

SB

36

HFIN

FILE

(File 3)

**PUBLIC
TESTI-
MONY**

DISTRIBUTED BY:

cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: Budget-cut

From: tcadzow@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Terri Cadzow) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 2:08 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

As a sophomore of the Fort Yukon School, I am writing this letter to tell the Legislature not to take money from our school. If there is a budget-cut we will not have enough money for our school activities. Like for example, basketball, school gatherings and other extra circular activities.

One of our rural school districts won the state Battle of the Books. Our Fort Yukon Boys ball team has a good chance of going to the State Championships. None of that will happen next year if the budget is cut. Our school may not be that big in all, but we the students love our school and like to be involved in the School activities. Why take money from the students? It's our education, our future.

Rural Schools deserves your attention and help. As a concerned student I'm asking you to please don't take money from our school.

Terri Cadzow

Fort

Yukon School

cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: School Funding

From: eansaknok@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Elia Ansaknok) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 3:18 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

Dear Representative Nicholia :

My name is Elia Ansaknok, I am a Sophomore at Fort Yukon High School. I am writing to you to ask you not to cut off our school Budget, because the things we have this year has increased a lot from last year: The Central school kids won the battle of the books competition in our rural district, and the high school boys basketball team has a slight chance on going to state at Anchorage. If you cut off our Budge money we will not get to provide these activities for our schools.

Why cut money from schools? You will be taking the Education from everybody and our future kids that will be going to school here and there. Every where else will be the same if you cut the money from those schools. People will not be able to do activities and they would drop out or they will think this school is born and move to some other school.

Thank you
Elia Ansaknok

cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: school funding

From: jthomas3@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Joseph Thomas) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 2:12 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

Dear Represenative Nickoli

My name is Joseph Thomas. I'm a sophomore at Fort Yukon High school and president of the student council. I'm writing a letter to you to tell the Legislature not to take money from our school. If the budget for our school cuts, we would be in a lot of hurt. We wouldn't be able to any extracurricular activities, like play basketball. Our basketball team is doing real well this year. We might even have a chance to go to Anchorage for the state championship. But if the budget gets cut we wouldn't be able to play basketball anymore.

If the the budget for our school cuts, our school district won't be able to hire teachers that we need for certain things and we won't get educated very well. Why cut education money if people want us be successors and leaders of state. It will not only hurt us but it will hurt everyone in Alaska.

Thank you

Joseph Thomas

cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: Sb-36

From: joesepha2@hotmail.com (Joeseeph Alexander) at CC2MHS1 3/31/98 11:25 AM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

March 30 , 1998

Dear Representative Irene K. Nicholia:

I don't like SB-36 because it is taking money away from rural Alaska. The cities have a lot of money. It will be bad for our school.

If SB-36 passes we will lose over a million dollars. We might lose the internet and we just got the internet. We will lose the computers and it will not let us learn how to type. We will lose a lot of supplies. Some teachers might have to quit and students might move and the schools might close.

I hope you vote against SB-36. So we will still have our money and we will buy supplies. I want to get a good education and I want to stay in Minto.

Sincerely

Joeseeph Alexander

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cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: SB-36

From: dakid36@hotmail.com (Dustin Semaken) at CC2MHS1 3/31/98 2:23 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

3/30/98

Dear Irene Nicholia:

I am against SB-36. I feel taking money away from our school and giving it to another school district is unfair. Taking the money will cut our sports program that is why most kids go to school. They go to play sports and if they take it away some kids might not want to go to school any more.

This year Minto had only one extra curricular activity and that was basketball. They had to cut running and cross country skiing because we don't have the money to travel. Fairbanks and Anchorage have 6 or 7 different activities for their students. Why don't they cut some sports to have extra money because we had to cut our sports so we could have extra money? This year Minto barely made it by the school year because of lack of school funds. If we lose money, the school might close and there will be a lot of people out of jobs which will make the unemployment rates go up. This another reason why SB-36 should not be passed.

I would like you to get the other house members not to pass SB-36. I'd like to tell the house members this bill should not pass because there would be a lot of unhappy people in rural Alaska. There are a lot of voters rural Alaska.

Sincerely,
Dustin Semaken
Minto School

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cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: SB-36

From: lenutz@hotmail.com (Lena Daigle) at CC2MHS1 4/2/98 3:51 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA_CAP

Dear Irene Nicholia,

I am an 8th grade student attending a rural school in Alaska. I am writing this letter regarding SB-36 and how it will effect the rural schools throughout Alaska.

It will affect the schools a lot because students and teacher will be leaving because there will be no money to pay for education because they gave it to city schools who have money.

I think the city schools have enough money to support everything. It will be unfair to take our money and give it to city schools that have more money than rural schools.

Please do not pass this bill because we in the rural schools will lose everything. We look forward to going to school for such things as extra curricular activities and a quality education.

Sincerely,

Lena Daigle
Minto School

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cc:Mail for Representative Irene Nicholia

Subject: SB-36

From: cendar45@hotmail.com (Lucy Frank) at CC2MHS1 4/2/98 4:16 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia

April 2, 1

998

Dear Representative Nicholia,

I would like to thank you for helping out with the article in the school newspaper. It all turned out really good and we will be sending you a copy. Oh yeah and thank you for dedicating that song to me that was cool.

I am writing to you to let you know how I feel about SB-36. I think that this bill should not be passed. It is a devastating and unfair bill. Taking money away from the students in rural Alaska and giving it to the city kids is not right. We are students just like them, we need an education just like them and I think that we deserve a FAIR share of the money.

In our school district we will be losing 1.5 million dollars. The loss of this money is going to take away our ability to buy supplies and have activities for students. This year we barely had enough money to buy paper for the school. We only have one extra curricular activity and that is basketball. We never had enough money for any other sports. In the big schools they have about 7 to 10 extra curricular activities, and seem to be doing just fine. And now they want to give them more money?

This bill hurts me, my classmates and the other students in rural Alaska. If this bill passes it's like saying that the government doesn't care about the students in rural Alaska. I will support your voting no to this bill.

Sincerely,
Lucy Frank

P.S. Andrea asked the students and it's ok to forward on our letters.

Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

A Fax from the Alaska Gateway School District

Darroll Hargraves, Superintendent
P.O. Box 226
Tok, AK 99780

Phone:(907) 883-5151 Fax:(907) 883-4356

Deliver Fax To:	Representative Hanley
Fax #:	(907)465- 3884 2418
Sender:	<i>BP</i> Barbara Pine
Sender's Phone #:	(907) 883-5151
# of Pages Sent:	4 (including this cover sheet)
Date Fax Sent:	April 9, 1998

Message:

Dear Representative Hanley,

The following petitions arrived at my office April 9, 1998. I believe they came from the a group of Senior Citizens in the Tok area. These persons all stand in opposition to Senate Bill 36. I will send the originals on to you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Pine
Barbara Pine

Some of the people who signed this petition's phone numbers:
Dorothy Marunde (907) 883-4601, Laura Sanford (907) 883-5524, Freeman Lolley (907) 883-5934, Lois Morgan (907) 883-5647.

If you do not receive all of this fax, please call (907) 883-5151.

Resolution #98-6
Opposition to SB-36 by the Alaska Gateway
School District, Board of Education

Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District has been in a severe cost cutting mode for the past several years; and

Whereas, the state foundation funding for public schools has not kept pace with inflation over the past decade; and

Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District sees a bleak year though the next budget cycle if additional funding isn't realized; and

Whereas, certain legislators have shown themselves to be persistent in trying to cut even further the funding that REAAs in the rural areas will receive; and

Whereas, the proposed legislation, SB-36, will further reduce the state funding to Alaska Gateway School District; and

Whereas, 32 school districts across the state with enrollments of 21,000 children will be further cut by SB-36; and

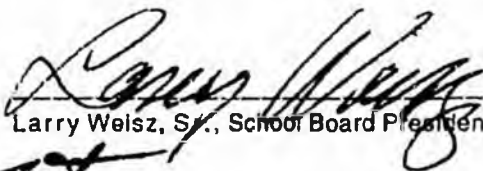

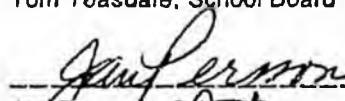
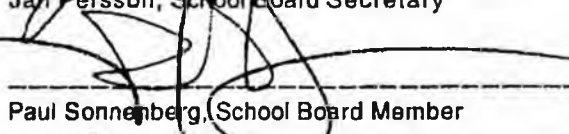
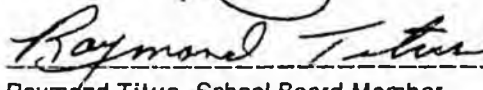
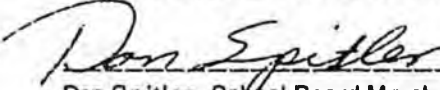
Whereas, the sponsors of SB-36 have shown themselves to be parochial in their thinking without giving due attention to the entire needs of the state; and further, if the funding cuts in SB-36 are allowed to become law, the legislature will have shown itself to be racially biased and may violate the constitutional rights to equal protection of the law; and

Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education believes that support should be given to increasing funding for all school districts in the state of Alaska to account for inflation over the past decade;

Now therefore be it resolved, by the Members of the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education that the legislature be asked to vote against SB-36 in any form;

Resolution #98-6
page 2

And further, that the legislature be encouraged to increase foundation funding in the current statute which will allow additional funding for every school and student in the state of Alaska whether urban or rural.

	<i>4-8-98</i>
Larry Weisz, S., School Board President	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Tom Toasdale, School Board Vice-President	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Jan Persson, School Board Secretary	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Paul Sonnenberg, School Board Member	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Raymond Titus, School Board Member	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Bill Elmore, School Board Member	Date
	<i>4-8-98</i>
Don Spittler, School Board Member	Date

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED
APR - 9 1998
SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99780

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

TO TAX PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE REALITY THAT EXISTS IN RURAL ALASKA. TO FURTHER PUNISH RURAL ALASKANS BY TAKING AWAY MUCH NEEDED EDUCATIONAL FUNDING PROMOTES AND WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN THE "HAVES" AND "THE HAVE NOTS".

SB 36 WILL DOOM GENERATIONS OF RURAL CHILDREN TO A LIFE OF EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND THE INABILITY TO COMPETE EQUALLY FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

Offer in support - Robert W. McArthur *COX*
Lou A. Morgan Box 527 Tok AK 99780 *TOK AK 99780*

Freddie Kelley - P.O. Box 913 Tok, AK. 99780

Freeman Kelley P.O. 913 Tok, AK. 99780

Emma Northrup Box 202 TOK AK 99780

Lucy Baird Box 535 TOK .. "

Leona Broken Bx 84 Tok. 99780

Margaret Hell TOK

Noothy O Marunde TOK

Bob McArthur TOK

RECEIVED

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99780

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

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George W Wallace PO Box 615 TOK, AK 99780
~~George W Wallace~~
 Rita Brown P.O. Box 201 Tok Alaska 99780
 Doug Curves " 324 Tok, AK 99780
 Lynn Ackerman " " " " "
 M Taylor " " " " "
 J. Quinn Box 254 Tok
 Laurel [unclear] 199 Tok
 add Helen Northway, AK. 99780
 Duane Northway, Northway AK 99780
 Alan [unclear] 1504 501 Tok AK 99780

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99760

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

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WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

Mary [unclear]	Tetlin AK 99779
Wendy [unclear]	TANACROSS AK 99779
Ellen Thomas	Gen Del Tanacross AK 99779
Martha [unclear]	Gen DEL TANACROSS AK 99779
Emma Titus	Gen De Tetlin AK 99779
Johnny [unclear]	Metastar AK 99780



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on CSHB 406 (JUD) dated 4/7/98
 bill/subject

Testimony for House Finance Committee Hearing of April 8, 1998.
 My name is Bill Stockwell and I am the Chair of the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I would like to make the following comments about CSHB 406(JUD), 4/7/98, *Sec 3. AS 16.05.260 as amended.

16.05.260 (a) I do not understand why the word designate has replaced the word [DELEGATE]. Will the boards designate BY NAME the chair of local advisory committees, thus making her/him beholden to BOF/BOG? This would destroy local autonomy and take from the members of local advisory committees their right to elect their officers. OR is this new "legal speak"?

16.05.260 (a) Why must/shall recommendations from the local advisory committees be forwarded to regional advisory committees (new name)/regional advisory councils (old name) for other than subsistence? For no known or stated reason, this makes local advisory committees subservient to regional advisory committees/councils. ANILCA Sec. 805 requires at least six regional advisory councils for matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife ONLY. For all uses of fish and wildlife EXCEPT subsistence, local fish and game advisory committees should forward recommendations to BOF/BOG ONLY.

To make long standing, independent local advisory committees subservient to newly established regional, required only for subsistence, advisory committees is wrong and a disservice to local Alaskans.

Signed: Bill Stockwell
 Testifier

COOPER LANDING FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721 COOPER LANDING AK 99572
 Address

(907) 595-1540
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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 committee name
 committee on CSHB 406 (JUD) dated 4/7/98
 bill/subject

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Signed: Bill Stockwell
 Testifier

COOPER LANDING FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, COOPER LANDING AK 99572
 Address

(907) 595-1540
 Phone No.

Box 515
Northway, Alaska 99764
April 9, 1998

House Finance

Hanley, Therriault, Muldar, Davis, Foster, Kelly, Kohring, Martin, Davies,
Grussendorf and Moses

Please, please do not vote for HB 36. Anyone with a concern for all of Alaska's children would not even consider voting for this House Bill. It was totally asinine and discriminatory for anyone to even write a bill of this sort and push it through.

I went through the public school system, graduating from Lathrop High School in 1967. My education had many opportunities that my sons have not had. In 1975, my husband and I moved to Northway and have raised our sons here. We have three sons, with the youngest graduating this May. I realize that they were not able to have music, art, theater, many business classes, a shop class with a certified shop teacher, a swimming pool, an indoor hockey rink, exposure to various arts, and other sports. We made the best of what was offered and they received an education where they could handle attending a college. This was with the "bare bones" of education.

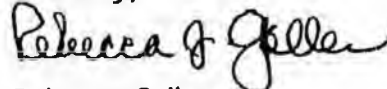
I strongly feel that the supporters of this bill have not experienced education in the rural areas. They definitely do not know what it is like to get what we get out here.

By cutting the rural school districts, I cannot see how this would be equal or fair. When you think about who lives in the rural areas (Native people), who is the state being unequal and fair to?

One of the many goals in Alaska is to help people be able to support themselves, to get off of welfare. It defeats the purpose if education is being cut in the area where it is most needed. Villages are making progress getting their children educated and supporting themselves. It is slow, but it is working. How can we as Native people support ourselves without good education? I don't know where the logic is with this bill. It looks greedy and with much prejudice.

Please reconsider your vote if you are supporting this bill.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Gallen

P.O. Box 27 (588-8529) after 5:00 pm any day
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 7, 1998

Dear Representative,

Note: The following article states my opinion.

Ten years ago three whales were caught in the arctic pack ice. The world spared no expense to save them. Now, three small Yup'ik villages are among many caught in the equally cold legislative pack ice of Juneau and Senate Bill 36. These fearless arctic inhabitants now wage one more battle, a battle for their language. Like trapped whales they are sealed in by urban votes.

State Senate Bill 36 will negatively affect a number of schools in one of the last native language dominant regions of the state. Additionally, SB 36 was drafted with little awareness of its educational impact.

My name is Bill Wilkinson, and over the past 21 years, I have taught in three Yup'ik villages on the west bank of the Kuskokwim river. In these three villages, (Kongiganak, Tuntutuliak, and Kwigillingok,) close to 100% of the children coming to school arrive speaking their native Yup'ik language. These children have a most unique educational program. Many people don't know that for decades educational materials written in Yup'ik have been developed for these Yup'ik bilingual programs. Most of their educational subjects for the first three grades are taught in Yup'ik. This is what the research says is best. In the 4th grade the children move from the mostly-Yup'ik program to the all-English program, except for one class of Yup'ik each day. These children continue to graduate reading, writing, and speaking both English and Yup'ik. A number of these students have gone on to college. This should be a point of pride for all of Alaska and America. Here is one example where the federal government and the state government for decades has tried to do the right thing and respect native culture. SB 36 will shamefully stop the Yup'ik instruction for these native speaking children by cutting the funds that hire their Yup'ik instructors. SB 36, if passed, will be a state and national shame.

A Harvard economist, David Reaume, has given the McDowell study,

on which SB 36 is based, a failing grade. The McDowell study is bad economic research and so is the legislation coming from it, Senate Bill 36. **The McDowell study completely ignored categorical funding. This is the funding source that we use for bilingual education, and the SB-36 crafters on their own- chopped funding at 20%. We must by law spend most of this 20% on Special Education students.**

Just stopping Yup'ik instruction for a few years will clearly begin the languages end. Senate Bill 36 will wipe out about 115 of the districts classified instructors. Many of these 115 instructors are native first language instructors for kindergarten, first, second, and third grade. SB-36 will also eliminate 65 certified teachers, some of whom supervise the first language teachers. Many of these first language Yup'ik teachers have many years of training. They can't be replaced by new English-only speaking teachers.

Most people in Anchorage don't know that in Kwigillingok most of what goes on in churches is in Yup'ik. Bibles, songs, and prayers are mostly in Yup'ik. Most of the time the village council meetings go on for hours without any English being spoken. Almost every household in town is filled with Yup'ik language except for a few of the certified educator's homes that have come into the village to teach. A person can sit at a school lunch table or walk among the playing children and hear their rich native language. SB 36 will hurt many rural areas of the state in different ways, but its effect in this southwestern Alaska region where there are so many communities with their native language intact will be devastating.

I am so upset with Senator Randy Phillips for misleading the good people of Eagle River and Anchorage by telling them that the 40/30 split is unfair. If they knew how these cuts will devastate us, they would call Senator Phillips and tell him not to trash one school system to help another, and ask him to find a better way to fund the state's educational needs. Sixty percent of the students in Alaska are in rural areas and 10% more funding is allocated to them to handle the extra cost of doing business in the bush. However, this might not be enough, for example, I added an addition to my home in Kwigillingok. I ordered \$10,000 of lumber from Seattle, the cheapest possible way to get materials. The lumber cost an additional \$10,000 to deliver. Isn't that more than 10% shipping?

To Senator Phillips I question your accuracy. Our school and residents wrote, called, and faxed you about our absolute displeasure concerning Senate Bill 36, and you personally called me at my home where I continued to share my total displeasure with SB 36. Kwigillingok protesters flew 500 hundred miles into Anchorage to picket and then watched you on the legislative information office monitor say, as you sat across the table from HESS Committee Chairman Con Bunde, something like, "I haven't gotten any public complaints against SB 36." That statement bent the limits of truth.

Most rural and urban people I've talked to or listened to have no problem with urban schools getting more money, but it should not be done by crushing rural schools. It doesn't make any difference whether SB 36 cuts our throats now or in three years; our cultural programs will be just as dead, and with them another Native American language.

According to John Greely, on ARCS the other night, the Permanent Fund is delivering more revenue to the state than North America's largest oil field. The Permanent, "rainy day" Fund had a billion dollars left over this year after inflation proofing, and after the permanent fund dividend checks went out all over the state. Before Senator Phillips starts trashing one school district to make his own better he should do three things. One: let his voters know things do cost more in the bush. Two: communicate more about how we should pull rural and urban people together, not divide them with bad political legislation. Third: think about that rainy day fund and realize, "It's pouring!!!"

How can the good people of Alaska help? First: Kill SB-36 in its tracks by calling or writing your legislature! The wisest thing the legislature could do now is to leave things alone for a year, get all parties together out in the open, and work out a better solution. Avoid the hard-to-get-to conference rooms and instead meet in centrally located "bush" and "urban hubs" throughout the state with a well-funded bipartisan committee. Second: have an economic summit to look at a total reorganizing of state revenue funds to make a stable consistent education fund. If taxes are to be considered, they should be fair; nowhere in this wealthy state should a poor village pay more than it can afford. Third Alaskans should start electing legislators that submit legislation that unifies people instead of divide them.

There are not enough votes in the rural areas to beat SB 36; we are like the trapped whales. Rural, mostly native people are the minority. It wasn't always that way, but it is now. The only way SB 36 can be stopped is for the thousands of conscientious Alaskans and maybe even a few national organizations to help villages protect their native languages. SB 36 could be law in weeks. Many school districts will be hurt by SB 36, but I know best the story of these three villages. Stop SB 36 before it is too late. If these three villages were only whales possible more people would come to their rescue. Please help!

Respectfully,

BILL E. WILKINSON

Carl Otten, Mayor
City of St. Michael
P.O. Box 70
St. Michael, Alaska 99659
April 1, 1998
Phone: 907-923-3222

TO: CONGRESSMEN AND LEGISLATORS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

RE: SB36-FUNDING CUTS TO EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN RURAL ALASKA

Attached petition is about 99% of our voting population in St. Michael. We are very concerned about our school being threatened by the funding cuts if SB36 gets passed. We do not want our children to feel that they are targeted to leave our village to attend school elsewhere. We have worked so hard to keep our school a great place to learn and a beginning of a life long process that should prepare our students for life's great journey. Please reconsider and vote "NO."

Thank you for your time.

*Carl Otten, by
Susanna Horn*

Carl Otten, Mayor
(Signed by Susanna Horn, Vice-Mayor)

March 25, 1998

TO: Representative Richard Foster
Room 410
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

FR: Residents of Saint Michael

RE: SB36 - Funding Cut for Educational Schools in Rural Alaska

Dear Honorable Representative Foster:

This letter is in regards to SB36 and the effect it will have on many upcoming leaders in Rural Alaska. In the past our children were sent away from their families to further their education; therefore causing families that live the subsistence way of life to suffer without the help of their teenage children,

After many years, high schools were finally started in each villages, bringing the children back home not only to their families, but also to their natural surroundings. Furthermore, having a high school in each village creates jobs for many local residents. Currently our schools are the main source of income for the majority of the families. There will be more people having to rely on ATAP, Food Stamps, etc., without the jobs that the schools create for each village.

PLEASE VOTE NO TO SB36

NAME	DATE
Garl Otten	3/26/98
Francine Otten	3/26/98
Theresa M. Kallak	3/26/98
Emily Kallak	3-26-98
Merilee Martin	3/26/98
Kathleen Otten	03/26/98
Frank Adams	3/26/98
Melanie Tom	3/26/98
Theresa Tom	3/26/98
Arthur Otten	3/26/98
Jane Otten	3/26/98
Mary A. Wall	3/26/98
Bernadette	3/26/98
Nora S. Sybilik	3/26/98
Suzie M. Johnson	3-26-98
Damian Tom	3-26-98
Susie Otten	3-26-98

NAME	DATE
Holmes Otten	3/26/98
Vincent Otten	3/26/98
Warden Eladuk	3-26-98
Theodore Ottrak	3-26-98
Ronald Otten	3-26-98
Stanley	11 11 11
Elizabeth Aketchunak	3-26-98
Elizabeth Aketchunak	3-26-98
Alberta Aket	3-26-98
Glenn R. Aceman	3-26-98
Mark Ben	3/26/98
Florence Fickensack	3-26-98
William Fickensack	3-26-98
Ron Fickensack	3-26-98
J. D. Richardson	3-26-98
Clara Curtis	3-26-98
Lawrence B. Lockwood Sr	3-26-98
Lucene B. Lockwood	3-26-98
Hilary Frost	3/26/98
Alma Frost	3/26/98
Brent Lockwood	3/26/98
Doris Lockwood	3-26-98
John C. Washington	3-26-98
Christine M. Washington	3-26-98
Priscilla Washington	3-26-98
Richard Linn	3-26-98
Elias Ukarian Sr	3-26-98
Helen Ukarian	3-26-98
Ray Ukarian	3-26-98
William W. Gesman	3-26-98
Margaret Gesman	3-26-98
Kathleen Kohls	3-26-98
Peter Kohls	3-26-98
Robert J. Blum	3-26-98
John J. Blum	3-26-98
Charles Lockwood	3-26-98
Thomas Lockwood	3-26-98
Don Lockwood	3-26-98
Andrew Lockwood	3-26-98
Andrew B. Otten Sr.	3-26-98
Elizabeth M. Ottrak	3-26-98
Edna Ottrak	3-26-98
Agnes Ottrak	3-26-98
Josephine Ottrak	3-26-98
Jeanne Oakes	3-26-98
Rita Ojournick	3-27-98

NAME	DATE
Dan Billings	3-26-98
Christopher Roman	3-26-98
Melanie Amperak	3-26-98
Kim White	3/26/98
Charles B. Otten	3/26/98
Mary Otter	3/26/98
Michael Aketchunde	3/26/98
Max Clark Jr.	7/26/98
John Chernak	3/26/98
James Schubert	3-26-98
Robert J. Lockwood	3/26/98
Robert J. Otten	3-26-98
Michael Paul Wings M. Williams	3/26/98
Jessica Roman	3/26/98
Robert Bobuk	3/26/98
Robert Otten	3/26/98
Thomas Otten	3/26/98
Floyd Lockwood	3/26/98
Lyndee Lockwood	3/26/98
Alana Schubert	3-26-98
James Labrank Jr.	3-26-98
Ferry B. Kobuk	3/26/98
Alfred Roman	3/26/98
Katherine Kobuk	3/26/98
Harold Kobuk	3/26/98
Rosemary Snowball	3/26/98
John Clark Jr.	3/26/98
Bill Hawkins	3/26/98
Robert Hawkins	3/26/98
John Hawkins	3/26/98
John Hawkins	3/26/98
John Hawkins	3-26-98
John Hawkins	7/26/98
Jessica Roman	3-26-98
NYBE Shalikya	3-26-98
Nicholas Tam	3-26-98
Susan Don	3/26-98
Diane Morrison	3-26-98
George J. Kobuk	3-26-98
George J. Kobuk	3-26-98
John Hawkins	3-26-98
John Hawkins	3-26-98
Michael Clark	" " "
Robert A. Andrews	3-26-98
Anthony W. Andrews	3-26-98

NAME

DATE

Mark's Fitch	3-26-98
Anthony & Margaret	3-26-98
Catherine & Douglas	3-26-98
Adel & Olymnick	3-26-98
Monica Olymnick	3-26-98
Dwayne Olymnick	3-26-98
Harold Chasick	3-26-98
Helen Tom	3-26-98
Lawrence W. Abouchak	3/27/98
John Lakson	3/27/98
Q. Kobuk	3-27-98
J. Steve	3-27-98
Laura Jorgi	3-27-98
Walter J. Wood	3/27/98
Eileen & John	3/27/98
John & Mary	3/27/98
John & Mary	3-27-98
Bob & Fred	3/27/98
Miss Matthea	3/27/98
Paul Washington	3-27-98
Julia & William	3-27-98
Elsie & Charles	3/27/98
Thomas & Charlotte	3/27/98
Connie & Schneider	3/27/98
Rita & Harold	3/27/98
Shirley & Harold	3/27/98
Mrs. Matthea	3/27/98
Mary & Henry	3/27/98
David & Betty	3/27/98
Charles & Corinne	3/27/98
Kenneth & Corinne	3/27/98
Pauline & Richard	3/27/98
John & Nancy	3/27/98
Kenneth & Corinne	3/27/98
Chuck & Betty	3/27/98
William & Myra	3/27/98
Barbara & Stanley	3/27/98
Andrew & Edith	3/27/98
Frederic & Wengalona	3/27/98
Rita & Andrew	3/27/98
Virginia & Washington	3/27/98
Paul & Washington	3/27/98
Doris & Richard	3/27/98
Tom & Lois	3/27/98
Leo & Kobuk	3/27/98

NAME

DATE

George Kalk 3/27/98

Norris Niksik 3/29/98

Alexander A. U. K. 3/29/98

Philip Deoman 3-27-98

Nora Akarun 3-27-98

Kathy Hartman 3-27-98

Kenneth Washington 3-27-98

Gene Orshukovich 3-27-98

Elizabeth B. Almasa 3-27-98

W. J. 3-27-98

Cliff L. 3-27-98

Bernadette Tom 3-27-98

Eileen Alvarez 3-27-98

Maria Alvarez 3-27-98

Ricard Washington 3/27/98

Lee J. Kof. 3/27/98

Thomas F. Carlin S.J. 3/27/98

Albert Washington 3/27/98

Bibiana Bethany 3-27-98

Elmer C. 3-27-98

Mary L. 3-27-98

Alvin V. 3/27/98

Maria Herrera

Laura Maister 3/31/98

Steph. 3/31/98

3/31/98

Franchis B. Michael 3/31/98

Alfred C. 3/31/98

4/6/98

Dear Concerned Alaskan Representative,

I have recently received a copy of Jean Stockburger's letter regarding SB36 that Representative Bunde is circulating. I would like to respond, briefly, to that letter.

Ms. Stockburger's primary complaint seems to be that parents aren't supporting the schools she has taught in. I can only take Ms. Stockburger at her word on this. In fact, I have no doubt that some rural students and schools have very poor parent support. Of course, this isn't the case for all rural students and schools. I have worked at two different village schools during the past 9 years. Both of those schools have been very well supported by the community. Currently, I am principal in Newtok. I have no problems getting volunteers and community support for the school whenever I ask. The same is true for parental support with regard to the children. Out of a student population of around 90, there are only 3 students that we have not been successful in getting parental support to encourage better attendance and behavior. However, to be fair, I rather suspect that if one were to ask the principals of Anchorage and Fairbanks schools about these issues, parental support and attendance, my bet is that one would find that for some urban schools, just as is true for some rural schools, this is not a unique problem. In fact, as I recall, rural schools tend, as a general rule, to have much better attendance than most urban schools.

Ms. Stockburger's other piece of criticism seems centered about the fact that parents in rural schools are concerned about losing basketball and free breakfasts. Sports in rural schools are no less important than sports are to urban schools. I can't help but wonder what sort of cacophony you would hear if budget cuts to the schools in your district would mean the end of school-sponsored basketball, football, volleyball, hockey, swimming, etc.

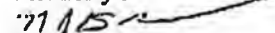
With regard to concerns about free meals, it seems to me that in communities, such as many of the schools of the Lower Kuskokwim School District, where 80-90% of students are on the federal free lunch program, and, thus, 80-90% of the families are below the poverty level, concern about providing healthy meals for children isn't too extreme a reaction.

Ms. Stockburger concludes with, "Until parents and all members of a village change their attitudes and start working productively to support education I feel changes in the funding are justified." I guess I just don't agree with the notion of cutting educational funding for children because one doesn't like the attitude of their parents.

SB36 is a mistake. Please, do not support this piece of legislation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you.


Mark Douglas
Newtok, Alaska (August to May)
Fairbanks, Alaska (June and July)
H: 237-2207

4-5-98

Hi.....

from Bill

Just a quick note as I'm 3 weeks behind and I don't think I'll ever get caught up. This letter was sent to Rep.Con Bunde and he is using it as a tool to discredit what almost everyone is saying against SB 36. It is causing other legislators to rethink their positions. If you respond to this letter

PLEASE do not respond negatively.

it would only add fuel to the fire. Some ideas might be to talk about the AOTE process if you're using it, involvement of the ASB's, parental committees, parents coming to the school to read, attendance at parent-teacher conferences, attendance at student-parent conferences. Some of you who are new to rural Alaska might compare what Ms. Stockburger is saying with urban Alaska and/or urban 48.....If you respond you can FAX it to : (Remember Be Positive !!)

✓ ✕ Representative Gail Phillips - District 7 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3472

✕ Representative Con Bunde - District 18 - Republican
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4843
Representative Con Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

✓ ✕ Representative Ivan Ivan - District 39 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-4539

✓ ✕ Representative Richard Foster - District 38 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3242

✓ *Representative Gene Kubina - District 35 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3799

* Representative Mark Hanley - District 12 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-2418

Representative Ramona Barnes - District 22 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-4565

Representative Ethan Berkowitz - District 13 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-2137

Representative Tom Brice - District 30 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-2937

Representative Eric Croft - District 15 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-4419

Representative John Davles - District 29 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3519

Representative Gary Lee Davis - District 8 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3835

Representative Fred Dyson - District 25 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-4587

Representative Ben Grussendorf - District 2 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-2278

Representative Jeannette James - District 34 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-2381

Representative Reggie Joule - District 37 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-4586

Representative Pete Kelly - District 31 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-5241

Representative Allen Kemplen - District 16 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Representative Albert Kookesh - District 5 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-2827

Representative Pete Kott - District 16 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-2819

Representative Terry Martin - District 14 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-2293

Representative Beverly Mack - District 28 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-4822

Representative Carl Moses - District 40 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3445

Representative Eldon Mulder - District 23 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3518

Representative Irene Nicholla - District 36 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-2197

Representative Brian Porter - District 20 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3834

Representative Norman Rokeberg - District 11 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-2040

Representative Joe Ryan - District 21 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-4588

Representative Jerry Sanders - District 19 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3476

Representative Al Vezey - District 32 - Republican
Fax: (907) 465-3258

Representative Bill Williams - District 1 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3793



KAKE

Tribal Corporation

APR 06 1998

Anchorage Daily News
April 3, 1998

Dear Editor:

As the executives of Southeast Native corporations representing thousands of shareholders and hundreds of skilled jobs, we take a keen interest in Alaskan education issues. Collectively, the Native corporations of our region award well over a million dollars in post-secondary scholarships each year.

Our shareholders are deeply concerned about Senate Bill 36, which would alter the education funding formula for public schools. The funding formula is a complicated subject, but the effect of SB 36 is simple: it will deny to children living in rural areas the opportunity for equal education.

With legislation like SB 36, we are in danger of having our school system relapse to the era of separate and unequal education that was declared illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision forty years ago in the case of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. We expect the Alaska Legislature to follow the law of the land and provide the funds necessary for quality education no matter where our students live.

As corporate executives, we know that it is more expensive to conduct business in rural areas than it is in urban areas. The same conditions apply to education. It is not possible to provide equal education in Angoon for the same price per student as it is in Anchorage.

In our region the new formula imposed by SB 36 would reduce the Pelican School District's funding by 35%, while the Ketchikan School District would get an increase of 22%. In your area of the state, Anchorage schools will get an increase, while school budgets in the Yupik villages of the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim will be reduced.

This is about fairness and equality; it is not about urban areas subsidizing rural districts. State funding of education is a distribution of income the state receives from non-renewable resources, not from taxes paid by individual Alaskans. SB 36 would redistribute wealth, taking from poor villages and giving to affluent communities.

We who conduct business affairs in rural areas believe that quality education is crucial to the future of rural economies. All of Alaska's children deserve the equal opportunity provided by equal education.

By Gordon Jackson *Gordon Jackson*
Chairman, Southeast ANCSA President's Association

Representing: Cape Fox Corporation of Saxman
Goldbelt, Inc. of Juneau
Haida Corporation of Hydaburg
Kake Tribal Corporation of Kake
Kootznoowoo, Inc. of Angoon
Shaan Seet, Inc. of Craig
Shee Atika, Inc. of Sitka
Klukwan, Inc. of Klukwan

3017 CLINTON DR., SUITE 100
P.O. BOX 263

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 FAX: (907) 790-2264
KAKE, ALASKA 99830 FAX: (907) 785-6407
CALL TOLL FREE: 800-478-7853

PHONE: (907) 790-2214
PHONE: (907) 785-3221

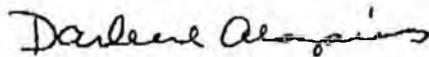
April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. We live in the villages and know the needs of monies in our rural schools. The students in rural Alaska are not getting the up to date equipment to meet the future, due to the lack of funding in everything they try to get into. Due to the fact all monies are not available. It's being spent on urban school districts. We the rural people know of the need of monies to equip our schools with up to date equipment to prepare our kids for the future. The school is already short with funds, what's going to happen when this bill passes??? Please oppose SB 36.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Darlene Aloysius

Box 212

Holy Cross, AK 99602

April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. This bill will take away millions of dollars from the rural school districts. Please don't let this happen. The children are our future. What will happen to the education of our young children if this bill passes? Parents will be forced to send their children to urban schools just so that they can participate in extra-curricular activities. We want our children with us, they should be given the privilege of attending school in their own community. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Sims

James Sims
Box 28
Holy Cross, AK 99602

April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. This bill will take away much needed money for the rural school districts. What will happen to the education of our children??? Parents will start sending their kids away just so that they can participate in sports and extra-curricular activities. Please do not let this happen. Our children should be able to attend school in their own community. They have to grow up in their own environment to learn their Native cultural values. This won't happen if they are forced to attend school elsewhere.

Please oppose this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Anthony

any Ann Anthony

Box 23

Holy Cross, AK 99602

4-5-98

Hi.....
From Bill

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Representative Con Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

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Fax: (907) 465-4589

- ✓ * Representative Richard Foster - District 38 - Democrat
Fax: (907) 465-3242

4/6/98

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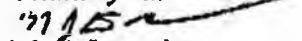
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SB36 is a mistake. Please, do not support this piece of legislation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you.


Mark Douglas
Newtok, Alaska (August to May)
Fairbanks, Alaska (June and July)
II: 237-2207

ELAINE M. LANDON
3747 Linnaea Way
Fairbanks, AK 99701

April 3, 1998

Honorable Alaska Senators
& House members,

I am writing regarding SB 36. It is not a bill I support, despite the fact that I am a 20 year Fairbanks resident and know our schools need more funding. The funding formula proposed in SB 36 is tremendously unjust to our rural schools.

It is an oversimplification to assume that school funding should be based on the percentage or number of students alone. Fairbanks and Anchorage enjoy a large economy of scale benefit in their operating and maintenance costs compared to rural schools. The new formula does not recognize these factors.

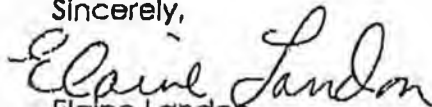
As citizens of Alaska, we are responsible to provide quality education for all students. It is unrealistic to expect true education to occur when school buildings are falling apart, when the books are old, and when the student/teacher ratio is out of balance. The new formula virtually guarantees such problems for rural schools. It costs money to provide a good education for our student citizens. And yes, the cost of educating those in the rural areas is higher. But we have an obligation to provide a quality education for all students, not just those in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Anyone with a good education knows that numbers can be easily manipulated to provide justification for many positions and needs. When the McDowell Study did not consider higher operating costs for rural schools, or the greater economy of scale experienced by urban schools, it did not look at the whole educational picture. And without looking at the whole picture, e.g., the true cost of education, the proposed funding formula is simply a manipulation of figures to justify a self-serving idea.

SB 36 does not benefit the state overall in the long run. While it may provide better funding for urban schools in the short run, over the long haul, it will cost us more. As rural educational quality declines, there will be fewer Alaskans qualifying for good jobs, more people unemployed, higher rates of crime, etc., etc., etc.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the SB 36 school funding formula is not fair or just. I urge you to do what is right for Alaska and not just for the urban districts. Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,


Elaine Landon

HC 1 Box 124 B
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 2, 1998

RE: SB 36

Hello, my name is Teresa Hoops and I am a homeschooling parent who has been teaching my daughters for the past 4 years. I believe that as the guardian of my children I should be held accountable for what they are learning.

This being so, I also should have the right to choose what curriculum we use and where we get it from. In a public or private school setting, if a parent wanted to have their child in a school on the other side of town from where they live, they have the right to make that choice. Why can't I?

Having my daughters enrolled in a different district should be, again as their parent, my choice. We have been with Copper River School District for 2 yrs. A new computer or the fact that my choice of curriculum is now offered through my own district has no bearings on my desire to change districts. Just as a parent may find teachers/administrators in another school more to their liking, so I have found Copper River School District to be more than helpful in meeting our needs.

By allowing choices of districts, we all can make Alaska a great place to educate our youngsters.

Please DON'T support SB 36.

Thankyou and God Bless You!

Teresa Hoops

MAR 26 1998

Page Two: Tribal Council Resolution No. 98-05

WHEREAS, Passage of Senate Bill 36 will cripple villages who are already experiencing and economic disaster from recent fishery industry failure and lack of job opportunities, and

WHEREAS, The passage of this bill will certainly have long and drastic effects on the operation of Rural School Districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of Village Alaska and worst yet, it will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in REAA regions in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing halt the advancement of knowledge's, skills and abilities of children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of Village Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The REAA School Districts are working together diligently and successfully to support and assist in the process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Native Village of Newtok respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislatures to reconsider its position and action toward the children of Village Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Native Villages of Newtok goes on the record to oppose the passage off Alaska State Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislatures.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED this 25th day of March, 1998 by the Newtok Traditional Council at the duly called meeting where quorum was present with 8 voting in favor and 0 against the measure

Stanly Tom
Stanely Tom, President

ATTESTED BY:

Joseph Patrick
Joseph Patrick, Secretary





VALDEZ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RESOLUTION 98-02

The Valdez Chamber of Commerce, representing 230 members doing business in Valdez, Prince William Sound and in part the Greater Copper Basin are concerned for the quality and cost of education of students;

WHEREAS; the leaders of our communities, states and our nation are the youth of today and,

WHEREAS; the primary resource for our youth is the quality of the education and,

WHEREAS; the rural communities of the State of Alaska have a greater volume of obstacles to overcome to provide education and,

WHEREAS; the reallocation of dollars as presented in HB36 redirect the majority of state funded education dollars to urban areas and,

WHEREAS; this reallocation is representative of a decrease of 1.8 million dollars annually or 28% of the current dollars received by Valdez from state funded education dollars and,

WHEREAS; the City of Valdez currently pay 50% of the cost of education of its students (second highest in the state) and,

WHEREAS; we recognize the efforts to put an equal percentage of dollars in locations with like percentage of students and,

WHEREAS; we recognize the areas with a higher percentage of students also have a broader base to derive alternative funding sources than most rural areas and,

WHEREAS; all areas of the State of Alaska have value and should have equal opportunity to provide quality education to the youth of our state and,

WHEREAS; the burden of replacing lost state funding for Valdez will be borne in majority by the businesses of this community and,

WHEREAS; these businesses have experienced a steady decline in the economy for the last three years and will find it difficult to meet the financial requirements to fund the 1.8 million dollars needed annually;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Valdez Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes this bill and request a more equitable funding base for education for all the youth of Alaska.

Signed and dated at Valdez, Alaska this 19th day of March, 1998.

Rich Nielsen
Rich Nielsen, Chairman VCC
Manager for BP Shipping, USA

Sandra Bittner
Sandra Bittner, Director VCC
Owner Sandra's Gold & Silvermithing

Michael E. Easley
Michael E. Easley, Vice Chairman VCC
Manager Engineering Services
Copper Valley Electric Assoc.

Kurt Hallier
Kurt Hallier, Director VCC
Port Operations Manager,
ARCO

Kandy Maag
Kandy Maag, Past Chairman VCC
General Manager Petro Star Valdez

Stacey Mitchell
Stacey Mitchell, Secretary VCC
Owner Aurora Charters

Connie Stephens
Connie Stephens, Treasurer VCC
Manager Beaver Sports

Dave Beck
Dave Beck, Director VCC
Manager Ketchum Air Services

Douglas Desorcie
Douglas Desorcie, Director VCC
Dean of Instruction, Prince William
Sound Community College

SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 8340
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Telephone: (907) 225-9658
Facsimile: (907) 225-8908

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

DATE: March 25, 1998

TO: Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature

FAX: 465-2418

FROM: Ray J. Griffith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RE: SB 36

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

We will appreciate any assistance you can give us with this bill. Thank you in advance!



**SOUTHEAST
ISLAND
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

1621 TONGASS AVENUE SUITE 301
POST OFFICE BOX 8340
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
PHONE: (907) 225-9658
FAX: (907) 225-2836

Ray Griffith
SUPERINTENDENT

March 24, 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
Capital Room 507
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

As superintendent of Southeast Island School District, I am writing with grave concern relative to SB36. Passage of SB36 in its current form can mean closure of five of SISD's 12 schools in October of this year.

As you are well aware, the bill would set a minimum of ten students for a school to be counted as a funding community. Any number fewer than ten would be counted as students of the largest school in the district, with a significant drop in funding for that site.

The immediate concern is that the bill would delay determination of fiscal year funding until the end of the October count period and then provide funding for that same fiscal year based on the October count. That impacts our district drastically. We would contract teachers, by state law and negotiated contract terms, prior to the current year based on current status, prepare buildings, commit to students and parents and fund to that anticipated level. If a site fell below the minimum count, however, we would not be funded at the anticipated and planned for level. SB36 would leave us committed and stranded without adequate funding to fulfill our predetermined commitment. In a district that is cutting 20% of its funding for the next fiscal year just to balance our budget, that unanticipated level of loss would be devastating. SB36 puts us in a catch-22. If we don't provide a school for a community with 8 anticipated elementary students, we are in violation of 4 AAC 05.040. If we do commit to a school in August but have fewer than ten in October, we do not receive adequate funding to keep the school open and to fulfill our contracted employee commitments and commitment to students and community.

We are asking you to help us get an amendment to SB36 that gives us some relief from so drastic an impact. We are proposing that the bill be amended as follows:

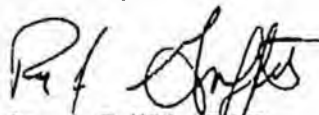
Sec.39 TRANSITION: SMALL SCHOOLS. For purposes of determining the school size factor under AS 14.17.450, enacted under Sec. 2 of this Act, the students in a school smaller than 10 ADM [on the effective date of this section] shall be included in the largest school in the district, **beginning in the fiscal year following the count period during which the school falls below 10 ADM.**

Southeast Island School District is opposed to SB36. We consider it to be based on a seriously flawed study commissioned by the Senate Finance Committee, one that would unfairly and unwisely redistribute funding from some school districts to other school districts, thereby creating "winners" and "losers." The effect would glaringly take funding away from rural districts and give it to urban districts. We are further distressed that SB36 fails to consider "program" equity as well as "funding" equity. Even the most cursory analysis will reveal the vast disparity between programs available to urban students as opposed to rural students.

In the unfortunate event that SB36 were to become law, the proposed amendment would forestall for at least nine months the closing of almost half of Southeast Island School District's schools. At least our students and parents and district board and administration would have minimal time to plan for the loss of access to local schools. To close schools in late October and expect students and parents to have acceptable immediate alternatives is unfair and unwise.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request for help. It would be tragic for students to not only lose the opportunity for education in their local communities, but to lose it without adequate time to seek and find alternative educational programs.

Sincerely,



Ray J. Griffith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Commissioner Shirley Holloway
Governor Tony Knowles
Carl Rose, AASB
Stephen McPhetres, AASA
Alaska School Superintendents

LKSD Media Center

P. O. Box 305
Bethel, AK 99559
(907) 543-4882
FAX (907) 543-4911
March 20, 1988

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

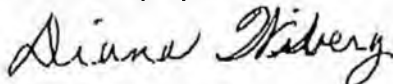
Dear Representative Hanley:

I would like to urge you to consider the needs of the children in the rural areas of the state. We are so spread apart and travel is difficult and totally weather-dependent. Isolation and primitive lifestyle make it extremely difficult to recruit and retain teachers. Because our students are isolated and speak English as a second language, it is necessary to have local native staff employed as cultural and language interpreters. Reduction of these jobs in the school will make it necessary for more people in villages to ask for welfare because the school is the major employer.

Making public schools beneficial for all is terribly expensive in the rural areas. We must continue to have the funding that we need to make it possible for us to bring these students up to the educational level of the urban student. We want our rural students to be able to contribute their fair share to the future economy of our state and we must educate them in order for that to happen.

Please reconsider your vote on SB36. Please do not take away one-fourth of our budget. Passage of this bill will be devastating to many people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours:



Diana J. Wiberg
LKSD Site Library/Media Coordinator

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARK HANLEY-DISTRICT 12-REPUBLICAN

FROM: STUDENTS AT LKSD's NAPAIAK SCHOOL

WE WILL NOT LEARN IN SCHOOL IF YOU CUT OFF THE SCHOOL MONEY.

IT IS LIKE MONOPOLY. WE PAY YOU GUYS MONEY AS IF WE LANDED ON YOUR SPOT. WE DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO YOU TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS.

WE NATIVE STUDENTS OF NAPAIAK WERE HERE FIRST AND YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE THE MONEY THAT IS OURS. EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR US BECAUSE OUR DAD'S AND MOM'S DID NOT MAKE MONEY THIS PAST SUMMER BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FISH. THERE WAS HARDLY NO FISH FOR US TO SELL. THERE IS PROBABLY NO MORE FISH FOR OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN THE COMING FUTURE BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE STOLE ALL OUR FISH IN THE OCEAN THAT WAS SUPPOSE TO COME BACK TO OUR KUSKOKWIN RIVER.

WE ARE POOR, BECAUSE OF THIS AND NOW YOU ARE STEALING OUR SCHOOL EDUCATION MONEY THAT WOULD MAKE US MORE POORER.

YOU SHOULD COME TO OUR VILLAGE AND VISIT AT OUR HOMES AND SCHOOL AND SEE HOW WE LIVE.

WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO DO GOOD IN SCHOOL, SO WE WILL HAVE A BETTER FUTURE WITH GOOD EDUCATION. BUT, IF YOU TAKE THE MONEY AWAY FROM OUR SCHOOL, WE WILL HAVE A SAD FUTURE. OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS CAN NOT SUFFER ANYMORE. BE KIND AND THOUGHTFUL OF US, SO WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OURSELVES LEAD GOOD LIVES WITH GOOD EDUCATION.

Jonathan Billy
John Nink Shawna Patton
Grace B. Billy

FROM: STUDENTS AT LKSD'S NAPAKIAK SCHOOL

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Aaqilah S. m qbt | 26. Cheryl |
| 2. Ben Paul | 27. Katrina Andrew |
| 3. Kirkis Babb | 28. Jackie P. Kay |
| 4. Frank D. Edward | 29. Nicole P. P. P. |
| 5. Jelly Jung | 30. Laura Jung - Ther A. H. e |
| 6. Clara Kachatok | 31. _____ |
| 7. Sophie Johnson | 32. _____ |
| 8. Valentino Jimmy | 33. _____ |
| 9. Scott Nelson | 34. _____ |
| 10. Crystal White | 35. _____ |
| 11. Candace Black | 36. _____ |
| 12. Melissa Alustak | 37. _____ |
| 13. Frank Andrew | 38. _____ |
| 14. Frank Alustak | 39. _____ |
| 15. Washline Parika | 40. _____ |
| 16. Frank Nelson | 41. _____ |
| 17. Curtis R. | 42. _____ |
| 18. Carolyn Black | 43. _____ |
| 19. Denise Kymozda | 44. _____ |
| 20. Anne E. Gray | 45. _____ |
| 21. Cynthia Alustak | 46. _____ |
| 22. Alexandria W. M. | 47. _____ |
| 23. Lisa A. Billy | 48. _____ |
| 24. Evangelina Smart | 49. _____ |
| 25. Miranda Zerita | 50. _____ |

March 20, 1998

Legislators,

I am a Mother of 4, Community Member, School Board Member, Techniques in Alcohol Management Instructor (Tam), and also a General Manager year round of a Restaurant & Lodge in the Denali Borough. I am writing this because I have great concerns for all of our children's future.

Our Borough gave the School District money in 1993-1994, before they were required to (\$230,000.00). Which in the long run, as you all should know, takes away that much in state money. We are close to meeting the cap that the Borough can give us. This does not mean that the cap should be lifted altogether. What it does mean is that our Borough is helping us meet the inflation rate that the state has refused to meet in the last ten years. As a School District, Community, and Borough we are taking on the state's responsibility, as have other School Districts, Communities, and Boroughs across the State for some time now. The way I understand it the Municipalities and School Districts across the state got together and made recommendations to you. Why isn't any one listening?

I feel it is time for all legislators and constituents to get together across the state and start standing united for education for the children. It is your responsibility to find out exactly what has been cut in all these Schools. In our Borough we have cut 4 positions just in the last two years, including 1 in the District office.

In February I felt we would see additional funding from the state for education, I no longer feel that way. I feel that you are wasting precious time and tax payer dollars on CSSB 36, when it looks like the Governor will veto it. Alternatives could be as simple as giving \$1000.00 more per unit and each year following a percentage increase for inflation. You could look at any future increase in the PFD amount and designate that for the education of our children. In all honesty who could really fight that position? It's free money that Alaskans get, and any increases should go to our children's education. I do not see anyone considering a cap on the PFD Check.

Please listen to everyone across the state and not just your own constituents, don't worry about your votes from your own area. Pay attention to all the state's children and you can not go wrong, I believe then you will get the votes you need. Please stand together, ultimately you are representing all of us across the state.

Thank you again for all the hours you give to us, and the time you put into reading this letter.

Edie Mercer
P.O. Box 498
Healy, AK. 99743-0498
emercer@mail.denali.k12.ak.us
907-683-2821-home
907-683-2243-fax



Dear Senator or Representative;

Anchorage Schools have more extra curricular activities and have more sight-seeing or field trips than village students. Please don't vote or approve this Senate Bill 36. It will hurt the students, families, teachers, our vendors, etc. That includes vendors in Anchorage. There are more disadvantages about this bill.
Say no to SB 36!

Concerned parent,

~~Margherite~~ Bulin

LKSD

wasigluk abc

Dear Senator,

First, we have 74 students here in our village, a good number for school to educate them. Along with it, we have two villages estimate of quarter of a mile apart. The traveling condition during fall time and spring time is not adequate. There are smaller kids who needs to be educated. The boarding home is out of our minds due to, if the kids don't be comfortable at the place where they are staying. This situation is not suitable for their families especially when they are close, this will take them apart, from close relation. Our kids will be out of control, if they go into a different environment.

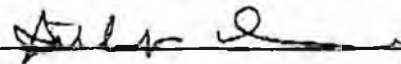
A parent,
Lucy Kassel

Dear Senator

I Am Writing to Ask you to Vote against SB36. This bill is trying to take too much money away from students in the Village for City kids. Let my grandchildren have school in the Village, not go to Anchorage.

Get the money for city kids from somewhere not the Village.

Sillufic Thomas



Dear Senator

Taking money from rural schools will make people lose their jobs, it will make schools close.

It will make kids go away for school, away from their villages and I will not send my children away for high school, because I have gone through trying to attend High School outside of my village, and I end up not finishing school at all?

I hope this letter will make you think of our children and grandchildren, and rural villages how hurt families will be.

SB 36 is a bad bill and it should not be a law?
Please STOP IT NOW?

Queyana Fannie Brunk
parent of 2 students

Dear Senator,

My name is Crystal Maxie and I am one of the students at Akiuk Memorial School. We have a wonderful school here. And I don't know what I would do if you closed our school down. By the way I don't know what my friends, cousins, and even strangers would do if you closed our schools down. And I am just learning Yup'ik and I don't want to stop learning it and I don't want to learn it anywhere else but my home village.

And if you close it down I will have to school at Anchorage away from my family away from my friends and away from my grandma. I know one thing out of all this if you were the one who had to leave the ones you love you wouldn't like it. Now you know how we feel. So please don't close our school's down.

Akiuk Memorial
School at
Kasiqluk
Alaska

Sincerely,
Crystal (Nayagay) Maxie

Dear Senator, I am so
 worried if you close our
 school I will have to go
 to another and like leaving
 to school I want like leaving
 (home) → school
 Lane Nugegasta. Andrews
 24r (Grade 2+)
 AKIUK school
 Kasingluk

Dear Senator

The school is very important now
a days. Even go off to the college.

The students need teacher aides
to help them learn both their native
culture and the Western way.

The parents need the teacher aides
and certified teachers, and mostly the
school in the village, so I'm supporting
SB36 to keep the school in our
Villages

sincerely
Anna Maria

Dear Senator:

I am writing to you about the SB36 Bill. I solely believe that it will cause major changes that will destroy our children's stable learning environment which is in our own schools. It will produce more educational problems and the whole situation will fall back to you and you will have a more drastic problem to deal with. If our kids go away to get there education, they will be open to Alcoholism, Drugs and crimes. I don't think SB36 is such a good Idea.

Native people (Alaskans) are being ripped/pulled to so many directions by the State Government and now you want to take what is ours to BIGGER and more equiped Urban Schools. We have such few options in our schools. --- please don't take that away from our children.

Karla Shoenberg

Dear Senator

Native children are important and need to go
School too. Let them have their money.
get money for city School from the city.

I don't like the idea of my children
going to boarding School. I'm sure their
grandparent's won't like them going to boarding
school too. Please don't make my children go
away for school. Families should live together
and not be pulled apart by the School
being closed

Thank you for listening

Lucy Brink

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask you to vote
against S.B.36. This Bill is trying
to take too much money away from
students in the Villages for City Kids.
Let my grandchildren have a school in
the Village, not go to Anchorage.

Get the money for City Kids from
somewhere, not the Villages.

Thank you for hearing me.

Emma Kalita



SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 226, Tok, Alaska 99780
907 - 883-5151
FAX: 907 - 883-5154

Rep. Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 18 1998

March 13, 1998

Re: School Foundation Funding and SB-36

Dear Representative Hanley,

You have been handed the most complicated, inequitable, and devious school funding bill in the history of school finances in the state of Alaska. The proponents of simplicity and equity have fallen short with SB-36.

The critical question for everyone concerned about public schools in Alaska is can SB-36 be amended and changed enough to achieve desired simplicity and equability. I doubt that it can in the short time left in this session. If you conclude that it cannot, I would request that you look at the current statute and increase the value of the foundation unit. This action will help every single district, urban and rural, across the entire state. Every school district in this state is under funded and hurting right now.

Again, Representative Hanley, please support and vote for simplicity and equity. In spite of what we hear today, I remember that the public school funding mechanism in current statute was promoted and praised for being simple and equitable at the time of its passage by public school people and a majority of the legislature.

Sincerely,

Darroll Hargraves, Superintendent

"Where Teachers Are The Gateway To Learning"

Dot Lake
907-882-2663
FAX: 907-882-2112

Eagle
907-547-2110
FAX: 907-547-2303

Mentasta
907-291-2327
FAX: 907-291-7325

Northway
907-776-2207
FAX: 907-776-2221

Tok
907-883-5161
FAX: 907-883-5165

Tanacross
907-883-4391
FAX: 907-883-4390

Itlin
907-324-2104
FAX: 907-324-2114

United Utilities, Inc.

Affiliate of Unicom



Steve Hamlen
President

March 13, 1998

MAR 18 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

United Utilities, Inc. provides telecommunications services in 58 rural Alaskan communities. We are concerned with the unprecedented budget cuts to rural schools contained in SB 36. All of our citizens are deserving of legislative decisions that are carefully thought out and are based upon an impartial analysis of all the facts.

SB 36 would transfer approximately \$31 million from rural school districts to Anchorage. The Lower Kuskokwim School District, for example, has informed us that they would lose approximately \$8.4 million, 150 classified staff, and 60 teachers. These funding cuts are substantial and I am concerned for the ongoing ability of our native Alaskan children to receive a suitable education. I'm also concerned that this debate has turned into a contest of us versus them (urban versus rural). I've been told that a new funding formula is being proposed that includes factors, such as the ability to raise educational funds via property taxes, that are unrealistic and designed to favor one constituency over another.

Please carefully consider the merits of SB 36. Something is wrong here and it will be our native children who will be disadvantaged if it is not fixed. I wish that all of our legislators could visit our rural schools including our school in Hooper Bay and then compare these schools with any school in Anchorage. I have little doubt that anyone could walk away from these visits and suggest that the funding for our rural schools should be reduced.

Sincerely yours,



LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 32089 • Mt. Village, Alaska 99632 • (907) 591-2411

Pamela VanWechel
Superintendent

February 27, 1998

MAR 10 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol [MS 3100]
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Hanley:

On behalf of the Lower Yukon School District, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your time and attention when meeting with school representatives during the Legislative Fly-In. LYSD Liaison, Michael Prince, Board Member, Art Heckman, Superintendent, Pamela S. VanWechel and Business Manager, Dr. Carla Sheive represented LYSD and met with many legislators and / or their staff during that time.

We continue to stress how crucial it is to the welfare of rural Alaska's children for you to endorse and support a funding formula that does not "rob" funds from **any** district. Equally important is the appropriation the money desperately needed to fund our capital improvement projects, critical to meeting our student's needs.

LYSD has spent two hundred thousand dollars over the last four years developing Capital Improvement Plans, to place and keep our two most critical need's schools at the top of the Department of Education's list (i.e., Pilot Station #3, Kotlik #4). It is imperative that funds become available, soon. Enclosed, please find a copy of *The Tundra Drums* which contains two articles describing the "appalling" conditions at Pilot Station.

Again, I appeal to you as a Statesman representing this Great State of Alaska. Please cast your vote to ensure the best education possible for Alaska's most precious resource, our children . . . for ALL of Alaska's children!

Respectfully yours,

Michael Hunt
LYSD Board Chairman

Atakanuk Emmonak Hooper Bay Kotlik Ma Hall Mt. Village Pilot Station Pitka's Point Russian Mission Scammon Bay Sheldon Point

TUNDRA The Drums

The beat of the
Yukon-Kuskokwim
Delta



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 49 28 pages, one section

75¢ Bethel, Alaska

Thursday February 26, 1998

Sewage threatens school safety

Problem expected to worsen as breakup approaches

By Oakley Cochran

The Tundra Drums

PILOT STATION — At Pilot Station Elementary School last week, 7- and 8-year-old boys showed off new acrobatics on a jungle gym just 100 feet away from an open sewer manhole containing raw sewage.

Meanwhile, a man wearing a gas mask hovered over the cordoned-off manhole holding a halogen lamp to light the way for his co-workers who was down in the hole trying to fix the school's sewage pump. The pump, which failed on Jan. 20, normally moves sewage from the nearly 40-year-old school up to a sewage lagoon less than a quarter of a mile away.

Because of the pump failure, the students, staff and faculty at the elementary school have been using honey buckets for the last six weeks.

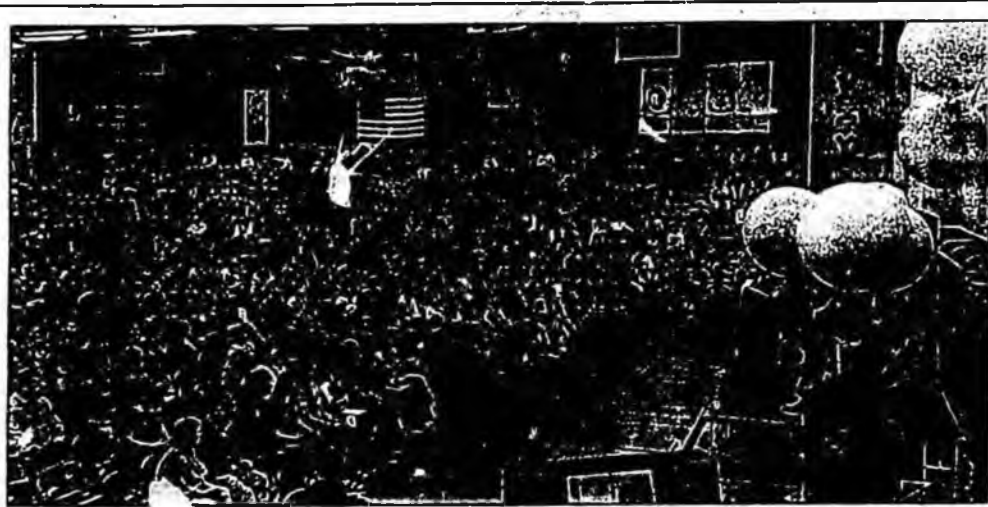
These are little kids who don't know much about hygiene, said Pamela VanWechel, superintendent of the Lower Yukon School District.

In one classroom which smelled of sewage, the students looked happy enough as they made green and purple Play-doh models of Eskimo dancers in anticipation of a weekend potlatch. But Pilot Station health aides warn about a hepatitis A outbreak, and point out the high incidence of strep throat, bronchitis, diarrhea and other illnesses at the elementary school.

In a normal February, the elementary school doesn't have a major problem with raw sewage — it's generally frozen. True, electrical problems in the past have caused pipes to freeze, and the sewage pump sometimes fails. Honey buckets are never far from being pressed into service. And this most recent pump failure has prompted teachers to shorten or move classes, parents to remove children from the school, and the school to shorten its daily operating hours — all in an effort to prevent more illnesses.

At any other school, these would be deemed minor measures.

By the spring breakup, the sanitation problem will get worse as raw sewage, carried by floodwaters, surrounds Pilot Station's "old town," which includes the elementary school and the homes of approximately 10 families. No amount of



Aaron Spitzer/Tundra Drums

Students, teachers and community members flooded the BRHS gymnasium last Thursday to remember Josh Palacios and Ron Edwards. The event was followed by a one-year feast and a musical performance paying tribute to the slain principal and student.

One year after Community gathers to honor Edwards, Palacios

By Aaron Spitzer

The Tundra Drums

As it did 12 months ago, the regular order of things at Bethel Regional High School halted Feb. 19 — this time not in chaos but with a carefully-orchestrated celebration of the lives of slain principal Ron Edwards and student Josh Palacios.

On a still, sunny Thursday, hundreds of students, teachers, parents and community members quietly filed into the high school gym to memorialize the two Bethel residents killed last year in the shooting rampage at the school.

Some wore solemn suits and dresses, and a few appeared in yellow, orange or red sashbands, identifying them as visitors to the school. Tears shined on faces young and old, but so did poignant smiles, as returning graduates and former staff reunited with friends and teachers, enveloping one another in comforting embraces.

Among the festive athletic-team banners decorating what on week-

ends becomes the Warrior Dome, a new sign hung from the rafters. "We honor our loved ones not by the way we grieve but by the way we live."

In the face of a monstrous tragedy, those are words which the school has made its motto, said Les Daenzer, who was called upon to serve as acting principal in the wake of the shooting.

Daenzer was one of several administrators who addressed the gathering, speaking on a raised stage at the gym's south end, flanked by huge yellow and white helium balloons which would later be released in memory of Palacios and Edwards.

Daenzer read an essay written for the occasion by student Andy Angstman, summing up what for many was a profound realization of the last year. "It's frightening how easily one can die," Angstman wrote. "It's frightening how easily one person can cause so much grief for so many."

Nowhere that day was grief

more evident than on the tear-stained face of Claudia Palacios, who spoke extemporaneously before the crowd, displaying the same disarming sincerity she has since her son was shot.

"Josh had a lot of focus—he had dreams," she said. "All of you can live those dreams for Josh. You have to."

"I don't think it's ever going to be the same for any of us. What happened a year ago today will affect us for the rest of our lives. There's always going to be something missing."

Palacios urged the students to reach out to one another, to prevent another Evan Ramsey from falling through the cracks.

"There's lots of kids like Evan and they need our support and they need our friendship," she said.

And she wondered aloud whether Ramsey — and, in turn, Edwards and her son — could have been saved if the troubled boy had been her own foster son, or had approached her for help. And so she

begged students to come to her with their problems.

"I don't care where I am — if you need something, call me. Those of you who know me know I mean that," she said.

Josh's father, Rodney Thomas, urged the assembly not to harbor hatred. He said he has stopped blaming Ramsey and urged the crowd to do likewise.

"I believe we should all find it in our hearts to forgive Evan Ramsey," he said.

He also gave special thanks to student Raul Sanchez and teacher Reyne Athanasia, who stayed by his mortally wounded son, facing down a gun-toting Ramsey as others fled for their lives.

It's that kind of courage and compassion that are desperately needed, said LKSD director of personnel Gary Baldwin. "If I have one hope, it is that we will continue to watch out for one another, to care for one another," he said. "I can't think of a better way to honor Josh and Ron."

Lawsuit challenges limits on damage awards

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — A lawsuit was filed Feb. 17 in Bethel challenging the constitutionality of the state's new law that limits the amount of money a jury can award injured people.

The lawsuit attacks a law passed by the Legislature last year that restricts who can sue whom, when they can sue, and for how much. The law went into effect Aug. 7.

Because trial lawyers fought hard to block the law's passage, supporters of the measure aren't surprised by the challenge.

"It was just a matter of them waiting for the right case," said Rep. Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, a sponsor of the bill.

The lawsuit was filed by a team of attorneys on behalf of 16-year-old David "Buddy" Kutch Jr. of Bethel. He was paralyzed from the neck down in a snowmachine accident in December.

See Lawsuit, Page 17

Sewage ...

From Page 1

pumping or of going home early will eradicate this problem.

According to Linda Minock, a mother of three toddlers, she can see toilet paper floating during breakup.

The sewage problem is due, quite simply, to gravity. If the geography of the village of Pilot Station is like a salad bowl, as school principal George Brackin explained, then the old town is the pool of salad dressing at the bottom of the bowl. On the sides of the bowl is the rest of town, including the landfill, the sewage lagoon and a stream that swells in the spring, carrying a burden of sewage from the lagoon down to the old town and into the Yukon River.

One year during breakup, the town's rocking horses floated

uptown with fecal matter, Brackin said. On a beautiful spring day, he said, the single outdoor basketball court in Pilot Station will go unused, submerged under 1 1/2 feet of floodwater. And the outdoor wooden walkways between classrooms will hover just over the flood level.

"During the springtime we have to relocate the entire school — physically move it to the high school gym," said assistant superintendent Roger Adams. This is, however, a short-term solution that jeopardizes the education of both the elementary and high school students, he said.

The most obvious long-term solution to this problem is to close the school and relocate the classes.

Yet principal Brackin, who with his wife moved to Pilot Station last August, lives in fear of this solution — in such fear that workers at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation were

unaware of the magnitude of the problem until recently, because no one had reported it.

Because there are few public spaces in this village of 547 residents, the concern is that the DEC will condemn the school and students won't have anywhere to go.

"Right now we're in a tough situation. We don't have any other buildings for the students," said Advisory School Board member Evan Nick. According to Nick, the city buildings don't have running water, so they can't be used as alternate classrooms. "And churches aren't for school," he said, echoing a widely-held village belief.

A new Pilot Station elementary school is the top priority for the Lower Yukon School District, and has been for a number of years, superintendent VanWechel said. The new school is third on the statewide legislative priority list for school replacement, VanWechel said. But according to Brackin, at present the earliest that the funding will come through is 2001.

"2001—that's too long," said ASB member Laurie Edwards.

"What is it going to take to get a new school faster? Who else can we call?" asked ASB member Susie Makally, concerned about village children being in an unsafe environment.

VanWechel is currently in Juneau trying to acquire money from the Legislature to fund the new school for Pilot Station, as well as to lobby for other Lower Yukon problems.

"Some of the legislators who haven't been in rural Alaska just don't understand the severity of the situation," she said.

"If we have a hepatitis A outbreak here, then the state officials will notice us," said journalism teacher Gail Hill. "And then it will be too late."



Oakley Cochran/Tundra Drums

Pilot Station "old town" resident Linda Minock, mother of three, stands outside her home last Friday. In the background is frozen sewage. In some places 13 feet deep, carried by a stream that flows by the elementary school. "In the spring, I can see toilet paper and stuff floating," Minock said.



Oakley Cochran/Tundra Drums

Pilot Station school principal George Brackin points down the manhole where men have been working to repair a broken sewage pump.

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Illness rampant at sewage-plagued school

By Oakley Cochran

PILOT STATION—The colder the better, said two Pilot Station health aides last week.

According to Molly Francis and Sheila Minock, when it's cold, the raw sewage around Pilot Station's "old town" is generally frozen — which is why there are typically fewer illnesses during the dead of winter than in spring and fall, when the sewage is fresh. The village elementary school and the homes of about 10 families are located in the old town, below the town's sewage lagoon.

Diseases resulting from the presence of raw sewage can include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, fatigue and possibly jaundice, according to Northern Testing Laboratories, an environmental consulting and testing firm with labs in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Viruses, including hepatitis, and bacteria causing cholera and other diseases can be transmitted through raw sewage.

According to Francis and Minock, the 127 students at the elementary school contract many more illnesses than students at the high school, which has 48 students and is located above the sewage lagoon. While a formal, investigative study has yet to be initiated, the Pilot Station health aides have compared the number of clinic visits from elementary students to those of high school students for four months last fall. The number of visits by elementary students appears disproportionately high.

For example, last fall elementary students visited the health clinic 38 times due to bronchitis — 23 visits occurred in October alone. Just two bronchitis-related visits were made during the four months by high school students. Elementary students went to the clinic 58 times due to diarrhea; two visits were made by high school students. And sore throats prompted 108 visits from elementary students, and 13 from high school students. Other illnesses suffered by the elementary school children have included pinkeye, viral common cold, skin problems and influenza. Faculty and staff have also been ill.

"I hope the governor learns about this. There's a chance of a hepatitis A outbreak," Minock said. She went on to say that the village had an outbreak of hepatitis in the 1960s, and several hepatitis A cases in the mid-1990s. There are at least 24 carriers of hepatitis B in the village right now, she said.

"I hate to see my grandkids going to school down there with the toilets not working good," Francis said.

MAR 19 1998

From:
To:
Subject:

Vicki Kaele *VK*
Representatives
SB36

Phillips, Hanley & Theriault

Please kill or radically modify SB 36. It will have a very negative affect on Southwestern Alaska, especially the schools. It has been estimated that 2 or 3 schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District alone would close (there are 5 different districts here). There would be an estimated loss of 115 classified employees (mostly Alaskan Natives) and 65 certified positions. As it is, children in these rural school districts don't receive a comparable education to urban school districts. If SB 36 passes, rural schools will really be in trouble. LKSD's bilingual program will also have to be eliminated. The program has been making remarkable progress just in the last several years, rapidly developing curriculum materials, and working to preserve the Yup'ik Eskimo language and culture. Research shows that if children develop good literacy skills in their primary language, they learn better in a second language. Please don't allow this progress to be lost.

Southwestern Alaska has the highest employment rates in the state of Alaska, especially in the winter. The school districts are among the bush's larger employees. Removing \$8,400,000 from our economy, especially after a terrible fishing season, will be devastating.

In my opinion this process of taking resources from rural areas and placing them in urban areas is a travesty. Has the State forgotten where it came from? If this process continues the State will become more divided, perhaps literally. Anchorage seems quite happy taking the bush's money during the AFN conference and at other times when many Bush residents visit Anchorage. If this bill passes, perhaps the Bush will take its business to Seattle.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/18/98	# of pages	1
To	<i>R. P. Phillips, Hanley & Theriault</i>	From	<i>Vicki Kaele</i>		
Co./Dept	<i>House of Represent.</i>	Co.			
Phone #	<i>2684/4863 4939/4887</i>	Phone #	<i>(907) 543-5770</i>		
Fax #	<i>3477/2418/2884</i>	Fax #			

P.O. Box 33
Pelican, Alaska 99832
March 18, 1998

MAR 19 1998

The Honorable Senator Jerry Mackie

Dear Senator Mackie:

I am writing concerning SB 36, the education funding rewrite. There is a need to reallocate funds and rewrite the funding formula but I agree with you that, "this is not the right way to do it." The inflated spending habits of single site districts deserve a closer look by the State. Some single site districts fail to use fiscal restraint and wise spending of education dollars received.

It was stated in the Southeast Empire, mid March edition 1998, "...the Pelican School District would lose 35% of its funding and would probably have to close." Where did this inaccurate statement come from? Pelican has 32 students grades K - 12.

According to the Single Site School District Consortium, Pelican would lose \$188,000 in funding with SB 36 and \$51,000 from Single site allocation. \$239,000 approximate total decline. Pelican's current budget is (roughly +/-) \$700,000. Take away \$239,000 for 32 students and that leaves approximately, \$461,000 for 32 students. The education system in Pelican can continue to provide a quality education for their students with a budget of \$461,000.

The October 1997 elections changed the leadership makeup of the Pelican School Board. Within the last few months, the current school board signed a new contract with a Superintendent, hiring at \$70,000 a year plus a full benefits package and a guaranteed pay increase to \$75,000 plus full benefits next year. The Supt. is the on site administrator overseeing 4 full time certified teachers, 4 full time classified employees, 1 part time classified employee and substitute employees.

Compare this with other larger school districts in Southeast Alaska. Larger districts cover an extensive geographic area and experience increased student enrollment. I am familiar with the Chatham School District, it is made up of several school sites within its district, each site will be impacted by SB 36, losing revenues and in anticipation of funding cuts, Chatham REAA is proceeding with a reduction in force (laying off teachers).

The Pelican City Council is discussing the prospect of changing from 1st class city status to 2nd class city status because of declining revenues from raw fish tax, sales tax, and forest receipts (timber tax). The mandate of a 1st class city to pay 4 mills (\$52,000) to schools is having a negative impact on providing basic services within city limits. The City will not meet its obligation to the schools. This community is experiencing economic difficulties. As a result, the City may be petitioning for 2nd class city status. The city may not be a single site school district. In an REAA, Pelican would receive funding closer to the level of SB 36.

In closing, a funding formula rewrite and closer scrutiny of education dollars is needed. Basic education is accountable to the future of our children and economy. And your continued emphasis on fiscal responsibility and appropriate decision making will guide the destiny of Alaska.

As a stakeholder in education: I am a Pelican High School graduate and a 25 year resident of Pelican, a parent with 4 children, and have an extended family with children in public education. My family and I know that you care about Alaska's rural residents and children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips

Patricia Phillips

Marganna Avugiak
P.O. Box 50
Cheformak, Alaska 99561
March 19, 1998

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

MAR 19 1998

Dear Representative Mr. Hanley,

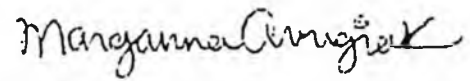
Hi! My name is Marganna Avugiak from Cheformak, Alaska. I am a sophomore here at Caputnguaq High School which is under the Lower Kuskokwim School District. The school that I am currently in is teaching me well as well as the other students.

The environment in the school is great and the teachers try their best to teach us. The students get along with the teachers and we try our best to learn. Right now everything is going fine. Students use all of the material and equipment in this school for learning, and are happy with the number of teachers that we have because they help us to understand what we need to learn.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 36 because I believe that it will affect the jobs and the education that our school provides in our village. We do not want the bill to pass because if it does it will affect our school in many different ways. For example, there will be a decrease in the number of teachers, books and the amount of food, school maintenance, and student travel.

Based on my reasons stated above I would really appreciate it if you would not vote for
Senate Bill 36. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Marganna Avugiak

Evelyn Agnus
P.O. Box 88
Cheformak, AK 99561
3-17-98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36, because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If SB 36 is passed, younger students will be disappointed by not learning things they have to know. What if they have home schooling? Would their parents like it that way? Some of the students would transfer to other places to find a better school. But they wouldn't like leaving their families just for school.

In the future some rural students might receive poor education. For example, with fewer certified teachers and teacher aides, students' grades could become lower. This will hurt them if they plan to go to college in the future.

In schools there wouldn't be enough supplies like books, papers, pencils to help us learn. So please don't pass Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Agnus

Magdalene Tunuchuk
P.O. Box 57
Chefornak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

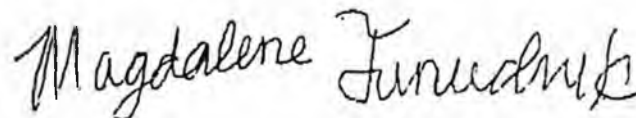
Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I want our schools to have enough money because I want to learn many things. If SB 36 is passed some teachers and teacher aides might lose their jobs. Some students might have to go to school at home or they might have to go to a boarding school. Some students would have to leave their families for a long time if the schools close.

Just because some students live in urban school districts does not mean that money should be taken away from rural school districts. So please vote no on SB 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Magdalene Tunuchuk

Sophie T. Wiseman
P.O. Box 77
Chefomak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I think some village schools will be closed. More students will have home schooling from school to school.

Schools might have less money to buy the school supplies and pay for activities. Teacher's aides might lose their jobs. Again please vote **no** on Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sophie Wiseman

Sophie T. Wiseman

Kimberly Abraham
P.O. Box 34
Cheformak, AK 99561
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I am thinking some village schools will close and most students will have home schooling. Some students might even transfer to other schools. If they transfer to other schools, they will hardly see their relatives.

I am also thinking that we will receive a poor education if SB 36 passes. Our schools will have less money for us to buy school supplies and to spend for activities. It might even reduce certified and classified teachers in rural schools. I am asking you to vote no. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Abraham

Kimberly Abraham

Carmen L. Chagluak
P.O. Box 15
Chefornak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

The reason why I am asking you to vote is because I am afraid of losing our school. I am really afraid because if our school closed down students might have to have home schooling, or they might have to transfer to another school. Also if this happens some students might not want to go to school, or they might drop out. If SB 36 passes a lot of students will be hurt.

How would you feel if you were one of us, really scared and you don't want to loose your family by going to another school? If people vote no I will be happy and feel safe for our school.

Sincerely,

Carmen L. Chagluak

Carmen L. Chagluak

Jessica K. Lewis
P.O. Box 2
Chefornak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capital, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

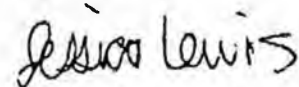
I am also afraid that schools might shut down. Students will be home-schooled or will be transferred to other places. If you transferred from a good village to a family you don't know, how would you feel?

If money is taken from rural schools and given to other urban schools, teachers will get fired. Some teachers are good explainers for tough problems. Those good teachers might get fired.

If you vote yes for SB 36, kids that were smart in math or reading might become a little dumber. If you have children who go to school, how would you and your children feel if they didn't get the best education they could?

Rural schools need the money, too; urban schools aren't the only ones. People in rural schools want to learn as much as they can. I think the people in Alaska should vote no to the Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,



Jessica K. Lewis

Wayne Buckles

P.O.Box 46
1 Red Last Turn Housing Road
Chefornak, AK 99561-0046

Phone 867-8700
Home Phone 867-8965
Email wbuckles@cheformak.lkxd.schoolzone.net

March 18, 1998

Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **NO** on SB 36 because I am afraid it would hurt my children's education as well as with the other children of rural Alaska.

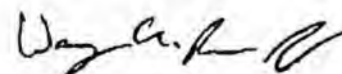
The reason why I am asking you to vote is because I am afraid of losing the school in my village. I am also afraid the other villages might lose their schools as well. If these schools closed down, the students in these schools would be forced into home schooling or to go to boarding schools. That would give them a harder time in getting a proper education and keep them in their own cultural settings at the same time. If that happens the students might not want to go to school and their parents might not want to or not be able to afford to send them away to boarding schools thus forcing some to drop out. If SB 36 passes a lot of students and their families would be hurt.

Another reason that I don't think that this bill should pass is that it would take jobs from rural villages where they are in dire need. A lot of the job bases of these communities are the schools. That would hurt the children in another way. Some of their parents wouldn't have jobs and that means that they would not have the money to get what they need at home. This bill would hurt more than just the education of rural Alaska but also rural Alaska's home lives as well.

Just think how you would feel if you were in our shoes. Really afraid of losing jobs and the education of your children? Really afraid of having to send your children to a boarding school? I don't know and couldn't know how you would feel. But I know how I feel. I would appreciate your help by voting **NO** on SB 36.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Buckles Jr.

Norman Tunuchuk
PO Box 38
Cheforanak, AK 99561
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representative
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I'm against Senate Bill 36. I'm asking you to vote no on Senate Bill 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If you vote yes, rural schools might lose a lot of money. Many things might happen to the students. Some students will have a home schooling and some students will move to other schools.

The students education might become poor if money for rural schools is reduced. Some schools will need school supplies for the students to use. The schools need also need extra-curricular activities and sports.

Many certified teacher's jobs will be lost, and a lot of classified jobs will be lost too. Please don't vote for Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

Norman Tunuchuk

Norman Tunuchuk

Rudy Kairaiuak Jr
P.O. Box 31
Chefornak, AK 99501
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanely
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanely

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If this bill passes village schools could be closed. If some schools are closed some students will have home schooling. Some other students will transfer to other schools and leave their home.

Another reason is certified and classified teachers will lose their jobs. If that happens students will get a poor education and might not know as much as others. Residents that worked for the school will have a hard time paying bills when SB 36 is passed. Please do not vote for this bill

Sincerely,

Rudy Kairaiuak Jr.

Rudy Kairaiuak Jr

Willie Avugiak
P.O. Box 62
Cheformak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mark Hanley,

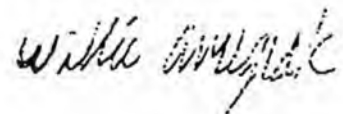
I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

Not only will it hurt my education it will hurt others too. If we don't have the education we would like to have, we'll have move to other places to get it.

Here the school provides most of the jobs in this village. My parents and many other parents could lose there jobs if SB 36 is passed. If they lost their jobs they wouldn't provide as well for their children because they have to pay for other bills.

If you and the other representatives voted no then student from rural villages would get a good education. But if you vote yes people from rural villages might go to cites for school. When that happens I think the schools will be overcrowded.

Sincerely,



Willie Avugiak

Diana Lewis
Box 7
Chefornak, AK 99561
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 50 /
Juneau, AK 99801

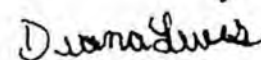
Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on **SB 36** because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

Here are the following reasons: our school might not have enough money for me to go to school, other schools might even shut down, there won't be any money for school supplies, teachers will lose their jobs because there might not be enough money to pay them, and most of all I would also receive a poor education.

Please say no for the sake of children's future.

Sincerely,



Diana Lewis

Deborah D. M. Kusaiak
P.O. Box 14
Cheforanak, Alaska 99561
3/17/98

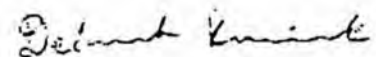
Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36, because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future. I'm afraid the schools might be closed for a long period of time because people might vote for Senate Bill 36.

I'm against SB 36 because schools help children learn more. If there's less money some of the teachers might loose their jobs, and the children will be hurt. So please say yes to the children, and say no to SB 36.

Sincerely,



Deborah D. M. Kusaiak



Lara Crome-Guthrie

MAR 20 1998

Box 17
Kwigillingok, AK 99622

March 17, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am writing to urge you to fight Senate Bill 36, now before the House. I am a teacher in the Lower Kuskokwim School District. This bill would crush our district. Among other things, the bill would cut our budget by nearly 25%.


Such a cut would lead to the loss of over 100 classified positions in the district and over 60 certified positions. The cuts would most likely cause two or three schools to be closed. Further, the cuts would force us to end our bilingual program, which has won awards from the State of Alaska for its effectiveness in educating the children of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. These children depend on us for their education, and we depend on legislators like yourself to support us in our efforts. Please fight this bill.


Sincerely,



Lara Crome-Guthrie


SB 36


the hole in the education donut


 fails to address the real need for education - more funding

 proposes a funding formula based on flawed statistics

 runs rough shod over equity and fairness

 fails to meet the State's constitutional mandate to fund education

 pits school district against school district

 devastates education in rural areas

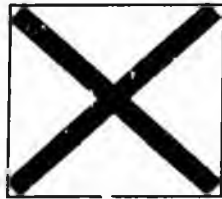


VOTE NO!

ON SENATE BILL 36



YES



NO

As devastating as these cuts will be, Skagway does not support fixing this bill at the expense of other rural communities who may suffer even more dire consequences. Under S.B. 36, the real losers are the children, and the only winners are the politicians.

The Skagway City School District will celebrate the school's 100th Anniversary in September 1998. This school has 100 years of continuous history of providing quality education to the community's children. How will this school continue to provide quality education, improve, and meet the new 2002 high school graduation requirements without enough money?

SKAGWAY: A COMMUNITY UNDER LEGISLATIVE SIEGE

The Effects of Senate Bill 36 on Skagway

Just one example of how small towns get hurt.

FY 98 Skagway School Budget **\$1,566,000**

FY 99 Budget under S.B. 36

The State would fund:	\$ 460,000
The City would fund:	\$ 840,000
Total school budget allowed would be:	\$1,300,000
Shortfall from FY 98 to FY 99 is:	\$ 266,000

Under S.B. 36 the community of Skagway would be prohibited by law from making up this shortfall. Here is how the funding shortfall would effect our school.

Budget Cuts:

Eliminate Superintendent (who also serves as principal)	Save \$ 70,000
Eliminate all extracurricular funds	Save \$ 70,000
Eliminate 3 teachers (1/4 of staff; average salary \$44,100/year)	\$ 126,000

Staff Remaining:

Superintendent/Principal	0	Music K-12	0
Kindergarten	1	English/Counselor	0
First/Second Grade	1	Math	1
Third/Fourth Grade	1	Science	1
Fifth/Sixth Grade	1	Social Studies	1
Seventh/Eighth Grade	1	Special Education	1
Technology K-12	0		

AKIUK MEMORIAL SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
Resolution # 98-03-15

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SB-36 AN ACT RELATING TO THE
 SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board have become aware of SB-36 via Legislative Bulletin, week 1, dated January 16, 1998 and radio reports; and

WHEREAS The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board realizes that we are approaching a new century beginning with the year 2000; and,

WHEREAS The new century, and advanced computer age, will require more advanced education for our Alaskan Native people; and,

WHEREAS SB-36 intends reduction of funding for Rural School Districts such as the Lower Kuskokwim School District where the reduction amount will be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00); and,

WHEREAS the reduction will be detrimental to the education of our students in the Rural School Districts; and,

WHEREAS The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board being in charge and having a duty that our Alaskan Native youth receive quality education are in complete agreement with Governor Knowles objective that the Alaskan children come first and that all the children/students receive quality education; and,


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board opposes SB-36 for the stated reasons and request that the bill is not passed, and that if the bill passes the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor vetoes it; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the copies of this resolution is sent to the following:

Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska
 Honorable Randy Phillips, Alaska State Senator
 Honorable Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House of Representatives
 Honorable Mike Miller, President of the Alaska Senate
 Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Alaska Senator
 Honorable Ivan M. Ivan, State Representative
 Myron Naneng, President of Association of Village Council Presidents
 Julie Kitka, President of Alaska Federation of Natives
 Jeanine Kennedy, President of RurAL CAP
 Steve Ginnis, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
 Dr. Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, State Department of Education

Passed and Adopted this 12 th day of March, 19 98 on a duly called meeting of the Advisory School Board.


 Sam Twitchell, ASB Chairman

ATTEST: 
 Catherine Berlin, Secretary

WE THE UNDESIGNED OPPOSE SENATE BILL 36

Signature	Print	Signature	Print
<i>Russ G. Johnson</i>	Russ G. Johnson	<i>Nora Brink</i>	Nora Brink
<i>Catherine Berlin</i>	Catherine Berlin	<i>Emma Kalila</i>	Emma Kalila
<i>Paul D. Andrew</i>	Paul D. Andrew	<i>Alexandra Brink</i>	Alexandra Brink
<i>Howard R. Tinker</i>	Howard R. Tinker	<i>Sassa Brink</i>	Sassa Brink
<i>Selma Bair</i>	Selma Bair	<i>Anna Marie</i>	Anna Marie
<i>Diane Fournier</i>	Diane Fournier	<i>William E. Maxie</i>	WILLIAM E. MAXIE
<i>Christine Fournier</i>	Christine Fournier	<i>Agita A Berlin</i>	Agita A Berlin
<i>Andrew Lesh</i>	Andrew Lesh	<i>Roderick Demientieff</i>	RODERICK DEMIENTIEFF
<i>Palasia Tinker</i>	Palasia Tinker	<i>Martha Demientieff</i>	Martha Demientieff
<i>John Twitchell</i>	John Twitchell	<i>Henry Charles</i>	Henry Charles
<i>Alexandra White</i>	Alexandra White	<i>Mario Charles</i>	Mario Charles
<i>Irene M. Thomas</i>	Irene M. Thomas	<i>Agnes K Charles</i>	Agnes K Charles
<i>Fannie Brink</i>	Fannie Brink	<i>Molly C Oscar</i>	Molly C Oscar
<i>Lucy Kassel</i>	Lucy Kassel	<i>John A. Andrew</i>	John A. Andrew
<i>Dora Wassillie</i>	DORA WASSILLIE	<i>Tuanita Andrew</i>	Tuanita Andrew
<i>Nastasia Ewan</i>	Nastasia Ewan	<i>Paul C. Tommy</i>	Paul C. Tommy
<i>Mike Martin</i>	Mike Martin	<i>Annie Twitchell</i>	Annie Twitchell
<i>Maurice Nicholas</i>	Maurice Nicholas	<i>Maria Nicholas</i>	Maria Nicholas
<i>Naomi Tinker</i>	Naomi Tinker	<i>Evan J. Nicholas</i>	Evan J. Nicholas
<i>Annie K Andrew</i>	ANNIE K. ANDREW	<i>Paul Nicholas</i>	Paul Nicholas
<i>John P Slim</i>	John P Slim	<i>Sillafie Thomas</i>	Sillafie Thomas
<i>Yeako Slim</i>	Yeako Slim	<i>Martha M Keene</i>	MARTHA M KEENE
<i>George H. Keene Jr</i>	George H. Keene Jr	<i>George H. Keene Jr</i>	George H. Keene Jr.
<i>Lucy Brink</i>	Lucy Brink	<i>George I. Keene</i>	George I. Keene
<i>Grace Brink</i>	Grace Brink	<i>Victor P. Keene</i>	Victor P. Keene
<i>Nellie Slim</i>	Nellie Slim	<i>Bernette Berlin</i>	Bernette Berlin
<i>Kalita Slim</i>	Kalita Slim	<i>Daniel Berlin</i>	Daniel Berlin
<i>Mary Brink</i>	Mary Brink	<i>Agnes Berlin</i>	AGNES BERLIN
<i>Martha Brink</i>	Martha Brink	<i>Teddy Sipary</i>	Teddy Sipary

MAR 20 1998

March 16, 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative:

SB36 passed the Senate and is now going to the House of Representatives for consideration. I am writing to ask you to vote no on this bill. This is the most detrimental bill for education that I have seen in my 18 year education career in Alaska. It truly takes Alaska a step backwards into the third world.

When my wife and I first came to rural Alaska in 1980 as teachers, we were impressed with the fact that although there were many challenges, the children and village lifestyle were ideal for raising and educating children of our own. Eighteen years later we are still in rural Alaska, in the same region, and will soon graduate our third daughter from rural Alaska schools. What has always kept us here was a community that valued education, a region that sponsored and worked hard to make life better for its citizens, and a state legislature that always seemed to keep education a priority. All of these truths have been shattered this year with the recent passage of SB36. Never have I seen a bill more detrimental to education than the one that was recently passed by some urban Republican politicians.

I wish most of those who voted in favor of this bill would come to rural Alaska and live, not just visit for a day or two, in order to understand the impact that the passing of SB36 will have on the poorest, rural students, most of them Alaska Natives. I find it ironic and hypocritical that some of those republicans who voted for SB36 are those who earlier stood in front of the TV camera and said we want to support "all the children of Alaska". SB36 rips the heart from rural Alaskan communities and would destroy any chance for success for many of the poorest children in our state. Why?

Schools in rural Alaska are more than buildings that serve to educate students. They are built in the very center of most rural communities, they serve as places to celebrate weddings, mourn the passing of loved ones, as well as cheer the athletic and academic competitors. Schools in rural Alaska are the movie theaters, the restaurants, the local hotels and the places where many students "hang-out" after school. I wonder if many of the urban legislators have even visited a rural school, gone to a community potluck, or sampled the warm village hospitality that comes from rural villages through the use of school facilities and school staffs.

When I hear that rural Alaska does not pay their share, it infuriates me. When I see some of the poorest parents working hard, volunteering, raising money for students to travel and experience some "normal" city activities in Anchorage; when I watch as family members struggle to make ends meet and still give time and energies to student scholarships, activities, and programs; when I see these honest, hard working citizens ship in staples from Anchorage and other big cities

in Alaska, shop in Anchorage catalogs, ship rural fish and food to process in Anchorage, I believe it is unkind for certain legislators to say they do not pay their share. Many of the businesses and organizations, including the legislature, exist because of rural Alaska. They should be thanking rural Alaskan citizens for supporting these businesses, buying from Anchorage businesses and bringing income and jobs into Anchorage through that monetary support. For legislators to say that rural Alaska does not contribute to education is a slap in the face to the hundreds of parents and community members who may not have the money that city dwellers do, but do all they can do to make things happen for children and schools, as well as their communities.

This bill would be the worst piece of legislation for education since the 1986 budget cuts enacted by Governor Sheffield. I remember that year, when we were forced to reduce our school district budget ten percent. Our school district had to cut many programs, and reduce the number of classified and teaching positions. It took nearly five years to build back the programs that were dismantled by those budget cuts. SB36 will do worse than that especially at the time when our students are showing better language scores and gains in math scores. We have just started working with Johns Hopkins University on piloting a "Success For All" reading program that is showing tremendous success. All this will come to a halt, because with SB36, Bering Strait School District will lose \$1.29 million dollars, and, in addition, if we do not spend at least 70% of the budget on instruction (a very rigid mandate for rural Alaska) we will lose another \$1.7 million. We would have to eliminate all district administration, all business and personnel services, the superintendent and school board services, the food service program, all student activities, all vocational education programs, all bilingual/bicultural programs, all counseling services, all library and media services, all principals, all instructional support services (like inservices and training for staff), all gifted/talented services, and 56% of special education services in order to adhere to this bill. Our entire long-range BSSD Strategic Plan would also be eliminated. In other words, we might as well shut the doors and turn out the lights for rural education.

Is this really what is best for **all** Alaska's children? I don't think so, and I do not believe the people of Alaska think so either. I know there are many House members who care about rural Alaska's children and urge you to vote against this piece of legislation. These children deserve to be represented. Their voices need to be heard. We would appreciate your help.

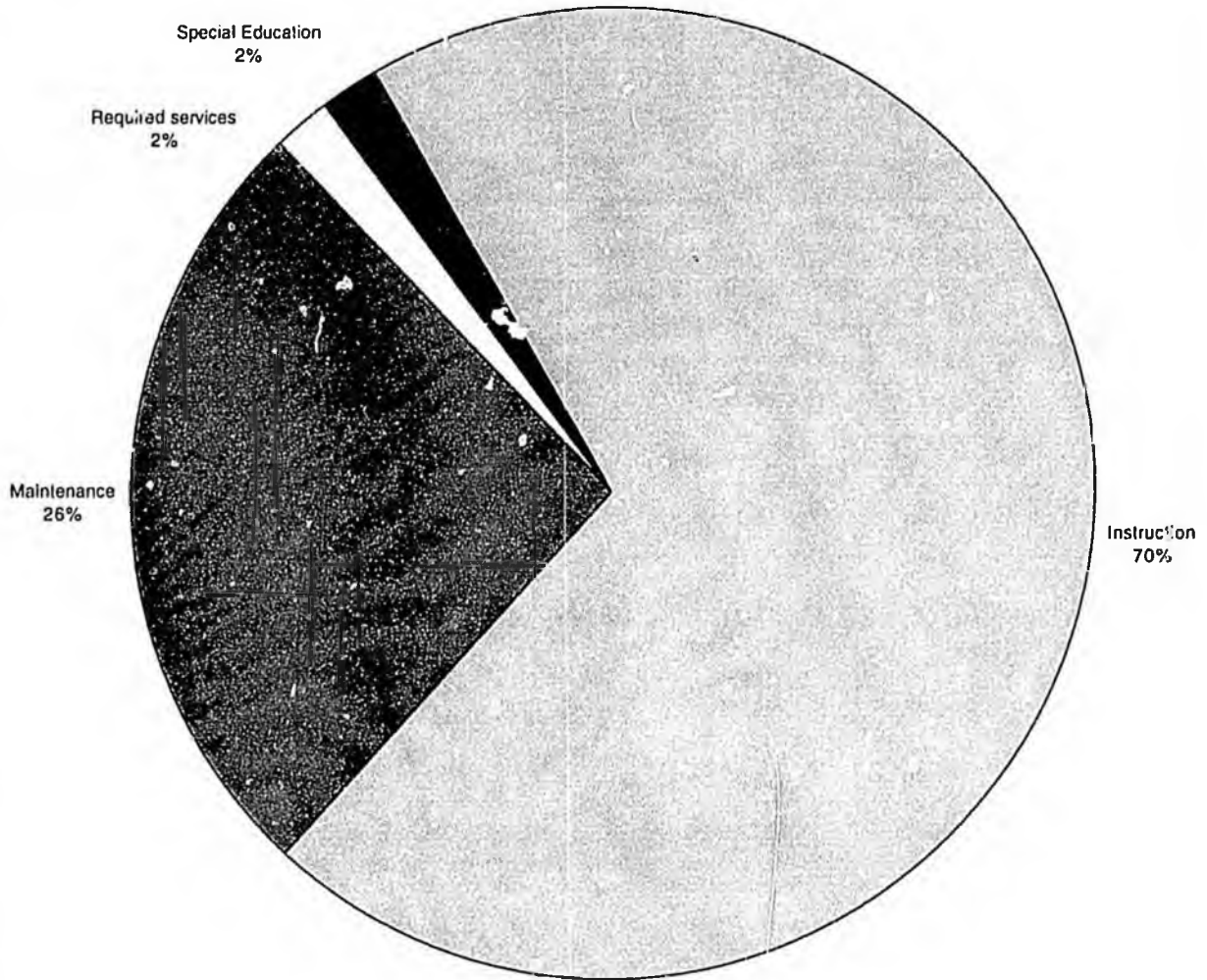
Sincerely,

David Bowling
Superintendent

cc: Correspondence file

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FY98 BUDGET WITH 70% FOR INSTRUCTION*



* "INSTRUCTION" Includes:

Regular Instruction

Items Totally Eliminated

- Student Activities
- Vocational Education
- Gifted & Talented
- Instructional Support
- Bilingual/bicultural Instruction
- Counseling
- Library and Media Services
- All principals
- Food Service Program
- School Board
- Superintendent
- Business & Personnel
- District Administration
- 56% of Special Education

SB 36

Distributed by request
Sen. Lincoln

MAR 18 1998



March 13, 1998

Dear Legislatures:

Please do not take money from
our School District. We need an
education too. Our school won the
state "Battle of the Books."

Why don't you come to our school?

Jed Hendrickson
Central, Alaska
3rd Grade



March 13 1998

Dear Legislature,

Please don't take

needed money from our

schools. My school, Far

North School, in Central was
the state champion for the
"Battle of the Books" at the
high school level. This proves
we use our resources in successful
ways.

Sincerely
Randall Jones
3rd Grade



March 13, 1998.

TO Legislatures:

Please do not take money
from our School District.

Come to our School District
and see how we live in Central.

Josiah

2nd Grade

Central, Alaska



Candice

March 13, 1998.

To the Legislatures:

Please do not take money from our School District!

We need money for field trips and basic books.

Candice

Central

Alaska

2nd Grade



March 13, 1998

To the Legislatures:
We need as much money in our
School as they do in
Fairbanks! Please help us.

Zain

Central, ALASKA 1st Grader



March 13, 1998

Dear Legis.atures:

Please donot take money
from: our
School. from Skylon
Central, ALASKA
Kindergarten

Distributed by
Rep. Foster
By Request

Nightmute Traditional Council
P.O. Box 90021
Nightmute, Alaska 99690
Ph.(907)647-6215 Fax(907)647-6112

Resolution No. 98-01-07

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

- WHEREAS, Native Village of Nightmute is a federally recognized entity. Represents the political interests and promotes the well being of the Yup'ik. Native tribal community of Nightmute Alaska, and
- WHEREAS, Native Village of Nightmute's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the region in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions, and
- WHEREAS, The most important resource of the region is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human right available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is, and
- WHEREAS, The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska, and
- WHEREAS, Education of the children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska, and
- WHEREAS, The people of the region need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans, and
- WHEREAS, The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as know them, and
- WHEREAS, The AVCP region and many other rural Alaskan regions lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services, and
- WHEREAS, Such a measure would cripple regions such as the AVCP region, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures, and
- WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the region, and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas mathematics, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abitions of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of the region, and

WHEREAS, The rural school districts are working dilligently and successfully to suport and assist in this process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Nightmute Traditional Council of Native Village of Nightmute respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nightmute Traditional Council of Native Village of Nightmute hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED 03-11-98 , by the Nightmute Traditional Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

Joseph Post

NIGHTMUTE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
PRESIDENT, JOSEPH POST

ATTEST:
John George

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR,
JOHN GEORGE

NATIVE VILLAGE OF MEKORYUK

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 56
Mekoryuk, Alaska 99630
(907) 827-8828
Fax (907) 827-8133

MAR 18 1998

March 13, 1998

Representative Gail Phillips
Juneau, Ak.

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB-36

Dear Honorable Phillips:

I live at Nunivak Island located about 650 miles west of Anchorage. Mekoryuk is the only inhabited village on Nunivak with 190 year round residents.

Our school, Nuniwarmiut Schools, student population is 59 from Preschool to 12th grade. These 59 students are our future leaders, and perhaps abroad. They deserve quality education just as their peers at urban centers. Education of our children is our number one priority.

Nuniwarmiut Schools employ approximately 15-20% of the above village population. Because we live so far away from the urban cities, all school employees mail order their goods, supplies, clothing, snow machines, etc. from Anchorage and Fairbanks. This business transaction benefits the urban business establishment.

Our community has no solid economic base. Enactment of Senate Bill 36 will have a dramatic impact on our lives. Dependency on welfare will increase bi-fold, small schools may be closed or operating partially, and a negative economic chain reaction will occur.

I urge you to make a wise decision on this critical issue that will affect combined rural and urban communities.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Hultman I. Kiokun
President

PAST PRESIDENTS

Moses Nayiruk • Peter Smith, Sr. • Tom Dotomain • Jesse Moses • Walter Amos • George K. Whitman, Sr.
Edward J. Shavings, Sr. • George King, Sr. • Henry J. Shavings • Joseph David, Sr. • Jerry David, Sr.
Fred Don • Howard T. Amos • Samson Weston • Hultman Kiokum
Tom Amos • Solomon Williams • Daniel Olrun, Sr.

Edith Float

Edith Float
Program Director

cc: Austerman
Barnes
Berkowitz
Brice
Bunde
Cowdery
Croft
Davies
Davis
Dyson
Elton
Foster
Green
Grussendorf
Hanley
Hodgins
Hudson
Ivan
James
Joule
Kelly P.
Kemplen
Kohring
Kookesh
Kott
Kubina
Martin
Masek
Moses
Mulder
Nicholia
Ogan
Porter
Rokeberg
Ryan
Sanders
Therriault
Vezey
Williams



CENTRAL COUNCIL
tingit and haida INDIAN TRIBES of alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

March 13, 1998

State Legislators

MAR 18 1998

Article VII, Section 1, of the Alaska State Constitution states:

The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control.

The 1995 edition of Random House Webster's College Dictionary defines *sectarian* as:

3. narrowly confined or limited in interest, purpose, etc.
5. a bigoted or narrow-minded person.

Clearly, the proposed legislation that will take education funding from rural Alaska and limit state education funding to a select number of Alaska communities based on some phony criteria is unconstitutional. How such unconstitutional and divisive legislation makes it through the legislative process to a point of passing the Senate is impossible to understand. Allocating money to school districts for basic education on any basis other than what the education costs are in those districts is unconstitutional.

You cry "equal access to Alaska's resources and protect the Constitution at all costs" in the subsistence debate, while totally abandoning those principles in allocating Alaska's financial resources to Alaska's children for education. Integrity is in short supply.

(No response necessary.)

With love,

Edward K. Thomas
President

Tara Fuller
Box 115
Cold Bay, AK 99571

March 15, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

MAR 23 1998

Representative Hanley,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent in the state of Alaska. I am in opposition of SB36-School Funding, which is basically a shuffling of money between districts in the state. I cannot believe a bill that would have such drastic impacts on rural school districts would even be considered. SB36 does infact have some very good and much needed changes, however not at the expense of rural districts. Funding at the current level, with no increase along with inflation has been causing school districts to cut vital programs for our children and our future. How can children be expected to learn what they need to survive as adults when classroom size has increased drastically due to combined classrooms, a result of cutting teacher positions from a lack of funding or less bang for the buck(inflation) I was born and raised in what is now Aleutians East Borough School District, which is a 6 site school district. We have 4 smaller sites and 2 larger sites. If this bill infact does pass we would have to start closing the doors at some of our schools. In the area we live this would be devastating as no school in a community would mean no community. I would urge you to seriously consider the impact of the current SB36.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tara P. Fuller

Tara P. Fuller
Parent and School Board Member in Aleutians East Borough
School District

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 429
Sand Point, Alaska 99661-0429
Phone: (907) 383-5222
FAX: (907) 383-3496

March 18, 1998



The Honorable Randy Phillips, Chair
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

SB36

MAR 23 1998

Dear Senator Phillips:

I have reviewed the Supplemental Summary Report prepared for your committee by The McDowell Group, and this report has changes in it that make the disparity between what the rural districts and urban districts receive in State Foundation Aid even greater than the original report.

It would seem basic to me, as one who previously ran a district of 3400 students, with 6 schools, each no more than 7 minutes away from one another, that one cannot operate a 6 site school district with 375 students, in a district that covers 8000 square miles, for an equivalent cost per student. Neither can I operate with the same size administrative team that I previously had when I now have to cover 6, K-12 schools for 375 students, spread over 8000 square miles. The 18.2% cut that the SB 36 proposes would force us to:

- reduce staff from 2 teachers to 1 teacher per school in our small sites. This would mean that 1 teacher would teach all subjects K-12, including Special Education. This is unreasonable, and no good teacher would take this assignment, because they know it can't be done. They also know they are putting themselves at risk when they are the only professional adults in a building with adolescent boys and girls. Added to this, is the fact that when the teacher is absent, there is no trained professional in the building with the students. This is a lawsuit waiting to happen.
- We will have to combine classes in the larger sites, and this will take the class size to 25-30, with a span of 2 or 3 grade levels in many classes.
- We will have to reduce the number of course offerings in our schools, thus leaving our students with inadequate high school educations, and at a rank disadvantage when competing with other students in the workplace or in the college admission pool.
- We will have to reduce our student activity program, because we will not have money to transport our teams. We have to fly everywhere, unlike those in urban areas where buses can be used.
- We will definitely have less qualified teachers. We have recruitment problems now, due to the high cost of living in our sites (rent, food, transportation). The difficulty of teaching so many courses and the wide age group, under risky conditions, will discourage good applicants.
- We will have to cut back on Special Education services, and this has legal implications. We currently fly itinerant people from site to site, but we will not have sufficient funds for this cost saving measure, and this will not allow us to serve our students with the services they require.

SERVING

AKUTAN
Box 25
Akutan, AK 99553
(907) 698-2205

COLD BAY
Box 128
Cold Bay, AK 99571
(907) 532-2409

FALSE PASS
Box 30
False Pass, AK 99583
(907) 548-2224

KING COVE
Box 6
King Cove, AK 99612
(907) 497-2354

NELSON LAGOON
Box 19
Nelson Lagoon, AK 99571-8998
(907) 989-2225

SAND POINT
Box 269
Sand Point, AK 99661
(907) 383-2393

The list could go on, but suffice it to say, that it will devastate our program. What I find offensive about this bill, however, is it is clearly discriminatory against Native people. Anyone can look at the geographic area of Alaska that is being hurt by this bill, and it is clearly Native people in rural areas "taking the hit". As one who has been a proponent of civil rights throughout my career, which started in the 60's, I find it almost inconceivable that in the face of all that we have gained in our battle toward equality for all, that this bill would ever get to the floor for discussion. Leaving money aside, it is morally wrong, it offends my social conscience, and it should offend every U.S. citizen. It is discrimination at its worst.

Senator Phillips, I implore you to re-visit this bill with an eye toward what is morally right, and what will help all students in Alaska receive an education that will allow them to achieve all that they are capable of achieving, irrespective of their heritage or location. I ask that you not get yourself in the textbooks of this country, as the man who authored a bill that took from the less fortunate, and gave to the more fortunate. The children of Alaska did not chose their parents and their skin color, and they didn't choose the villages and areas in which their parents chose to live. I ask you not to hold these kids hostage while a financial/political battle is waged which is not of their doing. To make these children pawns in a political game is unconscionable.

This bill, if passed, will guarantee that the students in Aleutians East Borough School District will have their educations and their futures put at risk. Our Borough Assembly currently supports education at a level which is 2 times the minimum requirement of the State. Clearly, this area is doing well in trying to support education at the local level as best they can. Many people in this Borough are of Aleut descent, they are proud of their heritage, and the part they have played in making what is now the State of Alaska, the great state that it is. They deserve better than having someone tell them they are worth less than people who live in urban areas.

I look forward to your reply and would request that you delay further action on this legislation until questions such as how the formula will be implemented are determined, since there seems to be some discrepancy between the January and February reports. I ask that you examine Senate Bill 36 in light of civil rights and equality for all. This bill flies in the face of everything we teach our students regarding citizenship, civil rights, and human values.

Sincerely yours,



Wesley L. Knapp
Superintendent

cc: Memry Myers, AEBSB Board Chair
Dick Jacobsen, AEB Mayor
The Alaska Legislature
Governor Tony Knowles
AASA
AASB
CEAAC

Native Village of Kwigillingok

Kwigillingok I.R.A. Council
P.O. Box 49
Kwigillingok, Alaska 99622
(907) 588-8114/8212

RESOLUTION NO. 98-03-01

A resolution opposing Senate Bill No. 36 entitled "An Act relating to the public school funding program; relating to the definition of a school district, to the transportation of students, to school district layoff plans, to the special education services agency, and to the child care grant program; and providing for an effective date."

WHEREAS: The Kwigillingok I.R.A. Council is the federally recognized governing body for the Native Village of Kwigillingok and the only governing system recognized by the people of the village, and;

WHEREAS: The Native Village of Kwigillingok's most important resource is its children and will do everything to protect their interests from adverse actions and activities generated from within and without the exterior boundaries of the Native Village of Kwigillingok, and;

WHEREAS: Our Yupik children are receiving their Elementary and High School education from the Lower Kuskokwim School District, one of the State of Alaska's Regional Education Attendance Areas in one of the States most impoverished area, and;

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature is proposing legislation from the Senate Chambers through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to the urban school districts, redefining school district boundaries, proposes an employment tax of 4% for districts without an economic base, and generally redefines most education processes as we know them, and;

WHEREAS: The passage of this particular bill will be devastating to our local school and a cursory analysis of the impacts of the bill reveals that due to the drastic cuts to the Lower Kuskokwim School District, our children may not receive free or reduced school lunch, no local support for the children that need it most, bi-lingual and Yupik instruction would be completely eliminated, the already deteriorating educational facility would not see any repairs or improvements, our already impoverished and unemployed people will bear the burden of a new tax, and;

WHEREAS: the enormous progress our Yupik children have made in terms of their abilities to read, write and calculate mathematics in a language that is, in the most basic sense, foreign to them, and this language being English should prove that the efforts of the educational system is working diligently to advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of our Yupik children, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Native Village of Kwigillingok, through its tribal governing body, respectfully request and implore our State Legislature, both the House of Representative and the Senate not consider Senate Bill No. 36 unless and until a complete and full analysis of the impacts of this bill to all school districts within the State of Alaska is done, and;

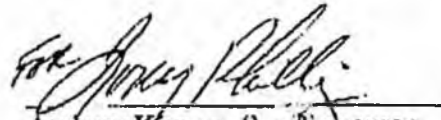
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT: The Kwigillingok I.R.A. Council, the tribal governing body of the Native Village of Kwigillingok is in complete and unqualified opposition to this proposed bill on behalf of its Yupik children.

8

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that a duly called meeting of Kwigillingok I.R.A. Council, with a membership of five (5), of the Native Village of Kwigillingok held on March 5, 1998 by an affirmative vote of five (5) a negative vote of zero (0) adopted the foregoing resolution.


Tommy J. Andrew, President


Andrew Kuunya, Treasurer

3/13/98

To: Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capital, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Michael M. Ripke
P.O. Box 65
Chefornak, AK 99561

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am writing a letter to ask for your support in voting against Senate Bill 36. First of all I'm concerned about the loss of Federal aid that will result with the passage of this bill. Has it really been looked at what the loss of aid will entail if SB 36 is passed?

Most of Rural Alaska's municipal governments have no existing laws that relate to the disposal, acquisition or taxation of municipal property. Where there is no existing tax base, I feel that taxation among REAA residents and employees discriminates against a minority of the rural sector.

At least half of the state's population resides in urban areas. Allocating aid to school districts on a per child basis will affect rural districts where the number of students is disproportionate. There should be an equitable way to fund both rural and urban school districts.

Also I feel that the quality of rural education will decrease if school districts are forced to eliminate essential personnel in small schools that have a teacher : student ratio that is equivalent or greater to urban schools.

Again I strongly urge a bipartisan vote that opposes SB 36. This is not a rural or urban issue, this is an Alaskan issue that will affect the quality of education for years to come. Yes, there has to be an equitable way to fund our educational system. SB 36 does not address this. Perhaps it is time to consider an education fund that will provide future funding for our children's education.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Ripke

P.O. Box 61
Tununak, Alaska 99681
March 13, 1998

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

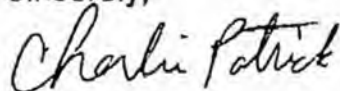
To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

My name is Charlie Patrick and I am a Senior in the Paul T. Albert Memorial School. I am concerned about Senate Bill 36.

This bill poses a serious threat to the quality education currently available in rural Alaskan communities. I wholeheartedly support the goals put forth in the Alaska educational standard and am worried that the cuts attached to Senate Bill 36 will drastically affect their realization.

Thank you for reading this letter

Sincerely,



Charlie Patrick

P.O. Box 11
Tununak, Alaska 99681
March 13, 1998

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

To the Honorable Mark Hanley,

My name is Benjamin Angaiak and I am a senior in Tununak, Alaska. I am concerned about Senate Bill 36.

The bill poses a serious threat to the quality education currently available in rural Alaskan communities. I wholeheartedly support the goals put forth in the Alaskan Educational Standards and am worried that the cuts attached to Senate Bill 36 will drastically affect their regulation.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Benjamin G. Angaiak

Benjamin Angaiak

P.O. Box 115
Tununak, Alaska 99681-0115
March 13, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
House Of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

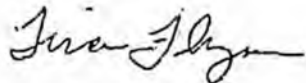
To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

My name is Tina Flynn and I am a Junior at Paul T. Albert Memorial School. I would like to voice my concern about Senate Bill 36.

The bill poses a serious threat to the quality education currently available in rural Alaskan communities. I wholeheartedly support the goals put forth in Alaska Educational Standards and am worried that the cuts attached to SB36 will drastically affect their regulation.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely,



Tina Flynn

Akiak Native Community

Akiak IRA Council

P.O. Box 52127

Akiak, Ak 99552

PH. (907) 765-7112

FAX (907) 765-7512

RESOLUTION NO. 98-03-01

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS: The Akiak Native Community (ANC) represents the political interests and promotes the well-being of the community of Akiak, and

WHEREAS: ANC's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the community in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions, and

WHEREAS: The most important resource of the community is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human right available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is, and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska, and

WHEREAS: Education of children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska, and

WHEREAS: The people of the community need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans, and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as we know them, and

WHEREAS: The Akiak Native Community and many other rural Alaskan villages lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services, and

(cont'd) Resolution 98-03-01 Page 2

WHEREAS: Such a measure would cripple communities such as Akiak, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures, and

WHEREAS: Passage of the bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the community of Akiak, and

WHEREAS: Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of Akiak, and

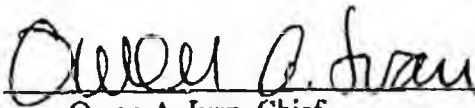
WHEREAS: The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Akiak IRA Council of the Akiak Native Community respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

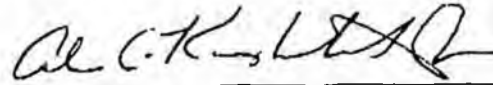
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Akiak IRA Council of Akiak Native Community, hereby opposes the passage of Senate Bill 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED on the 16th day of March, 1998, by the Akiak IRA Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

CERTIFICATION



Owen A. Ivan, Chief



Adam Kashatok, Sec. / Treas.

FAX**Date** 03/14/98**Number of pages including cover sheet****TO:** Mark Hanley
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**Phone** 907-465-4939
Fax Phone 907-465-2418**FROM:** John Wachmann, Site
Administrator
Chefornak Schools
PO Box 50
Chefornak, AK 99561**Phone** 907-867-8700
Fax Phone 907-867-8429**CC:****REMARKS:** Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please Comment

RE: SCSB36

As a school administrator in the Lower Kuskokwim School District I should have a certain bias against the kind of cuts that my district would suffer if this bill passes. However, please understand that I work daily with the students, staff and parents who would be drastically effected by these kind of cuts. I now have to make difficult judgments as to how dollars are allocated and choices have to be made. SCSB36 would mean budget cuts so severe that educational programs deemed necessary for the survival of the Yup'ik language and culture would be eliminated. Please do appreciate the gravity of this situation and work with your fellow members of the Senate and House to revise or vote against SCSB36 so that these First Nation peoples may retain and continue their language and culture. Quyana (Yup'ik for thank you.)

P.O. Box 114
Tununak, AK 99681
13 March, 1998

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

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

I am writing this letter to express my concern over Senate Bill 36. This measure, if passed, will drastically affect rural communities throughout the state.

Alaska has a unique position in the Union. Its communities have varied economic standings, yet schools have always been treated fairly and have been supported with equal access to state funds. The legislation before you now would change this egalitarian dispersal; routing money away from rural schools towards urban centers.

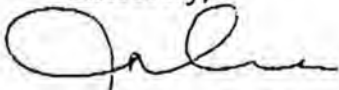
New York, Chicago, cities in Texas, and various other inner-city schools face the problem of too-little funding every day. Because the tax bases of inner-city schools are so small, their areas simply do not generate enough money to operate effective educational programs. States in the lower 48 are trying to brainstorm ways to reduce this school funding disparity and would do well to look to Alaska for leadership. However, if Alaska was to pass this legislation, the state would join others with disparate, biased funding plans.

SB 36 is not the answer to any problems which may now exist. A solution needs to be sought which ultimately reflects goals of providing a quality education to all of Alaska's children.

Please do not pass legislation that pits one group against another. We have a small population and it is crucial that we present a united front when faced with problems such as this. Do not improve the quality of one life at the expense of another. None of us has the right to decide which individuals will benefit and which will suffer.

I implore you to reflect upon what I ask. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joshua D. Andrews



P.O Box 15
Tununak Alaska 99681
March 13, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

My name is Gloria Kanrilak. I am in the 8th grade and I am 14 years old. I am concerned about Senate Bill 36.

If SB36 passes, the students of Rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality education as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standards.

Well funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's future.

Thank you for taking you time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Gloria Kanrilak

P.O. Box 63
Tununak, Alaska 99681
March 13, 1998

Representatives Mark Henley
House of Representatives
State Capital, Room #507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To the Honorable Mark Henley:

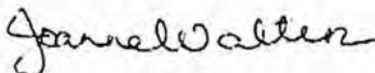
My name is Joanne Walter and I am in 9th grade. I go to school in Paul. T. Albert. Memorial. School. I am writing because I am concerned about the S. B. 36.

If S.B. 36 passes, the students of rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality education as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standards.

Well Funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge State. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's Future.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,



Joanne Walter

P.O. Box 61
Tununak, Ak 99681-0061
March 13, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room #507
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

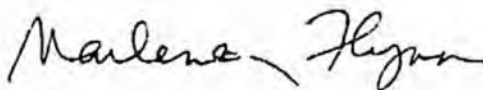
My name is Marlene Flynn and I am a student at Paul T. Albert Memorial School in Tununak, Ak. I am writing this because I am concerned with Senate Bill 36.

If SB 36 passes, the students of rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality education as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standards.

Well-funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's future.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Marlene Flynn

P.O. Box 14
Tununak, AK 99681
March 13, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capital, Room #507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:


My name is Anna Kailukiak and I am a tenth grade student in the Paul T. Albert Memorial school. I am writing because I am concerned about SB 36.

If SB 36 passes, the students of rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality education as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standards.

Well funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's Future.

Thank you for taking the time reading this.

Sincerely,


Anna Kailukiak

P.O. Box 31
Tununak, Alaska 99681-0031
March 13, 1998

Representative Mark Hanely
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To the Honorable Mark Hanely,

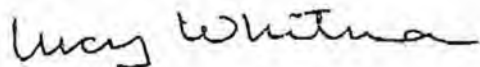
My name is Lucy Whitman. I am an eighth grader at Paul T. Albert Memorial High School. I am concerned with Senate Bill 36.

If Senate Bill 36 passes, rural Alaskan students, teachers and families will suffer. Students' futures will also be ruined. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality education as defined by the Alaskan educational Standards.

Well-funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's future.

Thank you for taking your time reading this. I just hope that you don't vote for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Lucy Whitman

P. O. Box 11
Tununak, AK 99681-0011
March 13, 1998

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

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

Hello, my name is Josephine Angaiak and I am from Tununak. I am an 8th grader of Paul T. Albert Memorial High School. I am writing to you because I am concerned with Senate Bill 36.

If Senate Bill 36 passes, the students of rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality educating as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standards.

Well-funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's future.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Josephine Angaiak
Josephine Angaiak

P.O. Box 51
Tununak, AK 99681
March 13, 1998

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

To the Honorable Mark Hanley:

My name is Nina Menegak from Tununak. I am an 8th grader of Paul T. Albert Memorial School. I am writing because I am concerned with Senate Bill 36.

If Senate Bill 36 passes, the students of rural Alaskan communities will suffer. The overall quality of education in Alaska will decline without the proper funding. I believe that this result is contradictory to Alaska's commitment to quality educating as defined by the Alaskan Educational Standard.

Well-funded schools in rural settings are part of what makes Alaska a cutting-edge state. Please do not vote for this legislation or abandon your commitment to a large portion of Alaska's future.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Nina Menegak

Nina Menegak

United Utilities, Inc.

Affiliate of Unicom



Steve Hamlen
President

March 13, 1998

18-349
The Honorable Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

United Utilities, Inc. provides telecommunications services in 58 rural Alaskan communities. We are concerned with the unprecedented budget cuts to rural schools contained in SB 36. All of our citizens are deserving of legislative decisions that are carefully thought out and are based upon an impartial analysis of all the facts.

SB 36 would transfer approximately \$31 million from rural school districts to Anchorage. The Lower Kuskokwim School District, for example, has informed us that they would lose approximately \$8.4 million, 150 classified staff, and 60 teachers. These funding cuts are substantial and I am concerned for the ongoing ability of our native Alaskan children to receive a suitable education. I'm also concerned that this debate has turned into a contest of us versus them (urban versus rural). I've been told that a new funding formula is being proposed that includes factors, such as the ability to raise educational funds via property taxes, that are unrealistic and designed to favor one constituency over another.

Please carefully consider the merits of SB 36. Something is wrong here and it will be our native children who will be disadvantaged if it is not fixed. I wish that all of our legislators could visit our rural schools including our school in Hooper Bay and then compare these schools with any school in Anchorage. I have little doubt that anyone could walk away from these visits and suggest that the funding for our rural schools should be reduced.

Sincerely yours,

An Alaskan Native Owned Corporation

5450 A Street
Anchorage, AK 99518-1281

<http://www.unicom.alaska.com>

(HON) 478-2020
(907) 561-1674

Fax (907) 563-3185

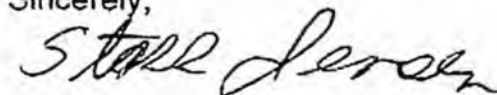
STARR JENSEN M.ED.
Quinhagak, Ak 99655

MAR 13 1998

To: Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

I am very concerned with the possibility of SB 36 passing. I teach in bush Alaska and know how devastating the budget cuts would be to our schools. We are now serving up to 30 students at a time in each, over-crowded classroom. There are more jobs and requirements than there are teachers to do them. We work long hours and volunteer many more to serve the students. This budget cut would require more work from the teachers, less materials to teach the students with, less teachers to do the work. There are already less opportunities for our students than are available to children schooled in Urban Alaska. It costs more to maintain village schools-but it also costs more to live here. Things that are minimal to Urban life are expensive in the village. This includes food, technology, materials, travel, electricity, etc. Our students deserve the same opportunities afforded other students in Alaska and the proposed budget cuts will interfere with their right to those opportunities. Please do the right thing on behalf of ALL students and vote NO on SB 36.

Sincerely,



Starr Jensen

Jeffrey W. Lipscomb
9921 Main Tree Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
(907) 346-5500 (P)
(907) 346-5505 (F)

February 3, 1998

VIA Fax (907) 465-4714

Senator Gary Wilken
State Capital, Room 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: School Funding Formula, SB 36

Dear Senator Wilken,

For two years now I have been actively following the expenditure practices of the Anchorage School District. As you and other Legislators have heard the Anchorage School District Superintendent and School Board members state on many occasions, the Anchorage School District has almost 40% of the students in the state but only receives about 30% of the state education aid. It isn't fair!

I concur! Not only is the distribution of state education aid unfair but the distribution of instructional money within the Anchorage School District is unfair and discriminatory! For example, currently the Anchorage School District provides each high school with \$20,000 a year for activities. That money sure goes a lot further at West High School among its 1490 students as compared to the 2244 students at Service High School. It isn't fair! The larger high school has almost 800 more students but receives the same amount of money for activities as the smallest school. Similarly, principals, librarians and security staff are all allocated by school regardless of enrollment. Activity money and support staff i.e. principals, nurses, librarians, teaching assistants etc. should all be distributed equally on a per student basis just like teachers and supplies. The Anchorage School District is practicing "instructional unit" methodology, with all of the inherent faults, in its budgeting of individual schools

I continue to solicit support from State Legislators to include in any Foundation Formula rewrite, a requirement for local school districts to expend instructional dollars equally on a per student basis. This change in State Law is necessary because of the inequities in the Anchorage School District expenditures and resistance to change. With Anchorage School District school board members elected at large, it is impossible for a minority community such as the Service High School attendance area to affect change. We have no elected representative charged with looking out after our interest and we have no checks and balances in the system since the school administration (Executive Branch) reports to the school board (Legislative Branch). This same situation may be occurring in other school districts around the state.

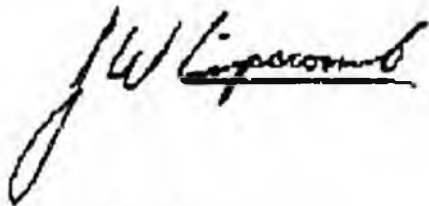
This is not strictly a local issue as the Alaska Constitution charges the Legislature to "by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State."

Jeffrey W. Lipscomb
 9921 Main Tree Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99516
 (907) 346-5500 (P)
 (907) 346-5505 (F)

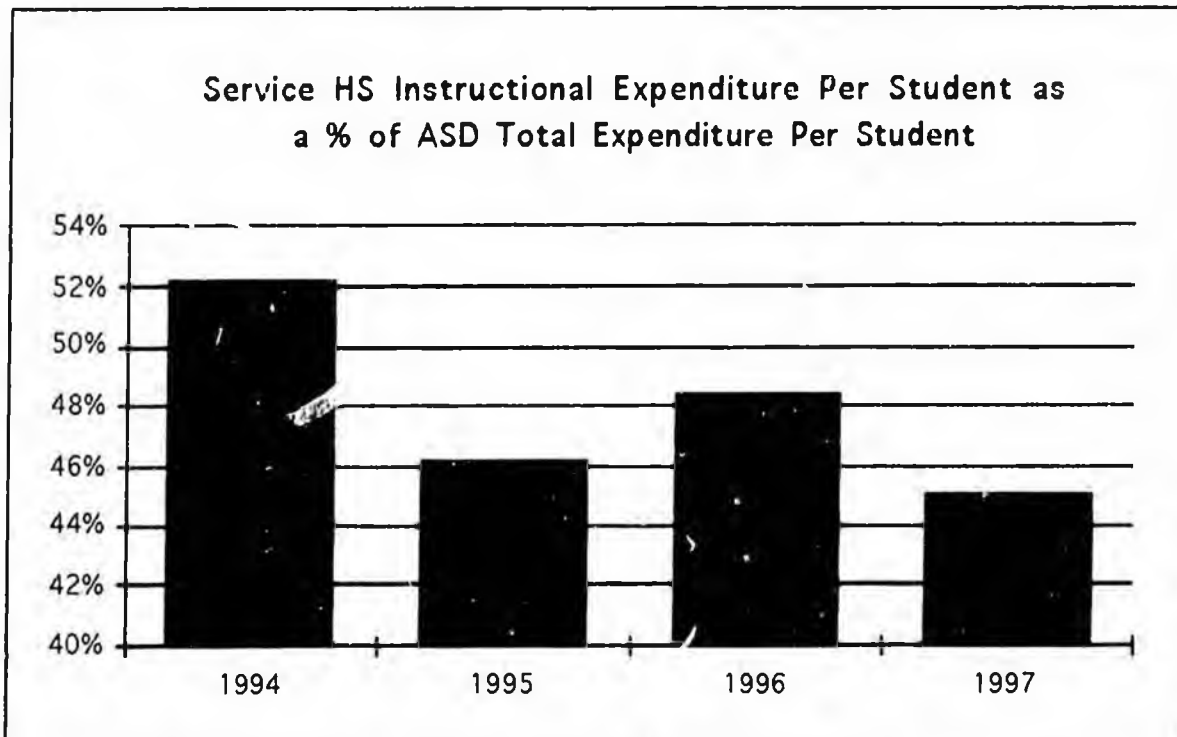
"Equal level of educational opportunities" is already on the books in AS 14.17.220. It needs more definition. We agree for need to rewrite the Foundation Formula to make it more fair by equalizing the money available to Alaska school districts. The Legislature must go one step further and make sure local school districts expend the money the same way, ... equally on a per student basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I hope we can count on your support!

Sincerely,



- cc: Con Bunde
- Sean Parnell
- Joe Green
- Dave Donley
- John Cowdery
- Jerry Ward
- Randy Phillips
- Loren Leman
- Mark Hanley



APR 02 1998

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I would like to take the time to say that I support the passing of SB36.

I have by this time, pretty much thrown up my arms in disgust with the whole education funding situation and said that this year I wouldn't bother writing to any legislators as they were pretty unresponsive. However, this bill does provide some hope and I will put "pen to paper" again.

I honestly don't know what the answer to educating our young people in Alaska should be, and SB 36 may not be it, but I do know that something is not right. In order for my children (I have three) to have all that I had in school I must pay sports fees, art fees, band fees, book fees, music fees and more, of course, for field trips. They have to do "walk-a-thons", "ski-a-thons", organize carnivals, sell raffle tickets and wrapping paper and I don't know what else. This is not just once or twice, but year after year. I find it embarrassing to even face some of my neighbors and this is probably one of the wealthiest states in the country. You can talk all you want about 40% of the general fund going into education, but no matter which way you cut it, it's not working. This year the classes are overcrowded, and we've lost the music program in the grade school; next year we face losing the art program, home-ec, and the high school music program. Our teachers are expected to do more and more to bring up the quality of education in this country with less and less funding.

SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE. Personally I think it's time for Alaskans start paying state taxes like the rest of the people in this country.

Thank you again,

Sue Faust

Sue Faust

Box 1404

Seward, AK 99664

Distributed by Rep. Davis

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801 1182

Cheryl J. Pratt
Primary Teacher
One Seaview Lane
Shishmaref, AK 99772

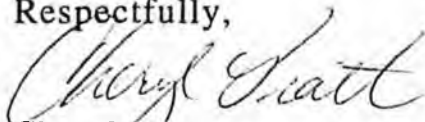
I am writing to you because I am extremely disappointed and discouraged with the passage of Senate Bill 36. This bill steals away much needed funding from the rural schools giving it to the large urban school districts.

It is sad to know that such a bill could go as far as it has. It is disheartening to realize how little some people actually care about the education of **all** students in Alaska.

The joy of working in rural Alaska and the hope of a brighter future for my students continues to grow for me and many others throughout the state. I applaud and encourage the efforts of many who are helping to make a difference for these very important children and their families but am also appalled and alarmed at the destructive efforts of those casting a dark cloud on the already disadvantaged situation.

Hopefully you will continue your most important and consequential work in our great state of Alaska with the concerns of everyone united. I urge you to not allow Senate Bill 36 to go any further.

Respectfully,



Cheryl Pratt
Teacher
Shishmaref Alaska

Donna L. Barr
P.O. Box 72118
Shishmaref, AK.
99772

March 25, 98

Head start
teacher aide

Dear Representative Mark Hanley,

This bill on putting more money into urban schools and cutting money on rural schools is no way to go into the future. From what I grew up and learned from school was and is very important for us natives as the western civilization took over our way of life. Education is our main objective now that technology is all around us in our homes and stores and workplace. Even though we are a small community in the middle of sand and water our children deserve every right as big cities children who attend school for education to go to their own school with their own culture included along with the education they are receiving

I am 22 years old now, I can remember when I first attended school when I was 4 years old, that feeling of learning the alphabet and math counting made me feel good that we have a school in our town. Our parents and grandparents had no big classrooms and activities to participate in when they were young. It's because our life style has changed since then. They had no phones, computers, typewriter and so on. They were still living in their native way, hunting and gathering to survive. Then the settlers start coming in and teach the natives to speak english and tried to give them a small school to attend. School was important back then to our grandparents, because they had to learn about

these new people and the way of their lives. That's what my grandparents told me about their first school years.

Now it's their great grand-children who are in school and time has changed our community a whole lot. Education now is our only future, if we don't get it, what kind of jobs or knowledge are we going to have to raise our children. Our children are getting a very good education now, compared to when I was in grade school. I have 4 children of my own and 3 of them are attending our community school and are learning a lot more than what I learned at that age. Computers are a big learning tool for them. I have a daughter who is 1 year old and I hope that the bill SB36 won't ruin her future of attending her own community school. I don't think big schools has a right to take away small schools ^(funds) money in education. Even if we are small in size we still deserve every right to have our children get an education in their hometown of the United States of America. Stress this "Children are our Future", whether they are in a big or small school. Please vote 'No' on SB36, we have rights too!

Sincerely,

Donna L. Barr
Donna L. Barr

Carol E. Ningenlook

Substitute Teacher & Community Member

Dear Representative Mark Hanley,

The bill you are going to pass for SB36 is not going to do good for our students. So I prefer you not to pass it. The students will have a harder time in school without all the help they need and support to get them through the school. There are some students that need help with their education. The only way they will get help is by having teachers. And without the principle the students wouldn't have any discipline and encouragement to get them through the school year. So I'll say no to pass SB36.

Sincerely,
Carol E. Ningenlook

our School is important to us. by Pearl Weyouanna

We keep our school cleaned and nice. by Lot

We do special things in school. by GILFORD

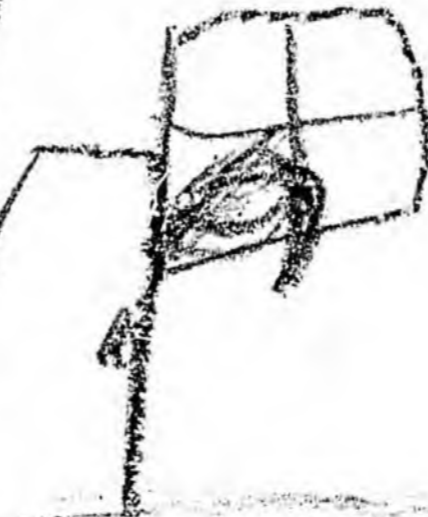
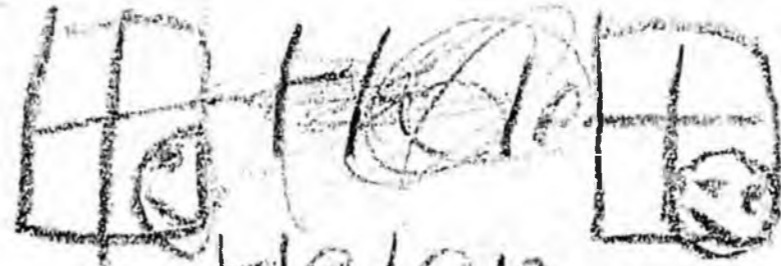
I like to color and draw and paint in school. by Holly
The teachers always teach us little kids. by FAYE

We work hard in
school. by Frieda

We always do good things in
school. by Heather

I just like our school a lot. Please help our
school so I could learn a lot. by Verne

When we make good choices, it is
important. by Robert



~~Helen~~
Helen

By Helen
age 5
Shishmaref,
Alaska



IRA Council
P.O. Box 100
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771-0100

Phone (907) 955-3701

Fax (907) 955-2352

APR 02 1998

**Native Village of Shaktoolik
Resolution 98-08**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 36.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is an Alaska Native Village organized as an Alaska Native/American Indian Organization Act of 1934, as amended in 1936 for Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is the elected governing body of the Alaska Native/American Indian people of the Native Village of Shaktoolik; and,

WHEREAS, Education plays a vital role to the students in our Rural Communities; and,

WHEREAS, to now be successful in the Western World, we are encouraging our children to achieve the highest education possible in our Rural Communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Bering Strait School District is educating our students to become self-sufficient, productive citizens in a changing world recognized for their social, academic and marketable skills; and,

WHEREAS, with Proposed Bill 36, a lot of our Vital Programs would be lost; and,

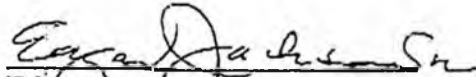
WHEREAS, with Senate Bill 36 in place, Education for our Rural Students would be put in Turmoil leveling our Rural Students to the lowest Education possible, when Education is ranked at the Highest Priority Level.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Education is ranked as a very, very high priority for our students in the Rural Areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that based on the critical criteria's listed above, we urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 36; or uphold the Governor's Veto of said bill.

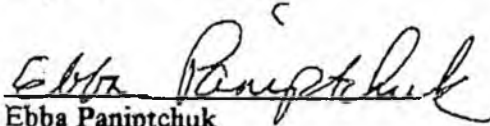
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned members of the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council do hereby certify that the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom 5 voted on this 02nd day of April, 1998 and the foregoing resolution was adopted by the vote of 5 members.

YES 5NO 0ABSTAIN 0ABSENT 2

Edgar Jackson Sr.

Vice President



Ebba Paniptchuk

Secretary



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

1621 TONGASS AVENUE SUITE 301
POST OFFICE BOX 8340
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
PHONE: (907) 225-9656
FAX: (907) 225-2336

RAY GRIFFITH, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

APR 02 1998

March 30, 1998

House of Representatives
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative:

As president of Southeast Island School District Board, I am writing with serious anxiety about SB 36 and SB 337. Singly SB 36 would devitalize our district. If the Legislature chooses to combined the two bills the devastation would be incomprehensible.

The board, as trustees take our role of providing education for the children in our communities very seriously. We represent twelve communities with schools at the present time. Our current duty and the law require we open and staff the twelve schools. The communities are entitled and the tenured staff have contracts on the opening day. SB 36 does not take into consideration the mandated opening of schools under the present law. Without an amendment to SB 36, we would have the schools open this August with the teachers, students and needed supplies in place and then if the count was down in October the school would be closed. This would leave us with unhoused students, angry parents, contracted teachers and chaos in almost half of our schools.

I rely on my experience as the first mayor serving five terms after the incorporation of Coffman Cove, a second class city in 1989 to address SB 337. I am familiar with Title 29 and know Third Class Boroughs were deleted from the law years ago. From what I gather in Title 29 is after incorporation of a Third Class Borough, an election takes place. Our REAA school board would be replaced by an assembly and mayor. The mayor is the school board president and the assembly is the board. The assembly after the election would pick the form of taxes the borough provides for the schools. The taxed communities are those in the former REAA with or without schools. The residents would be taxed if they had the schools surviving SB 36 and also if their schools were closed.

A Third Class Borough would require an administrator, a staff, an office and equipment. The selected taxation would be divided between the costs of the school district and borough. Two staffs unless the Supermau or Superwoman hired by the borough had the expertise in Local Government and School Administration. At the present time we are moving Southeast Island School District's District Office into rooms adjacent to our only gym, in the largest school in the district. I have no idea where a free or another inexpensive office space for a Third Class Borough would exist in our REAA.

We face the potential loss of our present school board members who may select not to run because of the added local government responsibilities and further erosion of our ability to provide education to the children of our district. Please consider all the facts, you are about to implement a chain of events that would devastate Southeast Island School District and the other REAAs. Please consider an amendment to SB 36 that would provide funding to cover the entire 98-99 school year. Then consider another mechanism to provide for the funding in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Rowland".

Pat Rowland

Chair, Southeast Island School Board

(UNALASKA ATKA DANCERS)

Distributed by Rep. Messer

Speech by Crystal Swetzof at Legislative Reception 3/26/98

Hello, my name is Crystal Swetzof and I am a senior at the Atka Netsvetov school in Atka, Alaska. Atka is in the middle of the Aleutian chain and is one thousand two hundred miles southwest of Anchorage. We're so far out that we are in a separate time zone from the rest of Alaska.

On behalf of our dance group, I want to thank you for the chance to perform here, and I want to thank the senators and representatives who are here for supporting our school and allowing us to develop the dancing you have seen here tonight. We feel honored to have had this chance to perform in our state's capital for all of you.

In Atka, Unangax dance is the center of all our school programs and, moreover, the center of our community. In the school, it takes the place of music, art, physical education, and team sports. Through our dance we have found ourselves. We have come to realize the importance of keeping our culture alive.

I have been very fortunate to have attended school in my home village and to be in this dance group. Not only has it given me pride in myself and my people, but it has given me the confidence I would otherwise have not attained.

I am going to major in education when I go to college next year. I had planned to return to my village as a certified teacher and continue the dance program, but now I'm afraid Atka won't have a school left in four or five years. If there isn't, I suppose I could teach somewhere else, although it wouldn't have the same significance for me. But what about my younger sister? And all my younger cousins and friends? If the school in Atka closes, they will have to move away from Atka and away from the best thing that has happened for our culture since it began to die years ago, when missionaries came and forced our ancestors to stop dancing. If they all move away, it will mean certain extinction for our village and eventually our people.

We dedicate this performance to all the schools in rural Alaska. Please remember that the passion and eagerness with which we performed are present in all children in rural Alaska. Our awareness and participation in our Native cultures and educational systems keep that passion and eagerness alive in us. Qagaasakux. Thank-you.



Linda Beyer
P. O. Box 163
101 Chukchi Sea Way
Shishmaref, AK 99772
(907)649-2087/649-3021

25 March 1998

MAR 31 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507, AK State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote **NO** on SB36. I have been a Bush teacher for 17 years now and every year we are expected to do more and more on fewer and fewer dollars. There is a point at which even the most creative teacher can no longer meet the needs of students when the dollars disappear.

Yes, it is a fact that Bush schools are more expensive to run but these students deserve to be educated near their home just the as those living in more urban areas. And, they should not be slighted in educational opportunities just because it costs more. Granted we do not have a tax base or many industries that can contribute to the educational dollars locally but few remember it is more the mystic of the rural regions that draw the tourists and their dollars to the state than our urban areas.

There are many fine schools in rural Alaska who are trying to improve learning through many innovative programs. Just a few of these include Success For All Reading that is increasing readings skill by leaps and bounds here in Shishmaref; use of the internet to access all types of resources; creating curriculum, setting benchmarks, and making use of alternative scheduling to improve attendance and increase the depth of learning. All of these take money and if SB36 passes these programs may be doomed. Is that fair or just for our rural students?

Please help us continue to offer our rural students a quality education by voting **NO** on SB36. Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Linda Beyer

Sherri Nayokpuk, Sr. Class Pres.
Shishmaref High School
P.O. Box 72155

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
(907) 649-3021

MAR 31 1998

March 25, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Rm 507, Alaska State Leg.
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mark Hanley:

Hello. My name is Sherri Nayokpuk. I am a senior at the Shishmaref High School and the Senior Class President. All my life I have been enrolled in the Shishmaref School.

This letter is in regards of the SB36. Here are some reasons to vote 'no' on this bill.

1. Rural students enjoy participating in school activities, i.e., math counts, spelling bees, battle of the books, skiing, basketball, and other activities that are within the schools.
2. Students use the library/media to get a better education on certain topics that can help him/her in the future.
3. We, the students, enjoy learning our bilingual/bicultural ways of life with the bilingual/bicultural teachers, i.e., sewing skins, carving ivory/bone, making fishing hooks, listening to the stories of our culture, and all that the teachers will/have teach us.

We don't want to lose these programs at/in our schools. These programs are needed for the future of youth and younger generations. Please vote 'no' on the SB36. Thank you for you time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sherri Nayokpuk, Sr. Class President

Sherri Nayokpuk, Sr. Class President
Shishmaref High School

Nancy Fancyboy
P. O. Box 5108
Pilot Station, AK 99650
Ph. & FAX #(907)549-3715

MAR 26 1996

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
FAX #(907)465-2418

Dear Mr. Hanley:

Please do not support Senate Bill 36.

Senator Randy Phillips has stated that "[40 per cent of the students receive only 30%]" of the funding for education, citing that as unfair and an inequality in the funding formula. In fact, there are many legislators who follow this belief. That's a great public feeding-frenzy statement and on the surface appears to be a good argument. However, if you take a closer look, one can easily see that the inequality exists not for urban schools but for rural schools, instead.

Although I have not done an in-depth study, I do know as a consumer that everything in the bush costs quite a bit more than in urban areas. As a result, the school facilities, as a whole, are older and more dilapidated than any of those, say, in the Anchorage school district. Food services cost much more. Maintenance and materials cost much more, and on and on.

As an example, I will use the elementary school facility at Pilot Station. This facility is a former BIA facility, which tells you how old it is. It is in the flood zone, which causes many problems, including health hazards. (The bacteria does not go away with the flood.) This year, the sewer system, which is old and not designed for the growing number of students we have, was out for about 2 months. Students and staff had to use honey buckets for those two months.

I doubt this situation would exist in urban districts, but they need more money than rural districts? Some may say ours is an isolated incident. I do not think so. Our students have had to use honey buckets off and on every year for the seven years I have been here. I know other schools in the bush that have had to use honeybuckets, too. Some on a more permanent basis.

Have we whined about it? Have we really asked for anything more? Although this is a third-world situation to be in, people from the bush are not whiners - we have learned to make do with what we have. For me though, not this time.

We now have people complaining who have so much more than many of our students have. When I read in the Anchorage daily news that because of the inequality in funding the Anchorage school district had to cut elementary hockey rinks from their budget, my blood boiled. Perhaps for exercise, their students could come out and wade through the sewer water which floods our students' elementary playground every year. Then they would have something to complain about.

Most students in rural districts do not even receive music, P.E., or art - all considered core curriculum - because of lack of funds. What would you like to bet that the same people crying "inequality" are the same people complaining about our students' low test scores and the rate of welfare in our area, both directly related to quality of education. We have all heard them, and I am sure you can name some of them.

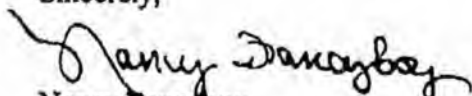
Some say that rural people should be taxed to pay their own way. That would be great if there was something to tax. The cold hard fact is that there are not enough jobs to provide the tax support needed to build schools and to support educational programs. For example, I estimate there are 60 - 70 jobs in our village. I also estimate there are about 175 eligible workers. There is only so much room on the market for native crafts and only so many jobs that stem from the school or city. The problem with wanting the rural districts to "pull themselves up their bootstraps" is very unrealistic.

And is it any coincidence that the people hurt most by this bill are Native children? It saddens me to think that it is not.

You know the truths. Please do not support Senate Bill 36.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Nancy Fancyboy

Pelican City School District

MAR 30 1998

Proud to be Parent Friendly e-Mail PelicanSid@aol.com

P.O. Box 90 • Pelican, Alaska 99832 • Phone (907)735-2236 • Fax (907)735-2263

Rick Erdrich, Superintendent

IN

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March 25, 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member
Juneau, AK

Dear Representative:

I came to Alaska a few years ago because I was tired, frustrated and dismayed with education in the state I came from. I saw that declining revenues and the high cost of goods and services coupled with a lack of understanding in general about education by the Legislature was destroying the public school system. I am continually angered when required to implement unfunded mandates. The reality for me was that the people who were requiring the mandates didn't have a clue as to what teachers, classified staff or administrators in the schools were doing, let alone what impact the requirements had on those school districts. So what has changed? Where is the progressive state that I believed I was coming to?

INLET



I saw Alaska as a progressive state where the welfare of children was given the highest of priorities. What happened in such a short period of time?

We have been told that SB36 is good for Alaska - that it will equalize education for all districts. I tell you it will destroy many districts as we know them today. Some 32 districts in rural Alaska representing 21,000 children will be affected. As Governor Knowles poignantly indicated, "This is not equality; it is inequity."

ON

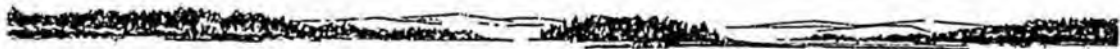
I am writing to ask you to vote no on SB36. This bill takes education in Alaska and returns it to the days of years gone by. Alaskan education would revert to the type of education one might see in remote third world countries. Is this what we want for Alaskan children? I don't think so.

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I represent the smallest single site district in the state. The children of Pelican have as much right to an equal education as students from any urban area. It is understandable that our students won't have the exposure to the many opportunities other students have. We don't know what it's like to have ice hockey, baseball, drill team or dance. Our children travel to Sitka or Juneau once a year just to have the opportunity to swim in a pool. They don't mind not having all the amenities, they just want to be treated with respect on an equal basis. Rural schools provide a good education for these children. Because of the sound education they do receive, many rural graduates go on to college. Small rural schools are the cornerstone of education in Alaska.

ISLAND

If this bill is implemented in its present form, the Pelican School District will lose 35% of its funding. This would be the worst piece of legislation that has come along in many years. Pelican would lose 50% of its teaching staff; the business manager / personnel services position, the Superintendent position and



1/3 of the maintenance staff would be eradicated. Our budget would be cut by \$196,000. In addition to this figure, single site funding has the potential to be eliminated, bringing the total loss to well over \$250,000. Even with the personnel reductions, we would still be required to cut an additional \$100,000 to balance the budget. Where would we be forced to make these cuts? Student programs.

All travel would be eliminated, further reducing student exposure to urban life. Remember our children have no sports, save wrestling, which currently allows for one or two trips a year at best for 1-4 students, and maybe one out of district basketball game. We could offer no shop, music, bilingual/ bicultural programs. Staff development and training would cease to exist which would seriously impact our ability to to maintain current worthwhile programs.

Most districts in the state are expending a tremendous amount of time, energy and money on technology, which we can all agree is vital to our youths' education. We cannot let our children fall behind in this area. In addition, our goal of aligning our curriculum with state standards would seem almost unattainable. Additional major cuts would follow in the areas of school board services. Counseling and media services? Never had them in the first place. What sort of an education would you consider this to be? Equitable, fair, just? Pelican, like many other schools throughout the state would be in a despicable condition. One last area to consider is that all funding for ongoing and preventative maintenance for facilities would be eliminated. Buildings would continue to deteriorate to the point where they would be unsafe for children.

Is this what education in the 21 century is truly about? Do we want to spend the next 20 years digging our way out of a mess that can be avoided? I don't see how this can be considered anything but disastrous. This isn't good for Alaska, rural or urban. This bill divides the state and makes everyone, especially Alaskan children, losers. I urge you to vote against this piece of legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. Your help is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard Erdrich
Superintendent

cc: State Superintendents
Pelican School Board

March 30, 1998

RE: SB38 School funding

Dear Legislature

Please vote YES on SB 38 School funding !!!

My question to the legislature is this: In the 40 years I have lived here I have spent several years in different villages around the state and the native people absolutely hate white people but they want to be handed free of charge every thing the white man has. Why are the Native Corporations not taking responsibility for the needs of the villages they represent??????

Am I missing the over all picture here? Every time I turn the news on I here this poor me syndrome from the natives GIVE ME A BREAK!!

Sincerely


Rita Kasper

P. O. Box 520507

Big Lake, Alaska 99652

907-892-7322

Shaktoolik School

"Home of the Wolverines"

P.O. Box 40 Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771



Ph. (907) 955-3021

Fax (907) 955-3031

The Mission of the Shaktoolik School is to educate all students to become self-supporting, productive citizens living a healthy lifestyle with pride in their cultural heritage by providing a variety of quality programs in academic, social, and vocational skills utilizing Traditional and Western styles of teaching.

March 31, 1998

Honorable House Member
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Member of the House:

As a new educator in the state of Alaska, Senate Bill 36 disturbs me deeply. I was pleasantly surprised when I arrived in rural Alaska to find that our school district was progressive and ready to move into the next century with solid plans for educating our young people. The passage of Senate Bill 36 would effectively eliminate any possibility of our district achieving the goals set forth in those plans.

Senate Bill 36 is a thoughtless piece of legislation, not considering the fact that there are children in rural Alaska to educate. Should this bill pass, our district would face insurmountable hardships. The people who are hit hardest, obviously, would be our students. Rural Alaska faces some challenges that can be like no other in the country. We desperately need continued funding to allow our students the opportunities they deserve from a public education.

I would ask you to vote no on Senate Bill 36. I would, at the very least, like you to put yourself in the place of one of our students in rural Alaska. I do not think that a person could vote with a clear conscience for Senate Bill 36.

I appreciate the fact that you have a very difficult job to do. I hope that you will vote to represent the entire state of Alaska. Thank you for your time.

Yours in Education,

Brian Corlett
Principal

March 31, 1998

Honorable House Members:
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Member of the Alaska House:

The community of Shaktoolik would like to ask for your help in regards to Senate Bill 36. While we are certain that this piece of legislation would benefit the urban districts in the state of Alaska, the bill would have devastating effects on our schools in rural Alaska.

Senate Bill 36 would all but eliminate all that has been accomplished in the educational arena in rural schools in Alaska. This is especially distressing news to us due to the fact that any future success for any rural school in Alaska rides directly on the non-passage of this bill. This bill would essentially eliminate any chance for future gains to come about with regards to rural Alaska's children.

Our district, The Bering Strait School District, would be rendered virtually inoperable by this piece of legislation. Our district administration would become non-existent, our food service program would suffer, if not be eliminated, and all of our student's opportunities for extra curricular activities would be eliminated. The students will ultimately be the ones who pay the price for Senate Bill 36. What does that say about the state's commitment to educating all of Alaska's children?

With this in mind we hope you will give serious thought before casting your vote on Senate Bill 36. We certainly need your support in order to keep moving ahead in rural education. We urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 36. If the bill is vetoed, it will be for legitimate reasons. Please support that veto. We believe Alaska is a place where all children should have a chance at an education.

Sincerely,
Shaktoolik Residents

Helen J. Jackson
Eileen Jackson Sr
Edwina K. Katchatof Sr
Mary Katchatof
Clara Spikings
Alex Spikings
Lily L. Dorechuk
Arlee W. Jackson
Vanda Spikings
Myrtle Hardy
Dorechuk
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Takak
Jennifer Corbett

Chris Panitchuk
Isabelle Jackson
Tara J. Jorgensen
May L. L.
Simon L. Bekovale Jr.
Ebba Panitchuk
Hannah L. Takak
Agnes R. Takak
Ann M. Bunt
Manjula L. L.
Bryan Corbett
Lukla Panitchuk
Brian Kusscheit
Paul F. Asickak Sr.

Saul S. Kumpstok

Kimberly A. Bergly

Mabel Takak

Jimmy Hunt

Edna Sautelek

Kelly Apokhual

Jessie Jean

Allen K. Hunt

Bob E. Apokhual

Mary Sook

William, Sautelek

John Kuntak

Charles Takak

Jerry Inshovey

Carrie Katchakay

Quar Corlex

Native Village of Kwinhagak
 Quinhagak I.R.A. Council
 P.O. Box 149
 Quinhagak, Alaska 99866
 (907) 556-8168 Fax: 556-8166



City of Quinhagak
 City Council
 P.O. Box 90
 Quinhagak, Alaska 99865
 (907) 556-8615 Fax: 556-8640

APR 01 1998

RESOLUTION 98- -

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, The Native Village of Kwinhagak (NVK) AND City of Quinhagak represents the political interests and promotes the well-being of the Yup'ik Tribal community of Quinhagak, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, NVK's and City's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the region in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions; and

WHEREAS, The most important resource of the region is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human right available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Education of the children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The people of the region need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as we know them; and

WHEREAS, The NVK and City lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services; and

WHEREAS, Such a measure would cripple regions such as NVK and City, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures; and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the region; and



WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of the Native Village of Kwinhagak and Council of City of Quinhagak respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council of the Native Village of Kwinhagak and Council of City of Quinhagak hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED 20th day of March 1998, by the Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

CERTIFICATION:

Marie A. Smith
SECRETARY

Warlike Barilla
PRESIDENT

Stella Cleveland
SECRETARY

Lophie Evans
MAYOR

APR 02 1998

ANNIE M. JOHN
P.O. Box 9157
Nikolai, Alaska 99691

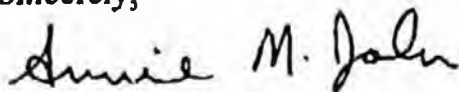
April 1, 1998

Senators & House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 36 because our children out here in the rural areas will feel the biggest impact if it passes. The bill will force our schools to close and then where will the equity be as I keep hearing that the specific purpose of SB36 is to solve the supposed inequity in school funding. Our children have been having to make do with what little funding they have and it would be shame to take away even more from them. The funding that we currently have does not even cover extras such as fine arts, music, and whatever else the urban kids take for granted. I've always believed that you all were elected to represent everyone in the State and I've been getting more disillusioned lately listening to all that's been happening down there in the legislature. What do we have to do to be treated as equals? Please take us into consideration when SB36 comes up for a vote. Please vote NO. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Annie M. John,
Advisory School Board Member & Concerned Parent

P.S. Please don't play an April Fool's Day joke on our kids. They deserve better than that.

DISTRIBUTED BY
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

ANN G. ALEXIA
P.O. Box 9126
Nikolai, Alaska 99691

April 1, 1998

Senators & House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 36 because the Bill will cause even more division between rural and urban students and families. What kind of message are we sending our children through passage of bills such as these? What makes one class of citizens better than the other? I personally think that we, as Alaskan citizens, should be treated equally and I've yet to see that. Our children do not have the opportunities that urban children enjoy because of the already limited funds that we've been getting. We, and especially the children, deserve better than that. Our kids don't even have opportunities for music lessons and other fun things such as going to a museum, etc. I still am not convinced that anything needs to be fixed - instead I feel that battle lines are being drawn even tighter between urban and rural. Let's not fix something that's not broke. Please vote NO on Senate Bill 36. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ann G. Alexia

Ann G. Alexia,
Advisory School Board Member

DISTRIBUTED BY
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

Native Village of Kwinhagak
 Quinhagak L.R.A. Council
 P.O. Box 149
 Quinhagak, Alaska 99855
 (907) 556-8165 Fax: 556-8166



City of Quinhagak
 City Council
 P.O. Box 90
 Quinhagak, Alaska 99855
 (907) 556-8615 Fax: 556-8640

RESOLUTION 98- -

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, The Native Village of Kwinhagak (NVK) AND City of Quinhagak represents the political interests and promotes the well-being of the Yup'ik Tribal community of Quinhagak, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, NVK's and City's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the region in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions; and

WHEREAS, The most important resource of the region is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human right available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Education of the children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The people of the region need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as we know them; and

WHEREAS, The NVK and City lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services; and

WHEREAS, Such a measure would cripple regions such as NVK and City, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures; and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the region; and



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WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of the Native Village of Kwinhagak and Council of City of Quinhagak respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council of the Native Village of Kwinhagak and Council of City of Quinhagak hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED 20th day of March 1998, by the Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

CERTIFICATION:

Marie L. Smith
SECRETARY

Wanilie Gavilla
PRESIDENT

Stella Cleveland
SECRETARY

Lephi Evans
MAYOR

City of Shaktoolik

P. O. Box 10
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771**Resolution # 98-04**

A Resolution opposing Senate Bill 36.

WHEREAS: Education plays a vital role to the students in our Rural Communities;

WHEREAS: to now be successful in the Western World, we are encouraging our children to achieve the highest education possible in our Rural Communities;

WHEREAS: the Bering Straits School District is educating our students to become self-sufficient, productive citizens in a changing world recognized for their social, academic and marketable skills;

WHEREAS: with Proposed Bill 36, a lot of our Vital Programs would be lost;

WHEREAS: with Senate Bill 36 in place, Education for our Rural Students would be put in Turmoil leveling our Rural Students to the lowest Education possible, when Education is ranked at the Highest Priority Level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Education is ranked as a very, very high priority for our students in the Rural Areas,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That based on the critical criteria's listed above, we urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 36; or uphold the Governor's Veto of said bill.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY: the City Council of the City of Shaktoolik this 2nd day of April, 1998, a vote of 6 yes or no. 1 ABSENT.

SIGNED: Edgar M. Jackson Sr.
Edgar M. Jackson Sr., Mayor

ATTEST: Ellen E. Hunt
Ellen E. Hunt, City Clerk

I am probably the rare bush teacher who is in favor of SB 36. I have taught out here for 16 years and have seen vast waste and total disregard for accountability in many incidents. I feel that the people of the villages I have been in, for the most part, do not support education. They do not get involved in their children's education. They do not see any need to volunteer at the school or take an active interest in making the school a better place. The adults in the villages have their priorities all wrong. Even now, with the hue and cry of SB 36, most parents are just concerned about losing basketball or the free breakfast. Why even our own educational association, a local branch of NEA, is putting out flyers that say "This means Basketball." to try and drum up support against SB 36.

APR 03 1998

I feel that for the state of Alaska to send a strong message to bush schools would be a very timely wake-up call. "Start showing involvement in education. Get your kids to school on time. Stop criticizing the school as a western institution that has little or nothing to do with village life. What can each parent do to make the school stronger?"

Everyone needs to start taking accountability for the problems in rural Alaska - and by everyone I mean the rural Alaskans, each person who lives in each village, native and non-native alike. Finger-pointing and excuses are a way of life. Let the schools do without a little and see if things improve - in my opinion they can't get worse. What could be worse than a seven year second grader only being in school 18 days out of a 42 day quarter - and all the absences unexcused?

I know I sound like a bitter, disillusioned teacher. Actually I am not. I am a sixteen year veteran of bush teaching who has dedicated her professional life to the Yupik children of western Alaska. I love the children I teach and am rewarded by the challenges of teaching. Until parents and all members of a village change their attitudes and start working productively to support education I feel changes in the funding are justified.

Jean Stockburger
Teacher and parent of rural school children
P. O. Box 32334
Mt. Village, Alaska 99632

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P. O. Box 32334
Mt. Village, Alaska 99632

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

APR 03 1998

From: Owen Lewis
Box 43
Kwigillingok, Alaska 99622

Re: Senate Bill 36

I was listening to SB 36 House Hess hearing two days ago here in school. The mannerism and mode of Hess committee was not of professional attitude. The committee has already made up their mind to pass the bill despite testimonies of opposition from many areas of Alaska including Anchorage and Fairbanks.

You should know that Anchorage's money (School District) problems cannot be solved by taking monies from other school districts. This is wrong approach. Legislators should look for ways to put more dollars to the education funding formula and then legislate. Education is just as important in the bush as it is in the urban. Taking monies from other districts and divert to other districts is not the answer. This opposite Robin Hood method will not work in our State it will only create divisiveness among us.

Mr. Hanley we need your help and influence in the House and stop this bill from becoming law for the sake of our children and for the sake of others in the bush.

Quyanal