168 Fax: 907-243-0849

Rammer, William J., Director Sales & Marketing
 Radin Hotel 01
 4800 Spensard Road
 Anchorage, Alaska 99517-3236
 Phone: 907-243-2300 Fax: 907-243-8815

Rockar, Annmarie J., President
 All Ways Travel Inc. 01
 302 Q Street
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2188
 Phone: 907-278-3644 Fax: 907-258-2211

ANCHORAGE

Club No. 289 Founded November 01, 1966

FAx: 907-243-2289

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 Raymond Peterson President
 Timothy J. Worthen Vice President
 William J. Rammer Secretary
 Don Williams Treasurer
 Annmarie Rockar Asst. Secy.-Treas.
 Susan Dart-DIMaggio John Kralcampa
 Al Koch

OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS
 P.O. Box 100573
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0573

MSCUSA REPRESENTATIVE
 Danny Maroney

PAST PRESIDENTS *

USUAL MEETING DATE
 Third Thursdays Except July & August
 Dinner meetings at various places

Membership 38

Active (01) 33
 Transfer Active (017) 0
 Associate (02) 1
 Life (04) 4
 Honorary (03) 0

Bennison, Joel B., Owner
 Alaskan Star Charters & Tours 01
 P. O. Box 112073
 Anchorage, Alaska 99511-2073
 Phone: 907-345-2432 Fax: 907-563-5045

Bischoff, Rex I., Retired
 Alaska Helicopters Inc. 04
 4158 Northpoint Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99515
 Phone: 907-243-1087 Fax: -

Bishara, Bryan, VP Corporate Marketing
 BIRA Aviation 01
 8180 South Airport Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1898
 Phone: 907-248-4422 Fax: 907-266-8383

Branigan, Dennis, Vice President Sales
 Westmark Hotels 01
 880 Yr Street #101
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3400
 Phone: 907-272-8410 Fax: 907-258-0580

Bustamante, Bruce W., Director of Sales
 Alaska Airlines 01
 4750 W. International Airport Road
 Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1090
 Phone: 907-288-7800 Fax: 907-268-7866

Cox, Carl F., Division Manager
 Gray Line of Alaska 01
 745 West 4th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2108
 Phone: 907-277-3581 Fax: 907-277-9247

* Prascak, Robert J., Jr., President
 Anchorage Travel Bureau 01
 P. O. Box 101883
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1583
 Phone: 907-278-2581 Fax: 907-278-2589

* Garvin, Dick M., Tourism Sales Manager
 Anchorage Conv. & Visit. Bureau 01
 1800 A Street #200
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5182
 Phone: 907-278-4118 Fax: 907-278-5558

Gregson, Henry J., President
 Easy Travel Service Inc. 01
 903 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #218
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2408
 Phone: 907-287-1988 Fax: -

Halvra, Andrew J., Director of Sales
 Avis Rent-A-Car 01
 P. O. Box 180028
 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0028
 Phone: 907-243-4300 Fax: 907-243-2294

* Hardesty, Bill, Retired
 Western Airlines 04
 2117 Hillcrest Place
 Anchorage, Alaska 99517-1757
 Phone: 907-277-7008 Fax: -

Kirchbaum, D. Tim, Executive Vice President
 Phillips Cruises & Tours 01
 508 West 4th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2211
 Phone: 907-274-2723 Fax: 907-276-8315

Kinnick, Nancy J., Manager Tour Sales
 Anchorage Convention & Visit. Bc. 01
 1800 A Street #200
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5166
 Phone: 907-278-4118 Fax: 907-278-5359

Koch, Al J., President
 All Alaska Tours 01
 32035 Eagle Vista Drive
 Eagle River, Alaska 99577
 Phone: 907-688-1531 Fax: 907-688-3720

Kralcampa, John, Sales Manager
 Alaska Sightseeing Tours 01
 513 West 4th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2211
 Phone: 907-278-1306 Fax: 907-272-5817

Lehman, Thomas L., President
 Alaska Bus Charters & Tours Inc. 01
 P. O. Box 102042
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2042
 Phone: 907-337-8001 Fax: 907-278-1010

Marsh, Bridgette P., Owner/President
 Water Travel Inc. 01
 444 West 7th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Phone: 907-278-3835 Fax: 907-278-4470

* Maroney, Danny, Sales Manager
 Japan Airlines 01
 P. O. Box 180048
 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0048
 Phone: 907-248-6880 Fax: 907-248-6228

McKeeney, Thomas J., Sales Manager
 American Express Travel 01
 5011 Jewel Lake Road
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1100
 Phone: 907-266-8811 Fax: 907-266-8616

Michelson, Arno
 US Army Alaska 02
 808 West 18th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5017
 Phone: 907-272-8377 Fax: -

Peterson, Raymond, Jr., President
 KatmaiLand Resort Inc. 01
 4550 Airport Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1081
 Phone: 907-243-8448 Fax: 907-243-0849

Rust, Todd S., Secretary/Treasurer
 Rust's Flying Service-Air Tours 01
 P. O. Box 180325
 Anchorage, Alaska 99518-0325
 Phone: 907-243-1586 Fax: 907-248-0552

Shonfield, William J., Retired
 Sheffield Enterprises 04
 P. O. Box 81478
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508-1478
 Phone: 907-243-1841 Fax: -

Southall, Robert W., General Manager
 Anchorage Hilton 01
 500 West 3rd Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Phone: 907-272-7411 Fax: 907-245-7175

* Sugimoto, Kelso, President
 America & Pacific Tours Inc. 01
 P. O. Box 101068
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1068
 Phone: 907-272-0461 Fax: 907-272-0251

* Swenberg, Morris, VP Sales & Marketing
 Phillips Cruises 01
 P. O. Box 100034
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0034
 Phone: 907-274-2723 Fax: 907-278-5315

Vaughan, George, General Manager
 Executive Sula Hotel 01
 4300 Spensard Road
 Anchorage, Alaska 99517
 Phone: 907-243-6388 Fax: 907-248-2161

Victors, John L., President
 Sanctuary Travel Services Inc. 01
 1590 Financial Drive
 Valdez, Alaska 99654
 Phone: 907-373-1212 Fax: 907-373-1982

Von Imhof, Chris M., VP & General Manager
 Alyeska Prince Resort 01
 P. O. Box 248
 Girdwood, Alaska 99587
 Phone: 907-754-2201 Fax: 907-754-2290

Williams, Don, President
 Quality Travel Services 01
 3710 Woodland Drive #1500
 Anchorage, Alaska 99517-2574
 Phone: 907-243-2200 Fax: 907-243-2299

Worthen, Timothy J., CEO
 Premier Alaska Tours 01
 P. O. Box 211355
 Anchorage, Alaska 99521-1355
 Phone: 907-338-8875 Fax: 907-338-3888

* Zimmerman, Gary, Sales Manager
 Avis Rent-A-Car 01
 P. O. Box 180028
 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0028
 Phone: 907-243-4300 Fax: 907-243-2294

3-3-2145

3-22-866

ext 224

229 6154 - cell



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Budget
committee name

committee on # 75, dated _____
bill/subject

Operating Budget

Signed: Aime Dewell
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO BOX 4235 Soldotna, AK
Address

907-262-8354
Phone No.

Alaska spends less on post-secondary vocational education than almost any state in the union, yet a significant percentage of Alaskan jobs require those skills. The result is that too often industry hires skilled workers from outside to fill local jobs and kids go outside to find the jobs for which they have been educated. In looking for ways to cut the overall budget, is the legislature being swayed by academic learning institutes who want to prepare ALL students for college and who want to see more support for academic institutes than for vocational/technical institutes? If you cut out the ability for AVTEC to collect revenues, then the UNOCAL program - a model example of being responsive to industry needs - and all others like it would be killed. Industries could no longer contract directly with the school. Programs could no longer be tailored to industry needs. The school could no longer gauge the needs of the community and provide the programs needed at any given time. The school could not respond quickly to changing business or industry needs. On the other hand, cutting the general fund instead is no answer either. In order to meet current training needs of business and industry, the school must be in a position to provide up-to-date instruction on modern equipment. Neither is turning academic institutes into for-profit organizations an answer. While it is appropriate and lucrative to have business and industry share the cost for site-specific programs, overall basic education is the responsibility of the state. The idea is to make education more responsive to the needs of the real people and real jobs in this state. It can't happen without proper funding and proper support. Thanks for your help.

Anne Newell
PO Box 4235
Soldotna, AK 99669



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on State Parks Budget, dated 3/21/97
 bill/subject

I strongly oppose the House Finance Committee's proposed cut of \$183.9 for State Parks FY 98.

Alaska ranks Number 1 in park acreage, 49th in staff. Millions of dollars, both state and Federal, have been invested in Park facilities. It is very short-sighted to allow these sites to deteriorate for lack of staff.

Alaskans of all ages enjoy their Parks and willingly pay reasonable fees but resent reduced "services" and closures.

Please reconsider this budget cut.

Thank you —

Signed: Marlys E. Tedin Marlys E. Tedin
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 892, Sitka, Alaska 99835

Address

(907) 747-3930

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name

committee on Alaska State Parks, dated March 21, 1997
bill/subject Budget

Signed: Dorothy Thomson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
3505 Haliput Point Road
Address Sitka AK 99835
907 747-8218
Phone No.

House Finance
Chairman Hanley

I strongly object to the
proposed cuts for State Parks
Budget.

Sitka's State Parks are a
vital part of our recreation
The City's finances are
limited, I cannot perceive
them taking over the Parks
System.

Please consider Sitka's
plight when passing the
budget.

Dorothy Thomson
Citizen



Mrs. Dorothy Thomson
3505 Halibut Point R.
Sitka, AK 99835-9528

cc. Representative Ben Grossbardoff
Senator Robert Taylor

3-20-97
TO: HFIN members

Tom Dean
Box 742
Tok, Ak. 99780
March 20, 1997

Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee

I am Chief of Tok Area EMS, the ambulance service for the Tok area.

I am in favor of the elimination of the Division of Tourism and cutting the budget of the Alaska Tourism Market. I feel that the state should stop promoting tourism for the following reasons.

Tourism does not produce a real value product. Tourist money is second hand money that depends on high value jobs. All jobs depend on real products. When there are no more jobs there will be no more tourist.

Tourism hinders the development and continuation of real product production; ie. oil, timber, fishing and mining.

Tourism has hindered the management of our wildlife, ie. wolf control.

Tourism does produce a lot of jobs, but for the most part they are short season and low paying that pale in comparison to the jobs that the production of real products make.

Tourism puts a heavy strain on our highways.


Tourism overloads our emergency services. There are not enough Troopers and Dispatchers. Rural ambulance services and clinics get extremely overworked with clinics not big enough to handle the volume. Volunteer services become their busiest when they have the fewest available members. Many tourist are older people on medicare and emergency medical services lose money on every medicare patient they help.

I do not believe the tourist industry is paying its way in Alaska.

If the State does not have the money to provide adequate emergency services then it should not be promoting an industry that increases the need.

Lets put Alaska back to work producing real products.

Sincerely,


Tom Dean

nnt



Ketchikan Visitors Bureau
131 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-6166
(907) 225-4250 fax

March 20, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Therriault, Co-Chairs
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol-Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley, Representative Therriault and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the 163 members of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau to indicate our distress over the House Finance Subcommittee's proposed cuts to the Alaska Division of Tourism. It is our belief that the committee's recommendations amount to the abolishment of tourism marketing, through cuts being considered for both the DoT and the ATMC.

On a local level, industry contributes conservatively, one third of our total budget for KVB programs. ATMC funding is also based on industry contributions. I would hope that in this time of shrinking state revenues, legislators would reward this type of public-private partnership with continuing support as an example of how best to maximize state funds.

Our area already faces economic devastation due to the loss of timber industry related jobs. While tourism will not replace what was lost, it certainly has been seen as an industry that will help us bridge the gap. We rely heavily on the state's marketing and promotion to attract potential visitors to the state. The methods used to get the Alaska State Vacation Planner into the hands of visitors ultimately results in getting the Ketchikan area guide to those visitors as well. Without support for marketing our product, the Ketchikan area and the outlying communities in the southern southeast region will continue to lose ground in our efforts to compete with other destinations who receive public support for promotion of their tourism industry.

I recognize the effort put forth by our legislators to produce a balanced budget, but I urge you to consider the chain reaction that eliminating the state's tourism marketing will create for our membership and the vast majority of small businesses which make up this state's visitor industry. Please reconsider the recommendations of the House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce and Economic Development and act to maintain funding for these programs.

Sincerely,

Patti Mackey
Executive Director

cc: House Finance Committee Members
Senator Robin Taylor
Representative Bill Williams
Senator Jerry Mackie

Representative Albert Kookesh
Alaska Visitors Association
Ketchikan Chapter-AVA
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau Board of Directors



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on # 76, dated March 22, 1997.
 bill/subject

Please reconsider the proposed cuts in House Bill # 76. I would like to advocate for services (medicaid) to children. The children of our state are the silent majority because they don't have the right to vote. Alaska leads the nation in major categories that we want to get rid of i.e., suicide, substance abuse, rape etc.. Our children are our future, they will be governing our state when we are elderly. We are obligated by our very nature to ensure our children's future.

Signed: HOWARD HINDON
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 3093 Palmer, AK
 Address

(907) 746-3921
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget Cuts, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I do not agree with the budget cuts
 to dis ban the science & Tech Center -
 Alaskan's one signature. Keep the science
 and Tech Center

Signed: Don Patterson
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 873483, Merrill, AL 99687
 Address
907-373-6754
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 20th Legislature
 committee name
 committee on House Bill 74, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

I am against this action because it punishes innocent victims and their families for a illness they are not able to control without support and assistance

Try being a mother with severe depression not being able to have access to medication and physio social services

What ~~are~~ about the children that will be victims of suffering that is so terrible the parent wishes they would die.

Signed: Teresa M Kalsbeek
 Testifier
Lisa Bues
 Representing (Optional)
836 Wilder Av Wasilla
 Address
376 - 854 9
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Funding
committee name

committee on 76-Mental Health dated 1-16-97
bill/subject

I work as an Activity Therapist for Life Quest Community Mental Health Services in the Mat-Su Valley. I assist those on welfare with mental illnesses & children to go to work and build skills to be self-sufficient. I emphasize that 'going to work' is of personal benefit to themselves as well as to those they love. There are many steps involved in people developing the abilities to be a productive citizen. Education, supportive services, and emotional development assistance ~~is needed~~ are necessary steps. Otherwise, painful, damaging, & expensive consequences will follow. Hospitalization, homelessness, starvation, violent crimes - decrease in the quality of life for everyone.

Signed: Cynthia Boies
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 940412, Houston AK 99694
Address
(907) 892-7334
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ committee name
 committee on Medicaid cuts dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I believe these cuts will effect, many more than you could ever understand. I can't begin to explain how all the services have helped me from OVR, case management, medical, (med management). I'm able to improve my life because of these services, I'm working, raising a daughter alone, controlling my mental illness with therapy... Please reconsider these cuts. The cost of hospitalization is far greater (example \$1700⁰⁰ a day for Charter North. **I NEED THESE SERVICES!**)

Sig: Jeffrey Murphy
 Testifier
Chris Quest & Self
 Representing (Optional)
2101 Chukaloon - Huskialk 99654
 Address
376-4019
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the cross winds club house
committee name

committee on _____, dated _____
bill/subject

We have been doing many things in our clubhouse and have been to many places. we also grow many vegetables and flowers and we like to keep doing so. I am proud of this and hope for more funds

Signed: _____

Testifier

THOMAS FORSTNER

Representing (Optional)

Address HC01 Box 8073

PAIMOR AK

Phone No. 745 6762

Mr. Vic Kehring

I am one of the client of Life

Quest. I need the support of Life Quest

Staff. With out the support of Life

Quest I would be in the Hospital. I need

medication, staff to help me to go shopping

for food and to take me to my doctors

appointments. The funds I get pays for my

rent, bills. With out Medicaid I wouldnt

be able to pay for my ~~med~~ medication.

Please dont cut mental health services,

because I need The support I get from

Them.

Kenna & Adam

a/o. Life Quest

630 E. Paulson, Ste 68

Wasilla, AK 99654

373-2411



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

committee on House Bill # 76, dated March 22, 1997
bill/subject

To cut the budget for community mental health will result in the State spending far more money on the hospitalization of the mentally ill in our communities since the supports that keep them doing well in the community will not be there. There will also be an increase in homelessness and incarceration of community members who no longer have the support of mental health workers who help them remain stable in their lives.

The local community mental health agency also works with clients to help them to become ready for employment through therapy, support, and coordination of services with other community agencies without this help many people will not become the working taxpayers which they are capable of becoming.

Without good dental care and needed glasses our clients will find it difficult to be hired for employment.

I know people who drive but can't see well due to needing glasses, I also know people with poor nutrition resulting in increased medical costs because of poor dental care.

Supporting community mental health makes good fiscal sense

Signed: Phyllis K. ...

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

641 3rd St Palmer

Address

745-1459

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on budget, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

I do not want any of the Mental Health in the valley being cut. I came to the Valley because I heard Life Quest was one of the best help I could get. I and a bunch of people need these kind of assistance. If I didnt have these benefits I feel my illness would get worse. If these cuts were done I think I would lose a lot in my life. please dont do these cuts I appreciate the help I can get in the Valley and wouldn't want to stay in a Mental Institution. I like my freedom and like interacting with the public. I also feel better about myself.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Tony Gilbertie

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 873921 Wasilla, AK 99687-3921

Address

407-373-4810

Phone No.

Flip Over
✓



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

I don't think they should cut Social Security. If I didn't have these benefits I feel like I would be on the streets. And half of us would not survive. There is many problems we can not solve on our own, Having Life Quest housing we can get our help from them. Also social security pays for our rent so I reject cutting Social Security. Clubhouse is a place for people who have illnesses and are able to do more there than home. If you take Clubhouse where would people go to be safe and have a place to do more than staying at home.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Michelle Anderson

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 873921

Address

373-4199

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on HES, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I have Manic Depression with other mental disorders. I've been receiving quality services from Life Trust since I was diagnosed. Because of these services I have been able to remain a productive member of the communities of Palmer and Wasilla.

I am not receiving government assistance but I see daily how essential government financial services are to many of my close friends. These are people who truly need the services they receive. Cuts in these services translate into homelessness, increased symptoms suicide, hospitalization, crime and substance abuse. These problems will cost our community in the long run and immediately. Thank you for hearing us and please carefully consider

Signed: Christine K Schorr

Testifier

Christine K Schorr

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1391 Palmer, AK 99645

Address

746-1455

Phone No.

what we have to say

RECEIVED
APR 15 1997

By: Cole Sonafrank
Mayor Jim Sampson
Karen Parr
Nancy Webb
Cheryl Kilgore
Introduced: 04/10/97
Adopted: 04/10/97

RESOLUTION NO. 97-036

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AT LEAST LEVEL FUNDING
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska is facing a major reduction in funding in the fiscal year 1997-98 proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the University budget has been cut successively for 10 years with a cumulative cut of 30 percent while enrollment has increased by 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Governor proposed a \$530,000 reduction in university funding. The House approved version of the budget proposes a \$2.7 million cut and the Senate has indicated a reduction of \$3 million; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska's statewide operational costs have increased nearly \$10 million for items such as unfunded salary increases, higher coal prices and increased maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the university's reputation for excellence in scientific research has continued to grow bringing more than \$46 million of federal grant funds into Alaska in 1996, an increase of 33 % in five years. While this grant funding has increased, it represents new and additional work and therefore has increased the need for State infrastructure support rather than offsetting budget cuts as some legislators have argued; and

WHEREAS, the university's main Fairbanks campus would directly absorb about half of any cuts or cost increases. Since Fairbanks is the center of most of the university's research, the indirect impacts may be even greater; and

WHEREAS, in Fairbanks, the University of Alaska contributes greatly to the local economy by providing a modern university which attracts students; a research facility which attracts persons from throughout the world who come to the campus for various research projects; business which uses the University for research projects, students for interns, and produces products because of the proximity of the University and its scientists; and by contributing to the economy through the payroll of University employees; and

WHEREAS, without the needed funds to properly operate the University, students will be less likely to be attracted to attend the University of Alaska, the University will fail to attract quality professors and research scientists, government officials from both the United States and other nations will be less likely to utilize the services of the university, and the quality of education, in Alaska, will deteriorate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly strongly urges funding for the University of Alaska be at least the same level as last year, recognizing that last years funding will still not address the additional expenses facing the university this year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislators of the State of Alaska recognize the need for a quality university system to encourage Alaska students to attend post secondary education in Alaska, attract noted professors and scientists from throughout the world, and to attract businesses both doing research and commerce with the University of Alaska.

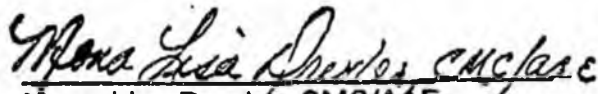
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska; the Honorable Drue Pearce and the Honorable Bert Sharp, Co-Chairs of the Senate Finance Committee; the Honorable Gene Therriault and the Honorable Mark Hanley, Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee; and all members of the Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL, 1997.



Henry "Hank" Hove
Presiding Officer

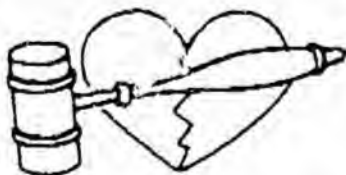
ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMCIAAE
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Bartos, Sattley, Quakenbush, Sonafrank, Parr, Kilgore, Webb, St. John,
LaSoia and Hove

Noes: McBride

VICTIMS

for Justice 619 East Fifth Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 278-0977 • Fax: (907) 258-0740

April 14, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair Finance Committee
House of Representative
State Capitol Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

Victims for Justice is grateful for the \$25,000 legislative appropriation we received from the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature. It is our sincere hope the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature will *continue* to demonstrate your commitment to helping victims of *other* violent crime by appropriating \$50,000 to Victims for Justice for FY 1998.

Victims of other violent crimes include the women, children and men who are surviving family members and friends of homicide victims, as well as those who have been physically and emotionally assaulted by violent crime (felony assault, DWI's, robbery, and burglary).

Today, Victims for Justice remains the only organization in the State of Alaska that provides support to victims of *other* violent crime. During 1996, Victims for Justice provided direct victim services to over 1400 individuals through: crisis intervention; specialized grief counseling; advocacy and support throughout the criminal justice system; and through community education and prevention.

- Crisis intervention to 135 new clients.
- Individual and peer group specialized grief counseling to 231 total clients (644 hours).
- Advocacy and support throughout the criminal justice system to 421 total clients (491 hours).
- Community education and prevention to 46 speaking engagements reaching over 1300 individuals and information and referral to over 700 total clients.

This level of service, as well as the competing demands of the operational and fundraising efforts are provided by a small three person staff. During FY 1996 over \$6MM in crime victims funds passed through the Department of Public Safety, yet Victims for Justice received only \$32,700, less than 1%! During FY 1997 the only stable funding Victims for Justice will receive is:

CDVSA	\$33,250
Legislative Appropriation	\$25,000
HSMG	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$73,280

It is our sincere hope the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature can provide to Victims for Justice for FY 1998 the \$50,000 in financial support needed to ensure the State of Alaska is responsive to the needs of *all* victims of violent crime, not only the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The victims of *other* violent crimes, *survivors of homicide victims and physical assault*, deserve to be recognized and provided with victim services by the state.

Sincerely,

Janice Lienhart
Janice Lienhart
Executive Director

Providing services to survivors of homicide victims and physical assault

Distributed by Request, Rep. Mark Hanley

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIES
RECEIVED

April 9, 1997 No. pages: 2 Time transmitted: 8AM - APR 15 1997
FAX TO: Alaska State Legislature, House and Senate Finance Committees
FAX NO. 465-3757 House Finance Committee - please distribute to all
Committee members
FAX NO. 465-3753 Senate Finance Committee - please distribute to all
Committee members

FROM: Celia M. Hunter - FAX NO. 479-4310 Fairbanks, Alaska
(1819 Muskox Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99709-6626)

RE: Maintaining funding for public broadcasting, both radio and TV

My appreciation of public broadcasting began in the 60s, when the first FM station began broadcast NPR programs over KUAC FM from the UAF. FM was followed by Public Broadcasting System TV programming in the early 1970s. The high quality of offerings in both mediums was a welcome addition both in the field of news and of entertainment. They have continued to fill a really essential role in my home ever since, and in thousands of homes throughout Alaska. The popular support of public broadcasting is demonstrated over and over again in the fundraising drives, which consistently meet their goals.

However successful such fundraising endeavors are, they aren't sufficient to keep public broadcasting on the air. The crisis of a couple of years ago, when the Legislature demanded consolidation and streamlining of facilities and operations was met by the management and staffs of both TV and Radio in a way which optimized available high tech equipment, and cut expenses as requested. Alaska One and Alaska Community Radio are the result of those changes. The expansion of coverage to rural Alaska has added many hundreds of "bush" households to the networks served by public broadcasting. The present set-up is efficient and cost-effective.

But additional cuts threaten to disrupt this excellent system. The niche filled by Public Broadcasting benefits the people of Alaska from many walks of life. Professional people contemplating accepting employment often ask about the availability of public broadcasting as one of their criteria for choosing to accept work in a particular community. They appreciate the excellent children's programs available on public radio and TV, which are

entertaining and educational, and a welcome relief from the violence often portrayed in commercial programming.

I served on the Citizen Advisory Committee for KUAC FM and TV up until a few years ago, and this group of volunteers gave many hours of their time to supporting public broadcasting, helping to maintain its high quality and presentation of all sides of controversial issues important to our community. One of my fellow volunteers was June Weinstock, who later was the victim of mob violence in Guatemala, which left her severely handicapped. However, June's mind is still functioning, even though she's not able to speak clearly, and she continues to enjoy listening to KUAC FM and its wide array of excellent news broadcasts.

The loyalty of so many thousands of Alaskans speaks well for the importance of public broadcasting in their lives. The relatively minor expenditures required to keep Alaska One and Alaska Community Radio providing their essential services to educate, entertain, and link the citizens of this state in a close-knit fellowship by means of top quality programming is one of the most worthwhile expenditures of public monies you folks can authorize.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in behalf of public broadcasting.

Signed *Celia M. Hunter*

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIES

FAX Messages to both House and Senate Finance Committees of Alaska
State Legislature

TO: House Finance Committee: FAX No. 465-3757
(Please distribute to all Finance Committee members.)

RECEIVED

TO: Senate Finance Committee FAX No. 465-3753
(Please distribute to all Finance Committee members)

APR 15 1997

From: Ginny Hill Wood, 1819 Muskox Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: 479-2754

DATE: April 9, 1997 No. Pages: 2 Time sent: *8AM*

RE: Support for Public Radio and Public TV

I have contributed annually to KUAC FM and TV more money than I have to any other non-profits that I support. That many other Alaskans share my high regard for public broadcasting is proven by the fact that taken altogether, Alaskans contribute more per capita to this amenity in their lives than the citizens of any other states in the USA. We aren't begging for something for nothing.

They support it because of the quality of the programming and the broad spectrum of information, entertainment, and education they receive sans the insipid, intrusive advertisements that interrupts commercial stations, attempting to beguile the listener or the viewer to buy stuff they don't need and can't afford. I can't afford cable TV, and, at this stage of my life, never will.

The folks who put together the programs and run the KUAC station have shown they can do more with less, actually improving their programming by their ingenuity in reorganizing and grouping Juneau, Bethel, and Fairbanks TV into Alaska One, in accordance with cuts by the previous Legislature. They should be rewarded, not penalized, for their thriftiness and resourcefulness. Alaska One has brought the "bush" villages into the Alaska Community, and is tapping their talents for many of their productions - all on a do-it-yourself volunteer basis.

If the Legislature can find funding to raise your own expense accounts and to fund Arctic Power and trans-national oil company's efforts to open the

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling — a “dead horse” in Washington, D.C. this year — you surely can find the money to continue public broadcasting, a non-partisan, widely acclaimed communication media for Alaska.

Signed..... *Conny Hie Wood*

(A 50-year resident of Alaska)

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

April 15, 1997

To: Honorable Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
465-2418

From: William A. Maloney, City Clerk
City of Kodiak
voice: 907-486-8636
fax: 486-8600

RECEIVED
APR 15 1997

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet

The Kodiak City Council adopted the following resolution at its regular April 10 meeting. Resolution Number 11-97 urges the Legislature to fully fund the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in the coming year's budget.

Please include this resolution with the information that will be considered in deciding this budget issue.

Thank you.

**CITY OF KODIAK
RESOLUTION NUMBER 11-97**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KODIAK SUPPORTING FULL BUDGET FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has been presented with a proposal to reduce the FY98 budget of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) by nearly twelve million dollars and to eliminate the manager and staff of the Alaska Marine Highway System; and

WHEREAS this proposed budget reduction would reduce the ability of DOT/PF to obligate available and future Federal funds for needed projects throughout the state; and

WHEREAS the proposed cuts would place in jeopardy approximately \$200,000,000 in Federal highway funds and approximately \$60,000,000 in FAA funding for aviation facilities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the proposed reduction would affect current-fiscal-year projects by cutting funding for seasonal staff beyond July 1 for federally funded construction projects, which funding would revert to the Federal government to be reallocated to states which would have the ability to obligate the funds by October 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) employs some nine hundred employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$100,000,000; and

WHEREAS the proposal to make the AMHS Manager's position an additional duty of a Deputy Commissioner of DOT/PF is impractical, as current workloads would not allow a Deputy Commissioner to devote more than 25% of her or his time to the ferry system, which is not sufficient oversight for a system of this size and complexity; and

WHEREAS the proposed cuts would result in declining revenues from the AMHS public, slower procurement and resupply of vessels, delays in crewing, slower payroll response, lack of community participation in schedule development, and other harms to the service quality; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway serves as a vital link among the many maritime communities of Alaska; and

WHEREAS both the road system and the AMHS provide the transportation network crucial to the economic well-being of the entire State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS these proposed reductions would effect relatively small savings to the state in comparison with the losses they would entail, and are therefore not in the best interest of the people of the State of Alaska,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kodiak, Alaska, that the Alaska State Legislature carefully review the impacts of the proposed budget reductions and maintain funding for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities at approximately the current level.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of April, 1997.

CITY OF KODIAK

Carolyn L. Floyd
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jillian A. Maloney
CITY CLERK

APRIL 10, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 15 1997

REP. MARK HANLEY,

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER DURING OUR SHORT SUMMER. IT PROVIDES MANY JOBS FOR THE STUDENTS WHO DEPEND ON ~~THE~~ THE INCOME FOR THEIR EDUCATION.

MANY SMALL BUSINESSES DEPEND ON THE TOURIST FOR THEIR INCOME. THE TOURIST DOLLAR PAYS FOR THE FOOD ON THEIR TABLE, FOR THE MORTGAGE ON THEIR HOUSE, AND THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACK.

THE TOURISM MARKET MUST BE SUPPORTED TO ASSURE THESE PEOPLE CAN STAY IN ALASKA WITH THEIR FAMILIES. PLEASE CAREFULLY WEIGH ANY DECISION THAT IS MADE ON THE TOURISM BUDGET.

PAUL FISANDHOKER
2321 BRANCHE DR
ANCHORAGE AK 99518

April 10, 1997

12315 Wilderness Road
Anchorage, Alaska
99516

RECEIVED

APR 15 1997

Dear Mark Rowley:

I believe the proposed cuts in Tourism are not in line with the will of the people who are making a living from the States most promising renewable resource industry.

While the red faced pits Alaskans against each other while accomplishing the overall need to reduce State spending, you should seek a long range solution. The lack of a state strategic plan which lays out the next 10-20 years, is vitally needed and the reason we may be here in Shortfall.

Love the marketing council —

Don Follow

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

P.O. BOX 1110

KOTZEBUE, AK 99752

(907) 442-2500 / FAX 442-2930

April 4, 1997

Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
State House Finance Committee
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Messrs. Hanley and Therriault:

On behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough, and the eleven communities within our boundaries, we ask you to fully support maintenance funding for the University of Alaska.

Based on the level of funds appropriated last year, we ask for your consideration and passage for the same amount during the next fiscal year.

Higher education is important to our residents, and to further erode the gains and access that have been made available to rural populations who have this need for education opportunities is being "pound" foolish.

If there is one avenue of hope into the future that is equally available to all residents throughout the state, it is the opportunity to get an education at the institutions that we can continue to have access to. To further reduce the funding of the university budget is to deny our residents the opportunity to participate and secure long term success by having an education system that doesn't become remote or non-existent in the rural areas.

Letter to House Finance Committee
Page Two
April 4, 1997

I would hope that you see this simple request as your moral guidance to keep education funded at levels adequate for us to participate in from our regional perspective. We cannot expect to become more self-sufficient if we are to be denied funds for an education system if you continue to cut back funding levels. In recent years they have been devastating on a cumulative basis.

Please continue to fund the university system, and restore the proposed \$2.5 million cutback.

Respectfully submitted


Chuck Greene, Mayor

April 9, 1997

RECEIVED

Representative Hanley - APR 14 1997

My husband and I are members of the Anchorage Convention + Visitors Bureau, and small business owners for for the last four years. It's been a struggle, as most small business starts are, but it appears as though the legislature is preparing to put us and hundreds of other small business operators out of business.

As I see it, oil is number one in the State, but declining. Fishing is number two, but the market has a glut and the prices continue to fall. The number three is tourism and we believe, the REAL future of Alaska. If Alaskans want to start a small business, it won't be in oil or fish, as much as it will be in Tourism.

If these budget cuts are adopted, hundreds of present owners will be out of business, and hundreds more will never have an "opportunity" to start. Take care of Alaskans first! Stop "politicizing" in the marketing of this State and let the experts in the industry determine how we will grow.

We need your help, please!

Thank you,

Jane + Bill Korpuleon
The Honey Bears
6520 DeArman Rd
Anchorage, AK 99516

18-351



**Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association**

**P.O. Box 22827
Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 463-3038
Fax (907) 463.3280
E mail awrta@alaska.net**

April 14, 1997

TO: Sen. Bert Sharp FAX: 465-2070
Sen. Drue Pearcc FAX: 465-3872
Rep. Mark Hanley FAX: 465-2418
Rep. Gene Therriault FAX: 465-3884

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association is comprised of over 300 members, the majority of which are activity-oriented tourism businesses that depend on Alaska's wild places for their operations. Our primary goal is to advocate for the protection of Alaska's wildland resources for use by tourism businesses and recreational users, but AWRTA also addresses marketing, legislative and permitting issues that affect our members.

I am writing to express AWRTA member's support for the House version of the Fish and Game budget. Maintaining adequate funding for watchable wildlife programs in the state is critical to our segment of the tourism industry. In a recent market survey done for the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, 33% of "high potential" prospective visitors to Alaska mentioned wildlife as one of the first things that comes to mind when asked about our state. Our members depend on the interpretative and educational materials generated by the Department of Fish and Game's wildlife conservation department. The Wildlife Viewing Guide published as a partnership between a number state agencies and non profit organizations is distributed directly by the Division of Tourism, tourism businesses and tourism trade associations to visitors who request information in wildlife viewing in Alaska. This material is generated through the efforts of the Wildlife Conservation Team at the Department of Fish and Game. In addition, keeping staff positions intact for the Teaming with Wildlife campaign will help keep the momentum toward helping Watchable wildlife programs become self sufficient.

I urge you to maintain the level of funding so that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may continue their valuable services to the visitors to Alaska and the tourism businesses who depend on their materials.

Feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely

Ellen Maling
Projects Coordinator

RECEIVED
APR 14 1997/10/97

Dear Rep. Mark Hanley

I am writing you to express my opposition regarding proposed budget cut to the Education & Training Grant and the Day Care Assistance Program.

The Education and Training Grant enabled the staff at our daycare center in Sitka Alaska to attend some exceptional childcare trainings which have directly benefitted the care of our 20 month old daughter. We would like this to continue, and thank you for your support of this grant in the past.

The DCAP, while not directly assisting us, has helped numerous others receive help in paying for daycare so they can return to employment. Personally, it has benefitted one of my co-workers who also brings her toddler to the SEARHC daycare center. We would hate to see the elimination of this helpful program.

Again, thanks for your past support. I do hope you will seriously consider our request and avoid these cuts in the legislature budget.

Sincerely,

Tony Swan and Janette A. Hutchinsford

301 Moller Avenue

SITKA AK 99835

907/747-5379



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 N. BINKLEY • SOLDOTNA, ALASKA • 99669-7599
BUSINESS (907) 262-4441 FAX (907)262-1892

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

April 10, 1997

RECEIVED
APR 14 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
Co-Chair Finance Committee
Room 507, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

On April 08, 1997, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 97-026: "A Resolution Supporting Funding of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Program."

The Mayor and Assembly have requested that you receive a copy of this resolution.

Respectfully yours,

Shirley Olsen
Deputy Borough Clerk

/rh

Enclosure as noted

Introduced by: Mayor
Date: 4/8/97
Vote: Adopted
Action: Unanimous

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 97-026**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SOLID WASTE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, certain legislators have proposed to reduce, or eliminate, the budget for the Alaska Department of Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in funding to the ADEC Solid Waste Program would affect fundamental protection of human health and the environment for all residents of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reduction will have significant short and long term financial and environmental impacts to our Borough and all sectors of the state population; and

WHEREAS, this proposed cut will merely transfer costs from the state to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the ADEC Solid Waste Program is in the process of receiving solid waste program approval from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, EPA allows additional flexibility for management of solid waste only in states with approved solid waste programs; and

WHEREAS, with the absence of a fully funded state solid waste management authority, Alaska will have to strictly comply with EPA regulations which do not allow for state specific flexibility; and

WHEREAS, without an acceptable state program that allows environmentally sound and timely management of solid waste in the Kenai Peninsula, open dumps are likely to proliferate as in the past;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

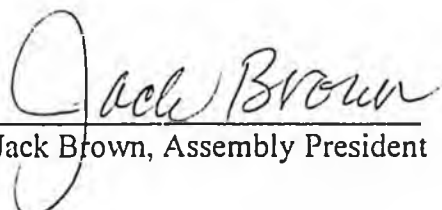
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough opposes any legislative effort to reduce or eliminate the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Program.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports maintaining an effective and credible state solid waste program capable of achieving program approval from the EPA.

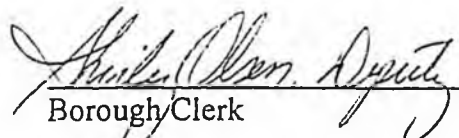
SECTION 3. That this Resolution be effective immediately upon enactment.

SECTION 4. That a copy of this Resolution be delivered to Kenai Peninsula Borough legislators, Co-chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees, and Governor Tony Knowles.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ON THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL, 1997.


Jack Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Borough Clerk

10 April 1997

Representative
~~Senator~~ Mark Harley,

RECEIVED
APR 14 1997

I have lived in Alaska since
1975. I have been involved
in construction, commercial fishing.

I see tourism as a major
long-term asset to Alaska's economy.
Fishing, construction etc. are much
more uncertain industries.

People will always travel
and more people have money
& time. Alaska needs to
continue to create our image.

This is not the time
to give up!

Yvonne Evans
230 W. 10th, #5
Anchorage, AK.
99501

RECEIVED

APR 14 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 10, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley,

I am writing you as a private business owners operator as well as President of the Bed & Breakfast Association of Alaska, regarding proposed budgets in the Tourism Division.

These cuts will devastate our industry. The owners of B&B's are Alaska's foremost. They depend on the marketing of this division to sell Alaska & then they sell their business. The monies they collect stay here in Alaska.

We need a win win situation here. Only if the state supports Tourism can we win also.

Please do not vote for these budget cuts.

Margo Morrow
Two Morrows Place B&B
1325 O Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-277-9939 fax 272-1899

RECEIVED

APR 14 1997

Paul Crowther
Compact RV Rentals
P.O. Box 91246
Anchorage Ak 99509

Representative Mark Healey
State Capitol
Juneau Ak 99801

Dear Mark

Please fund the Division of Tourism
and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council
to the Governor's proposed budget

Image advertising ~~is~~ for Alaska is
extremely important. This advertising is what
produces the demand for the vacation planner.
The vacation planner is what makes my phone ring!

My phone calls have already dropped
off by about 30% from last year due to
the previous cuts in the ATMC budget
in 1994. Further cuts in image advertising
would kill the visitor industry.

Please think about this

Thanks
Paul

Public Opinion Message

Sitka Legislative Information Office (LIO)
210 Lake Street, Sitka AK 99835 • Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807

This form MUST be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Ms, Mr., Mrs...	First name <i>Joni</i>	MI <i>J.</i>	Last name <i>SHCARER</i>	Jr., Sr., III...
Mailing address <i>3306 HPR #1 SITKA AK</i>				Zip code <i>99835</i>
Residence (street) address if different from mailing address				Zip code
Daytime telephone number <i>907-8758</i>		Group affiliation (if applicable)		Signature <i>Joni Shcarer</i>
				Date <i>4/11/97</i>

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees	House members	Senate members																																																																																																								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">H or S</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Community & Regional Affairs (cra)</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Finance (fin)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Judiciary (jud)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Labor & Commerce (l&c)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Resources (res)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Rules (ris)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>State Affairs (sta)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Transportation (tra)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Other:</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Other:</td></tr> </table>	H or S		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (l&c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (ris)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Austerman (aus)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Barnes (bar)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Berkowitz (ber)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Brico (bri)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Bundo (bun)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Cowdery (cwd)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Croft (cro)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Davies (dav)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Davis (dag)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Dyson (dys)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Elton (elt)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Foster (fos)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Green (grn)</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Grussendorf (grs)</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Hanley (han)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Hodgins (hor)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Hudson (hud)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Ivan (iva)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>James (jam)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Joule (jlo)</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austerman (aus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barnes (bar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brico (bri)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bundo (bun)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowdery (cwd)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Croft (cro)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davies (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis (dag)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dyson (dys)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elton (elt)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green (grn)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grussendorf (grs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hanley (han)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hodgins (hor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ivan (iva)	<input type="checkbox"/>	James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joule (jlo)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Kelly, P. 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Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oppose	<u>OR</u> enter a general Subject
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Amend	(LIO staff may modify):

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

I	AM	AGAINST	PROPOSED	CUTS	5
TO	DAYCARE	PROGRAMS.	I	WOULD	10
HAVE	TO	GO	ON	WELFARE	15
IF	THESE	CUTS	GO	THROUGH.	20
AT	THIS	TIME	I	AM	25
FINANCIALLY	INDEPENDENT	I	OPPOSE	ALL	30
CUTS	TO	PROGRAMS	REGARDING	CHILDREN	35
					40
					45
					50