

HB

75

(File 7)

HFIN

FILE

RECEIVED

John B. Branson
Lake Clark

APR 01 1997 Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653

March 24th 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am writing to you to urge you to fully fund the Office of History and Archeology at 1996 levels — or better, even, higher levels!

The scholars in this office do great work in helping to preserve for the historic legacy of Alaska for future generations. Their recent work on the Gold Rush is of great value to researchers and students of Alaska history.

The state needs to continue to fund the Office of History and Archeology at current levels because if the state does not, who will preserve our collective

history?

I am most distressed by your apparent lack of understanding of the various responsibilities that fall to state government.

Quite frankly I believe that the draconian budget cuts which you champion are excessive. I believe you should reconsider the reason you are in Tunisia. Please make state government work for all the people - please do not emasculate or destroy it.

Sincerely,

John B. Brown

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1152

Dear Representative Hanley:

After attending the statewide hearing on Saturday, March 22, 1997, I sincerely hope so dedication is given to the issues addressed by the people who testified.

Childcare for those who hope to leave the welfare system must be available. However, the quality of care must also be a priority! It is beyond my comprehension that funding for a entity such as Mark Air was made available in millions of dollars while child care businesses struggle to meet their budget expenses each month! The child care facilities employ hundreds of care givers and provide services to thousands of children. The care our children receive now will influence the care they give to others as an adult.

I truly thank you and the House Budget

Committee for giving the child care community a reason to gather together and become one voice for children and families. "The Alliance of Child Care Professionals" will now educate ourselves on political issues that concern children and families. As representatives of our various organizations, we will make sure our members know where our State legislators stand on these issues.

The other areas of my concern are the length of the hearings. Our State is large and one day seems too little time for public input. It would also be nice to have at least a week's notice before a public hearing is scheduled. I received this information on Tuesday that the hearing would be Saturday. At least I know the Senate hearings will be April 3, 1997.

Respectfully,

Peggy Munger
7701 Sans Creek
Anchorage, AK 99515

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Neil Shishido
P.O. Box 2155
Cordova, AK 99574
March 18, 1997

Mark Hanley
Co-chairman House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I would like to call your attention to the allocation of \$250,000 for roof repairs at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward contained in SB107 of the FY98 Capital Budget.

AVTEC serves a valuable function in providing valuable vocational training that is responsive to the changing needs of Alaska's industries. I am a recent graduate of the Diesel Engine Technology Program and have put that training to use in starting engine repair shop.

AVTEC depends upon legislative approval to maintain its buildings and to carry out its functions. I would like to urge you as co-chair of the Finance Committee to approve the needed roof repairs. I would also urge you to approve AVTEC's budget as contained in the Department of Education's budget request.


Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Neil Shishido

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.



March 17, 1996

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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APR 01 1997

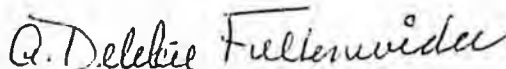
Dear Representative Hanley:

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,



A. Debbie Fullenwider
Cook Inlet Tribal Council



Alaska Native Brotherhood
Camp No. 2, Inc.

March 25, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

House of Representatives
Alaska State Capital - MS 3101
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives :

The Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) Camp 2 recommends that the Division of Charitable Gaming budget be funded at the level presented to you by Governor Tony Knowles, which amount maintains operations at the current level. As you can see, that level for FY 97-98 is \$913,300.

The proposed decreased funding is \$500,000, which in our opinion, would effectively disable the Gaming Division to the point of being unable to monitor entities that are operating with a State issued permit. The proposed decreased funding will mean that the Division staff would not be able to closely monitor gaming operations to ensure that operators adhere to accountable requisites.

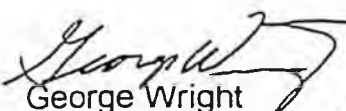
There is a feature in the entire matter that astounds us, that is the rationale of decreasing operations. The Division receives \$913,300 but generates \$2,045,873 for the State's general fund from gaming permit operators. If this is correct, why would the State Legislature want to decrease operations?

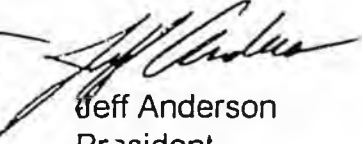
We ask the Finance Committee to consider maintaining the Division of Charitable Gaming at \$913,300 for FY 97-98.

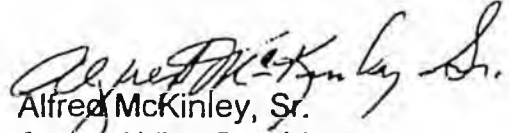
Lest we forget what happened to ANB Camp 2 when a manager in the late 80's and early 90's was convicted for taking \$1.5 million and left us with nothing!

The Department of Gaming prosecuted the individual and we are thankful.

Respectfully,


George Wright
Member-In-Charge


Jeff Anderson
President


Alfred McKinley, Sr.
Second Vice President

Distributed by Request Rep. A. Koohesh

RECEIVED

MAR 01 1997

Belinda L. Sunderland
P.O. Box 1033
Unalaska, AK 99685
Phone: (907) 581-1276 (w)
Fax: (907) 581-1496

To: Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
Fax (907) 456-3346

March 26, 1997

cc: Interior-Aleutians Campus, fax (907) 581-2505
Joan K. Wadlow, UAF Chancellor, fax (907) 474-6725

Subj: Public Opinion Message

Though most of what follows is a reiteration of things said in the past, it is necessary right now to put it in writing to stress a point.

I am sure most people in this great land realize that nothing can function without the constant influx of money. Many also realize that nothing is free and are willing to pay their taxes to ensure services are rendered when wanted or needed.

The institution of education is no exception. Money makes the campus go 'round, and in the case of education in Alaska, it must fund an institution that is far-flung to remote areas with few people.

Those people who seek to further their education in such adverse conditions should be given their due when it comes to perseverance and diligence. Not only must they be patient with a system that only recognizes them on a rotational basis, but many times their pursuit of a degree is put on hold until particular courses may or may not be offered.

That brings me to the point at hand. The offering of distance education courses is contingent upon the availability of the course materials and an instructor, both of which rely upon funding. Here in Unalaska, we are fortunate enough to have a branch campus with personnel capable of teaching undergraduate and graduate level classes, albeit on a limited basis. For those people in other remote locations in the Bush, such a luxury is not afforded them, neither by people nor by funds.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the fulcrum about which many quality satellite programs rotate. By cutting funding in any form from the university, each satellite community is in jeopardy of being cut loose from the privilege of advanced educational opportunities.

No matter how one looks at the process of funding and cutting, the larger picture of the future must be kept in focus. Give Alaskans the opportunity to educate themselves at home, and keep that work force (and subsequent consumer dollars) in the state. Too often I have witnessed graduating high school seniors leaving the state for better offers at colleges and universities Outside. Too often I have witnessed people coming to Alaska to "make the big bucks," leave with their money, and further their education outside the state.

We have some of the richest resources in Alaska. From oil to soil to minerals to trees to wildlife to people. Those Alaskans who transplant here or are born and raised here are the most familiar with these resources and how they should be cared for and handled. Educate them at home. Keep the engineers, foresters, agriculturists, miners and artists here to be the stewards we need for our vast resources. Nurture their sense of loyalty to home and hearth. The state cannot pay too much for its future and should not deny Alaskans the opportunity of getting a higher education because of funding constraints.

John T. Fellerath
P.O. Box 84716
Fairbanks, AK 99708-4716

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APR 01 1997

March 26, 1997

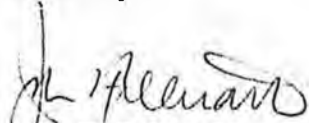
Mark Hanley - Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am writing to object to proposed further reductions in funding for the University of Alaska.

I am relatively new to Alaska but I am not new to the role state finances plays in public higher education. If Alaska wants to have a University, then Alaska needs to be willing to fund it adequately. Funding for the University of Alaska has been effectively reduced for many years. Further reductions are unacceptable. Universities are expensive just like many other important institutions that a state needs or wants. Please fund the University properly!

Sincerely,



John T. Fellerath
Fairbanks, Alaska



Alaska State Legislature

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997

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

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated _____
bill/subject

Dear Sirs;

Being mentally ill was never the way any of us wanted to be. It has been a very bumpy ride for many of us. Zyprexa is a good medication, but sometimes we can't do it all alone, we need a support system and case managers. Even Rehab services to recuperate when we suffer from a traumatic experience.

Please Don't cut the budget!

Signed: Darla K Root
Testifier

Mental Health Consumer
Representing (Optional)

11690 Lacy Loop # Wasilla AK 99654-5616
Address

376-4596
Phone No.

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997



HAPPY HOME DAY CARE
Owner: Mrs. Trudy L. Knudsen
3101 Peterkin Ave. Anchorage
AK 99508 (907) 272-0267

3/25/97

Dear Mr. Hanley,

As a licenced Day Care Provider, I'm writing this letter in H-O-P-E-S you will listen!!! Please DO NOT choose to get rid of The Child Care Grant Program!!!

We do not make enough money to buy the items necessary to make a home, a daycare! The grant program helps me purchase toys, supplies and educational materials that I could never otherwise afford.

I have four children of my own to raise and this has been a great way of staying home with them. However, I do not make much money per child in care, and now with the food program already cut, the incentives for becoming licenced are dwindling.

If providers can not make it worth their while watching other people's kids, the state will be putting out even more money to help us care for our kids!! Children naturally wear out and break toys & equipment through daily use. The Grant Program helps replace many things that otherwise would not be afforded.

Please help save the
Child Care Grant Program!

Sincerely,
Trudy Knudsen
Happy Home Day Care

Southcentral Foundation

RECEIVED

March 25, 1997

APR 01 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the hearing held on March 22, 1997, on behalf of the 20,000 clients served by Southcentral Foundation in the Anchorage area. Three of the State funded programs within Southcentral Foundation will be affected by the proposed budget cuts.

First, the only day-treatment "clubhouse" program for severely and chronically mentally ill people in Anchorage, Southcentral Foundation's Quyana House will close due to the budget cuts. Of the 115 patients who are served by that program, approximately 60 will have to return to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute for inpatient care. Quyana House, which was initially started with a State grant has been operating successfully with no State grant funds, but relies on income generated by billing Medicaid for the services that the patients receive. With the proposed cuts to Medicaid, Quyana House will close.

Second, the only residential treatment program for pregnant substance abusing women will be put in serious jeopardy of survival and will have to reduce the number of clients it can serve. Dena A Coy, Southcentral Foundation's facility, fortunately has some funding from the Indian Health Service, but with the cuts you have proposed to Medicaid, we will no longer be able to serve non-Native clients and will have to reduce the program's capacity to about half the number served now. The result of this will be an inevitable increase in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) births. Rather than paying a small amount for treating these pregnant women, the State government will be faced with enormous bills incurred in trying to help the FAS babies that are born. Odd logic, don't you think?

Third, Southcentral Foundation's New Beginnings Program, which receives a modest \$40,000 grant from the Healthy Families program, will be cut in half. Fortunately, again, we do have a small grant from the federal government that will enable the program to continue, but it will effectively be decimated. The program provides home visits, case management, and other services to mothers and infants who are extremely high risk; it has proven its effectiveness in significantly reducing child abuse.

As a health care professional and an Anchorage constituent, I believe that the proposed budget will not assist in balancing the budget but only result in shifting costs from effective, focused, cost conscientious services to more expense, less efficient State funded programs. The losers unfortunately will be the neediest Alaskans.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION


Katherine Grosdidier, MBA
President/CEO

670 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 265-4900 • Fax (907) 265-5925
Dental (907) 265-4965 • Optometry (907) 265-4974





Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on proposed budget cuts to, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject State Parks,

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

I am a lifelong resident of Haines and member of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Committee. My comments are site specific and in regard to the new facilities constructed in 1996 at mile 19 of the Haines Highway. These facilities are located in the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve and include a turnout, information center, caretaker's cabin and outhouses. A nature trail and viewing platform were planned to be added to these in 1997. They are specifically mentioned in the proposed budget cuts to State Parks. The present facilities are being heavily used by the local population, tourists and tourism related businesses and will help to further enhance opportunities in the tourism industry. The long term benefits and future of local residents and businesses need assistance from the State of Alaska through these type of facilities. Please make funding available for the continued operation and maintenance of the facilities presently in place and reconsider the proposed budget cuts.

Steven M. Fossman

Signed:

Steven M. Fossman

Testifier

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Committee

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 532, Haines AK 99827

Address

(907) 766-2169

Phone No.

John H. Cloe
2320 Canary Court
Anchorage AK 99515
(907) 243-1928

March 28, 1997

Reps Mark Hanley and Gene Theriault
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
State Capital, Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Sirs

I recently learned that House Finance Resource Committee decided to reduce the Office of History and Archaeology's budget by \$44,000.00, and I am concerned about the impact it will have of matching Federal funds and the office's ability to discharge its responsibilities outlined in Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Because of the complexities the Federal-State relations for historic preservation oversight and the press of business, I feel that the committee failed to understand ramifications of the budget reduction. Essentially, as I understand it, it would mean a loss \$66,000.00 in Federal matching funds. The Federal government funds 60 percent of the Section 106 compliance.

The Office of History and Archaeology would also lose two positions, and possibly its Federal certification. It would also mean delays in Federal construction projects due to the inability of the State to carry out its 106 responsibilities.

I have worked with the office in both a professional and personal capacity and find it to be dedicated and highly competent governmental agency.

Before any final decisions are made, please have your staff review the impact that the proposed budget will have on the ability of the state to perform its Section 106 compliance responsibilities. I am sending a similar letter to the Senate Finance Committee co-chairs

Sincerely,



John H. Cloe

cc: Rep John Cowdery and Sen Sean Parnell
Office of History and Archaeology



WILLIAM RANSOM WOOD
PRESIDENT (EMERITUS), UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



Representative Mark Hanley
716 W. 4th, Ste. 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
465-2418

The bottom line today is quite important - but over the long term useless if we lose sight of the goal line for tomorrow.

Fund the State Public Higher Education System adequately, at least on a par with the National level of General Fund appropriations for state systems of higher public education operations.

That National average typically is about 10% plus. Alaska's funding, unfortunately, is near the bottom of the fifty at about 7% year after year. WHY?

Can we afford NOT to invest in the future of Alaska's youth in Alaska?

Let's keep ASTF intact for its original essential purpose. It extends the practical application of knowledge in Alaska.

Wm. R. Wood

President (Emeritus)
University of Alaska
(1960-1973)
Mayor of Fairbanks
(1978-1980)

This form MUST be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Form with fields for Name (Bessie C Titus), Address (P.O. Box 58008 Minto, AK), Phone (907 798-7112), Signature (Bessie C. Titus), and Date (3/27/97).

To: Put a checkmark in the appropriate box(es).

Large grid of checkboxes for Committees (e.g., Finance, Health, Education), Caucus members (e.g., Austerman, Kelly, Kempian), and Senate members (e.g., Adams, Donley, Duncan).

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

Form for subject selection with fields for HB or SB, Bill number, and checkboxes for Support, Oppose, and Amend.

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

Table with 5 columns and 10 rows containing a handwritten message: 'I urge you not to cut the maintenance of the Elliot Highway. Food and fuel prices would increase drastically and cause an additional financial strain on our community and even more so since many programs are suffering cutbacks please keep the Elliot Highway open I cannot afford higher prices.'



550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1325
Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel (907) 274-7366
FAX (907) 276-1691

March 27, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Bldg., Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

The Alaska Legislature (House & Senate) in its deliberations of the FY98 budget has recommended that the position of **Executive Director** be eliminated from the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority. As you are aware the Bond Bank has only two employees. One which is the Executive Director. The other operations of the Bond Bank is accomplished by six (6) contracts with private businesses. This allows us to use the contractors only when needed.

The Bond Bank has been in operation for over 20 years helping Alaskan communities with their capital improvement projects such as water, waste-water facilities, roads, schools, docks, and utilities. The Bond Bank was established by the Legislature in 1976 as a public-private corporation that assists smaller communities to acquire needed projects by buying their loans and selling the AMBBA bonds on the open market. The A rating of the Bond Bank means we can sell the bonds at a lower rate and the savings is passed on to the community in the form of lower interest rates.

The Bond Bank has returned over \$19,600,000 to the State's General Fund. The original investment by the 1976 Legislature was \$18,601,413. The Bond Bank is self-supporting and does not receive any general fund monies from the State. The Bond Bank paid over \$617,000 in FY96 to the State's General Fund.

The privatization-partnering aspect of the Bond Bank allows us to act quickly and professionally on projects. The elimination of this position would impede the current operations, long-term financing, and most definitely the progress of future financial programs such as Revolving Loan Funds, Equipment Leasing, State Infrastructure Bank (capitalized with federal seed money). The Bond Bank is already an established Authority that is capable of managing these programs. To have the duties of this position transferred to a State Department would be a step backward for the State of Alaska and would dismantle the present services. (See Attachments)

Thank you for your past support and again we need your assistance to reconsider your present action and restore this needed position.

Sincerely,

Tom Freeman
Tom Freeman
AMBBA Board Chairman

*Just maybe we can
be more efficient than
the Treasury Dept.*

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MAR 26 1997

**THE PARTNERSHIP
TO REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT
OF 1997**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE**

March 14, 1997

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION
The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act of 1997
 March 14, 1997

"We cannot expect our children to raise themselves up in schools that are literally falling down."

President Clinton
1997 State of the Union Address

TODAY, THE PRESIDENT WILL SEND TO CONGRESS LEGISLATION TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND STATES REBUILD THE NATION'S SCHOOLS. As America moves into the 21st century, our schools should too. The President's new legislation — the Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act — meets his commitment to provide \$5 billion over four years, leveraging \$20 billion, to help local communities and states rebuild America's schools — through both upgrading and new construction to respond to population increases and shifts. The need for this is clear.

- **Record Numbers of School Buildings in Disrepair.** One-third of all schools—serving 14 million students—need extensive repair or replacement. About 60 percent of schools have at least one major building feature, such as leaky roofs and crumbling walls, in disrepair. [Source: General Accounting Office Report: "School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions," June 14, 1996]
- **Student Population at an All-Time High.** Many school districts also face the need to build new schools to accommodate enrollment growth. Public school enrollment in grades K-12 is expected to rise 20 percent between 1990 and 2004. [Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995*, p. 151]
- **A State and Local Responsibility, and a National Concern.** The federal government can, and should, play a crucial role in addressing this increasing problem of school disrepair by providing limited resources in a manner that spurs states, communities, and even the private sector to provide adequate school facilities for all children.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP TO REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT

- **Allocates \$2.45 billion to help states increase school construction and renovation.** Using a new formula based on the Title I basic grants formula (and after providing \$100 million to Native Americans and the territories), the legislation allocates one half of the \$5 billion to states. In order to receive these funds, a state will have to provide assurances that it will increase, over a four-year period, the amount of school construction paid for with state, local and private funds.
- **Targets another \$2.45 billion to the needs of the 100 school districts that enroll the greatest numbers of children living in poverty.** Under the legislation, those districts that have the greatest school construction needs, according to GAO data, will be eligible for a direct allocation. Of the amount available for direct grants, 70 percent will be allocated by formula, and the remaining 30 percent will be distributed competitively to those districts that have the greatest needs and the best construction plans and are willing to provide the most support from non-federal sources.
- **Provides flexibility to states by reducing interest or other financing costs of new school construction and renovation.** This legislation provides funds to states and school districts to use as interest subsidies for school construction bonds; to reduce the servicing costs of other financing vehicles; to capitalize state revolving funds for school construction; or for other similar purposes. This flexibility meshes with a variety of state and local school financing mechanisms.
- **Leverages additional spending on school construction and renovation.** This legislation focuses on *incremental spending*. That is, recipients must demonstrate how the federal funds will be leveraged, so that the total amount spent on school construction in communities will increase.
- **Applies to a wide range of improvement projects, including construction of elementary and secondary school facilities, renovations to ensure health and safety of students, improvements of the basic infrastructure (e.g., electrical, plumbing and heating systems), increases in energy efficiency, improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, construction that prepares facilities for installation of modern educational technology, or construction necessary for the establishment of charter and community schools.**
- **Provides flexibility for state and local governments in using federal subsidies.** State and local recipients would have the flexibility to determine which construction activity is deemed the highest priority and funded by the federal subsidies. Such determinations would be based on a survey of state or local construction needs.



J. K. PAULEY & SONS,
Trading Company

115 West Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • 907-276-2233 • Fax: 907-276-4309

FAX TRANSMITTAL

REPLY FAX NUMBER IS (907) 276-4309

SENATOR: Mark Hanley 3/29/97
Juneau
FAX: 465-2418

RE: State Legislature Consideration of drastic cuts to the Division of Trade & Development....

Dear Senator Hanley:

Being a small business owner and having been born and raised in Alaska, I've "trudged" through the many peaks and valleys of our State's economy. It seems just when things are going in a even or positive direction, the inevitable happens, and the "economic air" is knocked out of us !

Any basic investment theory will agree, diversification is the key to long term success. Relying on the majority of one or two items for our economic income , will no doubt result in eventual failure, (bottom of the valley).

Alaska is, and probably will remain for some time, a resource extraction State. Our resources are our economic income. Currently Oil, (majority of our eggs in one basket), is handled by the "Big Players". But our other resources such as seafood, timber and mining, (to a degree), still allows the individual citizen, (entrepreneur) to make an economic stand!

But without the help of the Division of Trade, we are solely left to our own. The large Oil Companies have vast budgets for marketing, R&D, and Political introduction. We only have the help of the Div. of Trade!

With the highly effective help to the many small Alaskan businesses, the Div. of Trade has helped put Alaska on the World Map as much more than a "Frozen Gas Stop". Lets not let Alaska slide back into that concept.

I HIGHLY request that you do not vote for a reduction in the Divisions budget. Over the past 5 years it has already been reduced by more than 30%. Cutting any further will have disastrous effects, not only on current situations, but on future trade business that ultimately eliminates our DIVERSITY !

Please consult with your fellow legislators and STOP any consideration to reducing the Div. budget.

Sincerely


Kim Paisley



March 27, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1102

RE: DNR - Forest Practices Budget

Dear Representative Hanley:

This letter is to lend our support to maintaining a functioning cadre of foresters within DNR, Division of Forestry. The House Finance subcommittee DNR budget included a reduction of \$150,000 in the Forest Resources and Practices (FPA) component. When the budget conference committee we respectively request restoration of the \$150,000 to the Division of Forest Budget.

The effective implementation of Alaska's Forest Practices Act requires sufficient DNR forestry staff to participate in pre-harvest inspections and to monitor implementation of Forest Practice standards. Sealaska Corporation alone filed 24 separate Forest Practice Notifications in 1996 and has filed 17 notifications in 1997. In addition it also requested over ten different variation inspections by DNR.

Sealaska recognizes that budget reductions are a reality. It and others in the timber industry are doing their part to carry the budget burden. For example, Sealaska, the Alaska Forest Association, and other timber interests have invested over \$400,000 to implement the monitoring requirements in the Forest Practices Act even though we were not required to assume the monitoring. We recognized our obligation is to help with monitoring in logged watershed to determine if the Act is providing necessary protections to fish habitat and water quality.

Sealaska is implementing other practices to reduce the State's fiscal burden to implement the Act including self reporting of violations, conducting its own compliance audits and other actions to improve the Act's administration.

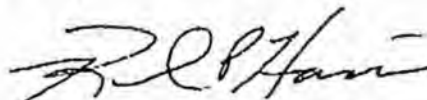
However, the industry can not do everything. The public expects that the State will have its people on site to ensure that before harvest begins all environmental controls are in place. The public also expects the State to monitor ongoing operations to ensure continued compliance and that per-operations requirements are implemented.

The industry, State agencies, fishermen and others are collaborating on revisions to the Forest Practices Act and Regulations. These revisions will augment the protection standards in one of the nation's most effective Forest Practices programs. We expect the changes will be implemented shortly. Division of Forestry personnel will need to inform operators of the new standards and provide assistance in their implementation. Reductions, particularly in forestry field staff, will detract from efficient implementation of these changes.

We appreciate your support of the Division's Forest Practices budget and the recognition of how important the Division's Foresters are to an effective Forest Practices program.

Sincerely,

SEALASKA CORPORATION



Richard P. Harris
Vice President Resource
Planning and Administration

cc: Loescher
Kito
Commissioner Shively
Dean Brown, Acting State Forester

RPH:mlh



HEADQUARTERS
ALASKA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL
AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
R.D.G. 42-500
ELMENDORF AFB, AK 99508

To: Rep. Mark Hanley, Chairman, Alaska State House Finance Committee.
Rep. Gary Davis, Chairman, Finance Subcommittee (Public Safety).
INFO: Sen. Bert Sharp, Sen. Randy Phillips, Sen. Dave Donley.
Gentlemen,

The Civil Air Patrol was unable to testify by telecon in Anchorage recently to again present our request for financial support. We ask that you accept this written input instead.

The State provides us with about 5% of our total financial needs. 2% comes from the USAF and the balance comes from 1600 volunteers, 300 of which are pilots.

The State of Alaska support is very vital and our requested \$564,000. budget for this year is a "bare bones" amount. Included in this amount is unanticipated maintenance items at our facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak, deferred maintenance, underground fuel tank removal, and basic hangar facilities.

We know that your job to reduce expenditures is almost insurmountable. But may we point out again the "big bargain" the State receives from this Volunteer Service, which is nearly Ten Million dollars a year.

In the budget constraint situation this expenditure is really saving us money considering how much another non-volunteer search and rescue activity would cost us.

Sincerely and thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Dam".

William (Bill) Dam

Government Affairs Officer

Alaska Wing, CAP

277 0767

Sorry there was a typo and the first Fax. This is correct

29 March 1996

Kelli Mahoney
925 Lone Cub Way
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

To the ^{House}~~Senate~~ Finance Committee and members of the House and Senate from
Mat-Su:

The legislature has gone too far in their haste to cut the budget at the expense of human beings. Legislators seem to believe that they were elected to cut the state budget at any cost. They do *not* believe that voters care about what happens to the politically invisible, the poor. They don't understand that when government spends money to prevent social problems, less must be spent on the results of those social problems. The legislators who create the problems by cutting money to prevent social ills know they won't be in office when those social ills are fully evident. The ones who really need to protest these cuts are those who will be hurt – in the long term, that means all of us. Here are some cuts that particularly horrify me.

Recently I toured Wasilla High School with a group of parents and teachers. In some classes, students sat on the floor, and desks were falling apart. In English classes there was one computer per 40 students. Yet the legislature wishes to cut \$750,000 from money for education, resulting in the loss of \$13.5 million in federal funds. Two and a half million will be cut from an already strained university budget.

After reduction of welfare, 400 to 500 ex- recipients must find jobs in the Valley alone. Yet the money for job training will be eliminated. The carefully planned and practical "One Stop" job assistance office will close its doors. For those lucky enough to get one of the non-existent jobs, child care programs will be cut \$1.7 million. So will programs that help keep child care safe and affordable for families working low paying jobs just to survive.

Poverty affects parenting in a negative way. After cutting money to help employ parents, we need even more money to help families deal with crisis and family stress. Yet the legislature wants to eliminate the Healthy Families program, one already proven to reduce the human and financial cost of family malfunction. When the legislature cuts the popular and humane rental assistance program, some of these families will not even have a home to visit. The legislature also wants to cut over \$600,000 from Child Support Enforcement efforts, already unable to meet the demand.

There are unacceptable cuts in medical supplies for the disabled, poor and elderly.

Alaska has a high rate of abuse to children, the elderly, and women already, even with current levels of income and homelessness. What have our legislators planned for the increasing levels of abuse? They will limit money to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. They plan to deny victims of violent crimes any compensation. Adult protective services for the aged who are vulnerable to abuse, and the licensing of assisted living programs are also being axed.

With cuts we will have reduced training for law enforcement officers. We lose 24 new corrections officers, and violent offender beds that could be paid for with the help of federal funds. Village public safety officers will not be hired for at least seven communities without protection, and new prison guards will not protect our citizens from crime. Firefighter training that is proven to reduce deaths by fire will not be provided.

Laws protecting Alaskans from pollution and from unregulated landfills and industrial wastes will be weakened by reduction of the environmental crime unit.

Finally, the legislature wishes to eliminate the Compass program, one that assists communities in mobilizing to solve their own problems. The Mat Valley was fortunate enough to receive one of those grants and valley people were trained to mobilize--for what?

Please remember that to *most* Christians it is a fact that fact that God loves the poor. Remember what Christ said about those who do not feed and clothe the poor. I am ashamed to be an Alaskan during this Easter season. Recently an bishop was elected Alaskan of the year. What did this Bishop say about the proposed welfare cuts?

I remain yours on the side of justice,

Kelli Mahoney

Dennis J. Haas
Lynnette Haas
P.O. Box 2434
S. Adotna, AK 99669

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APR 01 1997

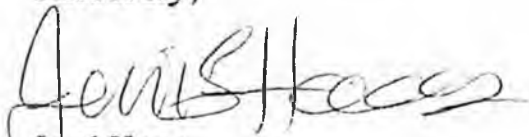
March 21, 1997

To: Mark Hanley

As a proud resident of the state of Alaska and sibling of a disabled child, I am apalled with the recent proposed cuts to Medicaid made by the House Finance Committee. Having first hand experience in caring for the disabled, I can attest that it is already a difficult task to care for their specialized medical needs. Any reduction to the services now available will further jeopardize the health of many disabled individuals. The quality of life for thousands of alaskans hangs in the balance of this decision.

I had always thought that Alaska was a state who had its priorities strait. We have a reputation to uphold here. We currently set the example for the rest of the nation with our programs available to the disabled. I also realize that some budget cuts need to be made. In order to do this effectivly, we must not catagorize the disabled along with the rest of the Medicaid/Welfare population. In order to balance the budget humanely, we must not do so on the backs of the disabled.

Sincerely,


Joni Haas

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

March 23, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I have a serious concern about the legislative priorities as they appear now. It is unconscionable to suggest increasing your own budget, while decreasing areas of the budget that affect children and families.

If welfare-to-work is going to achieve its desired benefits and intended reform, support is need for parents:

- Parents need to work.
- Parents need to have access to quality child care for their children.
- Parents need to know their children are safe.

If we are going to stop this recurring pattern of welfare and unemployment, support is needed for children:

- Children need quality child care if we are to maximize their potential and develop their skills.

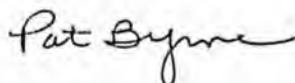
It is often said that "children are our future." Well, children are here now. We need to give them the maximum support now, so that in the future they will be astute, involved, contributing members in our community.

Prevention is the key. It begins in the early years - with quality early education and with quality child care!

I respectfully request that you restore the funds needed for child care grants, for resource and referral, for education and training, and for developmentally appropriate materials for centers and programs.

Thank you for considering the children and families of our state.

Sincerely,



Pat Byrne
Advocate for children and families
Teacher, Project P/PRIDE, Anchorage School District
President-Elect, Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children
(AAEYC)

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Paul Matheus and Toos Omtzigt
1743 Coyote Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 25, 1997

Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chair;

I am sure you have been receiving many letters, FAXes, and phone calls regarding the legislature's intent to cut funding for the University of Alaska. This letter also is aligned with those who are vehemently opposed to such cuts, but I would like to raise some points probably not addressed in most of those other letters.

The University of Alaska has taken decades to build, and at one point in time it actually had a good reputation for being a quality institution of research and higher learning. This reputation now is clearly in doubt, and citizens of Alaska are asking whether its legislators seriously care about this state of affairs, or whether they are aware that further cuts to its budget will have dire consequences. In fact, if we do not increase UA's funding it may still not survive as a respectable university system.

We believe it to be highly probable that the latest budgetary discussions reflect the shameful fact that our legislators have a very poor understanding of higher education and its role in society. No great, or prosperous, or ethical society has ever achieved its success without wisely investing in institutions of higher education and the endeavors that go on inside their walls— meaning that universities are not *universities per se* if they only function as glorified high schools. Yet the level of financial support being offered by the state seems to reflect a set of naive and short-sighted opinions by people who believe that the workings of a university are made up of rooms, chairs, chalkboards, and teachers orating non-stop as if they functioned as production workers, and as long as those items are minimally paid for, then university funding is adequate. This clearly must be a reasonable conclusion about the attitude in Juneau, otherwise it is inconceivable how the legislature could propose such cuts (while at the same time increasing its own operating budget — people have been clambering for smaller government, not smaller education. See the irony?)

It is sad, but the acts of our legislators regarding the university budget and other issues lately demonstrate that their concept of an efficient and functional society is one where market forces alone dictate what is important in our society. The rhetoric from Juneau is thick with the innuendo that the state should stop worrying about (and paying for) items which free markets "should" take care of. The examples are many: Why for instance, do we need a Department of Conservation— do citizens need governmental oversight of industries such as mining, construction, and logging? Of course not. After all, if citizens want to ensure that they have a clean healthy environment to live in, then their desires will be played out in market economics where the consumer's shopping power will only support clean developers, while those who operate unscrupulously will be purged because people will not buy their products. I hope you see how silly this reasoning is and how facetious I am being. I also hope that you can see how this thought applies to other issues, such as university funding.

Modern, societies need to use government to pay for services and facilities which the private sector does not provide because they are not profitable. This includes programs like welfare and the Department of Conservation. The current political agenda reflects some twisted belief that any service which is not profitable is unnecessary— for if it was necessary, then private industry would find a way to profitably provide it. This philosophy will undoubtedly go down as the great myth of the 1980's and 1990's (and by the way, citizens of other countries are laughing about it already). Government's role is to take care of the things which are not profitable, but which are good for our society, and government should be the people's tool to create the society it strives for and to make it as good a society as possible. In this light, one of government's most important responsibilities is to support higher education— because this is one of the main ways that our culture develops mature thought and perspective in adults. This means paying for a quality university system. The benefits of this investment do not

always show up as short term profits or gains. It is an investment into the betterment of our citizenship— and not just in the form of more highly skilled laborers, as legislators so crudely like to characterize a well-educated person. We are talking about education and training into facets of life (both directly and indirectly) that impact much more than just worker productivity. They directly influence the type of world we live in as social creatures.

So when you hear that some professor in Fairbanks is studying the way that bugs survive over winter, don't look at that as some esoteric researcher getting his/her kicks off the public dole. Instead, see it for what it truly is for our society— a person who is fascinated enough by the world to devote his/her life to understanding and explaining it in the most professional way possible and who is willing to teach others. But more important, see him/her as the person who inspires students to follow thoughts, ideas, and issues that are important to them. These are the types of people who then go on to be positive, contributing members of a good society. If you would like to put this into a more practical perspective, then consider this: The inspirational scientist interested in how bugs overwinter may not find a cure for cancer, but the person who does find that cure most certainly will have been a protégé of such a scientist. Simple math and simple minds do not see such connections.

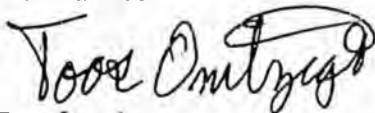
Finally, many of us find it difficult to understand how members of the current legislature approach the issue of university funding so cavalierly, since they are indeed a temporary body that is about to make a decision which will help destroy an entity which so many people and legislators before them have built up. The University is an investment made for us by preceding generations, and it really does not seem ethical for you to whittle away at this positive piece of our society which the state has invested so much into already. Which of you will stand up in twenty years from now and say, "I'm responsible," when all of the quality professors have left UA, when classes are being taught by temporary instructors (after all, that saves money, doesn't it?), when there isn't any real research being done to attract new students or quality faculty, and when no students want to go to our universities anymore because they simply consist of a few hollow rooms with chairs, a blackboard, and uninspired, underpaid instructors who are looking for jobs at other universities in states which give a damn. If you want to put the issue into market terms, consider the fact that we have to compete with other states and universities for students and quality personnel— not just to attract them, but to keep them— and that we just cannot do that without an investment. Good companies continually reinvest in themselves and they do what it takes to keep their valuable people happy. That seems to us to be something you should understand and consider with great care.

The University of Alaska has spent nearly a century building itself into a state university of quality and character. It would take very little to destroy it. Please have the foresight to give our university the support it needs to remain a quality institution and to rebuild itself from its recent onslaught. Hopefully, then we all may benefit in the long run from its many, but often intangible, contributions to our state. Indeed, is it not your job to help guide this state to a better long term future?

Sincerely,



Paul Matheus



Toos Omtzigt



RECEIVED

28 March, 1997

APR 01 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Legislature, State of Alaska
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Mark,

This expresses our concern over impending budget reductions to the State Historic Preservation Program.

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is a non-profit, all volunteer, Statewide organization that is vitally dependent on the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) for support in carrying out our efforts to help preserve Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources. We currently have 229 paid members for 1997. Our partnership with the OHA allows us to expand the historic preservation at no cost to State or Federal funds, and I believe we have made a significant impact. The proposed cut to OHA however will seriously endanger our ability to aid in this worthwhile effort, and especially in the time frame of the Gold Rush Centennial.

Of notable concern is the fact that a reduction in State funding will reduce the Federal funding which is generally based on a 40% fund match from the State. Thus a reduction in State funding has a much larger impact on the preservation program. I understand that a \$94 thousand State cut will have a total reduction of \$235.2 thousand on the OHA State Historic Preservation Program.

I respectfully urge you to protect the State's Historic Preservation Program by not assessing these impending reductions.

Sincerely,


William F Coghill
Executive Director

March 21, 1997

 John & Sherie Cheeseman
127 Willcrest
Soldotna, AK 99669

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APR 01 1997

To: Mark Hanley

I am responding to the massive cuts to Medicaid proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee. It is presently difficult to provide care and assistance to children with disabilities.

I am a mother of two severely disabled children. These children are my life. I can't begin to tell you what beautiful human beings they are. However, they require very intense and constant (24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year) care. They are completely and totally dependent upon myself for every aspect of their care. It is very difficult and trying most of the time, but they are mine and I love them, therefore I'm willing to do it. However I find that it will be impossible to provide for my children's needs if there are any further Medicaid cuts. If I can't care for my children at home, I will have no choice but to institutionalize them. The cost for institutionalization would be in excess of \$280,000.00 per year.

Alaska presently leads the way in the de-institutionalization of people with disabilities, returning them to their families and home communities. The very foundation of the community service system will be eroded by any cuts in these essential services for people with disabilities. The quality of life that we've endeavored to provide for our disabled population will ultimately be destroyed.

Sincerely,



Sherie A. Cheeseman

MARGUERITE A. McINTOSH, M.D., C.M.

35670 Kenai Spur Hwy., Suite 104B
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Telephone: (907) 260-3933

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Room #507, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

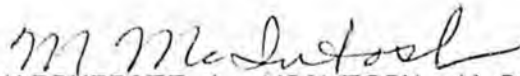
I am a family practitioner in Soldotna, Alaska. I have occasion to meet many special children who have various handicaps.

The importance of special programs for these children cannot be over estimated. They are in need of more, not less, services to make both their lives and the lives of their parents easier. For some of these children special programs can mean the difference between complete dependence and independence. Because my little boy Daniel, who is three years old, was diagnosed with autism one year ago - this point has really hit home with me. Through specialized training, my Daniel can become a productive member of society. Without the specialized training, he will be trapped forever in a world of silence.

Until you have a child with a special problem, you never know the incredible heroism of both children and the parents. These parents need all our support.

Please consider every dollar spent on these children as well worth it. Thank you for doing your job, thank you for representing all members of our society, including those who - through no fault of their own - were given a harder load to bear throughout their lives.

God bless you.


MARGUERITE A. MCINTOSH, M.D.

MAM/wkp

March 29, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capital, Rm. 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I would like to preface this letter by stating that I am neither associated with any environmental organizations, consulting companies, nor do I work for the State of Alaska. I have spent a lot of time and effort writing this letter and have had first-hand experience with what I say. I am writing to you because I strongly oppose the proposed amount being budgeted for ADEC's Solid Waste Division for FY 1998 and I recommend that the funding level for this division be returned to that of FY 1997.

The proposed budget for ADEC's Solid Waste Division for FY '98 is \$690,000 (HB 75). This includes approximately \$400,000 from the general fund and \$270,000 from public program receipts according to a Legislative Fiscal Analyst I spoke with. This is a significant decrease from the enacted FY '97 conference committee budget of \$1,138,700 that included \$873,600 from the general fund and \$260,800 from public program receipts.

Although I am quite familiar with the Majority's reasons for cutting the state's budget, I am respectfully requesting that you carefully consider and respond specifically to my brief discussions of the following impacts that this cut will have:

1. Undesirable EPA scrutiny and regulation from Seattle.
 2. Unique Alaskan problems will not be advocated to the federal government and more stringent, costly, and sometimes completely non-applicable laws will be applied.
 3. The lack of environmental protection may be an embarrassment for lawmakers and the entire state.
 4. Most importantly, the threat to public health and safety will be compromised.
-
1. This funding cut will render this division completely ineffective. This will in-turn cause EPA to take over the program and regulate Alaska from Seattle. ADEC will be able to fight off EPA for only a short period of time, all the while keeping ADEC from doing its real job, and eventually causing the entire division (and regulated communities) to be at EPA's mercy. It is not fair to Alaskans to make them deal with insensitive regulators from Seattle who have no interest in Alaska, who may visit the state only once or twice per year, and who have no understanding of unique Alaskan solid waste issues such as freeze-back permafrost technology, rural community issues, or oil industry wastes such as muds and cuttings.
 2. By rendering powerless the Solid Waste Division, the state will not be able to advocate unique solutions for unique Alaskan problems to EPA. Because permits are issued by the state, it is the state and not the permittee who petitions EPA for exemptions to federal laws. For example if ADEC's Solid Waste Division is cut as proposed, they could not

advocate for exemptions to federal laws requiring leachate (landfill wastewater) collection systems in permafrost landfills (leachate is frozen in these landfills) or permeability requirements for clays that do not exist in most Alaskan communities. The flexibility battle that ADEC has been fighting with EPA on proposed regulations will be lost. This loss will place major economic burdens on industries and communities throughout Alaska.

3. This cut may also produce political embarrassment. As you may know there is a growing organized effort in Anchorage for recycling and solid waste solutions. A large recycling summit took place on March 29 at the Egan Center. What message does it send to these people who are working together for solutions while their government is simultaneously working to push solid waste management back to the dark ages? These people (who aren't all Greenie Weenies) will be raising this issue to such emotional and political levels, that many lawmakers may not appreciate. Laying off the only professionals who deal on an objective level with scientific evidence to keep tempers down will not be advantageous.
4. I am sure that you are familiar with the significant solid waste problems that face Alaska. The numerous documented problems of unpermitted and illegal dumps, many Class II and III landfills, and not to mention some larger Class I landfills, pose giant fiscal, health, and safety threats for Alaskans and their communities. I have heard lawmakers say that closing the fiscal gap will be done without compromising the health and safety of the citizens of Alaska. It seems to me that the proposed cut to ADEC's Solid Waste Division is a very tangible threat to the health and safety of Alaskans. I would appreciate your comments on what I see as an obvious contradiction.

I recently learned that the Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has advocated for the reinstatement of funding for this division as well. When the parties who represent the regulated community speak out against this cut, it should send a clear message that this cut is truly misguided. You would think that if there was any group who would agree with this cut, it would be this group. But they have taken quite the opposite position.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Erik Fredeen
4069 E. 20th Ave., #50
Anchorage, AK 99508

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

March 27, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am very concerned about the funding for Kenai's Healthy Families Program (Parent Support Program). I feel the full funding of \$614,000 is very critical for the continuation of this program that serves over 40 families in the central peninsula area.

The goals of the program to help families stay healthy; help families be happy; and help families achieve their goals increased awareness in our community of this program and others available in the network system. This community values the services provided by these dedicated individuals as organizations are referring clients and word has spread even for self referrals. I strongly feel the funds appropriated for the Parent Support Program will save money for the State of Alaska in the future as we as citizens of the State provide services to help others become future better citizens. The Department of Social Services budgets potentially will be reduced due to the services provided to children at a younger age. They will grow up healthier and feel better about themselves.

As a member of the City Council in Kenai I appreciate your service to the citizens of the State of Alaska as a legislator.

Yours truly,



Linda L. Swarner

298 Rogers Rd
Kenai, AK 99611

kccnyc@alaska.net

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

March 24, 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed Medicaid cuts that will effect Alaska's children with disabilities.

Please close your eyes. (This will take only a minute or two of your time, if you have a disabled child you will understand what I'm about to say.) Picture your own child with minor disabilities-maybe only blind from birth.... Next.... Blind including inability to walk and communicate. Then seizures (many in a day) and no control over natural bodily functions, and finally, retarded.

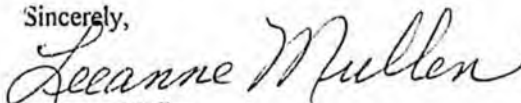
Hard to picture? It is for me as well, because my children are quite normal, all four.

My sister, Lynnette, however, has a child with all the same disabilities I described above. Katie has needed full attention 24 hours a day since birth. She is now 15 years old. Lynnette and her husband, Dennis, have found it difficult to find jobs that offer insurance that will cover Katie's special needs. In reality, employers do not want to hire people whose children are disabled, because insurance is too expensive for them. In the mean time, Medicaid is the only coverage they can depend on.

Please help separate the severely disabled from the general Medicaid welfare population. They need our help.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Leeanne Mullen
243 S. Park St.
Anchorage, AK. 99508
(907)333-6117

Mary Ann Borchert
1768 Chena Ridge Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-2087 Fax (907) 457-3900
maborche@alaska.net

March 31, 1997

TO: House and Senate members, Alaska State Legislature

Dear Legislators,

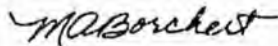
I am writing about proposed cuts in university funding. My message: *one of the most basic things which the state of Alaska should be funding is education, including the university. To cut funding in this area is grossly negligent and will adversely affect the future of this great state of ours. We have an obligation to educate our young people with the best possible education which we can provide. This is a rich state. We can afford to provide an excellent university to our citizens, but we seem to be willing only to support it at subsistence level.*

This letter is to inform you of my concerns regarding the currently proposed budget cuts to the University of Alaska system. Cutting the UA budget can only prove to be a short-sighted solution to a long term dilemma. The greatest single resource in Alaska is its young people. Vital to their success is the availability of high quality education within the state. What we as Alaskans cannot afford is a university crippled by political manipulations of its financial support.

There are currently several arguments used by those proposing an eclipse of the UA system. One is that the university has not yet been affected by state budget cuts. In fact, funding has dropped 30% over the last ten years, while enrollment and services have increased by 10%. Another charge is that the university has not made an effort to become more self-supporting. Since 1991, tuition has increased by 50% and services have risen in price, while administrative costs have been reduced. Finally, some say that the state pays too much for the university. According to William Wood, past president of the university, Alaska appropriates a smaller portion of its general fund to the university than the average state in the Union.

In conclusion, the university is a resource whose intrinsic value cannot be measured, enhancing the educational, cultural, and economic health of this great state. I urge you not to support these proposed budget cuts, but, instead, to stand behind the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Borchert
UA Alumna and former staff member (retired in 1995)

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Terje G. Birkedal
3450 Kachemak Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Legislator Mark Hanley
Chair,
House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

17-347

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Dear Legislator Mark Hanley:

As a member of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation and an eleven year resident of Alaska, I am very disturbed by the budget reductions that have been proposed for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Program.

The House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee proposes to cut \$24,000 out of the Office of History and Archaeology's budget. Because this state money is used as Latching money for \$141,000 in Federal dollars the effective cut is actually \$235,000; a reduction that will translate to a more than 40 percent cut of the State Historic Preservation Officer's core historic preservation program.

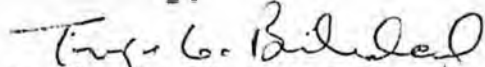
The fiscal benefit of this cut would seem to be slight compared to the losses. First, the legislature has targeted a tiny and already minimal program that brings \$6.00 of Federal dollars into the state for every \$4.00 of State dollars. Secondly, the reduction threatens one of the most successful models of decentralized State/Federal partnership, a program with a track record dating back over 30 years. The National Historic Preservation Act which established the State Historic Preservation Officers made these state officials the key parties in the implementation of the law. Cuts this deep could force the Federal government to take over the program in Alaska; something I am sure the legislature does not intend.

Since the proposed reductions cut deeply into the core functions of the State Historic Preservation Officer the result will be unavoidable delays in historic preservation compliance. What the legislature must realize is that these delays will greatly increase the cost of corporations and companies that do business on Federal land or require Federal permits to do their work. I saw this kind of delay wreak havoc on energy development in New Mexico in the late 1970's and it led many companies like Mobil and Utah International to become open advocates for adequate

funding for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer. In fact, the New Mexico Department of Mining and Minerals forced a strong alliance with the State Historic Preservation Officer and fiscal conservatives like Senator Pete Dominici (New Mexico) have been consistent supporters of historic preservation on the local and national front. It is also important to emphasize that the cuts will severely reduce the ability of the State Historic Preservation Officer to provide either direct monetary aid or technical assistance to local Alaskan communities who recognize the draw value of historic preservation in terms of tourist dollars (i.e. the Nenana steamboat, Kennecott, Skagway, the Olson House, etc.). The dedication of the Nenana as a National Historical Landmark several years ago brought out a local crowd of 5,000 in Fairbanks and numerous tourists with dollars in their pockets ever since.

In sum, the proposed cut makes no sense from any angle. The legislature should not cut simply for the sake of cutting; especially when the reductions hit a tiny yet important program that has already been brought to minimal levels through multiple prior budget "hits" over the years. If you have a specific problem with their operation or style of approach deal with the specifics don't do random chops.

Sincerely,


Terje G. Birkedal

To:
re:

March 27, 1997
Mark Hanley

Child Care Programs

20-393
N

from: Janie Nusbaum
2080 Diamond Drive
Anchorage 99507-1359
562-3326

As a licensed child care provider I have seen a large number of children through their early years before entering school. I've made a huge impact on their lives. They spend 10+ hours each day in my care. This is a most serious responsibility! I accept this, and daily do my very best to provide for them. I keep up to date on these issues of development, safety, hygiene, nutrition. I read, study, school, cook, clean. Teach, nurture.

The Food Program reimbursement I receive is so helpful to us all. With it comes newsletters w/ menus + tips on nutrition + hygiene. Grand ideas for children's participation + growing knowledge of which foods are best for them. Of course it allows me to provide top nutritional value for growing bodies. Parents are very thankful. Some finding it so hard to provide.

This program is regulated + I'm inspected. It works for all.

The Grant Program (CCGP) is a stipend to help defray my costs for developmentally correct toys + equipment. You may visit + see how wisely spent these funds are. Wonderful things to bring these children along, push them to reason. What a plus for self-esteem. Makes them excel, readiness for school. Without these funds, I would be unable to provide this

My self esteem too, is tied into this. "Decent wage" feeling makes me feel worthwhile. Losing these funds stabs at my self-image. I'm not just a babysitter!

How can I replace this - gaining? Must I drop my license + add to my group? I must meet my obligations. What corners to cut?

Your vote will help me decide
Janie Nusbaum

**NORTHWEST MEDICAL
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

2841 DeBarr Road, Suite 22 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Phone: (907) 276-6301
Fax (907) 264-1541

Vernon A. Cates, M.D.
General Practice

John W. Gerster, M.D.
Internal Medicine

Robert D. Hanek, M.D.
Family Practice

Allen Baskous, M.D., M.P.H.
*Family Practice
Occupational Medicine*

J.C. Cates, D.O.
*Family Practice
Pediatrics*

April 1, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Hanley:

I was extremely dismayed to see you vote in House Finance to zero the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation and take its endowment. This is extremely short-sighted and would be a disaster for Alaska. ASTF is not a 'give-away' program. Its Board of Directors are leaders in the community, and carefully consider grant requests after reviews by peers in the field. It is doing precisely the type of controlled economic development Alaska needs after the oil runs out. Even Wally Kickett is a great supporter.

You may not be aware of the many good projects ASTF has helped with. Legislators tend to only hear from those we have declined to fund. But in my time on the Board, I have changed my staunchly Republican laissez-faire attitude after seeing what directed state investment can really accomplish. ASTF takes as its model the Michigan Fund, previous home of our Executive Director, which through a consortium of government and industry investment is helping Michigan rise from their dependence on the collapsing auto industry. Also on our Board is the founder of Teledyne, who single-handedly turned Austin, Texas into the software capital of the country, again, through directed fund investment. We in Alaska are a miniature of these large funds, and are learning from their experience.

Many of ASTF's projects are small, and by themselves will not save the future of Alaska. But in the aggregate, I think they can tremendously diversify the economy. I also see ASTF as a miniature of the potential of the Permanent Fund itself, an experiment if you will, of growing Alaska's economy. Virtually all ASTF projects lever many other dollars in matching funds as well.

Many of us applaud your efforts to cut a bloated state government. ASTF takes not one penny from the State Budget. Its endowment is co-mingled with the Permanent Fund, and only the interest may be spent. Indeed, if there are not sufficient good projects to fund, money is not wasted. An endowed fund is the essence of fiscal conservatism. But killing the goose that is laying golden eggs is wrong.

I have been very impressed with what ASTF has been able to do with relatively little funds. It also has a tremendous potential to do a lot more for this state. I will be in Juneau April 8-9 attending ASTF's Board meeting, and would be glad to sit down with you and talk about the Foundation, and the future of our great state.

Sincerely,

John W. Gerster M.D.

Vice-Chairman of the Board, Alaska Science & Technology Foundation

JWG/hs

18-361
R

Charles M. Mobley & Associates

200 W. 34th #534, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 653-1937, FAX (907) 561-2415

mobley@alaska.net

Archaeological Survey

Cultural Resource Inventory

Historic Property Evaluation

Archival and Historical Research

March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I'm writing to ask you to support full funding for the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (AOHA). This agency houses the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and that position's functions, and it is the most important heritage management position in the state. The SHPO is the only person that Alaska's citizens can rely on to watch that federal agencies and other parties don't unthinkingly destroy the archaeology and architecture that reflects our state's past. Nationwide, it is the strength and support of the SHPO by which other states and the federal government measure our commitment to Alaska's heritage.

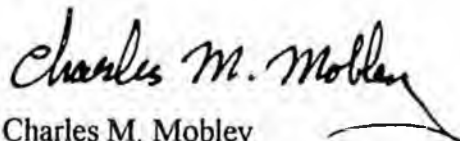
As a professional consultant specializing in cultural resource management, I interact with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology's staff several times a month. They have many tasks and responsibilities by which they grease the wheels of Alaska heritage management, and there is no other state or federal agency that can pick up the slack if they should be downsized. They are underfunded as it is. Reducing their budget is pound-foolish, and arguably not even penny-wise. Costs of increased litigation alone, resulting from their lack of participation in the state's cultural resource arena, will more than offset any small financial benefit to the state budget, let alone the construction delays that will develop.

Even more important, I am **absolutely against** making up any budget shortfalls by simply upping the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology's *authorization to receive* money from other state and federal agencies to conduct contracted research. That is what I am in the business of doing -- contracting with state and federal agencies (and mining and oil and timber companies, Native corporations and tribal groups, etc.) to conduct contracted archaeological and historic architecture studies. My own state agency, the AOHA, is directly competing with me and my colleagues in the private sector for state and federal contracts. I've never appreciated it, and I don't look forward to the Alaska Legislature encouraging more of it by cutting the AOHA budget.

The SHPO helps enforce Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. That law requires that federal undertakings (by virtue of federal land, money, or permit) take into account their affect on significant cultural resources. Alaska's citizens, including your constituency, benefit from that action many times a year (see enclosed reports). If you underfund the AOHA, this sort of local heritage celebration may stop.

I ask that you not decrease the AOHA budget. I ask that you not maintain it as it is. I ask that you increase direct funding for the AOHA.

Sincerely,


Charles M. Mobley

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
BARROW, ALASKA 99723
☎ 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337
email: bnageak@co.north-slope.ak.us

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997



March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Mailstop 3100
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Elimination of the Solid Waste Management Program

The House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation, including the elimination of the ADEC Solid Waste Program. I understand that the preliminary budget has passed the Finance Committee with the solid waste program budget eliminated. This budget is subject to Committee approval, at a meeting scheduled for the week of March 24, 1997.

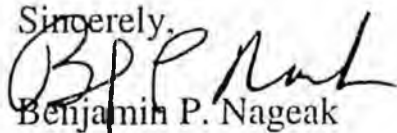
By eliminating the solid waste program, the North Slope Borough will be forced to operate under US EPA regulations. Flexibility for landfill design and closure will be lost. NSB landfills incorporate specific design features for the arctic environment, such features would not receive consideration. Alternative designs acceptable to ADEC will not be acceptable to EPA. For new facilities, such as a new Barrow Landfill, design will become subject to EPA Sub Title D regulations, which have many additional requirements that will add to costs significantly. For example, a liner will be required that will increase costs approximately \$50,000,00. For closure of sites, cover material requirements will increase costs, and use of alternative cover materials will not be allowed. Landfill inspection and compliance status determinations would be assessed by US EPA, who would also issue Notice

of Violation (NOV) and Enforcement Actions if federal standards are not met.

Over 280 landfills will become unregulated by this program's elimination. Class III landfills, of which the NSB has seven, will become deregulated and be re-classified as Class II landfills. This change will cause great expense to the NSB, to modify existing landfill site operations and to upgrade landfills to Class II standards. The Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, by which the Governor can waive additional federal provisions for Class III landfills would have to be repealed.

I urge your support to reinstate the management of the State's solid waste management program in ADEC's budget.

Sincerely,



Benjamin P. Nageak

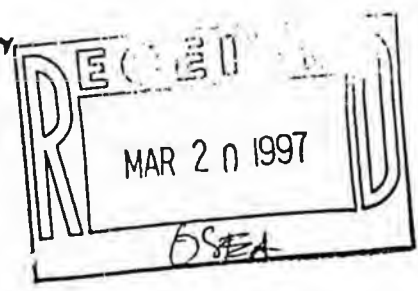
Mayor

North Slope Borough

cc: Rep. Reggie Joule
James P. Sharpe, North Slope Borough
Don Thornburgh, North Slope Borough



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101



MAR 4 1997

227LY TO
ATTN OF: WCM-128

Michale Brown, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

Dear Commissioner Brown:

Michale

We understand that the House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), including elimination of the Solid Waste Program. We also understand that the Senate Finance Subcommittee is considering similar actions. We believe such reductions and the elimination would severely limit ADEC's ability to implement effective environmental programs in the State of Alaska.

In light of these activities, I have determined that Region 10 shall temporarily suspend activity on its review and planned publication of a Final-Partial approval of the state's municipal solid waste landfill permit program. We published our Tentative-Partial approval (determination of adequacy) in the Federal Register on November 24, 1996. I am putting a hold on this project until it is clear what the intentions of the Alaska Legislature are with respect to the State's program.

If a state eliminates its solid waste program, the costs to the public for municipal waste disposal will clearly be higher than if the State has a program and has obtained EPA approval. This is because the most of the elements of flexibility that are in the federal municipal landfill regulation can only be used by States that have received EPA approval. In addition, the Anchorage landfill savings of \$12 million would not have been possible without the presence of a state solid waste program. Another potential result of eliminating the State's program is that, under the federal law, EPA may itself take enforcement actions against landfills if the State program is inadequate.

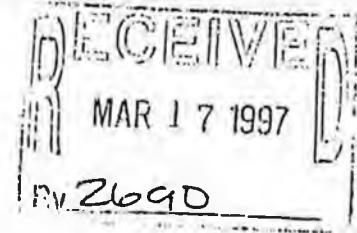
I am hoping this suspension will only be a short-term event and look forward to hearing the outcome of the Legislature's deliberations. If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact Steven Sharp, (206) 553-6517, here in Seattle.

Sincerely,
Chuck
Chuck Clarke
Regional Administrator



REPRESENTATIVE KIM ELTON

March 17, 1997



Dear municipal managers and mayors:

I want to take this opportunity to give you a heads up on a proposal to eliminate the solid waste program administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The current Republican House majority budget proposal eliminates the program. That means over 280 Class I, Class L, and Class III landfills and garbage dumps will be unregulated, as well as more than 230 industrial waste sites.

Loss of the state program results in dramatically increased costs for landfill operators and municipalities because operators will be required to meet rigid federal standards rather than the more flexible state standards. Easily quantified ramifications include:

- 1) nearly \$55 million in project upgrades if state primacy is lost;
- 2) increased liability if unregulated landfills contaminate groundwater;
- 3) skyrocketing costs for clean-up;
- 4) increased health risks from uncontrolled disposal of honey bucket waste;
- 5) increased civil actions because the feds encourage enforcement of federal standards through the filing of citizen lawsuits.

Cutting the state program by eliminating \$800,000 in general fund dollars is not a cost saving--it is a cost transfer. The DEC budget subcommittee chair, Rep. Vic Kohring (R-Wasilla), told the subcommittee he wants to "get the state out of the business and let municipalities and users pay." Unfortunately, his approach saves less than \$1 million in state funds but will cost solid waste facility owners (public and private) and users much, much more.

I've attached a letter DEC just received from the EPA that discusses possible effects of this budget cut proposed by the Republican majority. Additional information about the effect of this cut on your municipality can be obtained from DEC. You may also want to contact House Speaker Gail Phillips (R-Homer), or House Finance co-chairs Mark Hanley (R-Anchorage) and Gene Therriault (R-North Pole) to discuss this proposed cut to state funds which dramatically increases your costs.

Sincerely,


Rep. Kim Elton
House Minority Whip

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6599
Phone 907-225-6114
FAX 907-225-5920

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997

March 27, 1997

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

Dear Representative Hanley: *Mark*

I understand the report of the House Finance subcommittee on the DNR budget included a reduction of \$150,000 in the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) component, and another \$20,000 in resource management, which will affect the timber sale program in Interior Alaska. According to DNR, the FPA reduction will result in the loss of two staff people in the Coastal Region who work on FPA notifications, and all their FPA travel. This is of grave concern to the Alaska Forest Association and its members. It is my understanding that the Senate will not be making these cuts, and I am writing to ask that you consider restoring this component when the budget is considered in Conference Committee.

The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) was a compromise law that enabled the state to protect public values (especially fisheries) that were affected or potentially affected by timber harvest activities on private land. The private landowners agreed to forgo millions of dollars in potential profits from trees growing in riparian buffer zones as a means of protecting important fish habitat. In return, they received assurances that the state would provide a monitoring and enforcement presence so that the public would know that timber operators were complying with the terms of the Act. The industry has lived up to its commitment and has a right to have the state live up to its side of the bargain.

Specifically, the House cuts would affect AFA members by delaying operations in many instances and by preventing companies from having the assurance that any given action will be satisfactory to the agencies. Furthermore, inability of DNR personnel to go to the field to review variation requests could result in landowners having to leave trees behind that they could otherwise safely and legally harvest. This could result in many thousands of dollars (perhaps millions) in lost revenue. Given the terms of the Act and the agreements reached when industry supported the Act, this would be grossly unfair.

As examples, let me cite two companies, one large, one small, who would be affected by any significant reduction in DNR's FPA funding:

- 1) One company filed 24 notifications on 14 projects under the Act last year. They have already filed 17 notifications on 11 projects so far this year. The 1997 projects entail 4,600 acres and 58 miles of stream. As market conditions and project plans change, and as

previously unknown fish bearing streams are located in the project areas, the number of notifications on any given project tends to increase. The landowners desire to comply with the law, but they also need the agency to be able to handle the notifications and attendant inspections, lest the projects get delayed and the company lose money and market opportunities. Many jobs can ride on these projects.

This same company filed variation requests on 426 trees last year. The law allows a company to request a variation to harvest individual trees standing in riparian buffers. Before such a request can be granted, there must be a determination that removing the particular tree will have no negative effect on the integrity of the buffer. This often requires a field visit, and therefore will be affected by the funding reduction.

- 2) Another company filed notifications on 4 projects in 1995 and 6 in 1996. It has already filed notifications on 1 project this year and expects more. While the percentage of responses may be correspondingly reduced under the proposed cuts, it should be obvious that a smaller company will be hit even harder by delays, since a larger percentage of its business relies upon each project. Also, it is not a given that a smaller company will not feel a higher proportion of the reduction since economies of scale could actually make it easier for the agency to respond to requests from larger companies more quickly.

In summary, I urge you to protect the FPA segment of DNR's budget for at least three reasons: 1) fairness to those companies who are employing many people in the forest products industry and who agreed to forgo profits on timber grown along fish-bearing streams with the assurance of agency cooperation; 2) the state's recognized responsibility to monitor public resources that are generally affected by activities on private land; and 3) the need to provide some measure of legitimate state regulatory support for private forest products companies who employ many people directly and indirectly, and who contribute to the economy and the general fund revenue stream through taxes.

Thank you for your consistent interest in and support of our industry. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Phelps
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House
AFA Board of Directors
Thyes Shaub, Shaub & Associates

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

March 18, 1997

To: Mark Hanley

I am writing to you regarding the budget of developmental Disabilities. The Medicaid program is so very important to all of us in the State. If the proposed cuts take place, the following services would be totally eliminated.

1. Mammography
2. Prosthetic devices
3. Medical supplies and equipment
4. Targeted case management
5. Rehabilitative services

I am the wife of a disabled man in a wheelchair and the mother of a little girl named Tiffany, who is in a wheelchair and has cerebral palsy. I wish you could live one day of my life, then you would understand the challenges that I am faced with on a daily basis. You would never vote in favor of these changes. Life is a big enough challenge with a disabled person to care for. When you have these wonderful, special needs people in your life you do all you can for them. Then comes the reality of life, the struggles, the fight, the hard work, stress and physical abuse one's body takes, and hardly having time for yourself. I urge you not to support these cuts, as these services are vital to all of us. Without your help in this matter, I can not continue to support you with my vote.

Sincerely,

Danny, Trina and Tiffany Vail
Soldotna

DANNY T & TRINA VAIL
340 S KOBUK
SOLDOTNA AK 99669-7800



RECEIVED
APR 01 1997

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.

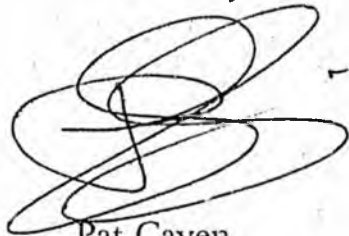
While it would appear that large corporations such as Alaska Airlines and Holland America will continue to have a presence in the market on their own, the proposed cuts will devastate small business and small Alaskan communities. These businesses rely on the activities of the Department of Tourism and 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat Cayen', written over a series of overlapping horizontal lines.

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

April 2, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

To:

House Finance Committee/Senate Finance Committee/Senate Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee

Fax:

From:

Historic Ketchikan Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization which promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism. Historic preservation planning is critical to economic development in cities, such as Ketchikan, where most of the commercial and housing stock is over fifty years old. Basically, maintenance and restoration of historic properties keep them on the tax register. In Ketchikan, where tourism is a strong component of the economy, historic preservation planning has an even more vital role. Tourists pay for an authentic historic experience - they wish to experience the "character" of the town - what makes it unique. Ketchikan is very fortunate in that the "character" is mostly intact; Historic Ketchikan's programs are designed to strengthen and preserve the history of the community for residents and visitors.

The State Office of History and Archaeology supports the Historic Ketchikan program in a variety of ways. They provide necessary assistance for Historic Ketchikan projects. For example, Historic Ketchikan receives grant monies from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation which it re-grants to homeowners for House Restoration - to rehabilitate Ketchikan's existing housing stock. One of the necessary steps in the grant process is review of the property by the Office of History and Archaeology. This timely review is very important to Ketchikan's grant program!

The State Office of History and Archaeology assists Ketchikan's Certified Local Government. OHA's grants have funded the survey and inventory of the Stedman-Thomas District, the Grant Street Trestle and the existing canneries in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. A grant was also awarded to the CLG for the nomination of the Stedman-Thomas District to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its inclusion on the National Register, property owners now have additional tax incentives for renovation projects. And, OHA provides assistance in using these federal tax incentives for building renovation. If the budget for the State Office of History and Archaeology is cut by \$94, the state loses \$141.2 in federal matching monies. This would mean less funds granted out for projects all over the state - including Ketchikan.

The centralized database of historic and archaeological sites is also important to maintain. It is significant that the Office of History and Archaeology works as a valuable partner with many other organizations and thus is a centralized source of information on a variety of history-related topics. Historic Ketchikan recently benefited from this network and received a grant from an outside source for a Heritage Tourism project.

Please allow the State's invaluable Historic Preservation Program to remain intact; it's important to all of us!

Sincerely,

Jalene Winter
 324 Cedar Street
 Ketchikan, Alaska
 99901

RECEIVED
APR 02 1997

OFFICE OF

Mark Wilson

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

PO Box 220569
Anchorage, Alaska
99522-0569

PH: (907) 276-4115
Fax: (907) 276-5859
e-mail: wilson@alaska.net

April 2, 1997

To: Representative Mark Hanley
From: Mark Wilson

re: Financial Support for the State of Alaska
Department of Commerce and Economic Development
subj: Division of Trade and Development

The remarkable growth in the Alaska exports over the past ten years has been accompanied by the demonstrably improved performance of the export trade service providers in Alaska.

Alaska exports valued at about \$2.2 billion, of which about \$2 billion goes to the Asian markets, are largely the products of the resource industries. With increasing potential, however, the "economic base" of Alaska is growing. From clothing manufacturing and the huge growth in value added fish products to specialized telecommunications, environmental remediation, arctic development of oil, mining and timber resources Alaska has much to offer the international business community.

As compared to the entire worldwide marketplace, a large part of the reason that Alaska business have been so successful in Asia is due to the substantial investment of the state's Legislature in the predecessor agencies of the Alaska Division of Trade and Development and into the offices and representatives in Japan,

Taiwan and Korea. Some thirty years ago the state had embarked on a plan to develop Alaska's industries. Through the Division of Trade and Development, the State made the commitment to develop offshore markets, establish personal relationships and provide the governmental infrastructure to constructively support the effort to assist small business over the long term.

The Division of Trade and Development is one of the very few state offices that is pro-actively helping Alaska small business grow. The bottom line is that the expansion of Alaska's markets means more stable jobs for Alaskans.

Our largest markets are outside of Alaska. For any single Alaska company the cost of finding those markets, connecting with qualified buyers, establishing formal protocol and understanding international rules and regulations is a daunting and expensive prospect. In the early years, Alaska business had little success developing international markets. With foresight, however, the government of Alaska invested in Alaska's future with the establishment of the Division of Trade and Development.

The Alaska Division of Trade and Development is becoming the organization we must have for the future. It is staffed by trained and experienced trade representatives, it is focused, efficient and effective -- operationally, it is budget conscious. Alaska's most successful and natural markets are in Asia. There is promise in Russia and other third world countries, too. The job of the Division of Trade and Development is to make the direct connection between the buyers and sellers of Alaska goods and products internationally.

But, these international markets require experienced professionals as never before. We need the experience of people who have built their professional lives in the international marketplace, who are competent, capable and creative. Today, the Alaska Division of Trade and Development has the people that will enable us develop the markets of tomorrow.

The Legislature is looking hard to cut state spending, an important and difficult undertaking. But, they are making a serious mistake in proposing to cut to the bone an agency like the Division of Trade and

Development. Historically, the offices of the state of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development and, today, the Division of Trade and Development have been a repeated target of budget cuts. Now, the House budget plan calls for eliminating half of the Division's Trade Specialists. This move is decidedly anti-business.

Alaska is lucky. We have representatives in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. We have our foot in the door in Russia. We have the Trade Specialists with the business contacts and experience to make the solid connection between the markets and Alaska's small business. It is these people that make things happen, it is the Trade Specialists that deliver upon the government to government relations, the networking of business interests and the stability of long term commitments.

What we need now is for the Legislature to build upon the linkage we have established, not dismantle it.

A. W. BRINDLE
H. A. BRINDLE

RECEIVED

PROCESSOR OF
CHOICE ALASKA SEAFOOD
SINCE 1912

APR 01 1997

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.

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

Author: brendasc@ptialaska.net at CC2MHS1

Date: 3/21/97 2:44 PM

Priority: Normal

FROM: Representative Alan Austerman at LAA_TRANS

Subject: VPSO Program

TO: Rep. Hanley

Representative Austerman,

Two days ago a VPSO had all his tires slit on his vehicle, several weeks ago a VPSO had to leave his vehicle unattended and while unattended his vehicle was spray painted with "pig" and other language, another VPSO went on leave for a week and when he returned home his home had been broken into and vandalized. VPSO's are on call and are expected to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A VPSO's starting salary is \$10.79 per hour. Usually, health care is not available for non-natives VPSO's in villages, so the cost of an airplane ticket to Kodiak is between \$60-\$140 round trip. Groceries as you are aware are very expensive in small communities. Fuel and housing are very high as well.

Why is the legislature looking at cutting the VPSO Program? The VPSO Program needs more funding. There are no supplies line items, there are no equipment line items, there are no phone line items, there are no funds for operation and maintenance of vehicles, overtime is rare, and the legislature wants to cut funding? If a VPSO could earn a decent living in a village we would have less turn over and more interest in becoming a VPSO. It would be nice to see the Legislature providing support to rural communities as it does in supporting Troopers. Troopers at least have money to purchase pencils and paper, VPSO's do not. The following is a very brief income survey for the Kodiak area;

Kodiak Income Survey

Safeway Courtesy Clerk (grocery bagger) \$ 6.00hr Age 14 or 15
6.50 Age 15 or 16

Safeway Cashier 7.50hr

Corrections Officer \$14.27 - 19.68

Police Officer 17.56 - 24.22

Dispatcher 13.71 - 18.91

State Trooper Recruit \$19.64

Distatcher 15.84

VPSO \$10.79

As you can see, A VPSO makes just a little over \$4.00 an hour more than a 15 year old grocery bagger. A VPSO makes less than a dispatcher, corrections officer, and State Trooper recruit. A VPSO would have to be on the job over 17 years to make what a beginning Trooper recruit makes. Actually, the VPSO salary schedule doesn't even go higher than \$18.04 per hour after 17.5 years of service. Think about it.

The more that you cut the VPSO Program, the more difficult it will be to provide public safety in rural communities. A starting salary of \$10.79 per hour isn't going to excite anyone about going to a village and spending 80-90% of their time dealing with domestic violence and alcohol related incidents.

Maybe you can talk about an increase instead of a cut to the VPSO program.

Brenda Schwantes
brendasc@ptialaska.net

RECEIVED
APR 01 1997

Became sick in 1989.
Started Life Quest Case Management Services in 1992
Started Intensive Rehab Services in 1996

Before Life Quest Services Started

Homeless
No concept of money management. Spent moneys on trivial things or gave moneys away.
API 3 times
Providence Hospital 1 time
Illinois State Institution
St. Maries Mental Ward
Santa Cruz Mental Health Ward
Suicide attempts
Depression and isolation of frequency of 7 days per week.

Improvements amde with servciies in last year

Maintained housing
Have stayed out of any Mental Health Institutions for the past 2 years.
Cut down on Meds.
Takes better care of self: Exampes: bathing, grooming pride in apt.,
In last year have begun to recognize and manaage symptoms, with less thoughts of suicide.
Decrease isolation to 2 days a week.
Plans for the future include attending college in Summer.

Feelings of what is going to happen if Services stop.

Support systems, transportation

Include all other feeling and fears you have.

Back into Institutions

Became mentally ill in 1993. Was admitted to Georgia Medical Center where I stayed for 3 months.

API 2 times

Providence Hospital 1 time.

Improvements made with service in last year

Learning new behaviors

Recognizing and managing symptoms

Contributing to society by working in a particular business.

Taking care of animals without harming them.

Taking responsibility for my actions.

Life Quest Services are important to me because I would not have transportation to meet my personal need. I need IRS and Case Management Services to assist in keeping me stable and out of the hospitals.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated 3/25/97
 bill/subject

I hereby register opposition to any proposal which would cut Medicaid funding for substance abuse treatment services. If you have to cut the Medicaid budget, **substance abuse treatment coverage should be the last to go, right down there with basic health services for children. Because the bottom line is that substance abuse treatment for adults is a basic health service for Alaska's children.** It affects whether their parents get up in the morning and get them off to school. It impacts their education, safety, and nutrition, all of which impacts future employability. Is mother passed out, or is she awake and able to feed them? Who is watching the children while the parent is out? Some junkie friend who molests them? Are the children sitting in cars at bars in freezing weather? Are 10-year-olds driving their drunk fathers home? Does the car heater work and do they have coats? These are very real issues for children of substance-abusing parents in this state.

I've lived in this valley 25 years and here's what I've seen. Most people go to treatment because they are ordered by the courts or DFYS. Most of them grew up in alcoholic homes themselves and don't know any other way to live. **Medicaid coverage for substance abuse treatment gets people into treatment who wouldn't otherwise, especially women with children.** Some don't get sober the first time around, but the money you invest in their treatment is definitely worth it in the long run. **Because every minor glimpse into a sober lifestyle we can give these people creates possibilities for themselves and their kids.** It improves the chances for them and their children and saves Alaska money in the long run.

This state has a huge, huge drug and alcohol problem, and until we address it with every gun we have, we haven't a prayer on controlling costs in other areas of skyrocketing need, such as Department of Corrections, DFYS, welfare, and juvenile detention. These costs will continue to skyrocket with each new generation until Alaska addresses substance abuse with every resource and every dollar we can find.

Signed: Margaret Rose Carney
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 870431 Wasilla AK 99687
 Address
907-376-3133
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated 3-24-97
 bill/subject

I feel very uncomfortable about the hole
 things a people in lifequest need the
 attention and help from lifequest
 you all think busis in alaska are
 highly numberd ~~in~~ and on the streets
 wait until this happens.
 This is very sad what do you think
 you would vote for if you were a
 helpless client,

Signed: Marvin Clayton
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
mile 7.05 park's way willow AK 99688
 Address
995-1155
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated March 24, 1997
 bill/subject

To Whom it May Concern,

The elimination of services #14 & #15
 on the "Table of Medicaid Priorities" will
sabotage current efforts to get Welfare
 recipients back to work, and will cost
 a great deal of money elsewhere
 in the system. Please review the
 attached information and take
 counsel from people who recognize
 the impact that this decision will
 have on our community.

Signed: Michelle Overstreet
 Testifier

Concerned Citizen for Welfare Reform
 Representing (Optional)

1210 Lake Lucille Dr. Wasilla
 Address

376-7627 (m) 376 4000
 Phone No.

THE FACTS: Alcohol and Other D

AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

- The total economic costs to the United States of substance abuse is estimated to be approximately \$166 billion per year. Of the \$166 billion, \$99 billion (60%) are costs related to alcohol abuse, and \$67 billion are related to other drug abuse. (Brandeis University, 1993)

- In Fiscal Year 1994, addiction to and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other substances will account for at least \$77.6 billion in Federal expenditures on entitlement programs. (Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1995)

- Four out of ten Americans (76 million people) are affected by alcoholism in their family. (National Center for Health Statistics, 1988)

- Successfully treating alcohol problems costs 10 times less than the current cost of alcohol abuse to society. (Institute of Medicine, 1990)

- Marijuana use among eighth-graders has more than doubled since 1991. One in eight eighth-graders (13%) used marijuana in 1994, while nearly one in five high school seniors (19%) used marijuana at least once a month (Monitoring the Future Study, University of Michigan, 1994)

- For every 1 dollar spent on alcohol and other drug treatment, taxpayers save \$7 in the direct costs to society associated with drug addiction and abuse. Additionally, treatment pays for itself on the first day of delivery of treatment services to an addicted individual. (California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Evaluating Recovery Services: The California Drug and Alcohol Treatment Assessment, 1994)

AND CRIME

- In a national survey of prison wardens, more than nine out of ten wardens stated that they believe that "expanding the use of drug treatment in prisons or in the community" will make a major (39%) or a moderate (52%) difference in reducing crime in their community or state. (U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, 1994)

- More than 60% of men arrested for burglary, larceny-theft and stolen vehicles in the Drug Use Forecasting program in 1990 tested positive for drug use (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

- A RAND study found that substance abuse treatment is seven times more effective in reducing cocaine use than domestic law enforcement. (RAND Corp. Drug Policy Research Center, Controlling Cocaine: Supply vs. Demand Programs, 1994)

- A recently-released comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment follow-up study of approximately 3,000 individuals (CALDATA) found that criminal activity declined 66% following treatment, and the longer the individual remained in treatment, the greater the reduction in criminal activity.

- Individuals sentenced for drug offenses constitute the largest and fastest growing category in the Federal prison population, accounting for 61% of the 1993 total, compared with 38% in 1986. One in five Federal prisoners are low-level non-violent drug offenders with no previous record. (Department of Justice, 1994)

- Gloucester, MA Prevention Network has implemented a comprehensive community-wide substance abuse prevention program that has resulted in a 63% decline in heroin arrests, a 21% decrease in narcotic cases in the court system, and a 25% decline in DWI arrests.

Drug Addiction

AND HEALTH CARE COSTS

- 25 to 40% of all general hospital patients are admitted for alcohol-related problems. (Brandeis University, Substance Abuse: The Nation's No. 1 Health Problem)
- One in five hospital days and \$7.4 billion of Medicaid inpatient hospital costs are linked with abuse or addiction to alcohol or other drugs. (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1994)
- Nearly one-third of all AIDS cases are related to intravenous drug use, and 70% of all pediatric AIDS cases are related to maternal exposure to HIV through drug use or sex with a drug user. (Centers for Disease Control, 1993)
- Hospital emergency room admissions due to heroin use jumped 86% between 1990 and 1993. During the same period, cocaine emergencies rose by 53%. (Drug Strategies, 1995)
- Substance abuse will cost the Medicare program one trillion dollars over the next 20 years. (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1994)
- Approximately one-half the cost of alcohol and drug addiction treatment is offset within one year by subsequent reductions in the use of medical services by the primary patient and his or her family. (Luckey, 1987)
- More than 5% (221,000) of the 4 million women who give birth each year use illicit drugs during their pregnancy. (1994 National Pregnancy and Health Survey, National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- The state Alcohol and Other Drug Authority in Minnesota has reported that, for chemical dependency treatment clients, the state has saved approximately \$22 million in annual health care costs. (National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Invest in Treatment for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems: It Works, 1994)

IN THE WORKPLACE

- United Airlines estimates that it has a \$16.95 return for every dollar invested in a drug-free workplace program. (ASIS O.P. Norton Information Resources Center, "Substance Abuse: A Guide to Workplace Issues," August, 1990)
- The cost of alcohol and other drug use in the workplace, including lost productivity, medical claims and accidents, amounts to \$140 billion per year. (Brandeis University, 1993)
- 38 to 50% of all workers' compensation claims are related to the abuse of alcohol or other drugs in the workplace. (National Council on Compensation Insurance, 1993)
- Employed drug abusers are 3 times more likely to be late for work, 33% less productive, and likely to incur 300 percent higher medical costs and benefits when compared to their non-abusing counterparts. (Drug Strategies, 1995)
- Approximately 17% of all workers abuse alcohol or other drugs. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1991)
- More than two-thirds of regular drug users are employed—more than 8 million workers—and 15% say they have gone to work while under the influence of drugs in the past year. (Brandeis University, 1993)
- A substance-abusing employee is absent 10 times as often as a non-abusing employee. (Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 1992)
- Up to 40% of industrial fatalities and 47 percent of industrial injuries can be linked to alcoholism and alcohol consumption. (Bornstein and Mahney, "Occupational Medicine," 1989)
- One out of every four American workers has a substance abuse problem or a family member with an alcohol or other drug addiction. (The National Institute on Drug Abuse, cited by the Center for a Drug Free Workplace, January 1992)

*This refers to
other healthcare
costs - NOT
the cost of the
tx!*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated 3/24/97
 bill/subject

To: Rep. Masek,

Dear Ms. Masek,

I am a voter in your district. I appreciate the efforts that this legislation session has made to bring state spending under control. However options 14 + 15, which would reduce medicaid spending for substance abuse treatment, are short sighted. When we take treatment opportunities away from those who need it, we are simply "stepping over dollars to pick up dimes." By spending money on rehabilitation services we'll save money down the road in health care costs, incarceration costs and the cost of the pain + suffering caused by substance abuse. It may be attractive to cut this money out of the budget but in Alaska with its extreme rate of substance abuse, it would be foolish. Thank you

Signed: David J. Medicino
 Testifier

Self
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 879021 Wasilla AK 99687
 Address

373-0939
 Phone No.

Attention: Rep. Vic Koiring

Please do not cut the budget
for ~~to~~ mental health services in the
valley. Many people and families have been
helped. People ~~and~~ who may otherwise be
indigent learn to be productive. Please
consider the good that has been accomplished.

Marie L Ball
652 Third St
Palmer AK 99645

ALIO - FAX 376-6180

Alaska State Legislature



Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance committee name
committee on Budget/Medicaid Cuts, dated 3/24/97
bill/subject

Your proposed cuts in the Medicaid program will only hurt Alaskan's today + for many years to come.

Elimination of substance abuse rehabilitative services (Option 15) will hurt families, businesses + everyone else who must live in Alaska.

It will increase costs for DFYS when mothers + fathers can't care for their children + when teenagers become pregnant (because they can't practise safe sex under the influence). It will cost the Judicial system in court cases for all the crimes + injuries caused by drugs + alcohol use. It will increase costs for law enforcement to investigate + apprehend law breakers. It will increase costs to imprison them. It will increase costs for mental care for addicts + their victims. It will increase cost of all levels of the welfare system + could seriously jeopardize the success of any welfare reform. This list can go on + on - substance abuse treatment pays for itself every time a man woman or child gets into recovery + becomes a contributing member of our society.

Signed: Ann Gully
Testifier

A Recovering Alaskan
Representing (Optional)

HC 34, Bx 2115, Wasilla AK 99607
Address

(907) 376-6879
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget/Medicaid, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

I attended the budget hearing, but was unable to speak due to lack of time, and too many speakers.

Please accept my attached written testimony, regarding the effects of Medicaid cuts on substance abuse programs.

Signed: *[Signature]*
 Testifier
Mat-Su Council
 Representing (Optional)
2801 Bogard Road, Wasilla 99654
 Address
376-4000
 Phone No.

Alaska State Legislature

Testimony to Finance Committee

March 22, 1997

Medicaid Budget Cuts

IMPACT

The proposed cuts will totally eliminate any Medicaid for alcoholism and drug abuse treatment. This amount was \$1,522,209 in FY96.

RECENT BUY IN

It was only about two years ago that treatment programs had their budgets reduced so that money could be used to pay the state's share of Medicaid. This "buy-in" leveraged new federal Medicaid money. Other states have had Medicaid coverage for alcoholism/drug abuse treatment for years. We did not. So in Alaska we bought in to the program, it was not free.

BACK TO WORK INITIATIVE

Our public assistance offices are targeting large numbers of welfare recipients to go back to work. The local Mat-Su public assistance office estimates that 30-40% of welfare recipients have a significant alcoholism/drug abuse problem. We are counting on Medicaid to serve these people. Loss of it will severely limit treatment availability, and could result in failure of the welfare reform program.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

Some say that alcoholics are responsible for their own disease. In fact, alcoholics are physically different in how their bodies process alcohol. Normal people can drink moderately; but for alcoholics drinking damages their ability to think and choose, creates severe distortions in personality, and harms themselves, their families and other innocent victims in the community. It is time we stop blaming alcoholics for their disease and instead provide the treatment needed for them to regain control of their lives again.

TREATMENT WORKS

Mat-Su Council has been following up on the clients who leave our treatment programs for the past three years. Results indicate that 75%-85% are maintaining abstinence a year later. There is also a drastic reduction in criminal and antisocial behavior. There is no cure for alcoholism, but through abstinence the disease can be managed and the person can return to a normal life. Our experience is not unique. State and national statistics also show that treatment works! The changes are dramatic when it does.

ECONOMICS

Think for a moment of the magnitude of alcoholism and drug abuse in Alaska. Do you have any doubt that it is the number one health problem in our state? At the state's long range financial planning sessions it was pointed out that the huge numbers of people in our criminal justice system will not decrease until we address the problem of alcoholism. It has a huge impact on spending for law enforcement, the courts, the corrections system, parole & probation, emergency medical services, state child protection services, and domestic violence programs. But treatment money has been spread so thin, it is a drop in the bucket compared to the size of the problem. If budgets must be cut, I would suggest that what money we do spend should be working for us. Alcoholism treatment funding is a wise investment.

(continued)

In conclusion, please don't be "penny wise and pound foolish". Adequately fund Medicaid for alcohol treatment so it will strengthen our economy, strengthen our people, and benefit all Alaskans.

If you would like to discuss this subject further, please call me at 376-4000.
If you are ever in Wasilla, feel free to stop by. You are always welcome!

Sincerely,



Suzanne Frey
Executive Director

Mat-Su Council
2801 Bogard Road
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-4000
FAX: 373-1135



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
 committee name
 committee on _____, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

Palmer Pioneers' Home's seventy-two residents, for whom I am spokesperson, their individual guardians, conservators or other responsible parties, relatives and friends, singularly and collectively believe that Alaska has reneged on its contract to provide them a reasonable-priced old age home with variable care levels.

Furthermore, all these concerned persons regret and mourn that our Legislators seem to believe we are fat cats with extremely valuable hidden assets. Actually, except maybe for a very few late-comers, all residents of Palmer Pioneers' Home are long-time Alaskans who have contributed all their time, talent and resources to build our homes and communities, raise and educate our children, paid pre-oil taxes, called Alaska "Home", and scaled our retirement plans to include our Pioneers' Home.

All residents once were proud, productive persons. Today none of us has assets beyond social security, Longivity and maybe a modest pension, as well as an abiding faith in our State.

We did not plan to be welfare wards of Alaska, just as we did not plan to be burdens to our children. We had a Contract with Alaska to be taken care of in our last years for a reasonable fee.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET

Signed: _____

Patty Weisenberger

Patty Weisenberger

Testifier

Palmer Pioneers' Home residents

Representing (Optional)

250 East Fireweed, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Address

(907) 745-3030

Phone No.

PAGE 2 - Continuation of TESTIMONY TO ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, 3/22/97,
from PALMER PIONEERS' HOME RESIDENTS' SPOKESPERSON

Instead, we are demoralized, alienated, shamed and betrayed.

The very least the Legislature may have done is to grandfather the Pioneers' Home program, freezing rates for current residents (plus, of course COLA increases), and applying the drastic increased charges to rates for future applicants who then will have an option of undertaking the revised charges.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ committee name

committee on _____, dated _____

or even alive ^{bill/subject} and some people who they even are ^{what's even wrong with}
 Some people have been violent all there life not knowing right or wrong, put in hospitals, ^{and taking time} jails
 But because of mental health, counselling, ^{and help} from the state, some of these people can live in supervised housing and try but still can't do it on there own. But because of ^{Staff} L.I. and medicaid, some of us can still try ^{still alive}
 Its not a choice we have or even can control.
 But you ^{to what we all said} all can listen understand what and you all can make the right choice
 even

Thank you. The consumers of ^{mental health} ~~of Alaska~~ L.I.

Signed: Lona Olson
 Testifier
P.O. Box 872713
 Representing (Optional)
Wasilla, Ak
 Address
373-1675
 Phone No.

My name is [unclear]

I am here representing more than 100 people from 12 who are consumers



Alaska State Legislature

~~I am John Olson representing [unclear]~~

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance committee name
House Bill 76 - House Finance
committee on Medicaid Cuts, dated March 22nd 1997.
bill/subject

I am highly disgusted with the cuts. It should be checked out first of the people who can work ~~about~~ ^{around} but get paid under the table plus welfare stuff. But I do not like the mental illness people have a choice to be mentally ill. It is due to part of the brain. Chemical imbalance or accidents or form with it. Do you ever think it could happen to you? Some things cannot be helped. The kids ^{at someone you know} are our future. Some adults were abused as a child and now to this day, are suicidal, abuse to their children people around them. Just because mental health or disorder scare alot of people, we are the one with the illness ~~we~~ ^{we} have to live with it. Do you really know what each illness ^{is} and how we live in fear, not knowing if we will be institutionalized.

Signed: _____
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE Committee
 committee name
 ALL committee on Medicaid / Mental Health, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

My 3 daughters now age's 4, 5 & 15 yrs old, who have been mentally, physically & sexually abused by their father/stepfather. The 4 & 5 yr olds have been taken to a doctor and she confirmed the sexual abuse. They were first victimized by their father first. It took 6 months from the date we left that situation to disclose the name of the person who had sexually abused them. On Dec. 1, 1996 my 5 yr old told me it was daddy. Then on Dec. 5, 1996 my 4 yr old told me it was daddy. They were finally ready to talk to a female officer. I called the state Trooper's. I then got them row around of who was going to take the case. Since it happened in Anchorage, they wanted them to take it. ON JAN. 1st 1997 1 month later they were to listen to the girls. But by then the girls were both so scared again to talk about it. They are in the life guest program as I am. Now March 20 1997 9 months later. Their signed: willing to talk. If the 8 million dollars cuts are made they will not get

Testifier

Elizabeth J. Neuhart

the help they need want to deserve. TO WORK THROUGH these devastating actions out.

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 872942 Wasilla, AK 99687

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE Committee
 committee name
 committee on Medicaid / mental Health, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

I AM A CONSUMER OF Life Quest AS ARE 2 OF MY CHILDREN. FOR THOSE WHO KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, IT'S EASY TO SAY, CUT THIS OUT OF THE BUDGET, WHEN IN FACT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT DEVASTATION THEY ARE CAUSING TO THE CLIENTS & FAMILIES WHO DESPERATELY NEED IT. IT'S NOT A HEALING PROCESS FOR THE CLIENTS ONLY, BUT THEIR FAMILIES ALSO.

WE ARE ALL CONCERNED WITH THE WAY THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALREADY ACTING & THE THINGS THEY ARE GOING THROUGH (GUNS ^{shootings} & DRUGS AT SCHOOL ETC.) IF THE BUDGETS ARE CUT FOR MEDICAID & MENTAL HEALTH ETC. THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE YOUNG IF THEY DON'T GET THE HELP THEY NEED & DESERVE. LOOKING INTO OUR IMPORTANT FUTURE IS A PRETTY SCARY PLACE.

Signed: Elizabeth Neukiech
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 872942 WASILLA, AK 99687
 Address

Phone No.



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 Kircher
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 Bill No 76
 committee name
 committee on Funding, dated March 22, 97.
 bill/subject

As Alaska People's approach the 21st Century Alaskan families in many instances are caught in the grips of poverty and lower social economic status. Families in both rural and urban areas face many complex issues such as hunger, homelessness, parental drug/alcohol addiction and mental health issues. Problems often associated with chronic poverty are higher levels of crime, child abuse, and domestic violence. These societal problems call for increased, not decreased funding for programs that could invest in our disadvantaged populations to build programs to assist those looking for work, higher education, child care, medical benefits, and drug/alcohol programs. Increase not decrease our programs that target families.

Signed: Pat McKernan (Patricia Rumburg)
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1109 Fishhook Wasilla, AK. 99654
 Address
907 373-7316
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Budget cuts, dated March 22, 96
bill/subject

The proposed cuts to child care programs in regards to Welfare Reform should be increased, rather than decreased, (or entirely cut at this time.) Changes do need to be made, but not at the expense of our poor and disadvantaged populations: who are the most vulnerable populations? These populations include women, single head of families, children, disabled. Our Alaskan society demands an increase not decrease of funds. We need more dollars for programs to increase the education and well being of healthy Alaskan Families.

Signed: Patricia Rumburg
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1109 Fishhook Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

907 373-7314

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Families, dated March 22, 97.
bill/subject

Funding for families in regards to the care and provision of mental health issues and regarding the proposed cuts in funding are appalling. Services targeting families and their care in terms of programs, need to be increased, not decreased, at this time in growing complex social problems. Populations that are affected by health + mental disabilities affect everybody in our society. What does legislative plans for a population that is unable to advocate for themselves? Simply turn loose families and children rather than to help and empower them to be productive contributing members of society.

Signed: Patricia Rumbour
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1109 Fishhook Wasilla AK 99654
Address
907 373-7316
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the finance committee
 committee name
 committee on budget cuts, dated March 22, 97.
 bill/subject

By decreasing, not increasing funding to programs that will assist Alaskan families to become self sufficient and productive, contributing members of society, we will create a whole population of people who desperate to survive, may instead contribute to a more negative input such as crime, drug/alcohol abusers, people unable to have meaning of contributing to a strong society. We now need to invest in Alaska's future to support programs such as child care, mental health programs, job training, education, to give our people tools not just to survive but to thrive.

Signed: Pat Rumburg
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1109 Fishhook Nasilla, AK 99654
 Address
907-373-7314
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on budget cuts, dated March 22, 97
 bill/subject

By decreasing, not increasing,
 funding that will enable families with
 children to be productive, contributing members
 of society. Rather than decrease, increase
 funds to child care programs,

Signed: Patricia Rumberg
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1109 Fishhook Warden Ak. 99654
 Address
907 373-7316
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on budget cuts, dated March 22, 97
 bill/subject

Alaskan law makers need to take another look at the proposed cuts that will impact our health and welfare programs of the disadvantaged populations of Alaska. Cuts to social and health programs now, will simply increase the social problems in the future. By cutting fundings to day care, job training, education, and mental health services, will only create a population of helplessness, hopeless people - unable to contribute as functioning strong members of society.

Signed: Patricia Rumburg
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1109 Fishhook Wasilla, Ak. 99654
 Address
907 373-7314
 Phone No.

Mr. Vic Koshring

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 ~~me~~ food and to take me to my doctors appointments. The funds I get pays for my rent, ~~me~~ bills. With out medicaid I wouldn't be able to pay for my ~~medicaid~~ medication. Please don't cut mental health services, because I need the support I get from them.

Laura A. Adams
c/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 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 8673

PAIMPA AK

Phone No. 745 6762.



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 DVK, 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!**)

Signed: Jaymie Murphy
 Testifier
Wife Quest Self
 Representing (Optional)
2101 Chickaloon - Wasilla AK 99654
 Address
376-4019
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Funding
 committee name
 committee on TL- 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 Boie
 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 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

I'm 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: Jeresa M Kalfsbeel
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
836 Wilder Av Wasilla
 Address
376-8549
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget Cuts, dated 3/24/97
 bill/subject

I do not agree with the budget cuts
 to dis ban the Science & Tech Center -
 Alaska's one institute. 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 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 (medical) 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 are hurting our youth 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 HINDIN
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 3693 Palmer, AK
 Address
(907) 746-3921
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House, Bill 76, dated March 22, 1997.
 bill/subject

I do not want cuts to be made to mental health services - or to the Alaska Court System. Mental health services are essential to the well-being and safety of all members of society. These services are already under-budgeted. To make further cuts would be devastating to the people who live in this state.

Signed: Mary G. (Mira) Stevens
 Testifier

A Concerned Citizen
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 872231, Wasilla AK 99687
 Address

907-373-6031
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Operating & Mental Health committee on 75, dated 3-20-97.

committee name
appropriations

bill/subject

As a long time resident of the State of Alaska and a Senior Palmer Pioneer Home, I am also a spokesman for a resident there. A schedule has been already put into action to increase the rate of residency - No doubt an increase is warranted, but several hundred dollars per month!! - What is confusing and very puzzling - is that the increase does not add to the service provided - In fact services are being cut! - It doesn't make sense. It is unsettling to think that this will be the pattern to be followed - I think it is only fair that an explanation be given to each resident - detailing exactly what they are getting for their dollar - when financial security is state along with how much care will be given - their emotional well being is undermined - and they are made to feel like second-class citizens. Should you find the opportunity to express my feelings.

Signed: Love C. Hermon
 Testifier Hilda Hermon
 Representing (Optional) 325 E. Evergreen
 Address Palmer, Alaska
 Phone No. 907-745-3788

9/96 Legislative Information Office

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 1
To <u>Mat-Su Legislative</u>	From <u>Eric C Hermon</u>	
Co. <u>Information Office</u>	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <u>907-745-3788</u>	
Fax # <u>907-376-6180</u>	Fax # <u>907-746-1036</u>	

MAR-18-97 TUE 14:43



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Operating Mental Health
 committee name appropriation
 committee on HB 75, dated March 21, 1997
 bill/subject

I am outraged at the large monthly rent increases being anticipated by our Pioneer Home residents, especially since their level of care is being reduced. These residents entered the Pioneer Homes in good faith that they would be able to afford to live out their lives there. Now they are facing unrealistic charges that most are unable to afford. Surely we can afford to take care of our senior citizens to the extent that we don't make paupers out of them. Please reconsider the implementation of these large rent increases.

Signed: Carol M. Strouse
 Testifier
Myself
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 354, Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-3532
 Phone No.

MAHAY'S RIVERBOAT SERVICE



March 19, 1997

I own and operate a business in the upper Matanuska Valley, in the town of Talkeetna. I have operated this business for over 20 years and I am one of the largest employers in Talkeetna, with 32 employees. Without tourists my business would not be so successful.

I am appalled that the Finance Committee would even consider cutting funding for the Alaska Department of Tourism. Many other states and countries are increasing their marketing budgets for tourism, so they can compete as destinations (Hawaii spends 30 million a year on tourism marketing). The Department of Tourism can reach places I, and many other small business owners, can only dream about. They are an important resource for many small business owners throughout the state.

Tourism is one of the largest economic resources that Alaska has. Why would you risk losing the 1.6 billion in tourism dollars, last year's tourism revenue, to save 3.5 million now? All business owners know that you have to spend money to make money. Sounds like you need to go back to school and learn business basics.

Small business owners are the backbone of our state's, and also the nation's, economy. They have worked long and hard to make Alaska a choice destination. You are in effect saying that all that hard work doesn't matter, small business doesn't matter. Small business owners are your constituents.

Climb down from your glass towers and take a good look at your state, the state that you are supposed to be representing. What you will find is a bunch of people, real people, who love this state and can see a future for her without oil. This cannot happen if the Legislature keeps cutting funding for tourism.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Mahay
President/CEO

"Serving Sportfishermen Since 1977"


Box 705 • Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 • (907) 733-2223 • Fax (907) 733-2712



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated March 22, 1991.
 bill/subject

The proposed Medicaid cuts will be a grave detriment to the Mental Health services I receive. Without these funds my quality of life will suffer greatly. Please reconsider your recommendations!

Signed: 

Testifier

Bill Missoff

Representing (Optional)

Charles Boarding Home

Address Old Glenn Hwy Palmer, AK 99645
745-3412

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
committee name

committee on HOUSEBILL 76, dated MARCH 22 1997
bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies. I am already suffering from previous cuts (glasses teeth) I am concerned that further cuts would remove the services I receive to treat my mental illness. I believe the result would be API

Signed: Martin Hestert
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address 424 EDDO WOOD ST PALMER AK 99645 ⁸⁹

Phone No. 746 5012



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE committee name
 committee on House Bill #76 , dated MARCH 22, 1997 .
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these funds.

I speak because I represent those who have difficulty expressing themselves.

Signed: Rashed Hanson
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
230 East Harbor
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these fund. Many of the people I represent would have a lesser quality of life, without the supports these funds provide.

Signed: Elizabeth Gabbard
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
PO Box 87384
 Address
352-3324
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I Do not want to cut

To Be made to the mental Health money's
 Because of the Great ~~Need~~ Need for these
 funds I am a consumer of
 these funds

Signed: Billy Nick
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

230 east pavilion

Address

373.7964

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need of these funds.

I am a consumer of these funds

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
230 E. Paulson W. Sitka AK 99654
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



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 cuts to substance abuse
 rehab. services which would eliminate services
 to addicted birth mothers and their children.
 Thousands of Alaska children and adults
 are affected by alcohol related defects. The
 prevention and support for the healthy
 beginning of each child's life (reducing
 fetal alcohol syndrome and child abuse/neglect)
 will ultimately increase the productivity
 of our state's citizens. Pay for prevention
 now or pay millions later.

Signed: Charles F. Himsin
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 3693 Palmer AK 99645
 Address
(907) 746-3921
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Wasilla-Big Lake Area
 committee name
 committee on Mental Illness, dated 3/22/94
 bill/subject

Please Please and more Please - Do NOT
 cut any \$'s for Medicare, Medicaid, Mental
 Illness - We are living with out medicaid,
 dental care & vision, and much more
 housing set. I can go on and on. I'm a
 working Full time person. I don't apply for
 many benefits. But what comes out of my
 very small pay check hurts now. I help
 many mental ill & senior citizens out of my
 own pocket. Because some can't afford medicaid
 look for monies else where like out of your personal
 pay check. Most of these people live from day to
 day month to hand. always a dollar short always
 owing. Don't cut are Benefits.

Signed: Deanne Huckstep
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 521455 Big Lake AK 99652
 Address
376-7822
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 16 Budget, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed cuts in Community Mental Health Grants and Community Developmental Disabilities Grants, as well as, Institutions and Administration.

While you have willingly funded the deinstitutionalization of many of Alaska's citizens from Harborview Developmental Center and Alaska Psychiatric Institute, you are now pulling the rug out from under long term supports for these individuals. You have misled and lied to many parents and advocates who suspected this would happen after "safety nets" such as HDC and API were closed and downsized. These actions are unethical and I strongly advise reconsideration of this budget.

Signed: Melissa Saunders

Testifier

Melissa Saunders

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 876505 Wasilla, AK 99687

Address

745-4211

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on House Bill 76, dated March 22, 1997
bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need of these funds.

I am a consumer of these funds

Signed: Bash William Missoff
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
230 E Pulton / HCO3 Box 5588 Palmer
Address
745 3412
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Rep. Vic Kohring
committee name
 committee on House Bill No. 76, dated 03-22-97
bill/subject

This written statement is another reminder of a written submitted statement dated 03-20-97.

This is to please up keep out neoptics prescribed drug, psychiatrist appts and/or at least psychologists. Again a solution to reinstate for find or form a grant for dental, glasses & hearing aids

Signed: Grace A. Samelson
Testifier

private citizen
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 055, Palmer, AK 99645-0551
Address

1-907-746-0757
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 710, dated March 22, 1999.
bill/subject

I am strongly opposed to the proposed budget cuts for Community Mental Health Services, as well as, medical services. These cuts will have a severely detrimental effect on the quality of my life.

Signed: Charlesde Janulek
Testifier

Nadezda Janulek
Representing (Optional)

Po. Box. 521059.
Address

Big Lake Alaska

Phone No. 882-9006



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on HB 75/76, dated 3-22-97
bill/subject

Please restore cuts to medicare, welfare and mental health services, as recommended by the finance subcommittee, I came to this hearing with 4 others mentally ill to testify. I recognized the faces of many mentally ill in the hearing room whom I have seen previously in the psychiatrists waiting room. Wish we could ha

Signed: Martin Hopkins
Testifier
VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR Mentally Ill
Representing (Optional)
P.O. BOX 1107 Palmer, AK 99645
Address
745-1551
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

committee name

committee on Budget cuts, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I'm a disabled 32 year old living SS ADFC to raise my son who is 2 1/2. I'm mentally ill and don't know what I do without medicide to pay for meds and health care for my self & son. I've come along way in the past 5 years to be useful to everyone and if you take away money medicide and other programs that help the disabled, I know I will fall backward and may be hospitalized than my son will need your care more and where is he going to be. I've been sober 1 year and doing well but I feel I won't be sober if I'm forced to go on meds because there is no funding for it. We all need this for our children the funding to keep them safe and with there families. The older ALASKA ENS ARE in needed and need the funding too! Our children cant fight for them selfs so I'm here today to let you know how I feel.

Signed: Jonna K. Varney
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

112 S. ALASKA ST PALMER ALASKA 99456

Address

907 - 746-7848

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget committee name
 committee on Mental Health, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I understand that Mental health in Alaska has plenty of money yet each year the budget gets cut. I would be interested in where all their money is.

My daughter has been Mentally Ill for 17 years & I have had to fight for everything she gets, and that seems to be the case all over the country. API was cut to the breaking point and every year its cut more. The mentally ill are not able to fight for themselves so they are easy to ignore, they end up on the streets or worse and then they are invissable & everyone can pretend the problem doesn't exist but they do & most of them have families who love them, we give up on the system because the courts & laws make it so hard for us to get anything done for them.

We need more money for Mentally Ill not less.

I don't know how you ~~sleep~~ sleep at night knowing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the street people are mentally ill, & when its 20 below they are ~~sleeping~~ sleeping & dying on the streets!

I love my daughter & I want her taken care of, we cannot cut what personnel & facilities we have left. if you do cut medicade why don't you just admit you don't care & shut the whole thing down. Life & death & the police are the only help I get

Signed: Carol Bragg
 Testifier

~~Carol Bragg~~ Mental Health
 Representing (Optional)

HC 33 Box 2998 AB Wasilla Alaska 99654
 Address

907-373-2991
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on DHSS/Healthy Families, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am opposed to cuts in the budget that will negatively impact the most vulnerable families in our state. The Healthy Families program provides homevisiting support to families who are expecting or who have new infants. It is well established that if money is spent on preventative services, the long term savings is astounding. We provide education and hands on assistance to families in an effort to increase their success + self-sufficiency. It works!

When people have the tools they need to provide for their families, the family is so much more likely to remain together, be stable and productive. Supporting children + families is critical for the future. For every \$3- spent on Healthy Families, \$6- will be saved on special education, corrections, medical and foster care needs at a later date. Prevention is most effective. Funding for WIC, domestic violence shelters and medicaid, as well as mental health funding can not be cut if we want to avoid future crises.

All Alaskan's have rights and most want to be productive members of society ~ women, children and people who have disabilities or mental health challenges must not be further stressed by budget cuts!

Signed: Kristin Vernola
Testifier

Mat-Su Community Families
Representing (Optional)

HC 32 Box 3400 Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

907-373-7716
Phone No.

Please -
support the
Governor's
Budget !!!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Committee
 committee name
 committee on 786, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I do not believe cuts to budget as far as mental health are in the best interest of the state of Alaska. I would not have the limited services that now exist. The quality of life would change for me and those people like me. Case management and other services are important in keeping the quality of life for me at present level.

Signed: Christopher J. Woodard
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 1107 Palmer 99645
 Address

746-1922
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on 75 / 76, dated 3 22 97
bill/subject

I have waited 2 hours this morning to testify before you concerning the budget proposals. Our LIO is overflowing and listening to others on-line, I realize how many folks are affected by the harsh cuts, to essential services, that are being made. I hesitate to write this because I truly believe it won't be read - but my voice is this: when Medicare is cut it affects many areas - the Developmental Disabled as well. Folks that, for some reason, are missing a limb need to be able to have access to a basic need - to be independent through prosthetics. I am a mother of 5 sons - 2 have disabilities. We don't qualify for medicare services because my husband chooses to work. We PAY, in huge lumps into the welfare system through taxation, I want you to be conservative BUT - remember these folks as people with feelings - dreams - & joys. To keep basic care from these folks is not your job as our elected representative. →

Signed: Susan K Gilbert
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P O Box 872414 Wacala AK

Address
907 376 2599

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Budget cuts, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My name is _____

I am a middle manager in a social service agency for families in the Mat-Su Borough and a formerly homeless mother of 5. Cutting prevention services is not financial wisdom. Cutting monies with matching federal funds is counter productive in the profoundest sense. Before getting my present job - I was homeless with 4 small kids and a newborn. Without the WIC program - my kids would never have tasted juice or cheese. Without child care assistance I would have paid \$7 over my hourly wage for childcare. Now, I own my home, am 3 credits from a Bachelor of Social Work degree, and have 3 children in college. Without Alaska Works + childcare programs, you will be releasing families into a stream of poverty as if they were catch and release trout. Without preventative medical assistance and public health services - we pay increased costs in treatment of disease and disabilities. Without child protection services at DFYS Healthy Families + youth probation - social costs will rise. Social Service workers in Mat-Su are already swamped.

Signed: Kelli Mahoney
Testifier

Mat-Su resident
Representing (Optional)

925 Lone Club Way, Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

376-8486
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Bill #75 , dated March 22, 1997 .
bill/subject

On behalf of the Palmer Senior Citizens Center I would like to voice our opposition to a proposal to cut an additional \$50,000 from the Department of Senior Services budget component for Protection and Community Services. This cut would likely result in a position reduction of an Adult Protective Social Worker or an Assisted Living Licensing Worker. Currently, there are not enough workers to adequately perform these vital services to the most vulnerable adults.

Case loads and responsibility for these programs has risen dramatically. Alaska has the second most rapidly growing senior population in the nation and this trend is projected to continue each year.

A reduction of a Protective Services or Licensing Worker will result in programs such as the Palmer Senior Center being inundated with adults living in abusive or high-risk situations. We already experience this on a regular basis. Because we have no authority to act in these situations, we rely heavily on Protective Services and Licensing to resolve the crises in the best interest of these vulnerable adults. If these cases are not investigated in a timely manner, one institutionalized person will cost the State more than \$50,000.

Please reconsider the proposed cut and fund OSS at an amount adequate to preserve the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable adults.

Signed: Jill Eblen, Care Coordination Supervisor
Testifier

Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Representing (Optional)

8315 Chugach Palmer, AK 99645
Address

(907) 745-5454
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
committee name

committee on MEDICAID - MENTAL HEALTH, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I wish to share my concerns regarding the cuts proposed for Medicaid Funding which will directly impact services to the mentally ill, severely emotionally disturbed, disadvantaged & disabled. Alaskans, all Alaskans, have a State Constitutional right to basic care. The proposed cuts will negate those rights for some specific individuals.

Mentally ill and/or severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, and adults "do not choose" to be such. Community resources and services need to be increased not decreased. Case Management and Rehab services are vital to supporting the progress and success toward self-reliance.

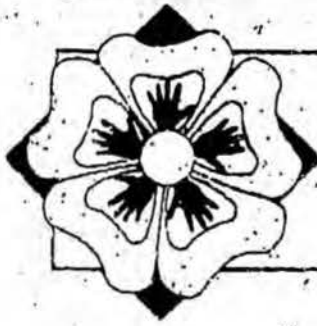
Please reconsider the cuts to mental health.

Signed: *James A. Stata*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 874275 Wasilla, AK 99687
Address

376-3609
Phone No.



F • N • A

Fairbanks Native Association

March 25, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1997

Dear Representative Therriault:

I am writing to express my concern regarding funding in FY98 for Fairbanks Native Association's (FNA) employment program, which due to the strong support by yourself and the rest of the interior delegation has been an effective job training and placement program through the years. My concern is that in past years FNA's program has been delineated as an identified line item or the organization has received some assurance that the division would contract with/through FNA for service.

Even though FNA and a consortium of local agencies have been working closely with Jim Nordlund, Director Division of Public Assistance (DPA), to develop a plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough that would assist the State in meeting its obligations to the Federal government under TANF. The current funding status per discussion with the DPA is that FNA has no commitment from the Division for continued support. The Division's position is that FNA's prior year funding is included in the Alaska Works Program budget line item and if the governor's request of \$3,967.5 million is reduced by \$2,000.0 million by the house there will likely be no contracts with agencies outside the division to address the welfare issue/clients.

Can any assistance be provided through your office to assure that non-division employment service providers who are providing cost effective service (approximately \$220 per client) such as FNA are not defunded in FY98 as the divisions method to absorb House budget reductions.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223.

Sincerely,

John W. Reitano
Executive Director

cc: Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies
Correspondence Out-Ex



Sitka School District
307 Kashevarov Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907)747-8395

"Educating students to be competent, literate,
and responsible citizens."



Date: March 21, 1997

From: Linda Selvig
Counselor
Verstovia Elementary School

To: Christine McLeod
Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence

Re: SAFV Small Group Counseling Program at Verstovia

For the past two years I have had the opportunity to work with Donna Kayne-Davis, SAFV Children's Program Coordinator. At the start of every school year, Donna and I meet to discuss students at Verstovia who could benefit from a small group counseling program. Many of the students referred, are ones that Donna has worked with at the SAFV shelter.

Donna spends Tuesdays with fourth and fifth grade girls, Wednesdays with fourth and fifth grade boys and Thursdays with third grade boys and girls. Students meet during their lunch times one day a week.

When we begin the groups, Donna and I discuss what topics will be covered such as self concept, drug and alcohol education, personal safety and conflict resolution.

Parents must sign a permission slip to be a part of the group.

Donna and I meet weekly to update each other on each student's progress in the group.

I am extremely pleased with this program and believe that students in the group benefit tremendously. It is my hope that this program will continue for next year. Donna and I make a great team. We plan to get started earlier next year and spend more time coordinating our programs so that we can meet the needs of more students.

Thank you.

Linda Selvig



SOUTH EAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CORPORATION
222 TONGASS DRIVE • SITKA, ALASKA 99835 • (907) 966-2411

MT. EDGECLIMBE HOSPITAL

Date: 3/21/97

To: Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director
Sickans Against Family Violence
Box 6136
Sitka AK 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod

As a community member and mental health worker, I would like to express my appreciation for the good work you and the other staff at SAFV have done over the years. As you may know, the bulk of my case load has been with acute psychiatric cases, and many of my clients have been traumatized by family violence. When setting up aftercare services, I frequently recommend my patients go to SAFV, where they receive sensitive and professional treatment that is the best hope for breaking the circle of violence.

I certainly hope SAFV continues to get the support needed to keep doing this important job.

Good Luck!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff Tincher".

Cliff Tincher LCSW

Angoon Community Association

P.O. BOX 188 - ANGOON, ALASKA 99820 - (907) 788-3411 - FAX (907) 788-3412

March 12, 1997

To Whom It May Concern;

Angoon Community Association is pleased to write a letter of support for Sitka Against Family Violence (SAFV).

SAFV has, through the past years, emergency shelter that the Angoon Community can use in cases of abuse and neglect. They also provide some workshops re: Child Abuse, neglect, stress, and women's support, to name a few. For this reason our Tribal Government, in-kind, provides space for the workshop, posts notices of future workshops, and announce on the Citizen Band radio all workshops available.

It is our hope that SAFV receive their needed grants for the much needed services they provide.

Sincerely,

Marlene Zuboff

Marlene Zuboff
Executive Director



City and Borough of Sitka

100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

Providing for Today ... Preparing for Tomorrow

March 12, 1997

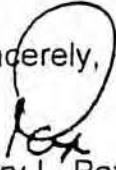
Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
PO Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod:

The services provided by your organization meet the needs of those persons who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and should be commended. Sitkans Against Family Violence is vital to the well-being of our community.

The City and Borough of Sitka is in full support of the goals and objectives of Sitkans Against Family Violence. The City of Sitka recently gave financial support to Sitkans Against Family Violence by providing a \$100,000. dollar loan at 0% interest for the purchase of its building. The City & Borough of Sitka continues to apply for and pass on to you those funds that are available to you through the State Revenue Sharing Program. Any efforts made by your organization in applying for grants need to be approved.

Sincerely,


Gary L. Paxton
Municipal Administrator



SOUTH EAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

MT. EDGE CUMBE HOSPITAL • 222 TONGASS DRIVE • SITKA, ALASKA 99835 • (907) 966-2411

March 10, 1997

Christine A. McLeod, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod,

I am writing to express the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium's (SEARHC) strong support of the Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) grant application to the State of Alaska.

SAFV is invaluable to the communities of Sitka, Angoon and Kake. SEARHC unequivocally feels that this is an essential program. In addition to being a professional, culturally appropriate operation, it is the only provider in our area of this fundamentally important service. With the rate of domestic violence on the rise, it is imperative that programs, exemplified by SAFV, which effectively address this urgent problem be fully funded.

In closing, please be assured of SEARHC's endorsement of the SAFV application and commitment to future collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Gorman, Vice President
Community Health Services



March 12, 1997

City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD.

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and staff provide essential services for victims of Domestic Abuse cases and Sexual Assault cases. I have worked for the Sitka Police Department for almost ten years. I have great respect and admiration for the advocates I have worked with during my tenure.

SAFV provides an invaluable service for the Sitka Police Department by providing a shelter for victims in domestic cases. Your counseling and advocacy services give us the ability to provide a direction for a domestic abuse or sexual assault victim to turn.

I support SAFV's efforts to provide advocacy and educational services to teens. Every year I invariably conduct investigations involving teens, alcohol, and sexual abuse. These cases may vary from an alcohol related "date rape" to the young person being victimized by an adult who has been partying with them. These cases are usually difficult to prosecute. The young victim walks away from the situation with a sense that they were not believed and there is no justice for what has happened.

Young persons involved in domestic disputes often feel intense frustration and have very low self esteem. Any services dealing with teen education and awareness in domestics and sexual cases would be beneficial to Sitka. The community has little if any services relating to young persons in these instances.

I would like to offer any support I can to the SAFV shelter staff.

Sincerely,

Barry C. ALLEN
Sergeant, Patrol Div.



City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

March 12, 1997

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD,

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and services provided through SAFV have been valuable and essential. SAFV continues to do an outstanding job and is an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. and the persons SAFV serves.

SAFV and the Sitka Police Department are continuing a longstanding cooperative relationship. SAFV becomes an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. during domestic abuse cases. They provide essential services and assistance to victims of domestic violence that cannot be easily or readily provided by officers or other elements of the community.

SAFV provides other services and support for adults and children who have been victims or witnesses to domestic violence or sexual assault.

We are supportive of SAFV's proposal to increase advocacy and education with Sitka's teens.

The Sitka Police Department continues to actively support SAFV and the people SAFV serves.

Sincerely,

Lynn F. LAMM
Chief of Police



SITKA TEEN RESOURCE CENTER

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 1084 SITKA ALASKA 99833
907 747 3600 FAX 907 747 3003

10 Mar 97

To: Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Department of Public Safety
Box 11200
Juneau, AK 99811-1200

Dear CDVSA,

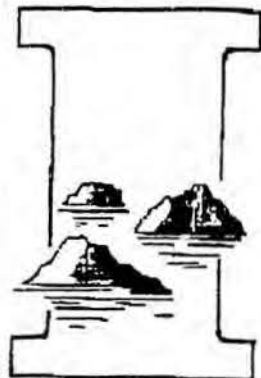
The Sitka Teen Resource Center (STRC) and Sitka Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) are in complete support of the Sitkans Against Family Violence programs. They are the primary service in Sitka that provides shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual support.

The two above agencies, STRC and SCAODA, are in the process of merging and have been discussing future collaborations between our services and SAFV. This is an exciting opportunity and the spirit of cooperation shown by SAFV is a needed model here, as well as all over Southeast.

The teen center and SCAODA both utilize the services of SAFV as our primary referral source for abuse situations. Please carefully consider the needs of the SAFV program and its residents who rely on this program.

Sincerely,

Jeff Budd
Executive Director
STRC/SCAODA



Islands Counseling Services

1310-A Sawmill Creek Road - Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone (907)747-8994 -- Fax (907)747-6801

A Division of Sitka Mental Health Clinic, Inc.

March 21, 1997

Christine McLeod, Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P. O. Box 6136
Sitka, AK 99835

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages >	1
To	SAFV	From	SMHC
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	247-8994
Fax #	747-7450	Fax #	747-6801

Original Aailed

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. McLeod:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support of SAFV on behalf of both Islands Counseling Services, and myself, personally.

Islands Counseling Services considers SAFV an invaluable asset to our community. There are many occupancies where a client of Islands Counseling is in need of a place where they feel safe. The shelter has never failed to provide a place to meet that need.

Over the years Islands Counseling staff have participated in cooperative projects with SAFV staff. We have had a strong working relationship with them over the years and we are continually impressed with their ability to deliver outstanding services to a very challenged clientele. Their staff has been very good at accepting referrals from us and have likewise made appropriate referrals back.

My staff and I wholeheartedly support continued funding of SAFV.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Boyd, Ph.D.
Executive Director

SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

P.O. Box 6136 • Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-3370 • Fax 747-3450 • Crisis Line 1-800-478-6511



To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for HB 75:

I am the Director of the Sitkans Against Family Violence shelter in Sitka, a program funded through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I am testifying to ask that the House maintain the funding that has been put in the Council's budget for FY98. As you are well aware, most of the increase in funding from FY98 over FY97 in the Council budget is due to federal funding. Programs like SAFV across the state that work with victims of domestic violence need every penny of this federal funding in addition to the money that we receive from the state to ensure safety for women and children.

The SAFV shelter in Sitka provides housing, counseling, advocacy and education to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The SAFV shelter has seen dramatic increases in its caseload in the last three years since our town's major industry, the pulp mill, closed down. The depressed economy that Southeast towns have experienced with the decline of the timber industry has created greater family stresses and greater family violence. For women and children who are the victims of that violence in Sitka, Kake, Angoon, and Port Alexander, the SAFV shelter may be their only option for safety. In FY96 we provided 2120 bednights of safety to victims of domestic violence. Without SAFV, these women and children may have been forced to remain in violent homes or live out on the street.

The extra federal dollars in the Council budget will be used to continue to provide the bare necessities to ensure women and children's safety. At SAFV, this money is needed to keep well-trained workers on the job. We pay our overnight advocates \$5.51/hour and day advocates \$10.35/hour. If it were not for the devotion of our employees, it would be impossible to keep a competent staff at these salaries.

Extra federal dollars are needed to buy educational booklets and videos for our children's groups and to expand our Children's program. Children who are victims of domestic violence often become the batterers and adult victims of tomorrow. At SAFV, we currently have one worker whose job it is to work with resident and non-resident children victims and do groups in the schools. This year she could not buy adequate workbooks for her groups because we could not afford it. More counseling and preventative work needs to be done with children but we do not have the funding to currently do it.

Extra dollars are needed to maintain a safe residence for women and children. Our shelter is a 25-bed facility. Routine maintenance problems like broken sinks and dryers arise daily and require funding which we do not have. We rely on volunteers

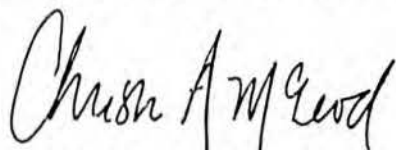


Member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
United Way Member Agency

but cannot always find the appropriately skilled volunteers to fix the problem.

The Council is 75% of our funding. The rest of our budget comes from local business and individual donations, fundraising, the City and Borough of Sitka's revenue sharing program, Tlingit and Haida, and small corporate grants. We access every revenue source possible to do our work but rely heavily on the Council's funding and could not survive without it.

I have included with my testimony letters from the Sitka community emphasizing the importance of SAFV. Thank you for your time.



Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director

To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75:

I am a resident of Kake who has sought out the services of Sitkans Against Family Violence, a program funded primarily through the Council on Domestic Violence. If it wasn't for the SAFV shelter, I wouldn't be around. What I especially like is the confidentiality factor. Human Services in my village are limited - here at SAFV I get more attention, whenever I need it. It's good to get away from my situation in Kake to come to SAFV for talking, reality checks and time-out. I was glad they could pay for the flight for myself and two children, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to come to SAFV.

SAFV client and
Kake Resident

Mary Lauer
510 Kinkead
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-5752 home; 907-747-7728 work
TFMFL@acad1.alaska.edu

PLEASE ENTER THESE COMMENTS AS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 22, 1997 @ 9:30

Alaska Vocational Technical Center is facing budget cuts of \$77,000 in its general fund budget. This cut will deeply affect delivery of programs at a time when the state faces an increased need for vocational training.

Through one program alone, the state mandated welfare-to-work program, demand for vocational training could increase dramatically. AVTEC is researching new areas of vocational training to meet these demands in areas not presently served, such as computer network maintenance training.

In addition to meeting the need for new areas of service, there is an ongoing need to meet the vocational needs of heavy industry, such as the Red Dog Mine. AVTEC is responsive to the training needs of industries needing short-term training, and is especially able to respond rapidly to industry's short-term special-interest training needs.

AVTEC served 1762 students during FY96. Of the students who enrolled in FY96, 84.4% graduated (1345) or completed their skills upgrade program. Based on previous years data the graduation rate is expected to be approximately 72% for full-term and 91% for short-term.

I am employed in continuing education full-time at the University and recognize that this is a phenomenal record of success. I believe that AVTEC's record of success will be greatly affected by any budget cuts at a time when training needs in the state are increasing—needs that they are perfectly positioned to fulfill.

Mary Lauer
AVTEC Advisory Board Member

Mary Lauer

Ted Howard

319 Peterson St.
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5482
jstoh@ptialaska.net

March 21, 1997

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75.

I support wholeheartedly the proposed increase in budgeted funds for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

I have lived in Sitka for 11 years and for the past 4, have been a member of the Board of Directors for Sitkans Against Family Violence, the only local service for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each year, we have seen the number of cases rise and felt the increased need for the services of the shelter. The price of "doing business" has gone up. Supplies and food have risen in cost, heating costs have escalated and insurance fees for our employees and for liability have swollen. Funding has not kept pace.

The Council has done a marvelous job parceling out the funds it has been given but each year the need has risen and the Council has found itself having to say no to deserving programs.

Please give the Council enough ammunition to fight this war on domestic violence. Please support House Bill 75.

Thank You,
Ted Howard

March 21, 1997

To The House Finance Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 75 and would like to have my testimony entered in to the record.

Having lived in Sitka for all of my life I do not recall experiencing the financial struggle to simply exist. For many years our economic base was sound, we had hundreds of federal workers and we were able to live a comfortable life on government property (Japonski Island). Over a period of years (twenty to twenty-five) the government run Mt. Edgecumbe High School was closed, families were given eviction notices and the island life as we knew it was gone.

We had the fishing industry which provided an income for people as well. The fish were abundant and the regulations few. Fishing for the most part is no longer a dependable means of income. The fisherman doesn't get the \$8 - \$ 10 a pound that consumers are charged unless they have big money permits.

In the 1950's the pulp mill was opened and employed hundreds of people and the economic base was still sound, the timber contracts were long range and we felt safe. The prices of pulp based products would rise and fall, the union employees were very well paid and had excellent benefits. The administration of the mill changed and it was "out with the old". Even with this drastic measure the end of another era was in sight.

I have been a part of the Sitkans Against Family Violence advocates for three years. Our women are homeless, they have no money, some have marketable skills but for the most part this isn't the case. Violence, theft, murder and rape haven't disappeared - if anything the problems have increased. Alcohol, unemployment and cost of living bury them in a feeling of helplessness.

We need funding for programs to help people to obtain jobs, child care, counseling and so much more.

Thank you for your time.

Cayrn Coleman
SAFV Advocate



To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75:

I am the Direct Services Coordinator for Sitkans Against Family Violence and have served in this job for nine years. I am asking the House Finance Committee to please fund the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to the maximum extent possible. We desperately need every penny of the \$651,000 that the Council is getting over their FY97 budget.

The Council provides SAFV with approximately 75% of our funding. Domestic Violence continues to be a serious problem in Sitka and the rural communities we serve - Kake, Angoon and Port Alexander. In the first half of FY97 we provided 1504 bednights to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We provided an additional 923 contacts to victims needing our non-residential services including counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment and referrals. These numbers were an increase over our FY96 first two quarter statistics.

Shelters need funding to be able to maintain well-qualified workers. In my position I supervise all the advocates in our shelter. I am appalled that we can only pay an overnight advocate who has worked here for six years \$5.61/hour. She makes \$5.61/hour to answer crisis calls and deal with late night sexual assaults and domestic violence incidents.

SAFV also needs funding to maintain adequate, healing environments for victims. At SAFV, our residents had no water pressure in the kitchen sink and bathroom because we could not afford to hire a plumber. We had to rely on volunteers tinkering with it over the winter as best they could.

Also, with so many residents in and out of the the shelter there is wear and tear on carpets, walls, and furniture. Things get worn out and tattered quickly and then is rarely money for replacements. We rely on donations and volunteers to help spruce the shelter up but there are certain things we must purchase like vacuums, washers, dryers and materials for repairs.

We manage to do much with very little as it is, but extra money is needed to maintain safety for women and children. Thank you.

Victoria D'Amico
Victoria D'Amico
Direct Services Coordinator, SAFV

A FAX FROM THE PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FAX NO. 745-6005

THE PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 1925
PALMER, AK 99645

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THE
CORRECT NUMBER OF PAGES, PLEASE
CALL (907) 745-6005

NUMBER OF PAGES

PAGE (S) 1 (INCLUDING COVER PAGE)

DATE 3/26/97

House and Senate Finance Committee Members
TO: Senate Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee Members

FROM: Carol M. Strouse, President *CS*

Palmer Historical Society

I understand there is the possibility that large cuts will be made in the Office of History and Archaeology budget. These cuts will delay and increase costs for developers of historic properties, reduce assistance to local governments and historical societies, and increase the possibility of litigation when historic & archaeological sites are not protected.

The OHA has been instrumental in developing and enforcing historic covenants on our endangered historical properties in Palmer.

It is imperative that we keep a viable OHA program in our state. The proposed deep cuts will endanger the preservation of Alaska's cultural heritage and cause us to lose federal certification and matching funds.

FAX

Alaska Applied Sciences, Inc.
Box 20393
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-586-1426
Fax: 907-586-1423
E-mail: wleighty@ptialaska.net

To: House Finance Committee

Date: 25 Mar 97

From: Bill Leighty

Comments:

Reference: Budget

Number of pages, including this one:

1

Dear Representatives:

Please do not decimate environmental protection, in the name of budget cuts or industrial facilitation.

Let Alaska be wiser than to repeat the mistakes made everywhere else in the USA. We needed only 200 years to ruin much of the lower '48. We could do the same in a few decades, in Alaska. Let's not.

Let's leave some options for future generations. Let's figure out how to meet our needs without compromising their ability to meet their needs. We may need to redefine our "needs". We're all in the same lifeboat, for a long time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William C. Leighty
Principal

March 20, 1997

Attn.: Rep. Mark Hanley,

I am voicing my displeasure over the proposed cut in the tourism budget.

Tourism is the major industry in Alaska, and unlike many industries, it benefits the majority of the producing people in Alaska.

Cut all of the giveaway programs that need cutting such as:

- 1. Agriculture subsidy.**
- 2. Porkbarrel welfare.**
- 3. Sacred cow education, which doesn't benefit our children, but simply creates high paying positions in our government which we need like a big bushy tail!**

Stop Permanent fund checks to:

- 1. Anyone living outside Alaska, including military.**
- 2. Anyone in jail or on welfare.**

Stop punishing the producing people in Alaska, and cut the size of Government.

Sincerely,



**Les Fickes
D.B.A., Riverview Quick Stop
Riverview RV Park
Riverview Seafood Cook**

Belinda L. Sunderland
P.O. Box 1033
Unalaska, AK 99685
Phone: (907) 581-1276 (w)
Fax: (907) 581-1496

To: Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
Fax (907) 456-3346

March 26, 1997

cc: Interior-Aleutians Campus, fax (907) 581-2505
Joan K. Wadlow, UAF Chancellor, fax (907) 474-6725

Subj: Public Opinion Message

Though most of what follows is a reiteration of things said in the past, it is necessary right now to put it in writing to stress a point.

I am sure most people in this great land realize that nothing can function without the constant influx of money. Many also realize that nothing is free and are willing to pay their taxes to ensure services are rendered when wanted or needed.

The institution of education is no exception. Money makes the campus go 'round, and in the case of education in Alaska, it must fund an institution that is far-flung to remote areas with few people.

Those people who seek to further their education in such adverse conditions should be given their due when it comes to perseverance and diligence. Not only must they be patient with a system that only recognizes them on a rotational basis, but many times their pursuit of a degree is put on hold until particular courses may or may not be offered.

That brings me to the point at hand. The offering of distance education courses is contingent upon the availability of the course materials and an instructor, both of which rely upon funding. Here in Unalaska, we are fortunate enough to have a branch campus with personnel capable of teaching undergraduate and graduate level classes, albeit on a limited basis. For those people in other remote locations in the Bush, such a luxury is not afforded them, neither by people nor by funds.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the fulcrum about which many quality satellite programs rotate. By cutting funding in any form from the university, each satellite community is in jeopardy of being cut loose from the privilege of advanced educational opportunities.

No matter how one looks at the process of funding and cutting, the larger picture of the future must be kept in focus. Give Alaskans the opportunity to educate themselves at home, and keep that work force (and subsequent consumer dollars) in the state. Too often I have witnessed graduating high school seniors leaving the state for better offers at colleges and universities Outside. Too often I have witnessed people coming to Alaska to "make the big bucks," leave with their money, and further their education outside the state.

We have some of the richest resources in Alaska. From oil to soil to minerals to trees to wildlife to people. Those Alaskans who transplant here or are born and raised here are the most familiar with these resources and how they should be cared for and handled. Educate them at home. Keep the engineers, foresters, agriculturists, miners and artists here to be the stewards we need for our vast resources. Nurture their sense of loyalty to home and hearth. The state cannot pay too much for its future and should not deny Alaskans the opportunity of getting a higher education because of funding constraints.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages 2

To: HOUSE FINANCE	From: FRX LIO
On: WRITTEN	On: TESTIMONY FOR
Date: HFIN TELECONFERENCE ON 3/22/97	Date:
From:	From:

WATSON COMPANY

8111 Sundt Dr., Anchorage, Alaska, 99502
Phone: (907) 248-5362, Fax: (907) 243-1834

March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chairman, Science Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am sending you this letter in an effort to gain your support against the elimination of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF).

The Watson Company is an Alaskan company providing geophysical services to a broad spectrum of Alaskan industries. The company was founded in Anchorage in 1985. It survived those turbulent times with the unwavering conviction that technology itself is a critical resource.

The very nature of technology requires a sophisticated technical network of conceptual, research and development, and production resources. The ASTF is a cornerstone for these in our community.

Without going into much detail, I can only state that ASTF has been extraordinarily helpful to our organization. ASTF seminars and support have provided our company with help that has been integral to our company's technological development.

What I am trying to express in this letter is that keeping the scientific culture alive in Alaska will undoubtedly pay dividends many times over in employment, and benefits to the economy. Beyond even the tangible benefits, having the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and it's talented staff as part of our community will without a doubt make us all better Alaskans.

I appreciate this opportunity to express to you and your colleagues my continued support of our states most progressive institution. Should you have questions or comments regarding the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Watson Company.

William Watson
William D. Watson
Principal

Representative Gene Therriault
Representative Con Bunde
Representative Vic Kohring

To: Representatives Hanley and Brice, Senators Wilken, Miller, Sharp and Parnell

Shelley Greene
781 Nine Mile Hill Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Gentleman:

I OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS - POOR AND ELDERLY ALASKANS WILL SUFFER

Cuts will affect the availability of fundamental tools like wheelchairs, canes, prosthetics and the preventive treatments of mammogram and pap-smear. Medicaid recipients will face the loss of services for the second time in two years. Do not cut Medicaid any further and reinstate dental, vision, hearing aids, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy!

Alaska cannot remand it's elders and disabled to EXPENSIVE, long term care facilities because less expensive, up front, basic, community based services are to be withheld. Use your common sense and support people with disabilities and the aged, to receive cost effective, humane care at the outset of their need - prevent expensive medical crisis.

As elected officials you know that the government must put constituents first, especially the most vulnerable. If you are not personally effected now, by age, disease or disability just wait. In due time it happens to us all!. Forestall raises for yourselves, use funds saved from the closure of Harborview for health services (not the general fund) and consider the use of a portion of the permanent fund dividends. (\$30 out of each check would save these cuts and others from being made). Don't give up federal matching dollars when they are available.

We are a wealthy state, admired by the rest of the country for it's creativity and leading edge, city programs. Maintain Alaska's unique personality, one very different than the rest of the nation! Be compassionate, responsive to the needs of your people and be ethical in your use of public funds. Dare to have a heart, keep the level of services to families and those with special requirements at a level that is realistically helpful to them.

You are voted into office to protect the well-being of Alaskan citizens first

Thanks for your time, your effort, your concern. I know you will do your best!

Sincerely,

Shelley Greene

Post-it Fax Note	7871	Date	3/	# of pages	1
To	Rep Hanley	From	Shelley Greene		
City/Dept.	Alaska	Co.	Access Alaska		
Phone #		Phone #	479-7940		
Fax #	479-2418	Fax #	474-4052		

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date: 3/24/97	# of pages: 1
To: AK State Legislature		From: <u>Jama Bush</u>	
Proactive Info. Office		Co: RCPC	
Phone # 452-4448		Phone # 456-2866	
Fax # 456-3346		Fax # 451-8125	



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON the budget plan DATED 3/22/97
BILL SUBJECT

I was recently present for the 3/22/97 statewide public testimony re: the budget proposal, but was unable to testify due to time constraints. I appreciate this opportunity to lend my opinion re: funding for Healthy Families (HF) Programs for FY98. As a lifelong resident of Alaska, a parent, a social service provider, & an advocate for children & families, I urge you to restore the proposed cut for HF programs. The money contained in the Governor's budget will serve to maintain existing programs with minimal growth rather than create new program sites. The focus of Healthy Families is primary prevention, including home visitation (comprehensive & long-term) to families with infants who are at risk for poor childhood outcomes, including abuse and neglect. It is common wisdom among prevention advocates that no disease or social problem has ever been brought under control by providing after-the-fact treatment to the victims of the disease or problem. Costs associated with child maltreatment and its consequences are devastating on both a human and financial level including: low birthweight babies, infant mortality, special education, protection services, foster care, juvenile & adult criminality & psychological services. Programs such as Healthy Families not only serve to build stronger, healthier children but also reduce costly burdens on state services such as education, law enforcement, corrections, & mental health. Furthermore, families gain through HF program interventions have shown increases in parental employment, treatment for substance abuse, housing stability, domestic violence support & counseling for mental health problems, to name just a few. These gains equal long term savings down the road. Please allow Healthy Families Programs to continue providing positive support & assistance to Alaskan families by reinstating the \$614,000 contained in the Governor's budget.

SIGNED Jama Bush

TESTIFIER

Healthy Families Fairbanks, Resource Center for Parents and Children

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1401 Kellum Street, Fairbanks, AK, 99701 (907)456-2866

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

March 21, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Therriault,

As Executive Director for Fairbanks Native Association, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommended budget cuts in Medicaid. As the Department of Health and Social Services portrays the Medicaid situation, a reduction of the governor's proposed Medicaid non-facility budget line item of \$3 million would result in cuts that would significantly impact several of our substance abuse treatment programs, two of which provide essential services for women with children and expectant mothers. The greatest impact will be on our Women and Children's Residential Treatment Program. A loss of benefits to cover substance abuse/mental health and targeted case management/rehabilitation services means a loss of approximately \$180,000 annually in client pay which comes from Medicaid payments.

FNA's Women and Children's Program is the only one of its kind in the state. Its outstanding reputation has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of women and children from throughout Alaska. Funding for this program comes primarily from the federal government (annual budget of approximately \$900,000) with all the benefit going to the state at a minimal cost of approximately \$90,000 by way of Medicaid billings.

If the situation is other than that portrayed by the Administration with the current house budget, please advise me. However, if the potential for the cuts are correct I would request that you take action to avoid these reductions or direct the Administration not to allocate the reductions as they have indicated because they would negatively impact treatment programs for women and children.

If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223. FNA will be testifying via teleconference on Saturday, March 22.

Sincerely,

John W. Regitano
Executive Director

cc: corr out exec
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies

My name is Cheryl Keepers, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I oppose cuts in child care programs: child care grant, education & training, resource and referral programs are all small but important pieces of state support for child care.

In this state we have learned the importance of quality education through our schools, we have learned the value of quality education through programs like Head Start, yet we have trouble seeing that child care is at least as important to the learning and growth and development of our youngest children. Cuts that decrease the quality of care are very short sighted.

I oppose the cuts to the Department of Health & Social Services, especially to the programs that might make it possible to actually achieve welfare reform: cuts to staff levels within Public Assistance; cuts to supports for parents as they try to achieve self-sufficiency, such as child care assistance and Medicaid; and refusal to use available federal dollars to improve state services through one-stop efforts.

I also oppose cuts to child support enforcement. All children deserve the support of two parents. If one parent chooses to be irresponsible, the state is better served in calling that parent to task than having to provide assistance out of our tax dollars. CSED caseworkers bring in half a million dollars each per year: eliminating 7 positions would be penny-wise and pound foolish.

There are other cuts I question, and increases that seem ill advised if we are truly in need of trimming the budget. Increasing legislative spending while cutting funds for wheelchairs is just plain tacky.

I have heard it said that families ⁱⁿ our state are in better shape now than 5 years ago. Then why is Alaska still suffering from the highest rate of domestic violence? Why did one out of three Fairbanks residents turn to charity, the local Food Bank, for supplemental food last year? Let's not fool ourselves: some of us are better off, but many are not.

I realize you have hard choices to make: but I urge you to not make hard-hearted ones.

Cheryl Keepers
Box 74898
Fairbanks, AK 99707



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE DHES
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget DATED 3
BILL SUBJECT

I want to express my concern and disbelief at the recommended budget cuts to child care assistance and rental assistance. The common ground that the majority and minority and people like me was that welfare reform was necessary. For welfare reform to work these programs need to be increased, not cut. Moving from welfare to work takes increasing child care assistance. More families on welfare will need more child care for the required work or volunteer time required by the new regulations. Volunteer work is unpaid and entry level jobs can't support \$700-800/mo child care costs. You need to support the efforts required within welfare reform to make it successful. Child care costs + rental assistance are a necessary parts in this complex plan of reforming the welfare system. The goal is to get more people into the working world supporting their families. Please consider leaving the budget for these programs at current levels or provide for increases. Thank you for your consideration

SIGNED Valerie Cummings
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)
1267 Jacquelyn Lane, North Pole Ak 99705
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE F. CHSS
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON _____ DATED 3-21-97
BILL SUBJECT

Once again the attack begins on the poor, disabled, and children. How can welfare reform possibly work without sufficient child care, housing, medical care, or adequately staffed assistance programs. Please reconsider. I would like to challenge the legislators to spend some time in the real world ~~and~~ of those people who rely on rental assistance, child care, medicaid & related programs and see what it's like.

SIGNER Luis Beach
TESTIFIER

Single Parents & Displaced Homemaker's
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

610 2nd Ave Flks AK 99701
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

UAF
TVC



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget Cuts DATED 3-22-97
~~House Finance Committee~~

BILL SUBJECT

RE: Cuts to the Dept. of Tourism

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I regret I had to leave the public testimony session today before being able to testify in person. I represent the Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & I am a small BUSINESS OWNER. As a small business owner I have had the opportunity to make many MISTAKES & benefit from the lessons learned from those mistakes. One classic mistake is when times are tough ~~and~~ financially — then cut the marketing budget. Results can be devastating when this approach is taken — this action can cut off the very life blood of business — Similarly — the drastic cuts proposed for the Dept of Tourism will devastate small businesses that rely on tourism for their survival. That means LOSS of Jobs & Economic Development for our Great State

SIGNED

Janis W. Lee
TESTIFIER

Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & Alaska Lodging Mgt Inc.
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

POB 72478 FB 99707 907 488-4400

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AS BUDGET CUTS ARE REVIEWED

790 Pelican Way
FAIRBANKS, AK
99709

To: House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee

479-0823

Date: March 22, 1997

From: Charles (Chick) Hartman



Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed Budget Cuts,
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

I am writing you this letter as a proponent of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. I am a proponent because like most Alaskans I use the state parks many times during the year, both in summer and winter. I also should tell you that I am an advisory board member of the northern area state parks, but my testimony is as a private citizen.

In FY 87 the general fund budget for state parks was approximately \$5.25 million. In FY 97 it is approximately \$3.4 million, a 35% cut in ten years. This cut has partially been made up by gradually increasing state parks ability to budget for and collect user fees (program receipts). Today the total parks budget is approximately \$5.3 million, including program receipts.

The house finance committee's recommendation to cut \$183,900 from the program receipts budget makes absolutely no sense at all. These are funds that would be collected from users of the parks system, and do not cost the state any revenues. The only reason I can see to cut them would be so that certain politicians could posture that they cut the budget, even though no real money was saved; I hope no members of these committees would stoop to this type of "smoke and mirrors."

As a boardmember, I am familiar with the staffing levels and funding for the state parks in the northern area. You might not know that presently there is only one seasonally funded ranger in the whole Chena Hotsprings Recreational Area. I believe that there is only one seasonal ranger in the Harding Lake to Delta area. The division of parks does a great job of extending these employees' usefulness by hiring seasonal help consisting of the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), and by utilizing a very large volunteer force. Cutting their budget will reduce their ability to make use of these efficient ways to run the state parks system.

Alaska's state parks are the largest in acreage of all the states. In visitation numbers, they are approximately 35th. In staffing levels, they are 49th, and they would be by far the lowest, if Hawaii had not almost completely privatized their state park system. This is the situation that you as legislators are promulgating when you consider more budget cuts to the Division of Parks. Instead of proposing mindless cuts, please support a modest increase in the Program Receipts portion of the parks budget, as is requested in the governor's budget. This small increase is to fund maintenance items such as sewage pumping for additional roadside outhouses that the legislature funded last year. Hardly glamorous items, but also of vital importance to anyone who does much traveling on Alaska's road system.

As a citizen of Alaska, I believe that there are cuts needed in our state budget. What I don't believe is that Alaska's citizens want wholesale budget cutting of every state program. There are agencies that have already been cut to the bone; the Division of Parks is one of them. I strongly believe that most people in Alaska would support a moderate increase in the budget for state parks. Please listen to these people. Please do not continue with these wholesale cuts without thinking of the results.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
Mark Hanley/Pete Kelly
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare/ Jobs Program DATED 3-22-97
BILL/SUBJECT

my name is Karla Lomax. I am a client in the JOBS Program. You want people to get out and get jobs, I hope, to support their own families. And you expect them to do that with no skills and no education. You cut childcare and the JOBS program and in a short time you will need to figure out how to decrease the levels in child abuse, alcoholism, homelessness and many others. Do you want that?

The JOBS Program enabled ^{me} to get my GED in December because the GED program waived the fee as I was a JOBS client.

JOBS has enabled my husband to attend classes to obtain his GED.

JOBS has given me hope for the future and the knowledge I can truly do anything I put my mind too. ~~It~~ Fortunately for you, my plans do not include taking your job in the future. I'd rather be a police officer, which JOBS has also helped me to take action on. Unlike you I will serve and protect this community.

SIGNED Karla D. Lomax
TESTIFIER

Karla D. Lomax / Sheila Kivi (NASW)
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1120 Washington Dr. #7 FBKS AK 99709 (907) 456-272
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Attn: House Finance Committee
Rep. Gene Therriault
Rep. Pete Kelly
Rep. John Davies

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the House Finance Subcommittee's proposed cuts to the FY 93 Operating Budget.

I am a single parent of two small children, I am proud to say I have never experienced such a hardship in which I had to rely on welfare, and I would like to be able to continue to provide for my children in such a manner.

I would like to say I support welfare reform, and think it is a positive step for our country. But in order to successfully move people off welfare, there must be assistance available to insure quality care for their children. Most recipients of welfare have limited skills, which means low paying jobs. How can a family of a low to moderate income cover all expenses such as food, clothing, shelter and childcare. I know first hand child care is expensive, my daycare bill is \$840.00 per month. If child care assistance was not available to me, I too would be a welfare recipient!

I am greatly opposed to the proposed cut to eliminate the Child Care Grant Program. This grant makes it possible for Child Care Providers to continue education in early childhood development. Enables them to gain resources and materials to enhance a child's learning skills. Quality care is already hard to find, please do not make it impossible for providers who truly care for children, to teach them. This is a cut that will effect every family that uses Day Care Facilities. Early childhood development is extremely important in the nurturing of our children into productive, successful adults. As a Tax Payer I would much rather see our tax money spent developing a child's mind at an early age, and guide them to become responsible adults. When trying to rehabilitate a juvenile when it may be too late.

I am thankful I can work, pay my bills, feed my family and support my children. I am thankful for the Child Care Assistance that I receive. Please do not cut funding from this vital program, without it I truly believe you will see More of the working poor on Welfare.

Respectfully Yours,

Milissa Ackels
830 5th Ave #A
Fairbank, Ak 99701





ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare cuts/job program DATED 3-22-97
BILL/SUBJECT

To whom it may concern,

I believe the deep cuts in the job program + childcare will do a great deal more damage than what is apparent on the surface.

I know that people on welfare must work, yet we want to cut childcare + the job program. Several serious consequences may follow. People may be forced to leave children alone, have inadequate people with their children etc.. I am sure when people are pushed so hard, then given no opportunities to win; the incidents of child neglect + abuse will soar. I say lets atleast provide for the children, they are our future. It appears to me that we will have a great influx of people needing assistance. For instance, the working poor. By cutting child care benefits this puts them in a position to not work or succeed.

~~As~~ As far as Medicaid cuts, I believe a state like Alaska should provide care for all children. Actually even the poor deserve health care. I believe it would shame our state to allow people to die because of lack of funding for medical care.

With the proposed cuts we will have more problems economically. I believe I would rather leave a state that does not care, rather than support middle class prejudices.

SIGNED Shaik Kiri
TESTIFIER

NASW
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

3142 Lawrence Rd. N. Bldg At 99705 488-7993
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

**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
<http://www.alaska.net/~awrta>

Whereas, the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council has made great strides in meeting the needs of the diversity of Alaskan tour operators; and

Whereas, generic marketing is critical to the health and well-being of the whole Alaska visitor industry; and

Whereas, the Alaska Division of Tourism's role in developing new and international markets is of significant value to smaller tour operators; and

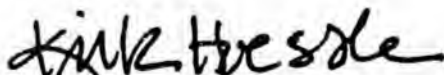
Whereas, the Alaska tourism industry allows opportunities for the creation of small local businesses and jobs in geographically diverse locations, including rural Alaska; and

Whereas, Alaska's visitor industry is the fastest growing industry in the state;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association joins with other tourism businesses and associations in Alaska to support full funding of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and the Alaska Division of Tourism budgets; and

That the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association recognizes the importance of both the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and Division of Tourism, with their respective roles, to the well being of the Alaska visitor industry.

This resolution was adopted by the membership at the annual membership meeting of the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association in Fairbanks on March 21, 1997.


Kirk Hoessle, President



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated _____
bill/subject

Dear Sirs;

Being mentally ill was never the way any of us wanted to be. It has been a very bumpy ride for many of us. Zyprexa is a good medication, but sometimes we can't do it all alone, we need a support system and case managers. Even Rehab services to recuperate when we suffer from a traumatic experience.

Please Don't cut the budget!

Signed: Barla K Root
Testifier

Mental Health Consumer
Representing (Optional)

11690 Lacy Loop # Wasilla AK 99654-5616
Address

376-4596
Phone No.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
BARROW, ALASKA 99723
☎ 907 852-2611 or 0200
FAX: 907 852-0337
email: bnagcak@co.north-slope.ak.us



Benjamin W. Nugent, Mayor

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Mailstop 3100
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Elimination of the Solid Waste Management Program

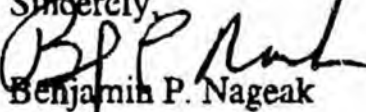
The House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation, including the elimination of the ADEC Solid Waste Program. I understand that the preliminary budget has passed the Finance Committee with the solid waste program budget eliminated. This budget is subject to Committee approval, at a meeting scheduled for the week of March 24, 1997.

By eliminating the solid waste program, the North Slope Borough will be forced to operate under US EPA regulations. Flexibility for landfill design and closure will be lost. NSB landfills incorporate specific design features for the arctic environment, such features would not receive consideration. Alternative designs acceptable to ADEC will not be acceptable to EPA. For new facilities, such as a new Barrow Landfill, design will become subject to EPA Sub Title D regulations, which have many additional requirements that will add to costs significantly. For example, a liner will be required that will increase costs approximately \$50,000,00. For closure of sites, cover material requirements will increase costs, and use of alternative cover materials will not be allowed. Landfill inspection and compliance status determinations would be assessed by US EPA, who would also issue Notice

of Violation (NOV) and Enforcement Actions if federal standards are not met.

Over 280 landfills will become unregulated by this program's elimination. Class III landfills, of which the NSB has seven, will become deregulated and be re-classified as Class II landfills. This change will cause great expense to the NSB, to modify existing landfill site operations and to upgrade landfills to Class II standards. The Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, by which the Governor can waive additional federal provisions for Class III landfills would have to be repealed.

I urge your support to reinstate the management of the State's solid waste management program in ADEC's budget.

Sincerely,

Benjamin P. Nageak
Mayor
North Slope Borough

cc: Rep. Reggie Joule
James P. Sharpe, North Slope Borough
Don Thornburgh, North Slope Borough

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
State Capitol Building
Room 507
Juneau, AK. 99811

Re: Alaska Science and Technology Foundation Funding

Dear Representative Hanley:

I recently became aware of the Finance Committee's proposal to eliminate the endowment of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF). I am in no position to make a determination on whether ASTF's funding should be continued or discontinued. However, I am aware of some of that agency's funding practices that may be helpful to the committee.

As a homeowner on the hillside in Anchorage that is served by on-site sewage disposal, I am concerned about a grant by ASTF to the municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services. According to ASTF's 1996 Annual Report, "three years ago ASTF teamed up with Jim Cross, an engineer with the Municipality of Anchorage's Health and Human Services Department, to investigate an intermittent sand filter wastewater disposal system..."

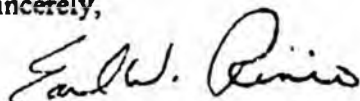
As a follow up to that initial grant, ASTF funded the same government agency "to develop informational literature aimed at real estate agents, property owners and developers that explains the costs and benefits of the sand filter option."

So what we have here is one government agency funding another government agency that is self regulating and is in direct competition with private businesses. Not only is this a conflict of interest on the part of the municipality of Anchorage; but it is counter-productive to the overall agenda of ASTF.

I have talked with home owners, realtors, engineers and business owners in Anchorage and learned that the municipality is actively promoting the sand filter system they tested with ASTF funds. In fact, I was informed by some homeowners that the municipality gave them no other option than the sand filter when they were upgrading their septic system. People appear to be very frustrated by this situation.

The purpose of my letter is not to encourage the committee to discontinue funding ASTF. I think they have funded many worthwhile projects. However, when they create a situation as described above, there should be more oversight to ASTF's funding practices. Funding a self regulating government agency that competes with private enterprise is the form of state socialism that we should be trying to avoid not encourage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl W. Rinio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Earl Rinio
9141 Basher Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 333-5615

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

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

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.

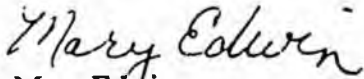
*Department of Environmental Conservation - Tanana cannot afford to comply with federal enforcement of solid waste disposal laws. Without the State solid waste disposal program, it is likely Tanana could not maintain any solid waste disposal system at all. That has serious negative implications for public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

between the divisions staff and the lessees. Such discontinuity in the past has led to major and costly contamination cleanups being required, such as the Forward and Child's pads cleanups.

There will undoubtedly be delays in issuing leases/permits for guides and commercial ventures on state land, and also delays in issuing surface leases/rights -of-way/permits for oil and gas exploration and developments.

The 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.

Also cooperative efforts between the state, federal government, municipalities and local interest groups would suffer. The region is involved in several programs that are responding to public access needs; especially:

- Nenana River Canyon public access and TRAAK proposals
- Denali North Access feasibility study
- Dalton Highway coordination group
- Alaska Trails System participation
- Other cooperative land use management programs are:

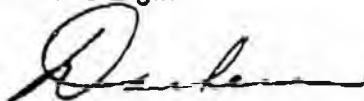
Reindeer permits on the Seward Peninsula

Alaska Guard training site on the Seward Peninsula

How Natural Resources are managed today will directly affect future State revenue and budgets. If the DNR is not adequately funded we may as well turn over our rights and land back to the federal government.

Thank you for all your efforts. I know you have a difficult job before you. Reducing a budget is not an easy task and no one wants their own budget cut. This is an area I do know something about and I hope you will take my comments into consideration when deliberating on the budget. I know DNR has many other concerns in other parts of the State but I'm most familiar with the Fairbanks area.

Thanks for listening!!!



P.S. If you have questions call Judy in Fairbanks at 451-2720. She'll give you the "straight scoop."



Alaska State Legislature

MAR 20 1997

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

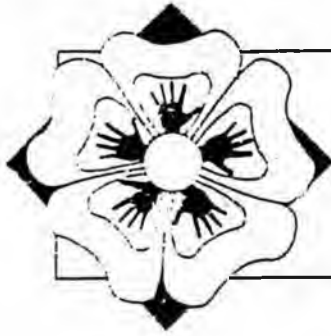
Do not cut funding in areas that allow matching funds from federal agencies.

Do not cut funding for child abuse. As a teacher I am appalled with the level of state support today.

Do not rely on private contributions. Alaska ranks 50th for individual level of contributions to charity who earn over \$100,000.

Signed: Lois (Steven R.) McBoz
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
7749 Old Harbor Rd.
 Address
Anch. Ak. 99504
 Phone No.
337-6136



F • N • A

Fairbanks Native Association

March 21, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

Dear Representative Therriault,

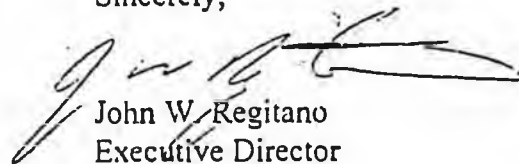
As Executive Director for Fairbanks Native Association, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommended budget cuts in Medicaid. As the Department of Health and Social Services portrays the Medicaid situation, a reduction of the governor's proposed Medicaid non-facility budget line item of \$3 million would result in cuts that would significantly impact several of our substance abuse treatment programs, two of which provide essential services for women with children and expectant mothers. The greatest impact will be on our Women and Children's Residential Treatment Program. A loss of benefits to cover substance abuse/mental health and targeted case management/rehabilitation services means a loss of approximately \$180,000 annually in client pay which comes from Medicaid payments.

FNA's Women and Children's Program is the only one of its kind in the state. Its outstanding reputation has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of women and children from throughout Alaska. Funding for this program comes primarily from the federal government (annual budget of approximately \$900,000) with all the benefit going to the state at a minimal cost of approximately \$90,000 by way of Medicaid billings.

If the situation is other than that portrayed by the Administration with the current house budget, please advise me. However, if the potential for the cuts are correct I would request that you take action to avoid these reductions or direct the Administration not to allocate the reductions as they have indicated because they would negatively impact treatment programs for women and children.

If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223. FNA will be testifying via teleconference on Saturday, March 22.

Sincerely,



John W. Regitano
Executive Director

cc: corr out exec
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair ✓
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies

Public Opinion Message

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office (LIO)
 115 N. Cushman St., Suite 101, Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Phone: 452-4448 Fax: 456-3348

From: Print your name and address as it appears on your voter registration card.

Ms., Mr., Mrs.	First Name Vera	MI L	Last Name Brick	Jr., Sr., III.
Residence (street) address P.O. Box 304 Fort Yukon, AK				Zip code 99740
Mailing address P.O. Box 304 Fort Yukon, AK				Zip code 99740
Daytime telephone number 907-662-2556		Group affiliation (if applicable) Tanana Chiefs Conference, Yukon Flats Subregional Office		

To: Write an H or an S in a Committee box; put a ✓ in a Caucus or Member's box.

Committees (enter H or S)

- Community & Regional Affairs (cra)
- Finance (fin)
- Health, Ed. & Social Services (hes)
- Judiciary (jud)
- Labor & Commerce (l&c)
- Resources (res)
- Rules (ru)
- State Affairs (sta)
- Transportation (tra)
- Other:
- Other:

CAUCUSES

- A'chorage (age)
- Bush (bus)
- Fairbanks (Interior) (fm)
- Matu (mat)
- Majority (mjr)
- Minority (mnr)

House members

- Austerman (aue)
- Barnes (bar)
- Britz (brt)
- Brown (bro)
- Bunde (bun)
- Davies (dav)
- Davis, B. (deb)
- Davis, G. (dag)
- Elton (elt)
- Finkelstein (fik)
- Foster (foe)
- Green (gm)
- Grussendorf (gra)
- Hanley (han)
- Ivan (iva)
- James (jam)
- Kelly, P. (kil)
- Kohring (kor)
- Koff (kof)
- Kubina (kub)

- Long (lng)
- Mackie (mak)
- Martin (mar)
- Mesek (mes)
- Moses (mos)
- Mulder (mul)
- Navarre (nav)
- Nicholls (nic)
- Ogan (oga)
- Pamela (par)
- Philippe, G. (phg)
- Porter (por)
- Robinson (rob)
- Roseberg (rok)
- Sanders (san)
- Thambut (thv)
- Tooney (ton)
- Vezey (vez)
- Williams (wil)
- Willis (wis)

Senate members

- Adams (ada)
- Donley (don)
- Quonan (dun)
- Ellis (eli)
- Frank (fra)
- Green (gre)
- Harford (har)
- Hoffman (hof)
- Kelly, T. (kel)
- Leman (lem)
- Lincoln (lin)
- Miller (mil)
- Pearce (pee)
- Phillips, R. (phi)
- Rieger (rie)
- Selo (sel)
- Sharp (sha)
- Taylor (tay)
- Torgerson (tor)
- Zharoff (zha)

Subject: Enter a bill number and check one box 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	Subject:
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Message:

* This form MUST be completely filled out, including a phone number. You may phone fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO
 * Please PRINT. Your message cannot exceed 60 words (one word per box) and cannot contain any vulgar language

I am very please to write this short memo regarding the state operating	3
budget. On behalf of the following villages (Arctic Village, Beaver Circle,	10
Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Fort Yukon, and Venetia) I represent.	15
I am fully against the state budget cuts. As it is it's already taking effect	20
on our rural areas. We DO NOT want it to get any worst. I know for a fact	25
that my villages do have a great need for these programs. Please take into	30
consideration not to do any budget cuts.	35
Thank you.	40
	45
	50



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My name is Catherine Vaara, and I am here to urge you to support funding for Domestic Violence programs.

Here in Alaska, many of our communities are geographically isolated. In Valdez, as in other communities, people have moved here with the dream of landing a well paid job. The reality is, that families find themselves socially isolated from traditional support groups of family and friends.

Advocates for Victims of Violence, (AVV) like its sister programs was established to aide victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We find many victims are socially isolated with no social or financial means to help themselves. Our programs help them re-establish support systems. We provide immediate safety and shelter. We provide a safe place and time with counselors to help with information and resources so that victim can regroup and look at viable options. We are also active in providing education to prevent further violence.

As a community based, non profit organisation with a strong network Alaska wide, we are cost efficient and effective. However, our shelter is 100 years old and is falling apart. It is too small to provide shelter to the populations of Valdez, Tatitlek, and the Copper River Basin, which are our service areas.

We, like other shelters for battered women in Alaska, have been struggling with a budget that is 5% less than what it was in 1989. Our communities are doing their best to create and maintain shelters for victims but we do need State help and support.

I would like to add, the Dept. Corrections also needs to do its part in getting the message across - Domestic violence is a crime. Offenders need to be made accountable for their actions. They need to be placed in jail, where they are prevented from terrifying or harming their victims. Give victims the time they need to help themselves.

Thank you.

Signed: Catherine Vaara
Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 524 Valdez 99686
Address

(907) 835-2980
Phone No.

The Fishers
3712 Aldren Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

March 24, 1997

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

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley:

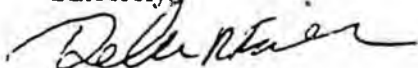
I have been a Family Child Care Provider for eight years. I started receiving the Child Care Grant about 2 years ago. I have used this money to help purchase some larger toys that I would not have been able to justify without these funds to help cover the costs. I also purchase many supplies ie. paper, crayons, books. I feel that these have helped make my program better for the children in my care.

I think that you are thinking that because we are a business we are making quite a big profit. If you could only look at our tax returns you would know that we are not in this to make a large profit. By not supporting us you are saying that you do not care what quality of care the children of the state are receiving. We have just been informed that the food programs are being cut 50%. These cuts are going to make it very hard for many providers to be able to even stay in business. I think that it is sad the the government can help support other countrys but they will not support their own children.

The government is cutting all the benefits that were there for people to take the step to become a licenced provider. In the end I think it will be the government that will loose as people will go back to just providing care and not paying the taxes on the money that they have earned and the quality of care will decrease without the regulations that are in place now. Please help the providers to maintain the quality of care that they are now providing and give us the insentive to continue to learn and improve the programs we offer the children of our communities.

We would appreciate your support in this matter that is near and dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,



Della R. Fisher

13-285

RECEIVED

James H. Ducker MAR 26 1997
6631 E. 99th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-6564

March 23, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

Assured that your life is at least as hectic as mine, I will keep this note brief.

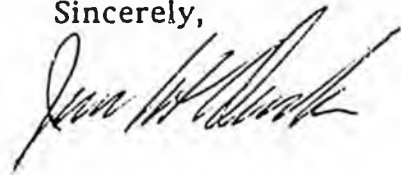
I write to urge that you, as co-chair of the House Finance Committee, take the lead in reversing an unwise cut in funding for the State Historic Preservation Office. I refer to House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee's proposed reduction of \$94,000.

Those who wish to preserve portions of Alaska's heritage, whether for the knowledge that can be gained about our ancestors or predecessors in this state, for the sense of connectedness well-preserved structures provide to our state's diverse and interesting past, or for the benefits such preservation will give our tourist industry for many decades to come, need the expert services provided by the SHPO. So do developers, who depend on timely and thorough consideration of projects involving federal funds, lands, or permits, and who, in many cases, are as loath to ruin the historic and archaeological treasures of this state as any of the hundred of members of Alaska's local historical societies.

The subcommittee's cut seems particularly ill-considered given that its \$94,000 reduction means the loss of over \$140,000 of federal matching funds. Together these cuts will hobble the SHPO.

I hope that I can count on your support for an appropriate level of funding for historical programs in the state.

Sincerely,



Naparyarmiut

City of Hooper Bay
P.O. Box 37
Hooper Bay, Alaska 99604

(907) 758-4311

Hanley
Distributed by request
by R. Foster

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997

March 24, 1997

Honorable Chairmen
and Members
House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

The City of Hooper Bay respectfully urges the House Finance Committee to maintain funding for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Municipal and Regional Assistance Division, Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) Program.

It is our understanding that the current House budget draft eliminates the \$250,000 match made by the State against a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the RUBA Program. We believe that anytime the State can leverage one dollar for two from the Federal government, it is a reasonable bargain.

The RUBA Program has paid for itself many times over by providing the technical assistance small communities have required to meet such obligations as Alaska Department of Labor Unemployment Tax payments and Federal Tax withholdings.

The City of Hooper Bay can testify to the importance of RUBA assistance. At one point a couple of years ago we owed the IRS nearly \$200,000 in back taxes and penalties. With the help of our RUBA Advisors we were able to negotiate directly with the IRS at the same time we were developing in-house fiscal management capability. We have since satisfied our obligations with the IRS, thanks in no small part to the RUBA Program.

It is very important to understand that when communities are at risk with the IRS and other agencies which can levy and lien, ALL municipal assets are at risk, including rolling stock belonging to water and sewer construction projects, the loss of which could cripple efforts to improve sanitation conditions. Additionally, City Council members and Managers/Administrators have a fiduciary liability which the IRS will prosecute.

We believe that if you look you will find that the RUBA Program has been successful in protecting the State's interest in the substantial capital investments it has made around Rural Alaska from seizure by the Internal Revenue Service.

March 24, 1997

House Finance Committee
Page Two

The Legislature has demonstrated its commitment to the development of water and sewer infrastructure in Rural Alaska. The mission of the Rural Utility Business Advisor Program is to help communities ensure the proper, efficient and hopefully "profitable" operation of these systems which provide decent sanitation conditions, conditions which many Alaskans take for granted.

With continuing decreases in Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing, small communities find it more and more difficult to attract and retain trained and skilled operations, maintenance and management/administrative personnel. Because of this, we (Alaska's small municipalities) look to DCRA, DEC and other State agencies with whom we have close working relationships for advice, training, and technical assistance. The RUBA Program provides a vehicle for these vital services, and we rightfully fear the future without them.

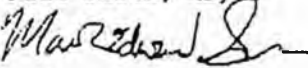
Gentlemen, Rural Alaskans fully understand the need for efficiencies in State Government and we have never been unwilling to cooperate with the Legislature in identifying potential areas for budget reductions. We take great interest in the deliberations in Juneau each year and look forward to the opportunity to participate in a positive manner.

Once again, the City of Hooper Bay wishes to encourage you to give careful consideration to continuation of the Rural Utility Business Advisor Program in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. It is a partnership between communities and the State which works to everyone's advantage and, as we have pointed out, pays for itself many times over.

We would be pleased to answer any inquiries you or your staff might have on this important program.

QUYANA!

City of Hooper Bay
Nile Smith, Mayor


Mark Edward Springer
City Administrator

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

March 17, 1996

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

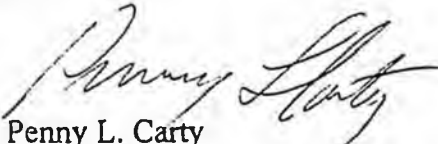
Dear Representative Hanley:

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,



Penny L. Carty
Cook Inlet Tribal Council



**Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association**

**P.O. Box 22827
Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 463-3038
Fax (907) 463.328
E mail awrta@alaska.net
<http://www.alaska.net/~awrta>**

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1997

March 24, 1997

Twentieth Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Greetings:

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA, pronounced AR-tah) is pleased to join other tourism associations and businesses in support of full funding for the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and the Alaska Division of Tourism. A copy of a resolution of support, adopted by our membership at our annual meeting in Fairbanks on March 21, is enclosed.

Our membership is diverse, covering a broad range of geography, type of trips, and size of operations. We are pleased to include a copy of our latest membership directory for your review and reference.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself (783-2928, Girdwood), our executive director Steve Behnke or one of our members who serve on Alaska Tourism Marketing Council (Karla Hart, 463-3466; Ken Leghorn, 780-6505; Jerre Fuqua, 206-623-7110) if you have questions.

Regards,


Kirk Hoessle, President



March 25, 1997

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

The proposed budget cuts to the Division of Tourism and ATMC will hurt our efforts to create jobs and economic development in Alaska.

This summer our company is entering the tourism field with a substantial investment and an operation that will create 30 jobs in Haines and Skagway and economic benefit to both communities.

It is critical to the success of our operation that we have strong support from the State of Alaska in creating these new businesses. Our efforts will only be successful with the destination marketing support from the Division of Tourism and ATMC that no small community or one company can afford.

I am requesting your support for the full funding of these programs. As resources development faces more challenges in Alaska we must look to new opportunities to keep our State prosperous and healthy.

Please help us with these efforts.

Sincerely

Don Argetsinger
President

cc: The Honorable Gail Philips, Speaker of the House
Willie Hensley, Commissioner of Commerce & Economic Development
Alaska Visitors Association

KLUKWAN, INC.

P.O. BOX 32077 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-2077 • (907) 789-7361

cc: The Honorable Joe Green
The Honorable Carl Moses
The Honorable Joe Ryan
The Honorable Ethan Berkowitz
The Honorable John Cowdery

RECEIVED

March 20, 1997

MAR 25 1997

To Whom It Is Concern;

I would like to take this to inform you of a big problem that is happening to low income Alaskans with disabilities. These low income Alaskans who are disabled rely on benefits and services needed to help them live their lives more independently and healthier lives.

With the budget cuts that are propose for Medicaid, Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other related programs, such as Access Alaska, Americans with Disabilities Act, Division of Health and Social Services. The above programs and services are the life lines for services that help the low income Alaskans with disabilities live more independent and productive lives in their communities. To cut the proposed cuts you have in mind will affect the services and program that help the low income Alaskans greatly. This will affect me greatly because I am a low income Alaskan who has a several different disabilities. Some above programs and services you propose to cut funds for I depend on and use services.

First, of all the propose budget cuts in Medicaid will affect me. I have cerebral palsy and need to have AFO leg braces for both my legs custom made once a year or whenever the doctor wants me to get them. Because my straight is always changing and to make sure that the braces are fit corrects. If, the braces do not fit correctly, I can get decompression sores or bruising from them. If you cut this important medical service out of your budget, I will no longer be able to receive new braces when I need them. This specially important to me because it can make the difference if I can walk or not when I am weak.

Secondly on the Medicaid cuts propose I will lose another very important service to me. I also have asthma. I need to receive medical equipment and supplies that are need to control my asthma. I need to use a nebulier to help control and relieve my bad asthma attacks. The nebulier most of the time prevents me from having to go to emergency room to receive treatment. Medicaid covers the nebulier and supplies that I use if you cut this important life saving service out of the budget it could cause me too not could not control my asthma. Asthma attacks can be very scary, because basically you are not able to breathe. Please, remember how important it is for you to be able to breathe. Please keep the funding for these specially needed equipment and supplies for people like me who needs to use to equipment to keep us a live.

I am now getting help to live independently from Access Alaska . Access Alaska has one of the best programs in helping people who have disabilities I have been be so far. I would hate seeing any funding cut from their budget. I know that Access Alaska is on the proposed budget cuts for independent living listed under Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The people at Access Alaska do so much to help people with disabilities live happier and more independent lives in their communities. I hate to see what would happen to people who depend on Access Alaska Independent living services and ^{can not} receive them. This is a very important thing to me and many other use Access Alaska services. Please, do not make any cuts in Access Alaska budget.

I have just been authorized for services at Alaska Division of Rehabilitation. Alaska Division of Rehabilitation is a truly important service to help Alaskans who are disabled find work. I truly believe this the time to not cut the fund for this very important program. Disabled Alaskans need to have a place they can go to help them get the needed training, support in many areas, and some times job placements. With out Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation there would be a lot of disabled Alaskans without work and unemployed. Because they just were not given a chance to get the needed help, support, training and sometimes job placements to achieve their true abilities and independently. Please keep the funding for Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation where it at. Sincerely, I am a client Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, I would hate to not get a chance to return to the work force once again.

Please think of the disabled people you will be hurting and would be greatly effect their lives with these proposed budget cut. I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely;



Charles C. Reese
5451 E 4th Avenue, Apt #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 333-0631

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 25 March 1997

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Kenneth L. Pratt - Program Manager, BIA ANCSA Office

SUBJECT: Proposed Budget Cuts Affecting the Alaska State Historic
Preservation Program

TO: Alaska State House and Senate Finance Committees

I am writing to voice my opposition to the House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee's proposed \$94,000.00 budget cut for the State Historic Preservation Program (i.e., the Office of History and Archaeology). That cut would lead to the loss of another \$140,000.00 in matching money for Alaska provided by the federal Historic Preservation Fund. The end result would be the almost certain elimination of the State Office of History and Archaeology, an office that has actually been under-funded for years now.

The proposed cut poses serious problems for the State with regard to its future ability to comply with cultural resources/historic preservation laws. It would also prevent Federal agencies in Alaska from satisfying those same laws, because our compliance requires coordination with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer and continued access to the state database of historic and archaeological sites.

I strongly urge you to restore full funding to the State Historic Preservation Program.

Kenneth L. Pratt



March 25, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

The proposed budget cuts to the Division of Tourism and ATMC will hurt our efforts to create jobs and economic development in Alaska.

This summer our company is entering the tourism field with a substantial investment and an operation that will create 30 jobs in Haines and Skagway and economic benefit to both communities.

It is critical to the success of our operation that we have strong support from the State of Alaska in creating these new businesses. Our efforts will only be successful with the destination marketing support from the Division of Tourism and ATMC that no small community or one company can afford.

I am requesting your support for the full funding of these programs. As resources development faces more challenges in Alaska we must look to new opportunities to keep our State prosperous and healthy.

Please help us with these efforts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Argetsinger".

Don Argetsinger
President

cc: The Honorable Gail Philips, Speaker of the House
Willie Hensley, Commissioner of Commerce & Economic Development
Alaska Visitors Association

KLUKWAN, INC.

P.O. BOX 32077 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-2077 • (907) 789-7361

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

144 N. SINKLEY SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669-7599
BUSINESS (907) 262-4441 FAX (907) 262 1892

March 25, 1997

MIKE NAVARRE
MAYOR

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1132

VIA FAX: 465-2418

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1997

Re: **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
SOLID WASTE PROGRAM FUNDING**

Dear Representative Hanley:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough does not support the operating budget reduction and subsequent elimination of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Program. Loss of the state program will require strict compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and will have short and long term financial and environmental impacts to our borough, as well as the entire state.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is unique with seven operating landfills composed of at least one type of each class of landfill (I, II and III). Since the borough took over solid waste disposal authority in 1974, a directed effort has been made to close many open dumps that were not developed by the borough, but were located on borough owned land. Many other open dumps that proliferated in the past have also been closed under the direction of ADEC in accordance with state regulations. With the absence of a state solid waste management authority, and no zoning imposed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, open dumps are likely to become problems once more.

Loss of a state program has many potential impacts to our borough which include the following:

- 1) \$7.2 million cost increase in design modifications for a Class I expansion due to more stringent EPA liner design criteria.
- 2) \$86,000 minimum annual increase in water monitoring program costs for the borough's Class II landfill due to lack of state imposed flexibility in compliance schedule.
- 3) Elimination of a pending permit for an inert waste landfill in Seward - all waste would be transported to Soldotna for disposal at significant cost to disposers and the borough.
- 4) Operation of disposal sites for waste streams which become unregulated including drilling muds, wood debris, construction and demolition debris, and open dumps.
- 5) Immediate closure and subsequent relocation of two Class III landfills in violation of airport separation requirements.

Re: ADEC Solid Waste Program Funding

March 25, 1997 - Page Two

- 6) Eliminate state approved flexibility for use of alternative cover material (such as plastic tarps) as substitute for frozen soil cover during winter months at Class II and III landfills.
- 7) Increased civil lawsuits for lack of strict conformance with federal standards for all landfills.

For the past six years, the ADEC has worked with the borough, solid waste professionals, operators and haulers to revise Alaska solid waste regulations in order to develop a federally acceptable solid waste program that allows state specific flexibility. The statewide commitment to obtain a broadly acceptable solid waste program has assured environmentally sound and timely management of solid waste in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and, most importantly, all of Alaska.

We would appreciate your support in funding the ADEC Solid Waste Program at the level in the Governor's proposed FY98 budget to ensure fundamental protection of human health and the environment for all residents of Alaska, and to maintain practical and local control of solid waste management.

Very truly yours,



Mike Navarre

Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

MN/lh/bg

cc: Kenai Peninsula Borough Legislators (via fax)
KPB Assembly Members
KPB Solid Waste Director

URGENT

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Co-chairman, Finance Committee
Alaska StateHouse of Representatives

Dear Rep. Hanley:

The Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska are greatly alarmed to learn that long-overdue gains for our State Archives are in jeopardy in the Finance Committee. Ten days ago, the Sub-committee on Education amended the Governor's budget to add two essential archivists' positions to the operating budget. The members were persuaded by the very serious situation in the Archives, which is struggling under a weight of a backlog of 8,000 cubic feet, many of these legislative records. We were pleased that the vital role of this small agency in keeping state government running smoothly had finally been recognized by our Legislature, after many years of attrition. (The staff of this agency is 20% smaller than in 1976!)

We ask you to support the sub-committee recommendation for the State Archives. The sub-committee transferred one position from the capital budget (where funds expired in FY97) and added a second archivist to attack the backlog. The total request for these positions was \$122,000. Failure to fund the two positions will result in irreparable harm to state records. We do not wish to come between other worthy needs in the Department of Education, but insist that the State Archives is a vital state agency which has suffered from neglect for many years—neglect which has an irreparable impact on fragile records. Now is the time to set that situation right.

We also would like to note that the Acquisition recommendations of the Sub-committee for the State Museums and the State Library are for FY98 only and are necessary to keep these institutions active as vital resources for research and are used by all Alaskans.

We ask you to support the Sub-committee close-out. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Sweetland Smith

Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-it [™] Fax Note	7671	Date	3-24	# of pages	2
To	Rep. Hanley	From	AHS-MA		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	343-6155		
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	346-2410		

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

We cut 35% from the State Archives' supplies line for FY '97. These were the funds which pay for the day-to-day operations of the Archives, and the Governor failed to restore the \$25,000 to his budget request for FY '98. In addition, the Archivist II position, currently funded with capital funds, will expire in 1997. During the interim, in meetings with the Historical Society, I learned that the cuts to Archives are too severe and will put the preservation of our State's historical records in great jeopardy. I am requesting that both of these items be added to the FY '98 budget for DOE.

Also, as a statewide issue, I am requesting that, in the supplemental budget, we set aside \$250,000. This money would be appropriated to the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force to give out to communities as matching grants. These grants are for projects designed to actively address marketing and promotion potential, infrastructure needs, interpretive themes, historic resource issues, and commemorative events and activities of the once-in-a-lifetime occurrence of Alaska's Centennial celebration.

I have attached backup for both the State Archives and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force requests. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

I am a member of the tourism industry. I support the economic development work that the Division of Tourism has done for my industry. Terminating the Division through budget cuts will have a devastating impact on the industry. Please stop these cuts.

Promote the tourism industry, don't gut it.

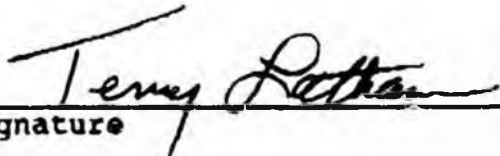
Name: **TERRY LATHAM**

Company: **TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL / TUNDRA TOURS**

Address: **P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723**

Telephone: **907 852 3900**

Fax Number: **907 852 6752**



Signature

March 22, 1997

TO: House Finance Committee

RE: Written Testimony

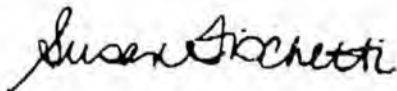
FROM: Susan Fischetti
10336 Stewart Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-7944

I hereby support the majority's goal to reduce spending by 60 million dollars this year. I also realize that there was 50 million projected in New Economic Activity. Given the Northstar situation other areas of economic growth are needed and that does not mean taxes. We can't lose sight of our long term goals because of temporary oil surges. A few options are selling the state ferry system and the Alaska Railroad (who just received 10 million of pork from the federal government). The way to do this is to encourage private investments in Alaska if we are ever going to reduce government spending.

One area that has me very concerned is the Department of Health and Social Services. They have been lobbying for increased taxes in Alaska with tax payers dollars from the state and federal level. This is an outrage. The money could be much better spent educating the public instead of trying to raise revenue to fund their Department. Many other State Agencies are involved in the same scam. There are numerous state employees who are testifying and lobbying in order to fund their programs and their jobs.

You were all elected and given a major task to reduce government and it is difficult to stand up to the pressure of the special interest groups. As we see what is happening in Washington, I urge you not to compromise your promises. Alaska can do better. We have a great state because of our resources, our Permanent Fund Dividend and low taxes. Lets keep it that way.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Fischetti

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hawley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawley:

After attending the statewide hearing on Saturday, March 22, 1997, I sincerely hope so consideration is given to the issues addressed by the people who testified.

Childcare for those who hope to leave the welfare system must be available. However, the quality of care must also be a priority! It is beyond my comprehension that funding for a entity such as Mark Air was made available in millions of dollars while child care businesses struggle to meet their budget expenses each month! The child care facilities employ hundreds of care givers and provide services to thousands of children. The care our children receive now will influence the care they give to others as an adult.

I truly thank you and the House Budget

committee for giving the child care community a reason to gather together and become one voice for children and families. "The Alliance of Child Care Professionals" will now educate ourselves on political issues that concern children and families. As representatives of our various organizations, we will make sure our members know where our State legislators stand on these issues.

The other areas of my concern are the length of the hearings. Our State is large and one day seems too little time for public input. It would also be nice to have at least a week's notice before a public hearing is scheduled. I received this information on Tuesday that the hearing would be Saturday. At least I know the Senate hearings will be April 5, 1997.

Respectfully,

Patricia Mungert
7701 Lars Circle
Anchorage, AK 99518



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835.

Ph (907) 747-3287; Fax (907) 747-3259; e-mail--amsea@ptialaska.net

March 26, 1997

Dear Representative Grussendorf
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK.

It is of the utmost importance that the AVTEC budget not be cut.

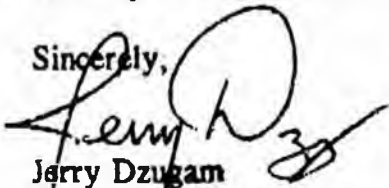
This training center in Seward provides the only location in the state where mariners can take basic to advanced training in their specific fields. It's centralized location makes it accessible to many. The job training programs it provides are just what this state needs to train workers in the ever changing job market.

The Marine Department is especially important to preserve. The three dedicated instructors in this department are already stretched to the maximum to provide training to mariners as diverse as Western Alaska Natives in emerging fisheries to Master Mariners working the largest of vessels. It would be perverse that the state with more coastline than the rest of the nation combined, would inflict a cut of this magnitude to its own state job training program. This could result in hundreds of people having to leave the state for the training which is currently provided by AVTEC.

AMSEA considers AVTEC one of our most important partners. We urge you to support an institution which is part of the solution in job training in this state by not decimating their budget.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jerry Dzugan
AMSEA Director

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

I am a member of the tourism industry. I support the economic development work that the Division of Tourism has done for my industry. Terminating the Division through budget cuts will have a devastating impact on the industry. Please stop these cuts.

Promote the tourism industry, don't gut it.

Name: **TERRY LATHAM**

Company: **TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL / TUNDRA TOURS**

Address: **P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723**

Telephone: **907 852 3900**

Fax Number: **907 852 6752**


Signature

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

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Name: TERRY LATHAM

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Address: P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723

Telephone: 907 852 3900

Fax Number: 907 852 6752



Signature

URGENT

March 24, 1997

Representative Ben Grusendorf
Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Rep. Grusendorf:

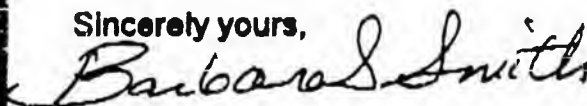
The 800 members of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska applaud the action of the House Finance Sub-committee on Education. Ten days ago, this sub-committee amended the Governor's budget to add two essential archivists' positions to the operating budget. The members were persuaded by the very serious situation in the Archives, which is struggling under a weight of a backlog of 8,000 cubic feet, many of them legislative records. We were pleased that the vital role of this small agency in keeping state government running smoothly had finally been recognized by our Legislature, after many years of attrition. (The staff of this agency is 20% smaller than in 1976!)

We ask you to support the sub-committee recommendation for the State Archives. The sub-committee transferred one position from the capital budget (where funds expired in FY97) and added a second archivist to attack the backlog. The total request for these positions was \$122,000. Failure to fund the two positions will result in irreparable harm to state records. We do not wish to come between other worthy needs in the Department of Education, but insist that the State Archives is a vital state agency which has suffered from neglect for many years—neglect which has an irreparable impact on fragile records. Now is the time to set that situation right. Please see Speaker Phillips' memo on this issue.

We also would like to note that the Acquisition recommendations of the Sub-committee for the State Museums and the State Library are for FY98 only and are necessary to keep these institutions active as vital resources for research and are used by all Alaskans.

We ask you to support the Sub-committee close-out. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-It™ Fax Note	7871	Date 3-24	# of pages 2
To Rep. Grusendorf	From AHS-MA	Co./Dept.	Co.
Phone # -	Phone # 343-6155	Fax # 465-2278	Fax # 346-2410

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

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GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

605 WEST FOURTH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

Telephone: (907)271-2272

Facsimile: (907)271-2274

March 24, 1997

Honorable Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

This letter is in response to concerns I have concerning proposed legislative funding cuts to the Office of History and Archaeology in the Department of Natural Resources. In addition to the practical issue of loss of matching funds, my concerns relate to the loss of a valuable economic development ally.

The U. S. Economic Development Administration funds a number of Public Works or facilities projects with Public Bodies each year. The Office of History and Archaeology has been a strong partner in facilitating projects with municipalities and Native communities which lead to long-term Private Sector jobs. Recent major efforts include the renovation of an historic structure for use as a Visitors' Center at Nome and the upgrading of one of the very first canneries in Alaska as a modern fish-processing facility at Klawock on Prince of Wales Island. Both tourism and fisheries are critical to Alaska's economy.

The Office of History and Archaeology is a valuable and responsive asset not only in terms of "amenities," but also in terms of developmental assistance. I strongly urge adequate funding so that the unit may remain effective. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernhard Richert
Economic Development
Representative



March 24, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
State Capital, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Reductions - Division of Trade and Development

Dear Representative Hanley,

It is with great dismay to hear of plans by the House Finance Subcommittee on Department of Commerce and Economic Development's budget to eliminate more than 1/3 of their staff this year.

The D.C.E.D. provides a direct path for small and large businesses to work directly with our state government, as well as to assist in the removal of trade barriers for those of us (the list grows daily) seeking business abroad.

Our firm recently participated in a mission to Korea. While with the Governor and members of D.C.E.D. doors opened to us that would take months to reach had we not been "partnering" with the State of Alaska.

Missions of this type are extremely important to the State. With declining revenues it is imperative to continue these contact to broaden our horizons.

In short, consideration should be given to increasing their funding and staff rather than elimination. The Division of Trade and Development plays a vital role in the future of Alaska's position in the Pacific Rim.

Thank you for taking the time to review our thoughts and position on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Smith, General Manager
Unitech of Alaska, Inc.

SRS/dh

P.O. BOX 240167 ANCHORAGE, AK 99524-0167 (907) 349-5142 (907) 349-2733 FAX



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 24, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles:

The purpose of this letter is to voice our concern over the proposed budget cuts to Alaska's State Historic Preservation Program. As you know, these cuts will result in a loss of significant Federal Historic Preservation Fund matching money for Alaska.

We believe these cuts could impede progress on key projects for which the Department of the Interior has a role, such as the final disposition of the Adak Naval Station and activities associated with the development of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. We also believe these cuts could result in significant delays for individual Alaskans who seek permits to carry out activities on DOI-managed lands.

We encourage your continued support for full funding of this important office.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for Alaska

cc: House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-93)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 1

To	Mark Henley	From	D. Williams
Dept./Agency		Phone #	231-5485
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	

**USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.**

Marketing ■ 100 Cushman Street, Suite 210 ■ Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 452-2625 ■ fax (907) 451-6543

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Therriault
Co Chairs Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Hanley & Therriault:

While I support restraining state spending and making cuts to programs where fat is identified or lack of need demonstrated, I vigorously take issue with proposed reductions to the Division of Trade & Development budget now under consideration by the House Finance Sub-Committee governing this jurisdiction.

I start from the premise that it often "takes a buck to make a buck" but that government, for the most part, takes away and redistributes revenue. In very few instances can government functions be equated with supporting and creating new wealth. There are a few, very few, agency functions which exist to stimulate economic conditions and promote the generation of wealth for the benefit of Alaska and its citizens. It is these agencies and their functions which should be supported to the hilt and in fact be the beneficiaries of budget increments rather than cuts. Certainly very high on my list is the Division of Trade and Development whose Trade Program cannot absorb proposed cuts which will result in a 50% reduction in staff levels. Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) is a user of services provided by the Trade Program and we value the professional relationship that exists between us. We are not alone in our appeal for sanity in the budget process. The trade and business advocacy functions of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development must continue because of their important link to the private sector. I urge you to regard the Trade Program as an investment in which dollars expended can, and frequently do, return to the state multiplies of the support cost.

I essentially hold these same views for the Geophysical Aerial Mapping and Ground Mapping Program in DGGs within DNR which has produced

Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Theriault
March 24, 1997
Page 2

major mineral discoveries and attracted many millions dollars for exploration and development work.

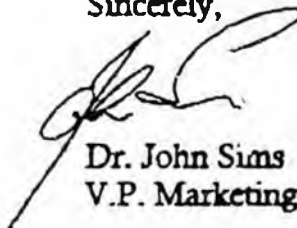
Why it is such a struggle to fund these functions is a mystery to me especially given the composition of the Alaska legislature at this time. Surely there are some brave souls in the legislature who could actually propose spending a little in order to create more wealth and opportunity for Alaska!

Perhaps common sense rather than courage is what is needed. I truly hope that you can identify with my message and abandon plans to reduce funding for the Trade Program for ADCED.

Please make this letter available to all members of the House Finance Committee even though Representative Vic Kohring and Representative Carl Moses should have seen this same information in a letter to Representative Kohring, Chair of the Sub Committee with oversight on DCED Budget.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Sims
V.P. Marketing

JS/me

1 of 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget , dated 03-22-97
 bill/subject.

We keep hearing that the State of Alaska is running out of money. This is at a time when the legislature is putting additional funds into the Permanent Fund. My recollection is that when the Permanent Fund was set up in Hammond's time that it was to be used as a rainy day. The current situation might qualify as that rainy day.

Now might also be a good time to reinstitute the personal income tax. An income tax could be set up in such a way that it would tax those wage earners (oil field workers, fishing industry workers, tourism workers, miners and other seasonal or shift workers) who earn their wages here and then escape to elsewhere to spend it. Many of these workers spend no money to support the state. We could set the tax such that there would be deductions for actual legitimate instate living expenses such as utility and fuel bills. Those that don't live here would not have those deductions. Mortgage, land and food charges could also be deducted. With a "veto proof" majority in the legislature and this not being an election year this would be an ideal time to do both of the above. That is unless the budget shortfall is all smoke and mirrors to support the majority's personal agenda.

For the past few years we have been hearing that all state government is bloated and that we must cut spending. In the last legislative session the legislators cut all departments and refused to initially fund the collective bargaining agreements with state employees because of the alleged budget shortfall. At the same time the legislature substantially increased its personal remuneration. This session we are being told that all of state government must tighten its belt to the tune of fifty to seventy million. While this is happening the speaker of the house announces that the Republican majority needs an additional increase of \$300,000 to stay in business. Is there a message here?

I understand that there is a proposal to cut the Alaska Works program by two million. I also understand that the state will be fined three (OVER)

Signed:

Testifier William R. Parker 

Self

Representing (Optional)

HC1 Box 1418 Soldotna, Alaska 99669
 Address

(907) 262-7677
 Phone No.

Phone No.

million. What kind of economics is this?

The legislature keeps criminalizing more behavior and lengthening jail time for other crimes. This the members can take back to their districts and claim that they are being tough on crime. It seems that lately most of the crime bills have been pointed at convicts and youth who can't vote anyway. With the cuts in funding to Law, Public Safety and Corrections increased crimes and penalties seem to be a dichotomy. We are currently having many cases being dismissed for lack of evidence or speedy trial. The DA's office does not have the staff to prosecute in a timely manner and the troopers do not have the staff to conduct the investigations needed to prosecute. This is probably just as well because the prisons are stuffed to the gills. Arizona private prison does not save as much as advertised because the state is still responsible for the inmate medical, legal, transportation and escape chasing costs. The escape participated by twelve Alaska inmates last October was the largest in state history and it was not even inside the state. Granted that only six inmates actually made it outside the fence, there were a total of twelve trying as a group. The private firm got to hand pick all of the inmates that were sent down there. They did not want any trouble makers. All the money spent in Arizona does not help the Alaska economy. Money spent here goes around the community several times. The State of Alaska retains all legal liabilities regarding its inmates where ever they are.

A final point, the idea of privatizing to give Alaskans jobs is a little off. In order to file for state employment one must be a state resident. The courts have ruled that there is no such requirement for employees of a private contractor. Privatization invites more abuses of Alaskan's working rights.

Please quit playing games for a personal or political agend and realize that the current state employees are a dedicated experienced asset!

ORCA,
A Program of SAIL P.O. Box 35134
Juneau, Ak 99801

facsimile transmittal

To: Paulyn Fax: 465-2278

From: Maureen Riley Date: March 24, 1997

Re: _____ Pages: _____

Notes: _____

Please distribute this into the packets of the House Budget Committee. Thank you.



ORCA

A Division of SAIL

Post Office Box 35097
Juneau, Alaska 99803-5097
Tel.: 907-790-2213 Voice/TDD
FAX: 907-789-9747

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEPENDENT LIVING**

3/21/97

Senate and House Finance Committee Members

Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

To Whom It May Concern:

The Majority's FY98 proposed operating budget for Health and Social Services will reduce services for poor and disabled Alaskans. Once again, the individuals who are most in need and are most vulnerable receive the brunt of the government's fiscal management. Some of the programs that are slated to be cut will also lose their matching funds, which translates to significant effects on services for the poor and people with disabilities.

I realize the challenges of fiscal management. But these cuts are drastic and effect people in a very serious manner. One example is the proposed medicaid cuts will eliminate provisions for hearing aids and artificial limbs. Imagine if your son or daughter had only one leg. They could live a normal life with an artificial limb. Without a limb, your child would be bound to a wheelchair. Imagine yourself losing your hearing, with the help of a hearing aid you can hear. Without, you are left to live a silent life. Without this particular Medicaid assistance many people will live substandard lives. These are people with talent and energy and a lot to give to society but in order to do this they need some help from society.

The budget cuts proposed make poor fiscal sense. By cutting services that are preventative or services that empower people, the state sets people up for failure rather than success. The outcome is an increasing need for intensive and expensive services. For example, by cutting the budget of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Independent Living component of services for people with disabilities living in rural and remote Alaska will suffer. Without these services some of these individuals may be forced to move into institutions which constitute a costly and horrible alternative. Budget cuts also target job training programs for welfare recipients. Job training can help individuals gain the skills they need to enter the workforce. The result of eliminating or reducing these training programs is people remain on welfare instead of becoming economically self sufficient. Once again, the outcome of budget cuts is grossly expensive in the long run. Budget cuts include cutting the Healthy Families Program which screens out children that are at risk of being abused, identifying them at birth and providing training and supports for them. The end result of these cuts are more children

abused which in the long run costs the state a lot more to provide supports to the victims and the offenders.

There are two important points to look at here: firstly, who is being affected by these cuts: people with disabilities and the poor- the most vulnerable segment of our population. Secondly, are these cuts really saving the state money? Cuts today result in greater need for costly services tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Maureen Riley



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill 76 , dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I Very much hope you will fully fund the mental Health Bill.
 Reducing monies in this area will harm those least able to defend themselves
 and those least well off. Cutting medicine will create costs + pressures
 elsewhere: burdening other sectors of society such as Police, hospitals, and create
 safety risks to the public (Crime, domestic violence, homelessness).

So that the structure and support offered by mental health funded
 nursing and programs we ^{will} be abandoning a segment of our population and literally
 forcing people to fend for themselves who are unable to do so.

It is a sign of a civilized society to care for its disadvantaged,
 to give everyone a chance it's not retreat to the dark ages.

Signed: Steve Hughes
 Testifier
Humanity
 Representing (Optional)
2101 Mt Augustine Drive Homer, AK. 99605
 Address
235-6647
 Phone No.

Shawn Hawbold Harrison
P.O. Box 2777
Soldotna, AK 99669

March 18, 1997

To: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

I am writing concerning the 1998 budget the House Finance Committee is proposing, in which the DHSS budget would be cut by \$8 million more or less.

I am a divorced mother with three disabled children, with two on the state rolls for the Developmentally Disabled. My 16 year old son Mike has a Medicaid Waiver, and is a medically fragile child with severe Cerebral Palsy, Seizures and feeding disorder. The cost of medical care for these children would not be affordable for any family, unless they were multimillionaires. It is certainly not affordable by the average Alaskan family!

I am saving the State of Alaska \$140,000 a year just on Mike alone, by not putting him in state care. I thought that Alaska wanted to keep our disabled people in their own communities and our disabled children with their families. If your proposed budget is enacted, I will not be able to care for my children at home.

The existing Medicaid plan, with the addition of the lost services for hearing, dental, vision, and out of state travel, is the deciding factor of an endurable life for disabled individuals. For example; remember when out of state travel was cut? It severely affected my son, as Medicaid will not fund him to go to Denver Children's Hospital for a special orthotic seat which has saved his life on several occasions, and which he has outgrown. It cost me \$6,000 to take him outside, 3 years ago. I do not have the money to take him outside again, and without the seat, he will need to be hospitalized with recurrent pneumonias and will require surgery. You are costing the state millions of dollars in the long run, in order to save thousands now!

If you must make drastic cuts, then to ensure that the disabled and ill residents of all ages will not suffer, please make them exempt from the cuts. I agree that Medicaid is long overdue for reform, but your proposed budget is not reform, it is inhumane! I guarantee it will destroy families. Please remember the people like my children, Mike, Katie, and Billy, when you make your decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Shawn Hawbold Harrison

Shawn Hawbold Harrison

Marianne Mills, President

League of Women Voters of Alaska

THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALASKA

2806 John Street #2
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone (907)463-6154
Fax (907)586-9018
March 24, 1997

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

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

On behalf of League of Women Voters members throughout Alaska, I urge you to protect Alaska's Solid Waste Management Program from cuts. As you know, all states in the country regulate waste disposal as a matter of public health and safety. Mismanaged waste disposal would put Alaskans at risk of disease such as Hepatitis A, rabies and cancer due to contaminated groundwater and the unregulated dumping of toxic waste.

Based on extensive study, the League of Women Voters of the United States supports policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources. It also supports the establishment of processes for effective involvement of state and local governments and citizens in siting proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of radioactive wastes.

Please encourage your colleagues to evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of their budget proposal so that they have adequate information on which to base this important decision which will affect all Alaskans.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the health of Alaskans and their valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Facts About the Gold Rush Centennial Grant Program (Division of Tourism)

Funded in FY94 in the capital budget: \$50,000.

50 applicants, 18 grantees. None more than \$4,000 and all were matching.

Sample of grants (FY94--most were for a 2-year completion date):

- To: Anchorage Museum of History and Art - planning grant for centennial exhibit
Rolfe Buzzell, Anchorage - aid with publication of the history of Sunrise (pub. 1995)
KAKM (Public TV, Anchorage) for video production
Chena River Waterfront Commission for Gold Rush era signage
Fairbanks Natural History Assoc. For learning kits for schools
Copper Center Historical Society - Gold Rush museum exhibit
Skagway Gold Rush Centennial Commission - production of a video
Kodiak Historical Society - reproduction of Nome photographs in Erskine Collection
Stevens Village on the Yukon - help to develop an historic woodyard as a tourist site
Resurrection Bay Historical Society - learning kits for school and library
Eagle Historical Society - Restoration of the "Improved Order of the Redman's" Lodge, for use as a community center
Juneau Centennial Commission - help with expense of moving heavy mining equipment to a "mining park"
Yvonne Yarber, Manley - development of research folios for school and library
Bill Hanable - research for publication on Alaska Natives and the Gold Rush (completion in Spring 1996)

In FY95, \$10,000 was allocated in the capital budget for use by the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force for teleconference expense and publication of a Gold Rush Trail brochure; there were no grant monies for FY95.

FY96 provided no money for Gold Rush Centennial projects of any sort.

FY97 provided funds for issuing a Gold Rush Centennial license plate, but no program or grant monies.

FY 98: No grant monies are proposed by the Governor. Initiative will have to come from the Legislature.

Information provided by:

Alaska Historical Society, P. O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510; tel: 907/563-3711

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

We cut 35% from the State Archives' supplies line for FY '97. These were the funds which pay for the day-to-day operations of the Archives, and the Governor failed to restore the \$25,000 to his budget request for FY '98. In addition, the Archivist II position, currently funded with capital funds, will expire in 1997. During the interim, in meetings with the Historical Society, I learned that the cuts to Archives are too severe and will put the preservation of our State's historical records in great jeopardy. I am requesting that both of these items be added to the FY '98 budget for DOE.

* Also, as a statewide issue, I am requesting that, in the supplemental budget, we set aside \$250,000. This money would be appropriated to the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force to give out to communities as matching grants. These grants are for projects designed to actively address marketing and promotion potential, infrastructure needs, interpretive themes, historic resource issues, and commemorative events and activities of the once-in-a-lifetime occurrence of Alaska's Centennial celebration.

I have attached backup for both the State Archives and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force requests. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

Alaska Historical Society



P.O. BOX 100299
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-0299
PHONE (907) 563-3711

March 19, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Hanley:

The House Finance Sub-committee on Resources has proposed to cut \$94.0 from the budget for the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). The Alaska Historical Society and its 500 members urge you, as a member of the Finance Committee, to reject the cut to this valuable state agency.

The Office of History and Archeology, with a state contribution in FY97 of only \$291,500, has been able generate three times that amount for Alaskan projects in **matching federal monies** and inter-departmental special projects. The \$291.5 is the minimum state contribution required to qualify for federal matching monies. It would be uneconomical for Alaska to eliminate this excellent source of non-state funding which produces such rich rewards. The proposed cut of \$94.0 General Fund Money would result in a total loss to Alaska of \$235.2, because of the related loss of the federal match. A \$94.0 cut also would mean the loss of three full-time professional staff at OHA. Such draconian cuts will inevitably force **long delays in development** of both private and public lands, as the skeleton staff would be spread even more thinly. It is working to full capacity—and beyond—even now. It may not be well known that this is a vital work-horse agency which provides the necessary reviews required by federal law when historic or archaeological sites are involved. In 1996, OHA reviewed 2,354 projects on private lands and oversaw 2,250 federal agency projects in Alaska—a total of 4,604 projects!

We also ask you to follow the recommendations of Speaker Gail Phillips to reinstate the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Matching Grants Program, administered by the Office of History and Archaeology. These grants were made only in 1994. With the climactic years of the Gold Rush just ahead, NOW is the right time to make a ONE-TIME MULTI-YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION—OR TO DESIGNATE REAPPROPRIATION FUNDS—TO THE TASK FORCE FOR MATCHING GRANTS. A fact sheet and Speaker Phillips' memo are attached.

In conclusion we emphatically support:

- Maintenance-level funding for the Office of History and Archeology (OHA)
- A one-time only \$250,000 multi-year Supplemental Appropriation or Reappropriation appropriation to revive the Gold Rush Centennial Grants Program, as proposed by Speaker Phillips.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Sweetland Smith

Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	3-23	# of pages	3
To	Rep. M. Hanley	From			
Co/Dept		City			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #	465-2418		

City of Mekoryuk

PO Box 29 - Mekoryuk AK 99630 - (907) 827-8314 Fax (907) 827-8626

March 24, 1997

To: Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs-Rural Utility Business Assistance (RUBA) program.

I don't know how much impact my letter will have, but I feel I must at least voice my opinion.

First off, I have been a City Clerk for about 15 months. I did not have any prior knowledge to being a City Clerk before I was hired. I was on the job for about two months when Scott Ruby (DCRA/RUBA) came to our village to train me on the ways of Clerking. Had it not been for his guidance and training I don't know where the City would be right now. I learned about budgeting, the different departments, and a whole lot of things. I didn't know anything about Matching grants, SRS, Municipal Assistance, etc. Yes I did have some bookkeeping knowledge but little did I know how complicated running a Municipal account would be. There are still a lot of things I need to learn and I have no idea where I will learn unless I have further training.

I'm sure there are a lot of communities that are grateful for the assistance of DCRA/RUBA workers. I would suggest you keep them in the budget to keep our communities going.

Like I said I had a lot of bookkeeping knowledge and that was a plus for our city. I knew about payroll taxes, payroll accounts payable and receivable. But a Municipals books need to be specific and coded correctly. There are a lot of minor details that make a big difference in how the books must be kept. I wouldn't have known this had it not been for the RUBA trainer. I strongly recommend that you keep the RUBA Program going.

Sincerely,


Debbie Whitman
City Clerk



DATE: 24 March, 1997

TO: Mark Hanley
465-2418

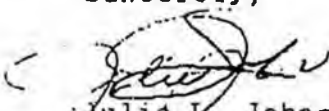
I understand that the proposed House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee budget cuts the State Historic Preservation Office (the Office of History and Archaeology) by \$94,000. This will create a total loss of \$235,000 when combined with the loss of matching federal funds. Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. (AHPI) believes that this cut will desiccate the SHPO and will have a debilitating affect on the services local historic preservation organizations like AHPI can provide.

AHPI has been strengthened by the SHPO in many different ways. It acts as an invaluable source of information on technical preservation issues, database inventory, history and preservation laws. The SHPO could lose its federal certification as a historic preservation program. Funds such as federal Certified Local Government grants would no longer be available to grass roots organizations like AHPI (we received a \$10,000 federal grant in 1997).

Also disturbing is the possibility of losing the federal tax incentive for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Currently, commercial developers get a 25% tax credit as incentive for renovating and reusing historic properties. Congress is also considering extending that credit to residential properties. To qualify for tax credits, a qualified SHPO staff member must certify the renovation as eligible for credits. The budget proposed would threaten the SHPO's ability to respond to applications in a timely manner, if at all. The renovation of the Fourth Avenue Theatre and the Loussac-Sogn building were made possible through the use of these credits. Under the proposed budget, these buildings may not have been saved.

Please consider the negative ramifications for the State of Alaska should this budget be ratified. Feel free to contact me at (907) 274-3600 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Julie L. Johnson
Executive Director

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

Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee

I am currently a laundry worker for the Westmark Tok. 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 Tok.

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

Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 - Phone: 258-8111 Fax: 258-1251

This form **MUST** be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Full Name Paul Crowther	MI R	Last Name Crowther	City
Mailing Address 1/2 Compact RV Rentals			Zip Code
Home Address P.O. Box 91246 Anch AK 99509			Zip Code
Daytime Telephone Number 333-7368	City of Origin (if applicable) Alaska Tourism	Signature Paul Crowther President	Date 3/20/97

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees	House members	Senate members																																																																																																								
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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 type="checkbox"/> Amend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose		

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

The	elimination	of	the	Division
of	Tourism	would	put	an
impossible	burden	on	the	ATMC
ATMC	does	not	have	enough
funding	to	contact	the	Division
of	Tourism's	duties	without	the
strong	promoted	efforts	of	the
DOT	and	ATMC	Alaska	Tourism
will	slowly	wither	and	die.

Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)

716 W 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 - Phone: 258-0111 Fax: 258-1261

This form **MUST** be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

First Name Paul	Last Name Cowther	MI R	City Cowther
Mailing address 1/2 Compact RV Rentals			City code
Residence (if different from mailing address) P.O. Box 91246 Anch AK 99509			Zip code
Daytime telephone number 333-7365	Group affiliation (if applicable) Alaska Tourism	Signature Paul Cowther President	Date 3/20/97

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees		House members		Senate members	
<input type="checkbox"/> H or S	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Austerman (aue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, P. (kll)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Adams (adm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Barnes (bar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Remond (rem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Donley (don)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed. & Social Services (hss)	<input type="checkbox"/> Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kohring (koi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Duncan (dun)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Brice (bri)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kookesh (koo)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ellis (eli)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (lsc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bunde (bun)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kori (koi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowdery (cow)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kubine (kub)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harford (har)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (rle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Croft (cro)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marin (mar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davies (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Masak (mas)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, T. (kel)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moses (mos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Leman (lem)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyson (dys)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mulder (mul)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Elton (elt)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nichols (nic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mackie (mak)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ogan (oga)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Miller (mil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillips, G. (phl)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Parnell (par)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Gussendorf (gus)	<input type="checkbox"/> Porter (por)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (pear)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haney (han)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rokeberg (rok)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillips, A. (phl)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hodgins (hod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan (rya)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp (sha)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanders (san)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Ivan (iva)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thernault (the)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Torgerson (tor)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vezy (vez)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Joule (jou)	<input type="checkbox"/> Williams (wil)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilton (wil)

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

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

The	budgetary	cuts	to	the
Division	of	Tourism	and	to
ATAC	will	eliminate	any	promotional
advertising	for	Alaska	Alaska	is
no	longer	a	top	10
destination	We	are	already	rapidly
losing	momentum	Further	cuts	will
be	made	in	the	cliff's
of	Alaska's	the best	industry	Please
support	the	future	of	Alaska

Superintendent's Office

FAX

Date: March 25 1997

Number of pages including cover sheet: _____

To:

Rep Richard Foster

Senator Al Adams

All House Majority Members

Phone: _____

Fax phone: 907 465 2418

CC: _____

From: Laverne Smith

Nome Child Care Center

Add Hill Tutit Aninat

Phone: (907) 443-7137

Fax phone: (907) 443-5570

Reference to Budget Cuts to our Children - Families
 We are finally making some head way on the road
 to healthy families, safe communities and child care
 assistance for working and job training parents. We
 should be helping more people with more and
 improved programs not cutting to the bone or
 eliminating the ones we've finally got in place.
 We count on you our elected officials to look out for
 our welfare - Please consider your actions carefully
 Government is for the People not against the
 People.

Sincerely
 Laverne H Smith

Concerned Citizen
 Project Director Add Hill Tutit Aninat
 member Nome City Council.

**SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
ALASKA CHAPTER**



March 24, 1997

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

Subject: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - Solid Waste Program
Operating Fund Budget Reduction

Dear Representative Kohring:

The Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA) does not support the proposed budget cut which would eliminate the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program. We strongly urge you to reconsider this reduction and reinstate the funding to assure environmentally sound and timely management of solid waste in our state.

The Alaska chapter of SWANA is composed of public and private sector solid waste professionals representing boroughs, cities, engineering firms, private landfills, waste hauling firms and industries located in Alaska. The mission of SWANA is to advance the practice of environmentally sound municipal solid waste management in Alaska.

Removal of the Solid Waste Program from state jurisdiction will adversely impact public health and jeopardize proper waste management in all of Alaska. Long term financial impacts to all sectors of the state population with this short-sighted action will be immense, far larger than the immediate savings to the operating budget.

Although solid waste management is the focus of SWANA, elimination of the program budget will have far reaching implications affecting drilling mud reserve pits, mining waste, wood waste, construction and demolition debris, inert waste and other waste streams generated throughout Alaska by municipalities, industry and the general public.

For the past six years, the ADEC, SWANA and individuals at large have worked diligently to revise the 1987 Solid Waste Regulations 18 AAC 60 in order to develop a federally acceptable solid waste program with state specific flexibility. ADEC has used the public process effectively to develop a broadly acceptable program which is in the final stages of federal approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Post-It® brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages = 2

To	Alaska	From	Lanie Huger
Com	CC: Senators	Co.	SWANA
Dept.	Representatives	Phone #	262-9667
Fax #		Fax #	262-6090

Post-It® Fax Note	7871	Date	3-24-97	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Hanley	From	Susan Loudon		
Co./Dept.		Co.	Access Alaska		
Phone #		Phone #	479-7940		
Fax #	915-2418	Fax #	474-4052		

I am faxing you all a copy of this, since I did not get the chance to give my comments to you on Saturday, although both my daughter and I were among the over-filled LIO room in Fairbanks.

My name is Susan Loudon. I live at 118 Kathryn Ave., in Fairbanks. I am on the Governor's Council for Disabilities and Special Education, have in the past been Legislative Liaison on that Council, and I work as a rural independent living specialist for Access Alaska.

I am the mother of a daughter who will be 21 March 28. She was born in Alaska. She has Alternating Hemiplegia, one of nearly 200 people world-wide that we know of who has this. It causes her to become paralyzed periodically every 8 to 10 days one side or the other of her body...or both sides....for up to 5 days. During this time she uses a wheel chair. It has batteries, for she cannot push herself when she is paralyzed. She is on Medicaid. She is presently living in our house, but is on a waiting list for supported living services. She wears glasses and has cognitive disabilities also.

I am here to focus your attention on the proposed cuts to Medicaid. Two years ago you made a big cut that affected the lives of many adults who have disabilities...you took away their glasses, their hearing aides and their dental coverage. The Mental Health Trust Authority offered to pay matching money to get these benefits reinstated, and you did not agree. This year, they are again offering. Now you want to take away even more, not allowing for people to get wheelchairs as they need them, the batteries that are needed to power them,....or prosthetic devices.

As you know, every dollar you take away from Medicaid is a dollar that is lost from the Federal funds provided to the State of Alaska. What will happen if the needs of people with disabilities are not met? It will cost the state far more to meet the emergency situations that will be created by your decision to cut necessary benefits.

It is appalling indeed, that every year people must be put into the position of groveling to you for the basic necessities of life, when you are talking of giving yourselves a raise! How can you, in good conscience, make decisions to cut into the funding of people who really need the support to survive?!

Unfortunately, we in this state have no health insurance plan that includes services to people with disabilities, and until that happens, we should ensure that people with disabilities get the equipment and assistive devices needed to help them become more self-sufficient. Medicaid cuts would be utterly inhumane!...Please...dollars can and must be found from other sources NOT from services to people with disabilities.

Thank you for considering input from us out here in this community before making your final decisions on the budget. Please, we all must strive to protect the innocent from the tearing away of providing for their basic human needs.

Susan Loudon

March 23, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

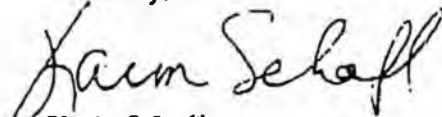
Dear Representative Hanley,

I have reviewed the summary of House Finance committee recommendations for FY98 operating budget. The majority's proposed cuts, on top of reductions the Governor has already made, threaten the health and welfare of Alaskans. I understand that budget cuts are necessary but I urge you to make slow and steady changes, not drastic cuts that completely devastate people in need.

Alaska, unfortunately, has many serious problems. The highest rate of child abuse and domestic violence in the nation, over crowded prisons, rapid increase in serious juvenile crime and ever increasing rates of substance abuse make these cuts to our state budget not only harmful but will be deadly to some Alaskans. If allowed to stand, these cuts will overload the private and non-profit sectors beyond their ability to respond.

I especially urge you to make no cuts in Medicaid at this time. Many Alaskans depend upon Medicaid as their only safety net for basic health care. I am also concerned that substance abuse is listed as a priority for cuts. As this is a major health problem for Alaska I am fearful that this will have a devastating impact.

Sincerely,



Karin Schaff
Treatment Services Director
Volunteers of America

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages
To		From	Karin Schaff
Co./Dept.		Co.	VOA
Phone #		Phone #	543-3594
Fax #		Fax #	276-5489

3/24/97

TO: All Representatives and Senators
FAX: 465 2418

FROM: Cathy Walker, 7th Grade Teacher, Colony Middle School, Palmer

Cathy Walker

PLEASE reconsider the **\$50,000 line item matching funds with the National Geographic Society**. It is part of the Education Special Projects listed with the AMEREF Minerals Program. This \$50,000 matching funds has educated many teachers and this in turn, has benefited thousands of Alaska students!!!

This line item \$50,000 matching funds with National Geographic Society must be placed back in the budget!!

Make this a priority!



March 20, 1997

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

Dear Representative Hanley,

We understand that the House Finance Committee will consider a recommendation to delete funding for the DEC Solid Waste Program. We strongly **urge you to reject this recommendation** because it will injure local communities and taxpayers.

Currently, the EPA has suspended action on Alaska's application to manage Alaska's solid waste program. According to the EPA, if Alaska does not manage its solid waste program, Alaskan municipalities will not be able to take advantage of the flexibility granted to states under federal statutes. This is projected to cost communities throughout the state many millions of dollars. A concrete example cited in the EPA letter is an \$18 million cost savings to Anchorage. In addition, local leaders prefer dealing with an Alaskan managed solid waste program instead of giving this vital state function to the federal government.

This recommended cut is one of many being discussed that will negatively impact the finances of municipal governments and taxpayers. **The Alaska Municipal League and the Alaska Conference of Mayors urge you to reject any recommendation that technically reduces the state budget, but actually has the impact of raising local taxes.** Raising local taxes is not part of the Legislative Majority's Five Year Budget Strategy and the Majority has already made the commitment not to count new revenues or tax increases as part of the budget reduction goals.

Sincerely,


Kevin Ritchie
Executive Director

cc: AML Board of Directors and Legislative Committee
Alaska Conference of Mayors
Commissioner DEC
Legislators

C: legcomm:397DECcuts



NORTH PACIFIC PROCESSORS, INC.

1 HOME OFFICE 2300 EASTLAKE AVE EAST • SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98102 • (206) 726-9900
PO BOX 31179 • SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98103-1179

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MAR 26 1997

March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley

This week, March 20, I attended our semi-annual Alaska Seafood Processors Advisory Council ASPAC meeting in Anchorage hosted by Ms. Jarice Adair. During the course of this meeting the industry was informed of Mr. Everett Stone's retirement from the Seafood Inspection program of the ADEC. I believe the general consensus of the processing industry is that Everett always presented himself as a professional and represented the State well even during tense and trying situations. Unfortunately, when asked who would be his replacement, we were informed that due to tight budgets and legislative prioritization, the position may not be filled. It may seem strange that a processors would write to you in defense of an inspector's position. As you can imagine, they generally gives us more challenges than opportunities but, the purpose of this letter is to support the position and the Department.

Having once been in the Department as a Section Chief I know what an asset an experienced inspector was to me and the State. I had to stand in front of the television camera once too often to assure the general public that their food supply was safe because it was coming from State approved, regulated and inspected processing facilities. On another occasion, I had to stand in front of a commissioner who had too little public health background and defend a program that couldn't show tangible evidence of its outstanding performance because I couldn't produce an injured body.

I returned to the private sector some years ago because capitalism is a concept I understand better than government. Having a processor's mind, I can't help but initially be pleased at the thought of less oversight by the State. I admit that that is short sighted but a natural response from the head.

Granted the major seafood processors are inconvenienced by an inspector's presence and they tend to raise a united voice when it serves their purposes. Sometimes though, a loud chorus of voice supporting a favorable position should be momentarily disregarded.

I would suggest that you listen to the voices from within the system. The inspectors are not unlike the quality control staffs in the industry. Both groups are the firemen. When they

Processors of Quality Alaska Seafoods

do the job right, you to work and go home with little regard to their vigilance. That "right" job is the one that finds the cheese that kills the pregnant mothers. It finds the pesticide adulterated watermelons on a 4th of July weekend. And, it gets the toxic shellfish out of the governors kitchen before the dinner. The other good they do is sometimes overlooked until the job isn't being done. I would suggest you consider this short list;

1. The Department helps keep the industry certified with the FDA so that we can export into the European Union.
2. It keeps an eye on the small thermal processors and smokers (the most critical and potentially dangerous sector) who don't have adequately trained technical staffs. By keeping their products safe our business and capital investment stays sound.
3. It stands in for the USDC when lot inspections are needed for direct shipment.
4. It keeps the State's shellfish program in compliance with the Federal program.
5. It assists in a "Salmon Control Plan" like program so that direct shipments can be made out of the US.
6. It keeps the State's red meat program in compliance with the USDA's program.
7. It inspects everything from grocery stores to public baths. This supports the year round population as well as the seasonal processing staffs and vessels.

Most of this burden falls on the inspectors.

Before a decision is made to cut or not fund a position, I would suggest that you review the historical record of the general health of the communities. When you consider the number of square miles that make up Alaska's mainland and islands and how few inspectors are used to monitor them, their isn't a state that does it better. Alaska's programs frequently are used as models for other states. That is because they are well managed and cost effective.

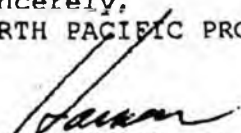
Also in your decisions making process, keep in mind that the Kodiak post is not just a Kodiak position. Because of the already short handed situation, and the policy of cross utilization, it does work throughout the State.

On the question of who should pay for the Kodiak position, the industry is now paying fees to the State for our processing permits. I would assume that the fees were instituted to cover the cost of inspecting our facilities. Therefore, I believe we have already done our part and paid for the post. Aside from that, I believe the State has an obligation to fund programs out of the general fund that address basic public health. The Kodiak position is not just a Seafood post, it is also a general sanitarian position.

In closing, grant me the luxury of dredging my memory. When I was with the ADEC I was told to do more with less. That was ten years ago. The program was under funded then and positions were vacant due to lack of money. At that time, I didn't have the staff or resources to inspect every facility that was offered a permit. I think if you look at the records today, you will find that there are still processors who put their products into interstate and intrastate commerce without yearly inspections.

Sometimes, you to just have to pay for insurance and firemen and pray that your house never catches on fire. Before you make a final decision regarding the Seafood Section's budget, I would suggest you give Ms. Adair and Mr. Soares a hearing. I have worked with Mr. Soares on both sides of the fence. He is a man to be trusted. I have worked with Ms. Adair for a much shorter period of time but likewise trust her judgment and management abilities.

Sincerely,
NORTH PACIFIC PROCESSORS, INC.


Harmon M. Blanch
Corporate Quality Control Manager

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

March 17, 1996

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1997

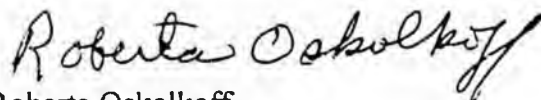
Dear Representative Hanley:

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 *doubt* 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,



Roberta Oskolkoff
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

LINDA J. BRANCHFLOWER
P.O. BOX 100222
Anchorage, AK 99510-0222

March 5, 1997

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

Representative Hanley:

I am a board member for Victims for Justice. I am also a police detective in the Homicide Unit of the Anchorage Police Department. I see first hand how victims are treated by a judicial system that is more concerned with defendant's rights than those of the victim.

Victims for Justice is the only organization in the state that provides support to victims and survivors of violent crime. The organization continues to operate with only three staff people, but the demands of the group that VFJ serves continues to grow.

We are grateful for the legislative support VFJ has received in the past and request that you continue to support Victims for Justice in the future by increasing the appropriation for this organization.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Branchflower
Board Member, Victim's For Justice



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 Skansen
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
3505 Halibut 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 Thomsen
Citizen



Mrs. Dorothy Thomsen
3505 Halibut Po. 1R
Sitka, AK 99835-9528

cc Representative Ben Grubbsendorf
Senator Robert Taylor



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SITKA

303 Kimsham, Sitka, Alaska 99835-7124

CHARLES YOUNG
Pastor

March 21, 1997

Church (907) 747-8775
Home (907) 747-8425

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee
Juneau, AK

Dear friends,

Please enter into the record this testimony.

I write as an active Board Member of Sitka's Against Family Violence. In that capacity I am writing to you concerning HB 75.

It is imperative that everything possible be done to provide the highest possible funding, and therefore, resources, for victims of violence and violent crimes.

Alaskans, as Americans in general, recognize the damage being done to our society - and to thousands of individuals in our society - because of many kinds of violence. However, a great amount of that suffering and damage goes unnoticed by much of the general public, because it is domestic violence - violence being committed in the last place violence should happen, the home. And violence committed against those least able to physically defend themselves - women and children.

I can attest personally to the value of the SAFV shelter and its programs in Sitka. Domestic violence is not stranger to "decent Christian families" who need domestic violence services more than many folks realize. As a pastor I can tell you that I see these needs up close, and our communities and people cannot be without services and survive.

I trust that you are already well aware of the excellent record of services provided by our State's domestic violence shelters and programs. A service record that works against very difficult odds and circumstances. That record is also your record because of past funding. Thank you for that support. Please continue to help our domestic violence shelters and programs by your full support of HB 75 at its full funding level.

If I may add any further personal support to this written testimony, please feel free to contact me by phone.

Sincerely,

the Rev. Dr. Charles Young, Pastor
United Methodist Church of Sitka

3/21/97

State Finance Committee Re: State Parks Budget Cuts

Dear Sirs,

Our four parks in Sitka are made good use of by all Sitkans. We have a short road system on the island which concentrates outdoor enjoyment to these four much used parks.

State funding is needed to continue to maintain these areas for those of us without boats, on this island of limited recreation.

Sincerely,

Doris Smith
Tarleton Smith

Doris and Tarleton Smith
3407 HPR
Sitka, AK 99835



NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW INUPIAT TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1997

March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

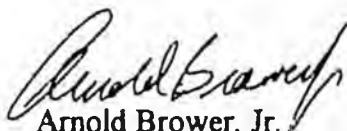
Dear Representative Hanley,

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 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 serves are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in further years.

Sincerely,


Arnold Brower, Jr.
President



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.



Southcentral

COUNSELING CENTER

4020 Folker Street · Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 563-1000
FAX 563-2045

March 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAR 24 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



March 21, 1997

REC 1000

Mr. Hanley,

MAR 24 1997

I understand the Child Care Grant Program is on the chopping block. Representative Vic Kohring who chairs the Finance Committee's Subcommittee on the budget for the Department of community & Regional Affairs has recommended a \$1 million dollar cut to this program.

I have been a licensed provider for 13 years. This program has helped me maintain a consistently high quality of care. The funds I received from this program have enabled me to purchase age appropriate equipment.

When I need a new set of manipulative toys, such as Leggos, I need to buy two or three sets. Six to eight children playing with one set cause only stress and arguments. This means a new set of toys costs me \$100-\$150. Check the prices of quality toys the next time you're out shopping, you'll understand.

Art materials such as construction paper, paints, playdoh, etc must always be replaced. When children are allowed to create freely, they use these surprisingly fast. Much of the Child Care Grant funds I receive go to educational and creative supplies.

I also consider this money necessary when providing care for Day Care Assistance eligible parents. My rates are higher than the reimbursed rate. I have waived the extra for parents many times, as many providers do. I will not be able to consider this break for low income parents if I do not receive the Child Care Grant.

As you probably know, The Federal Food Program is being cut as of July 1, 1997. With the loss of this program, I will be raising my rates \$55.00 per month. If the Child Care Grant Program is eliminated, I will have to raise my rates an additional 22.00 per month, in order to provide the same quality of care I do now.

Please vote against any changes to the Child Care Grant Program.

Pat Addison
1917 Waldron Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-0547

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1997



THE GRANGE

AMERICA'S FAMILY COMMUNITY FRATERNITY

March 14, 1997

Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1
P.O. Box 2304
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Representative Kubina:

At the regular meeting of the Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1 on March 13, it was agreed that I should write you regarding the budgeting process for Agriculture.

The Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1 is an agricultural and rural community oriented organization; a chapter of the National Grange. It was chartered in 1934 and has supported agriculture and rural problems of Alaska ever since. Our 48 member group has the following concerns regarding the funding of the Alaska Division of Agriculture. It presently is being support by funds from the Agricultural Revolving Load Fund, which will not last very long. The Grange had previously written to the governor's Loan Fund Task Force saying that we supported the formation of ARLF in 1953 and since that time. It is our understanding that the ARLF was designed to be a revolving loan fund and only funds for its direct operation were to be used for other than agricultural loans. Unless the law has been changed we feel that is still the legislative intent for the ARLF.

The Division of Agriculture has legal mandates and important functions that assist the agriculture industry and Alaska consumers. Budget requirements for these functions should be funded through the regular budgeting process.

If you have questions or would like more information from us, I can be reached at the address above or by phone at 745-3165.

Sincerely,


Sigmund H. Restad, Master
Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1

cc: Tony Knowles, Governor
Pete Kelly, Representative
Mark Hanley, Representative

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

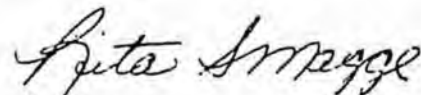
RECEIVED
MAR 24 1997

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

Calista Corporation

601 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99501-2225 • (907) 279-5516 Facsimile (907) 272-5060

March 24, 1997

Office of the President

Hon. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997


Dear Representative Hanley:

The Calista Corporation's shareholders urge the House Finance Committee to reconsider its proposed cuts to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. This Department has provided important service to the villages and cities of our region. With the decreasing state financial aid to communities, it is critical that cities and villages be provided with financial and managerial advice and counseling. These services cannot be afforded by our smaller communities through the private sector and yet they are critical to a healthy local government that can continue to provide health, public safety, water and sewer and general services to their residents.

The Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program is an example of a worthwhile and valuable program provided by DCRA that is slated for virtual elimination. Even though the RUBA program is scheduled to receive federal grant money from EPA the House Finance Committee has cut the required state match and denied the agency's authority to receive federal funding. This program has helped our communities prepare for the administration and management of newly provided water and sewer utilities. Without the RUBA program's help many of our communities would not be prepared to operate, maintain and manage their newly constructed water and sewer systems. This would result in the investments made by the federal and state construction agencies being put at risk. This program can help our local governments manage personnel, collect user fees, correctly keep financial books, deal with federal tax issues and generally keep the sanitation services to our communities going.

In summary, Calista Corporation urges the House and Senate Finance Committees to avoid cutting programs that are essential to our communities. Please restore funding sufficient for RUBAs required state match and allow the DCRA to receive federal funding to help overcome the affects of your budget cutting. It seems ill advised to not only cut state funding to this program but to further not allow the program to receive federal support that would at least maintain current levels of service to our communities.

CALISTA CORPORATION


Matthew Nicolai
President

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

JOAN M. ANTONSON
1026 Barrow St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3647
(907) 276-1946

March 23, 1997

Mark Hanley, Finance Committee Co-chair
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

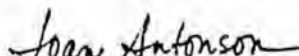
Dear Representative Hanley:

I am among Alaskans who want state funds carefully spent. I also want the state's programs and activities regularly and carefully reviewed. Some of the recent budget reductions made by subcommittees of the House Finance Committee trouble me because I do not believe adequate studies of the impacts were made. Some of the cuts will mean reductions in federal funds coming to Alaska. Other cuts will eliminate jobs and essential state services. Less money and fewer people receiving paychecks will have a negative effect on Alaska's economy.

One of the cuts made was to the small State Historic Preservation Program. A look at the budget page for that program shows a \$1,200,000 program. Over half of the total, however, is authorization to receive, NOT money. The state's real investment in the program is \$291,000, a small investment to help developers comply with state and federal laws regarding historic and archaeological resources. That small investment is leveraged to bring in federal and non-federal dollars to the state totalling over a million dollars. The proposed one-third cut of \$94,000 to a small well-run program jeopardizes all of the federal funds as well as the authorization to receive funds. This does not seem wise or carefully researched.

Thank you for reading this letter. Would you take a little more time to review the cut to the State Historic Preservation Program? Please consider the Governor's budget figure a better alternative.

Sincerely,


Joan M. Antonson

3-22-97

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing of my support in funding ALL Childcare Assistance programs and grants.

Being a single parent of two, I rely on the daycare assistance program. This program helps me with the costs of childcare enabling me to support my two children WITHOUT being on welfare.

I work, pay rent and I am able to give my children a quality life. I can support their needs.

Without the childcare assistance program BOTH of my paychecks would have to be used to pay childcare costs, leaving nothing leftover to for food or rent.

Eliminating the childcare assistance program would literally FORCE me to stay home and turn other assistance programs to feed and support my family.

I NEED my job and my children rely on the income from my job. Without the help from daycare assistance I couldn't afford to work.

Having a child with a disability raises the cost of care for this child. Thus childcare costs for me would Double

compared to other families).

I am confident all single parents; mothers and fathers alike would face a financial crisis if the funding for any of the child care assistance programs are cut or eliminated.

Please take in consideration of keeping these programs funded.

You are benefiting the communities in Alaska in more ways than could ever be counted.

Eliminating any of these programs would have a snowball effect of terrible proportions on the families in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this issue.

With high hopes

Connie L. Hinzenga

ALASKA CHAPTER

national electrical contractors association, inc.

712 West 36th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-1958 • FAX (907) 561-8633

March 22, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

VIA FAX TO (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

I just left the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage so I could fax some testimony to your committee for consideration in your budget deliberations. Our organization represents electrical contractors throughout the State of Alaska. We are concerned with the proposed cuts in the Department of Labors budget for FY 98, especially following the cuts made last year.

The Department of Labor is charged with several responsibilities, including enforcement of Wage and Hour requirements, Mechanical Inspection (including electrical inspections) and Occupational Safety and Health. As an employer association representing employers in the construction industry, we are concerned with maintaining responsible levels of wages, benefits and working conditions for the employees of not only the firms we represent, but all employees in the industry. Maintaining a level playing field for all who compete in our industry is important to our employers and their employees. Adequate and consistent enforcement of existing wage and hour requirements, safety regulations and installation standards is vital to that level playing field. At current levels of funding, enforcement activity is at a minimum. In fact, two inspector positions were eliminated last year due to budget cuts (one electrical inspector and one boiler inspector), leaving the northern portion of the State without an electrical inspector.

THE TOP OF THE WORLD CHAPTER



Representative Hanley
March 22, 1997
Page 2

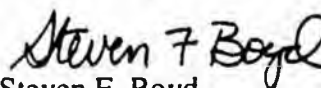
Active inspection of electrical, plumbing and boiler and pressure vessel installations is an important public safety function. Rural areas that cannot support building safety departments depend on State inspectors to provide at least a minimal amount of inspection activity which combined with the licensing requirements that Labor also enforces gives some assurance that installations meet the minimum code requirements adopted by the State. We urge you and your committee to not reduce the level of these activities any further.

I would like to point out that employees working for our contractor members pay the Department of Labor fees for certificates of fitness for their classifications. These fees were increased substantially in the recent past to \$80 per year which is more than double the fees paid in other north west states. It only seems fair that a minimum level of service could be provided in light of their willingness to help support the program.

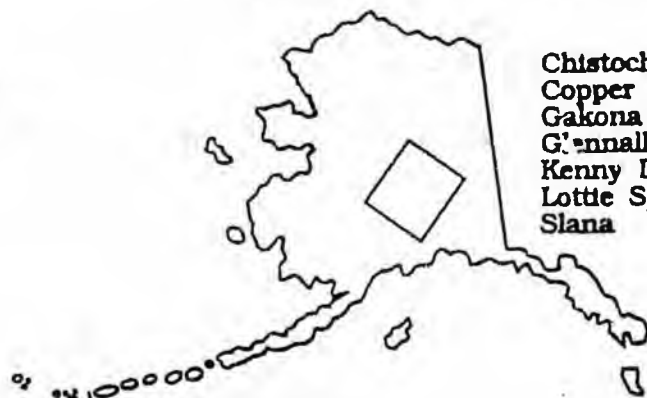
Recent comparisons of bid estimates put together by our contractors made against the reported hours of competitors' wage and hour reports have revealed significant and consistent differences in the amount of hours estimated by our contractors versus those actually reported by the successful bidders. Certainly not all contractors will have the same amount of hours estimated to perform a project, but the differences are significant enough to cause concern. Without adequate enforcement of the wage and hour requirements and even education of the employers and employees as to the requirements, the playing field tilts in favor of those employers not meeting the requirements.

We realize that your committee has a difficult job and judging by the testimony I heard and the large number of people present to testify, I can see what you're up against. We are asking for your consideration on behalf of responsible and active employers and the people they employ to fund an adequate Department of Labor budget.

Sincerely,
Alaska Chapter, NECA


Steven F. Boyd
Chapter Manager

Copper River School District



Chistochina
Copper Center
Gakona
Glennallen
Kenny Lake
Lottie Sparks
Slana

Superintendent's Office
Box 108
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(907) 822-3234
(907) 822-3949 FAX

March 20, 1997

House of Representatives Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1997

Dear Legislators:

The purpose of this letter is to emphatically state the Copper River School District's strong support of the Copper Valley Economic Development Council (CVED). I realize money is scarce but eliminating the Economic Development Council is an unwise way to attempt to save money. The Council provides an invaluable service to the community and, in the long run, saves our government money.

Our school district has benefited tremendously, directly and indirectly, from the services of CVED! It is primarily responsible for the Interactive Television system which provides such a vital service to our district. Our schools are as much as 140 miles from each other and ITV has helped unify students and staff, saved time, and enriched our educational program.

The CVED assisted coordinating our school-to-work program. The director has carried through with this project from the initial grant writing to visiting the schools to working directly with the students.

Grant writing and coordination have been the major contributions of this agency. Countless individuals and businesses have benefited from this aspect of their work. They identify available sources, process and update applications, and keep abreast of activity. The office has repeatedly gone the second mile with individuals helping them and/or businesses to work out a financial plan, going to the bank to assist with applications, creating profitability plans, and numerous other services.

Another cost effective service is the welfare grant. The Council is assisting individuals get off welfare and into the work force. This is an example of spending money in order to save money. Their service to human dignity cannot be measured.

Legislative Finance Committee
March 20, 1997
Page 2

A survey was done for the National Park Service to determine what concessions were needed inside the Park. This information was given to local people who would develop the necessary services, rather than contract to Lower 48 firms.

When a stable economic base is present in a community, people remain in the community rather than live a migratory lifestyle. CVED has brought more people into our community and helped bring stability. We are grateful for this outcome.

We do not have the facilities available to us that are present in larger communities. CVED has filled the gap of a lack of public and private agencies.

We strongly support the continuance of the Economic Development Councils. Please do not eliminate their service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Doyle, Jr.".

Dr. J. Patrick Doyle, Jr.
Superintendent

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

March 21, 1997

RECEIVED

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 25 1997

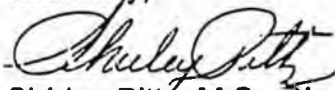
Dear Representative Hanley,

I am writing to you on behalf of rural Alaskan children whose health and future are in the hands of decision makers like yourself. Those of us serving the population in rural Alaska have a unique system. We rely on our Public Health Nurses to provide essential preventive health services to people who otherwise don't have a provider. Head Start families look forward to the "PHN" coming to their village for physicals, TB tests, immunizations, education, counseling, advice, and a link to the larger referral system. The people love and trust their PHN -- the children and adults have very meaningful, trusting relationships with them that enhances their physical and mental wellbeing.

We've been informed that the prospect for an increase in future PHN funding is grim. This is an alarming prospect for our Head Start families. The increasing cost of travel and supplies necessitates an increase just to keep the current levels of service. Aside from that, we all know how difficult it is to recruit and retain experienced PHN's in some regions of the state. When we get qualified practitioners we need to be sure to keep them through incentives like funding for continuing education, attractive salaries and adequate housing.

Any decrease in funding for Public Health Nursing would adversely affect the health of rural children and their entire families. The Head Start program would see an immediate decrease in compliance of its Health Component if nurses do not travel to the villages. The alternative is for children to be flown to a regional hub, or to not have services at all. It's essential that children get off to a good, healthy start so they can go on to succeed, learn and grow in our public schools. RurAL CAP appreciates your continuing support for these essential services. If you have any questions about the impact of the PHN on children's health, please contact my office at 800-478-7227. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Shirley Pittz, M.S., Director
Rural Head Start



Alaska Native Brotherhood
Camp No. 2, Inc.

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1997

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Chairman, Finance Subcommittee
House of Representatives
State Capital-MS 3101
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Mr., Hanley

The Juneau Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood opposes any reduction in the Division of Subsistence's Budget. Your subcommittee proposes to reduce the Division's budget by \$115,000, the impact of which would be the closure of field offices in Nome, Ft. Yukon and Angoon. Effectively, that means no Division of Subsistence representation in these areas.

The Juneau ANB fails to comprehend the rationale in decreasing the effectiveness of the State of Alaska in fish and wild life management, while at the same time making efforts to assume management of fish, wildlife, lands and navigable waters in all of Alaska.

We ask that the legislature also fund the Division of habitat and the Division of Wildlife Conservation, at levels that results in sound management of Alaska's wild stocks of fish and wildlife and critical habitat areas.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Anderson
President

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1997

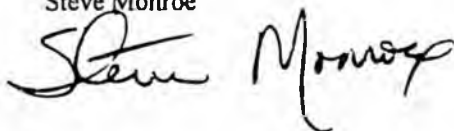
Steve Monroe
P.O. Box 231
Homer, Alaska
99603

Dear Legislators,

My name is Steve, I need the Mental Health case management services and also the Annex here in Homer. Without either of these services I know I would be devastated,. I know I speak for everyone else here at the Annex also. I need it for practicing social skills, Also the Annex is a good and safe environment for me and others with this long term mental illness condition. I have Paranoid Scyzophrenia. Acute,. Without help with meds and help that the annex offers us during a crisis, I feel alot of us would become homeless and outcasts again. Ive made alot of friends here at the annex who have the same problems with mental illness. Chris Anderson is my case manager, and without him alot of good that could happen for me and others wouldnt. Right now Chris and I are working on getting a grant that would help to get me onto my own piece of property and a trailer to live in. Ive never had anything like that and it will really be great when it happens. Im considered homeless at the moment, and Id be one happy fellow to live somewhere and actually have a real home!! Judy here at the Annex is like Mom to me and without her lifting my spirits and letting me know things are going to be alright, I would be real lost without her smiling caring face,. This Legaslative change in the Mental Health services would effect alot of people in a disastrous way, so please dont cut out the case workers or the annex. I also need alot of dental work done and a new pair of glasses. Also the cost of living is so high , and the annex has facilities to shower and do laundry and also have a good hot lunch every day. God Bless you all and please dont close the annex.

Sincerely ..

Steve Monroe

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Monroe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

To the House Finance Committee.

Please enter my testimony in the record for HB 75:

My name is Heana Tabara Jam
chairman of the SAFU board in Sitka.

I think it is important for SAFU to
be funded because it provides a
shelter for battered women and children,
better said it provides a shelter for victims
of abuse. It is also an educational
source against all forms of abuse. It
also teaches that abuse is not OK. After
all violence starts at home.

Heana Tabara

Chair for SAFU Board of
Directors



CITY OF PETERSBURG
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES
P.O. BOX 329 • PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833
TELEPHONE (907) 772-3787
TELECOPIER (907) 772-4102

March 24, 1997

The Honorable Vic Kohring
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee
State Capital, Room 421
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

Subject: Elimination of ADEC's Solid Waste Program

Dear Representative Kohring:

It has come to my attention that you have put a proposal before the House Finance Subcommittee to eliminate the Department of Environmental Conservation's, Solid Waste Program. At first glance, your proposal is very attractive. It eliminates \$800,000.00 from State General Funds, eliminates a program that, on the surface, would probably be better handled by the Federal Government dealing directly with municipalities and private operators. However, I must say, and with no disrespect intended, there are no long-term benefits to the proposal and it does not have the best interest of the State, municipalities or citizens of Alaska in mind.

As a water & wastewater utility manager I deal with Federal & State regulated programs on a daily basis. Some are easier to comply with than others. Those programs that the State has primacy on usually have language that allow for flexibility and the program can be tailored to each municipality or site. Federal programs do not allow flexibility and require that the Federal law be followed "to the letter" whether the site is in Boston, Ma or Petersburg, Ak. I would much rather deal with Alaskan's that work for ADEC on Alaskan issues than professional bureaucrats from Seattle, that have never been to Alaska, wanting to solve pollution problems that do not exist here in the State.

This proposal appears to be budget driven. It is my opinion that this may save the State \$800,000.00 per year, but in the long run, as municipalities begin to spend and deplete their revenues and reserves on compliance issues, more and more pressure, from funding requests, will be placed on the State Budget for Capital Project funds to improve facilities to meet and comply with regulations.

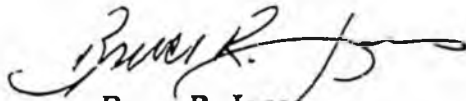
Finally, the Department of Environmental Conservation has committed a lot of time and effort in building and negotiating an acceptable Solid Waste Program

March 24, 1997

with the U.S. EPA, it would be a shame to throw all of it away not mention the loss of very talented and knowledgeable employees associated with this program.

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

Sincerely,



Bruce R. Jones
Superintendent

BJ/EW

Cc: House Finance Committee Members;
The Honorable Mark Hanley, Room 507 ✓
The Honorable Gene Therriault, Room 511
The Honorable Eldon Mulder, Room 501
The Honorable Ben Grussendorf, Room 415
The Honorable Gary Davis, Room 513
The Honorable Richard Foster, Room 410
The Honorable Pete Kelly, Room 411
The Honorable Terry Martin, Room 502
The Honorable John Davies, Room 422
The Honorable Carl Moses, Room 521

**ALASKAN DRIED FOODS**

3017 Clinton Drive Suite 100 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone (907) 586-3333 FAX (907) 586-4444

e-mail: dryfoods@alaska.net

March 23, 1997

Dear Representative Mark Hanley 465-2418

Re: Alaska Science and Technology Foundation budget.

I would like to bring to your attention a disturbing piece of information that I have received regarding the proposed demise on the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. ASTF is the primary funding source for the development of new technology that provides the mechanism to allow Alaskans to transform "Alaskan" ideas into reality with the benefits going to the entire population.

ASTF has recently enacted a stricter and more businesslike approach to its grants procedure. This includes marketing plans and other essential information that is needed to transform technology into useful application. Recent issuance of grants have been based on these more stringent controls that may have been missing in the past.

As an Alaskan that has received one technology patent and have two more pending, I feel it is essential that we have a mechanism such as ASTF to allow creative and original thinking Alaskans an opportunity to use their creative skills to better our fellow Alaskans. Alaska lacks the level of University research and other forms of technology funding that States like California, Oregon and Washington enjoy.

I currently have an ASTF grant application pending which proposes to develop and implement fish drying technology that could ultimately have a serious and positive financial impact on the full utilization of our low valued salmon species and bycatch species. I, like many other creative Alaskans, have dedicated our life to developing "Alaskan solutions" to Alaskan problems. It is conceivable that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council will force 100% retention of fishery bycatch. Right now, markets do not exist for these low or negative value (cost of processing exceeds market value). It is Alaskans working with ASTF who are going to solve this.

I believe the complete elimination of the Alaska Science and Technology Fund from its current scope is short sighted and will retard current gains that are presently being made in important fishery areas. A technology that my company is developing will train and hire 30 people in 1997 (some of these people are currently on Welfare). We expect that we can replicate dried fish plants in Valdez, Juneau, Kodiak and other coastal communities in the near future.

The demise of ASTF will relinquish the development of resource solutions to Seattle or foreign based corporations who do not care about Alaskan jobs. Alaskans are by nature, a creative people, and the ASTF allows common sense-idea driven Alaskans to bridge creative ideas into hard reality based solutions that help all of us. I ask you to consider the value of having an Alaskan Science and Technology Fund that will preserve the dream and opportunity for us to collectively resolve the unique problems facing Alaska.

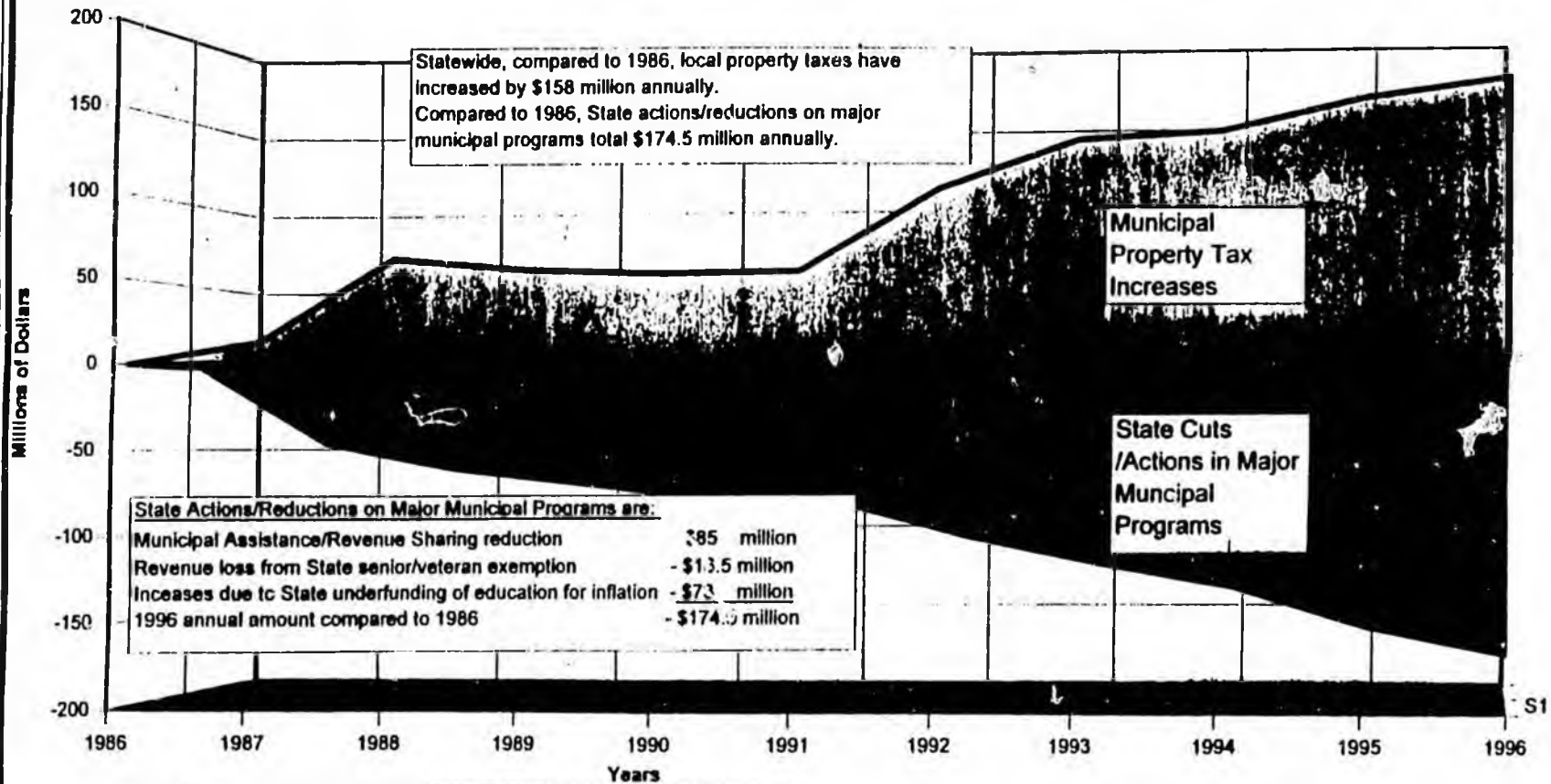
I appreciate your struggle to balance our state budget and I know that many tough decisions must be made. I ask you to consider ASTP as an engine that creates jobs and opportunities for Alaskans that pays dividends with the technology and jobs that it spawns.

Sincerely,

Duff W. Mitchell
President

State Actions on Major Municipal Programs are the Primary Factor in Local Property Tax Increases

(Increase in Property Taxes vs State Actions/ Reductions on Major Municipal Programs)



Source: "Alaska Taxable" 1986 to 1996 Dept of Community & Regional Affairs; Department of Education funding reports 1986 to 1996.

**CITY OF PETERSBURG**

WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES

P.O. BOX 329 • PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833

TELEPHONE (907) 772-3787

TELECOPIER (907) 772-4102

March 24, 1997

The Honorable Vic Kohring
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee
State Capital, Room 421
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Elimination of ADEC's Solid Waste Program

Dear Representative Kohring:

It has come to my attention that you have put a proposal before the House Finance Subcommittee to eliminate the Department of Environmental Conservation's, Solid Waste Program. At first glance, your proposal is very attractive. It eliminates \$800,000.00 from State General Funds, eliminates a program that, on the surface, would probably be better handled by the Federal Government dealing directly with municipalities and private operators. However, I must say, and with no disrespect intended, there are no long-term benefits to the proposal and it does not have the best interest of the State, municipalities or citizens of Alaska in mind.

As a water & wastewater utility manager I deal with Federal & State regulated programs on a daily basis. Some are easier to comply with than others. Those programs that the State has primacy on usually have language that allow for flexibility and the program can be tailored to each municipality or site. Federal programs do not allow flexibility and require that the Federal law be followed "to the letter" whether the site is in Boston, Ma or Petersburg, Ak. I would much rather deal with Alaskan's that work for ADEC on Alaskan issues than professional bureaucrats from Seattle, that have never been to Alaska, wanting to solve pollution problems that do not exist here in the State.

This proposal appears to be budget driven. It is my opinion that this may save the State \$800,000.00 per year, but in the long run, as municipalities begin to spend and deplete their revenues and reserves on compliance issues, more and more pressure, from funding requests, will be placed on the State Budget for Capital Project funds to improve facilities to meet and comply with regulations.

Finally, the Department of Environmental Conservation has committed a lot of time and effort in building and negotiating an acceptable Solid Waste Program

March 24, 1997

with the U.S. EPA, it would be a shame to throw all of it away not mention the loss of very talented and knowledgeable employees associated with this program.

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

Sincerely,



Bruce R. Jones
Superintendent

BJ/EW

Cc: House Finance Committee Members;
The Honorable Mark Hanley, Room 507 ✓
The Honorable Gene Therriault, Room 511
The Honorable Eldon Mulder, Room 501
The Honorable Ben Grussendorf, Room 415
The Honorable Gary Davis, Room 513
The Honorable Richard Foster, Room 410
The Honorable Pete Kelly, Room 411
The Honorable Terry Martin, Room 502
The Honorable John Davies, Room 422
The Honorable Carl Moses, Room 521



Post-It Fax Note	7571	Date	3/24/97	Page	1
To	Alaska State Legislature	From	Jama Bush		
Facsimile Info. Office		Co.	RCPC		
Phone #	452-4448	Phone #	456-2866		
Fax #	456-3846	Fax #	451-8125		

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON the budget plan DATED 3/22/97

BILLSUBJECT

I was recently present for the 3/22/97 statewide public testimony re: the budget proposal, but was unable to testify due to time constraints. I appreciate this opportunity to lend my opinion re: funding for Healthy Families (HF) Programs for FY98. As a lifelong resident of Alaska, a parent, a social service provider, and an advocate for children & families, I urge you to restore the proposed cut for HF programs. The money contained in the Governor's budget will serve to maintain existing programs with minimal growth rather than create new program sites. The focus of Healthy Families is primary prevention. Sending home visitation (comprehensive & long-term) to families with infants who are at risk for poor childhood outcomes, including abuse and neglect. It is common wisdom among prevention advocates that no disease or social problem has ever been brought under control by providing after-the-fact treatment to the victims of the disease or problem. Costs associated with child maltreatment and its consequences are devastating on both a human and financial level including: low birthweight babies, infant mortality, special education, protection services, foster care, juvenile & adult criminality & psychological services. Programs such as Healthy Families not only serve to build stronger, healthier children but also reduce costly burdens on state services such as education, law enforcement, corrections, & mental health. Furthermore, family gains through HF program interventions have shown increases in parental employment, treatment for substance abuse, housing stability, domestic violence support & counseling for mental health problems, to name just a few. These gains equal long term savings down the road. Please allow Healthy Families programs to continue providing positive support & assistance to Alaskan families by reinstating the \$614,000 contained in the Governor's budget.

SIGNED Jama Bush

TESTIFIER

Healthy Families Fairbanks Resource Center for Parents and Children

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1401 Kellum Street, Fairbanks AK 99701 (907)456-2866

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Box 1514 Homer, AK 99603



March 18, 1997

Sen. John Torgeson
State Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

Dear Mrs. Phillips,

Your colleague, Vic Kohring, is sponsoring some legislation which will convert the endowment for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation into a funding source for infrastructure throughout the State. While promoting new roads and bridges makes good politics, there are roads such as a railroad to Nome, and bridges such as a bridge across Kruk Arm, that have been wisely left unfunded. Politics being what it is, commandeering a \$100 million endowment will only lead to big funding for a few projects. The power of individual legislators, rather than the worth of the project, often determines what gets built.

Having been through the application process for an ASTF grant, I can assure you that the 5 or 10 million that ASTF disperses each year is carefully spent. Each proposal is reviewed by experts in the field and poor proposals rarely get past the board. The ASTF funding process is both more reasoned and more equitable than some of the funding that takes place in the political arena. That is not to say that ASTF never funds a failure. The point is that there have been some very beneficial projects. Several stand out:

- An ASTF project developed the technique of preserving pink salmon in a pouch. The resulting fillets are so much improved over canned salmon, that pinks may actually be worth something. Three percent of their ex vessel value is taxed to the State.
- ASTF projects have focused on creating longer lasting road surfaces in northern climates. Better pavement means lower maintenance costs for the State. With frost heaves on the Sterling Highway large enough to launch a Subaru, I think ASTF spent their money wisely.

I have been working on a ASTF project to modernize the way catch data is collected in Alaska's salmon fishery. We are interested in moving from the handwritten, paper based, fish ticket system which is now in place to a system which reports the catch on a real time basis. I'm convinced that this can be done without major disruption to the current system and with small up-front costs. Electronic data reporting would simply be a better alternative, one which could be adopted gradually over the next few years.

I should say that there are quantifiable annual savings to the State which are being suggested by this project. Fish ticket form costs could be cut by a factor of ten, ticket editing costs could be reduced, and data entry costs could be almost eliminated, among other savings. ADFG has done a good job over the years, but technology changes quickly and ASTF projects insure that better technology is adopted by Alaska business and State agencies.

ASTF has been well managed and is getting good value for the money they spend. As speaker of the house, I know that you can keep Mr. Kohring's legislation from becoming law. Please help defeat it.

Sincerely,

Bill Wiebe



Scientific Fishery Systems, Inc.

4200 Shoshoni, Suite A, Anchorage, AK 99516

Ph. 907/345-7347 Fax 907/345-9769

email: scifish@alaska.net

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

"Technologies for more efficient fisheries."

March 24, 1997

Representative Con Bunde
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Bunde:

I am writing to you in an effort to get your support against the elimination of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. I offered public testimony in this regard while I was attending ComFish in Kodiak this past Saturday. I also sent you a quick email message concerning this topic last Friday. Here are the reasons why I feel you should strongly object to the elimination of ASTF.

ASTF provided Scientific Fishery Systems, Inc. (SciFish) with funding during its vulnerable start-up stage. As a result of ASTF's investment, the following have been accomplished:

1. SciFish is developing technologies and products for a more efficient fisheries. Examples of these products ASTF has funded include improved fish forecasting methodologies, a fish identification system that can identify fish to species, and a fisheries mapping and planning software system. These projects are focused on making Alaskans more competitive in the global market place, as well as reducing bycatch and improving sustainability.
2. SciFish currently employs six Alaskans, and we have an offer out for another position now. Two of these positions are held by UAA undergraduates.
3. To date, ASTF has provided SciFish with \$165,000 in funding. As a result of this funding, SciFish has brought over \$1.2 M dollars of Federal R&D funding to Alaska. Current projections are for an addition \$1 M of Federal R&D funding by the end of 1999.
4. SciFish is successfully selling its software. Current sales projections are for \$1 M annual sales by 1999, \$3 M by 2001. As a result, we will not only be directly repaying the investment ASTF has made in SciFish, we will be adding significantly to its high-tech industry.
5. SciFish is currently one of only a few commercial software manufacturers in the state. But, through the assistance provided ASTF, I know there are many others that are beginning to emerge. This is an industry that needs to be fostered and allowed to continue to grow. Software requires no natural resource extraction, it does not pollute our environment, and it has a life span that will reach far past our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Beyond these immediate benefits that have been derived from ASTF funding, I feel it is time we as Alaskans need to look beyond natural resource extraction in our efforts to diversify our economy. Global competition in fisheries is fierce. Our timber industry is almost non-existent. And our oil reserve is on the decline. With the

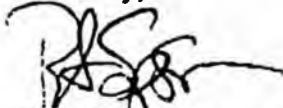
possible exception of tourism, ASTF is one of the few areas where we are looking ahead to new horizons. Eliminating ASTF would set this effort back at least a decade, and could possibly eliminate that economic opportunity altogether.

Finally, ASTF is an endowment. This is not money that is competing with other program areas for its existence. It stands alone. If you want to close the fiscal gap, cut the budget, don't kill the future. At best, adding the funds you would get from dissolving ASTF would represent only a Band-Aid fix to our state's fiscal problems.

I am a fourth generation Alaskan that was born in Cordova and raised in this state. After graduating from Dimond High I was accepted into a top 10 engineering school where I earned a degree in Computer Science. Returning to Alaska in 1986, I began looking for a job in my field and found none. I retreated to California and worked in the Defense industry. Eventually I was able to build a company that I could move back to Alaska. I did this in 1995, with the help of ASTF. Without ASTF, SciFish would not be here today.

In closing, using ASTF funds to build roads and close the fiscal gap is irresponsible at best, criminal at worst. I strongly urge you to oppose any such action by the State Legislature.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. Simpson
President

CC: Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Rep. Gene Therriault, Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Rep. Vic Kohring

Representative Eric Croft
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau AK

Dear Representative Croft:

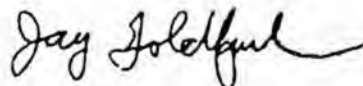
It has recently come to my attention that there is a move afoot to discontinue funding of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. It has been proposed that the funds go instead to road maintenance or construction. I think this is a mistake.

Since November 1996 I've been working for an Anchorage company: Scientific Fishery Systems (SciFish for short). Among other things, we are conducting research and development in advanced sonar systems for fishery applications such as species identification. SciFish's President, Patrick Simpson, has assured me that the company would not exist if it weren't for early help from ASTF.

Several years ago I worked on a project for another Anchorage company - DAT/EM Systems International. That project, which comprised the development of an advanced photomapping system called a digital stereoplotter, helped build an international reputation for DAT/EM as a major supplier of advanced mapping systems and software.

We all know how important diversification is to the Alaskan economy. Even if our natural resources were inexhaustible, national politics would prevent us from exploiting these resources fully. Information technology, of which these two projects are examples, is a natural industry for Alaska which will allow us to provide good jobs for our children. It is very difficult for a startup company to attract venture capital before establishing a track record. (Very few of us have the resources that Bill Gates had when he started MicroSoft.) Therefore, the ASTF can produce a much better return-on-investment than the filling of a few potholes in our roads.

Sincerely,



Jay Goldfarb
President, Alaska Region
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
328 E 15th Ave #3
Anchorage 99501

272-9976 (H)
345-7347 (W)
FAX 345-9769
jayg@alaska.net

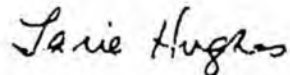
Representative Kohring
March 24, 1997
Page 2 of 2

The statewide commitment to obtain federal approval of a State solid waste program has been widespread throughout ADEC, SWANA and other solid waste professionals in Alaska.

The Alaska chapter of SWANA hereby respectfully requests that funding to the ADEC Solid Waste Program be restored to ensure fundamental protection of human health and the environment for all residents of Alaska.

Please feel free to contact me at 262-9667 if more information is needed.

Sincerely,



Lanie Hughes
Chapter President

CC: ADEC Commissioner Michelle Brown
State of Alaska - Senate
State of Alaska - House of Representatives

no longer write. I am unable to handle my personal and financial affairs without the help of my case manager. I find that the annex and group therapies through the annex are necessary for my well-being.

The services that I receive through the Mental Health keep me out of the hospital and allow me to function as independently as I can. I have not had to go to the hospital now for almost three years.

Please be an advocate for continuing these services for me and other mentally ill clients. Please also consider the restoration of

7 March 18, 1997
Kenny Porter
PO Box 3197
Homer, AK 99601

Representative Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee

Dear Representative Hanley,
My name is Kenny Porter. I have been a client of mental health in Homer for almost seven years and as to my illness, I am bi-polar manic depressive with dementia.

I am very dependent on my case manager and the mental health annex as a support group.

If you cut these programs, what am I to do? I am unable to work and I can



(3)

vision, dental, and hearing
services which were included
in the governor's budget.

Thank you for your
kind consideration.

Sincerely,

KENNY PORTER

(Written for Mr. Porter by
Kathryn McKelsen
Adult Intensive Rehab Provider)

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1997

When I get up in the morning I have a place to go to, to meet other clients with my illness, it's the annex at Mental Health. Also, I get a hot meal 5 times a week and learn to cook. They also have groups when I'm in need of them. They have plans for future employment programs I would like to see start up and be a part of like the Soup Kitchen.

Tammy Stalker

Tammy Stalker
Hornet, AR 72910

RECEIVED

APR 03 1997

April 1, 1997

Historic Ketchikan Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization which promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism. Historic preservation planning is critical to economic development in cities, such as Ketchikan, where most of the commercial and housing stock is over fifty years old. Basically, maintenance and restoration of historic properties keep them on the tax register. In Ketchikan, where tourism is a strong component of the economy, historic preservation planning has an even more vital role. Tourists pay for an authentic historic experience - they wish to experience the "character" of the town - what makes it unique. Ketchikan is very fortunate in that the "character" is mostly intact. Historic Ketchikan's programs are designed to strengthen and preserve the history of the community for residents and visitors.

The State Office of History and Archaeology supports the Historic Ketchikan program in a variety of ways. They provide necessary assistance for Historic Ketchikan projects. For example, Historic Ketchikan receives grant monies from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation which it re-grants to homeowners for House Restoration - to rehabilitate Ketchikan's existing housing stock. One of the necessary steps in the grant process is review of the property by the Office of History and Archaeology. This timely review is very important to Ketchikan's grant program!

The State Office of History and Archaeology assists Ketchikan's Certified Local Government. OHA's grants have funded the survey and inventory of the Stedman-Thomas District, the Grant Street Trestle and the existing canneries in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. A grant was also awarded to the CLG for the nomination of the Stedman-Thomas District to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its inclusion on the National Register, property owners now have additional tax incentives for renovation projects. And, OHA provides assistance in using these federal tax incentives for building renovation. If the budget for the State Office of History and Archaeology is cut by \$94, the state loses \$141.2 in federal matching monies. This would mean less funds granted out for projects all over the state - including Ketchikan.

The centralized database of historic and archaeological sites is also important to maintain. It is significant that the Office of History and Archaeology works as a valuable partner with many other organizations and thus is a centralized source of information on a variety of history-related topics. Historic Ketchikan recently benefited from this network and received a grant from an outside source for a Heritage Tourism project.

Please allow the State's invaluable Historic Preservation Program to remain intact; it's important to all of us!

Sincerely,

Karen Stanley, Executive Director
HISTORIC KETCHIKAN INC.

3 Sue Averill X
2090 Campbell Place
Anchorage, AK 99507

RECEIVED

March 26, 1997

APR 03 1997

Mr. Hanley,

I understand the Finance Committee's Subcommittee on the budget for the Department of community & Regional Affairs has recommended a \$1 million dollar cut to the Child Care Grant Program.

I am currently employed with the Alaska Family Child Care Food Program. This program will be changing as of July 1, 1997. Many Child Care providers will no longer be eligible for reimbursement at the current levels. With the loss of this program, I know many providers will be forced to raise their rates. The loss of reimbursement will be \$55.00 per month per full time equivalent child. If the Child Care Grant Program is eliminated, this will account for an additional \$22.00 per month per child in order to provide the same quality of care.

Funds for Resource and Referral, and Training is also mandatory to keep providers educated. If funding for these services are cut, it will result in lower quality care.

Before taking my current position, I was a licensed provider for 12 years. This program helped me maintain a consistently high quality of care. The funds I received from this program have enabled me to purchase age appropriate equipment. Quality equipment is very expensive, and large sets must be purchased. Educational and art materials must be renewed regularly.

These funds also offset the loss when providing care for Day Care Assistance eligible parents. My rates were higher than the reimbursed rate. I have waived the extra for parents many times. This will not be an option for present providers, making quality child care for Day Care Assistance recipients very difficult to find. This would be an extreme hardship for the thousands of welfare recipients who will be returning to the workforce this year.

To many changes are being made all at the same time for Child Care, both at the federal and state levels. The consequences will be overwhelming for parents and providers both. Please vote against any reductions to the Child Care Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Sue Averill

Representative Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99801
March 19, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 03 1997

Dear *Mr Hanley.*

I want to express my concern for the proposed cut in funding for Title 19 preventive health care procedures. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and when it translates into dollars which it does, you need to be more futuristic, not short sighted.

Also, at this time, when the treatment centers for alcohol abuse are also under the cutting knife, you should be **adding** transitional facilities!

Did you realize that last year in Fairbanks, the Police Department responded to 2500 calls regarding inebriates. Think of the cost to the Department, to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the Detox, Unit and on occasion, the jail. Remember, that I as a tax payer, and a voter, am picking up the tab for some of all these expenses. Wouldn't transitional placement funds be more person and cost effective?

I am indeed in favor of revamping the Medicaid system. However, preventive procedures should be retained.

I would see the value of keeping Medicaid in place while promising those who get employment that their benefits will be decreased only when their salary is more than they would be receiving on Welfare and that they had worked in that position at least one year. Example, Person A receives **\$1000.00** a month from Medicaid, he gets a job and earns **\$800.00** a month to start. Person A gets **\$250.00** a month from Medicaid added to his salary. Therefore, Person A still gets **\$1000.00** a month but the State pays only **\$250.00** a month. Or take fewer tax dollars out of the pay check so that the same goal is reached. If the person increases his salary, then Medicaid benefits decrease accordingly, always keeping the income above what a person would get by staying on Medicaid. While this seems over simplified, the concept, I believe is sound and worth doing on a trial basis. More importantly a person is back to work. The employer incentives I hear the Governor talking about would open up the job market to unskilled labor and make this plan work even better. This would certainly discourage a person from going back on a system that was regressive, income wise. Remember too, that jobs are not available here by the thousands! It took me months to find employment and I have three degrees!

Please think seriously of what the cuts are going to cost, perhaps under another name or program. Medical problems do not go away when funding is cut. The problem as I said gets attention under another category.

Thank You,
Sister Roberta Downey

Sister Roberta Downey

*947 Laklany Drive
North Pole, AK, 99705*

	American Indian Alaska Native
One person household	32 %
Female householder, no husband present	54 %
Housing lacks complete plumbing facilities	26 %
No vehicle available	38 %
No telephone	53 %
Income below poverty level	36 %
Persons living alone with income below poverty level	40 %
Less than high school education (age 60 and over)	63 %

Poverty. The poverty rate among AIs/ANs, age 60 and over in 1990 was 36 percent, including 26 percent with family incomes below \$9,999 and 38 percent with individual incomes below \$4,999. Nearly 20 percent received some form of public assistance (4). Low income elders may not be able to afford home and community based programs if they have to pay for them.

Educational Level. The overall educational attainment of AI/AN elders is the lowest of all groups in the U.S. The 1990 Census reported that 63 percent of AI/AN, age 60 and over, had not completed high school (4). It has been well documented that lack of education reduces a persons likelihood of seeking assistance from programs. Additionally, the paperwork required to qualify for some programs may discourage an elder with limited reading ability to even apply for the service.

HOUSING. Federal housing assistance in tribal areas totaled \$585 million in 1993. Even at that, 60 percent of all income-eligible households in tribal areas receive no housing assistance (10). Because, by definition, the individual's home is the place where home-based long-term care services are delivered, it is vital that housing be accessible, affordable, and safe. During 1990 and 1991 the National American Indian Housing Council held a series of citizens' hearings on the current status of Indian housing. They concluded that: "unsafe and inadequate water supplies and basic sanitation facilities are the norm in many areas. . . One fifth of American Indian and Alaska Native homes - a full 20 percent - do not have safe drinking water or indoor toilet facilities" (11). It is clear that any discussion of HCBLTC must include housing issues.

TRANSPORTATION. Elders must have transportation to get to programs and services, and providers must have transportation in order to get to the elder. The typical Indian reservation is geographically remote with limited access to many services. In the Urban Institute's study of Indian housing in 1995, they found that 349 of the 508 inhabited tribal areas, accounting for 62 percent of the total AI/AN population in tribal areas, were located over 50 miles away from a city with a population of 50,000 or more (10). Within tribal areas themselves, only 13 percent of the respondents to the 1995 National Indian

JOSEPH R. HENRI
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-0357

10921 NEAR POINT DRIVE
P. O. BOX 10 · 0357
TELEPHONE 907-338-0880

3 April 1997
Fax No. 465-2418

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau

Dear Representative Hanley,

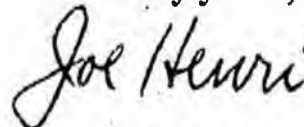
I am advised that budget actions taken in the House, and to be taken in the Senate, will grievously deplete the state's foreign trade efforts, even to the extent of closing our trade offices in Tokyo and Seoul. This is not the way to promote economic growth in Alaska; we were the first of any state to have a trade office in Tokyo. From that point long ago, other states have advantageously installed much more elaborate delegations in a number of far eastern trading cities. Closing our foreign trade offices will be the ignoble end of an unfortunate downward spiral.

The foreign trade arm of the Alaska Department of Commerce has been a hard-working, knowledgeable office, which ought to be built up and encouraged, and given ever-wider objectives.

The legislature's apparent effort to reduce or eliminate Alaska's foreign trade function would have some conceivable justification if we were again in a Great Depression, when dollars to spend were truly non-existent. That is anything but our case now. The 1997 state budget will end the fiscal year in significant surplus. Seven hundred and fifty million dollars are being distributed as a "dividend," and apparently when the present formula yields more spendable dollars that dole will increase indefinitely. Federal income taxes may be taking \$200 million or more of this dividend in support of the U.S. Treasury. The people of this state are not called upon to support their government through any kind of a general tax.

The means are at hand to rationally support sound economic growth which will benefit present and future Alaska, but if the burning passion to reduce expenditures prevails, we are probably sinking *The Good Ship Alaska* when rescue, safety and the happy shore are within easy and reasonable reach.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph R. Henri, Chair
Export Council of Alaska
Legislative Committee

JRH/df

