

**SB 139 /**

**SB 140**

**PUBLIC**

**TESTIMONY**

**(FILE 2)**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 139</BILL><SUBJECT>SB 139-SB 140 PUBLIC  
TESTIMONY (FILE 2)</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN29</COMM></TARGET>

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Julie Niederhauser <niederh3@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 12:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Online With Libraries (OWL) and Public Broadcasting

**Hello,**

I am writing to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to fund the OWL (Online With Libraries), which was included in Governor's budget, and is now being cut entirely by finance education subcommittee. The governor's funding of \$761,800 should be restored. OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so this is a good investment. For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4. Additionally OWL provides rural Alaskans of all ages the opportunity to engage with the rest of world using a safe and secure videoconferencing network. This videoconferencing network has been used for economic, health, legal and educational and entertainment purposes.

I am also writing to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to support the governor's budget cut recommendations which proposed cutting the state's 2016 contribution to public broadcasting by \$800,000 and leaving \$3.5 million. Public Broadcasting provides Alaskans statewide with a non-commercial platform in which ideas and information may be shared.

Thank you,

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Julie M. Niederhauser  
907-953-7112

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** JoAnn Ross Cunningham <joannrossc@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 7:25 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Request to fund SB139 (Online With Libraries--library internet access)

**Pertaining to senate budget bill SB139, please, please reinstate all funding for internet support in our rural libraries.**

Below are several reasons for providing 21st-century connectivity to Alaskan citizens.

OWL provides broadband subsidies for Alaska's small and remote public libraries, a videoconferencing network for all Alaskans, and leveraged e-rate subsidies.

**OWL (Online With Libraries)** was included in Governor's budget. The governor's funding of **\$761,800** should be restored.

OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so is a good investment. **For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4.**

Without OWL, Alaskan libraries will lose:

- Affordable and high speed Internet connections necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> century tasks and competencies.
- Videoconferencing capabilities which has allowed for student participation in classes not available in their own communities, local Board trainings, personal legal advice, healthcare advocacy, and shared programs and trainings between libraries.
- Access to information and resources and online library catalogs available only through consistent and high speed internet connections.

**Cutting the OWL program will not only create hardship for libraries and communities across the state but will jeopardize federal E-rate funding that pays for 79% of Alaska's high broadband costs to rural and remote libraries.** OWL is a critical program that enables libraries to provide basic internet service to all Alaska residents.

**Please restore funding to Online with Libraries. Our Haines library is a vital community hub, and needs maintain internet connectivity for access to basic information. *It's not just about books anymore.***

Thank you.

cerely,

JoAnn Ross Cunningham

Haines Resident, former high school teacher



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Karen K <kresh.karen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:46 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** OWL Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,


My name is Karen Kresh, and I am the Librarian at the Unalaska Public Library. I am writing you today about why funding for the OWL project, or Online with Libraries, is important to our community. Funding from the OWL program has allowed the library to offer high-speed internet. On our remote Aleutian island, internet is expensive and tightly capped. In fact, home internet is so costly and unreliable that many residents do not have it, and the library gives them a connection to the outside world.

Our library shares an internet connection with the school to save money and maximize bandwidth. Without OWL funding, our internet connection will be much slower and more expensive, and the school will also suffer from decreased bandwidth. OWL also allows us to leverage federal e-rate funds, which cover nearly \$80,000 per year in our community alone. Without OWL, the school and library could lose much of this federal funding. We establish a fee structure for internet access, as the legislature has suggested, we will no longer be eligible for these federal funds.

Through our library's internet connection, middle school students in our remote community were recently able to take a virtual tour of the UAF campus. Through videoconferencing, a group of elementary students was able to tour the NASA Space Capsule in Houston. A father uses our library's internet connection to read books to his young kids, who live off-island, via Skype.

This program is essential to Unalaska and other remote Alaskan communities. It keeps us connected to the rest of the state, the country, and the world, and it gives us access to federal e-rate funds. I realize that this is a difficult time for the state, and these are tough decisions, but eliminating OWL will be a huge step backwards for rural Alaska.

Thank you for this opportunity for public input.

  
Sincerely,

Karen Kresh



City of Port Lions  
Box 110  
Port Lions, AK, 99550  
907-454-2332  
cityofportlions@gmail.com

**To: Senate Finance Committee**  
**RE: Municipal Revenue Sharing**  
**Written Testimony**

**March 4, 2016**

I am writing on behalf of the City of Port Lions as the Mayor.

It has come to our attention that the House Finance Committee removed the additional 35 million that the Governor had proposed adding to the Revenue Sharing Fund. I am sure you are hearing how important revenue sharing is to all of the small communities throughout Alaska.

The addition of this money into the Revenue Sharing Fund would go a long way in making sure that our small community can keep operating in a functional manner.

The proposed Revenue Sharing for Port Lions as it stands now would be \$66,512.00. This is a reduction of \$33,000.00 from the FY16 Payment.

With the additional funds the Governor is proposing that figure would change to \$86,807.00 which would still be less than last year's figure, but would allow us to keep operating without too many changes.

If the Revenue Sharing amount stays at its current level of \$66,512 for FY 17, the City will be forced to make some drastic changes. These would include laying employees off and increased utility and moorage rates to name a few. Cutting Revenue Sharing to small communities throughout Alaska has a very real and negative trickle down affect.

When services and manpower is reduced in an already short staffed situation, infrastructure and communities suffer the brunt of these reductions.

We are well aware of the issues the State is facing and we are all prepared to do our part in reductions to the PFD, potential income taxes, increased taxes on our

fishermen and more. But you must realize that these reductions and taxes will impact those already living in our rural communities many of whom make their living as commercial fishermen and women.

By cutting Revenue Sharing to small municipalities, it's almost like a double whammy to the folks that live in these communities. Residents will bear the taxes and smaller PFD payments that the State is planning to implement, but if the local government has to add on to that, it is not the City Government who will suffer, it's our residents. With the drastic reduction to Community Revenue Sharing, the City would be forced to raise the amount of various services and we would look first at utilities.

The Port Lions City Council urges you to do all you can to keep Revenue Sharing intact and to include the Governors proposed additional funding.

Sincerely,  
Melvin Squartsoff, Mayor, City of Port Lions

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** pstark@mosquionet.com  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 1:25 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

Please restore funding for Best Beginnings and early childhood education. Research shows that participating in quality early childhood programs has long term gains for children. High risk youth who don't participate in early education programs are 70% more likely to be arrested for violent crime. They are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to become a pregnant teen, and 60% more likely not to go to college. If Alaska implemented universal pre-K, it would cost about \$6,700 per student per year. The average cost of housing an inmate in prison in Alaska is \$57,670 per year. Eliminating early education investments increases prison populations by 39%. Paying for a person in prison costs nearly 3 times more per year than providing quality early learning. Let us spend our limited funds in the best place possible.

I am in favor of a sales tax, school tax, income tax, and using part of the permanent fund ( as describe in Gov. Walker's bill) in order to decrease our deficit. We have been paid to live in Alaska too long. We have had a free ride for many years. Please don't decimate the good things we have—the university, early childhood education etc.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Stark  
Fairbanks

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Genevieve Conrad <gconrad47@me.com>  
**From:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 7:21 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Really?

Good morning Dennis

I have some comments about the young lady from Wasilla who was recommending that maybe seniors move from Alaska as it was a hard place to live.

First off, I cannot even begin to tell you how upset I was to think that I grew up in Alaska, had a career in Alaska, finally retire and some representative from Wasilla thinks I should live somewhere else. Is she Sarah Palin or her best friend? Like you, I have lived there all my life, no desire to depart. While I realize some cuts have to be made, can she even begin to believe having seniors move will be good for the economy?

I'm sorry for my negative comments but depend on you to help the seniors.

Ginny Conrad

Sent from my iPad



# Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.

3935 Svedlund Street  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-7655 Fax: (907) 235-3739

March 1, 2016

House Finance Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Honorable Co-Chair Neuman:

Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been serving seniors for 43 years. We offer seniors essential services (assisted and unassisted housing, nutrition, education, and transportation) and social activities that promote independence and a healthy continuum of care.

The proposed reductions to senior programs will affect seniors greatly. The seniors who benefit from these programs have been the pioneers of our state. Without their efforts we would not enjoy the state that we live in today. Removing their financial assistance to remain in the home will change the fabric of our state.

It is always difficult to reduce budgets to make ends meet. As a non-profit we understand the difficulty you are facing. However, the programs that you are proposing to cut actually save the State of Alaska money.

- Senior benefits allow seniors to remain at home. The seniors who benefit the most from these programs are very low income. The loss of this income may shift their need to public assistance.
- Senior grants, Senior Community Based Grants, Division of Senior and Disability services reductions are the mainstay to reduce costs on the very expensive Hospital and Health System. These programs save the State significant amounts of money through providing proper nutrition, transportation and keep safe places for seniors out of long term care which is much more expensive. Nutrition is the first step to keeping seniors independent. The goal is to keep seniors independent and not become a burden on other aspects of health care systems.
- Alaska Adult Medicaid Dental Program is also a significant program which keeps costs down to the health care system. Providing preventive screening to low-income Alaskans reduces potential health risks. Reducing funding to this program will shift the cost to other health care systems.

*40 Years of Great Service Helping Seniors "Live Life to Its Fullest!"*

[www.homerseniors.com](http://www.homerseniors.com)



- Reducing General Relief for seniors to remain in assisted living will shift the burden to the long term care system. Seniors do not wish to be in long term care; however, removing this will again shift the burden to another program. If this assistance is not provided it becomes dangerous for a senior to remain at home. We have had three seniors who chose not to receive assistance and within 30 days of that decision, they were hospitalized into long-term care from a fall.
- Privatizing the Pioneer Homes may be a great solution. We encourage you to consider the option.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keren L. Kelley, MPA, LNHA  
Executive Director

*40 Years of Great Service Helping Seniors "Live Life to Its Fullest!"*

[www.homerseniors.com](http://www.homerseniors.com)



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Amanda Neal <amanda22u@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 8:51 AM  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee  
Funding for Early Education

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of all of the young children in our state. Please do not defund early childhood education. Please reconsider cutting the important programs of Parents as Teachers and the Imagination Library. Early childhood education does matter and IS the right way to spend state money. How could our very young NOT be a good investment? I would gladly pay more taxes or lose my PFD to pay for these services. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Amanda Campbell  
P.O. Box 3803  
Homer, AK 99603

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Roxanne Mourant <roxykohler2@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 12:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Frank Coenraad  
**Subject:** SB 139 and SB 140 testimony

To my state representatives: This is Roxanne Mourant, teacher of Alaska's Learning Network (AKLN)'s online course, Alaska Studies. Thank you for considering continued funding for AKLN. This program serves students throughout Alaska in ways that are not possible for many of our 400+ high schools with fewer than 20 students (as part of a K-12 program). This is a much-needed service that students need to be successful. I strongly urge you to fund SB 139 and SB 140 in support of AKLN.

Rx

Roxanne Mourant  
Education Consultant  
Mindful Learning: "The Nature of Learning"  
PO Box 70  
Elfin Cove, Alaska 99825  
7-209-3455

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Diane Herrmann <herrmann1@gci.net>  
**t:** Sunday, March 06, 2016 4:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Don't cut education at any level--Use the PFD

TO: Alaska State Senate Finance Committee

As you consider how to balance the state's spending and revenues, please consider the long-term consequences. Every time there is a cut to Pre-K to 12th grade education, our children get less help to learn the skills they will need to keep them and our communities healthy in the future. As a parent volunteer in the schools for the past 15 years, I have seen the effects of budget cuts. When an elementary teacher must serve more than 20 students in a class, every student suffers. We have long since passed that threshold. Most of my children's classes have exceeded 25 students in recent years, and I see how many needs have fallen through the cracks. Children don't get the individual attention they need to read well or to really understand the math they need to learn. My own kids are some of the lucky ones; they have had an educated, stay-at-home parent to take up some of the slack. Most kids don't have that support. If you want our people to have the skills they will need to hold jobs in the future, don't cut their ability to learn today.

This same principle applies to our university. In today's world, most people need some sort of post-secondary education. Without the University of Alaska, our kids will need to move out of state to get an education. Many will not return. If we want healthy communities and families, we need to maintain the facilities that support them.

I understand that the state's current revenue does not meet these needs. Surveys have shown that the majority of Alaskans are in favor of using a portion of the Permanent Fund and instituting an income tax, equitable ways to raise revenues. State spending is not supporting "bloated government." It is supporting *necessary* services, including our schools, from pre-K to college, which support our people to support *themselves*. This is a legitimate, important role for government. Now we need our political leaders in Alaska's legislature to have the courage to do what is right and raise revenues. Please do what is right.

Thank you *very much* for your service.

Sincerely,

Diane Herrmann  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mark Lindberg <mslindberg1@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:45 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** written testimony

### What Makes a Great State?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the operating budget. I will be unable to testify in person this week so I am providing written comments. My name is Mark Lindberg. I am resident of district 4C and a professor of wildlife ecology at UAF. I appreciate the past support that you have shown for education and I hope you will do so in the future.

My wife and I are both graduates of UAF. Following graduation, we left Alaska for five years moving first to Tennessee and then Montana. Things weren't working out in Montana, although we were living in the state known "as the last best place". We wanted to start a family and we wanted to do so in "the last great place" – Alaska. Until recently, we never really thought hard about why Alaska was labeled the last great place, it seemed obvious. The natural beauty of the state is certainly a reason to characterize the state as great; however, wild places and stunning landscape alone don't define greatness if the citizens of that state aren't served in way that leads to a safe, healthy, and happy life. I won't dispute that those programs that serve the safety and health needs of the citizens are of utmost importance. Close behind those programs and sometimes in collaboration with those programs is education. For us, the educational system of this state is the most defining feature of greatness because it makes a direct investment in the states' most precious, "renewable" resource, its' children, and therefore the future of the state.

Even though education is already paying some of its own way through school taxes, tuition, and cost recovery and matching from research, and through other returns like an education and associated job opportunities, quality of life, and outreach, it's clear we still need to do more to maintain greatness. It's clear that we have reached the limits of investment and returns from a finite resource such as oil and we need to take responsibility for our greatness and future by paying our way through income taxes and more responsible use of the permanent fund.

However, an income tax and wise use of the permanent fund comes with a responsibility and a trust between the citizens of Alaska and its government officials, who will be charged with deciding how to use that revenue. Show us that you deserve that trust by making responsible decisions that value our future. Making poor decisions about matters such as air quality and budget cuts that would cripple the university don't reflect that you value our health or the future of our state. Making uninformed decisions about the role of research in the educational process and in the state economy, do not suggest that you deserve our trust. Misusing the permanent fund by sending \$10,000,000s of dollars out of state in the form federal taxes each year doesn't demonstrate responsible management. We are prepared to do and pay more to assure the future greatest of our state – are you?

We understand that cuts may need to be part of the short term solution, but please consider reasonable and responsible levels of cuts to the state educational system that reflect how you value the future of our state. Please also admit that we need to seek longer term solutions to our state financial crisis that don't just include cuts. Consider forming an alliance and trust with the citizens of this state through an income tax and more responsible use of the permanent fund. We will not be judged by our ability to balance the budget this year or even next year, but by our ability to provide a great state for future generations and that will require that we support a high quality educational system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Judy Andree <jagster42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 & Education funding

Dear Senate Finance members,

We are writing in support of full funding as promised for the SBA with the \$50 adjustment for Alaska's public schools. In addition, we support funding for the pre-K program and the related Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers programs, the funding for which has been cut. And we support funding the UA system with the funding cuts proposed by the Governor, as these seem in keeping with the need to reduce Alaska's budget in a sensible manner. Our children have and now our grandchildren are benefiting from public education in Alaska. We have had our children attend the full range of public education institutions over our fifty years in this state, ranging from public pre-schools through K-12 and on to the UA system. When we first arrived in Alaska fifty years ago, we paid both an income tax and a modest school tax. We were thrilled to be in Alaska, didn't mind the income tax, and would be willing to pay such a tax again rather than drastically weaken public education. Alaska's system of public education shows a remarkable effort to make sure that all Alaska's children receive a quality education; it is a system worth supporting. Please remember during your deliberations that Alaska is a unique place with unique opportunities and, as such, requires our local solutions to any budget problems we are facing. We should consider all ideas and solutions, but in the end, we must solve our problems in our own unique way, and weakening our public education system should not be one of them.

Thank you.

--  
Bob and Judy Andree  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Connor Benton <ctbenton98@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 10:20 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 and SB 140 Testimony

To my state representatives: I am Connor Benton, a student in multiple classes offered through Alaska's Learning Network (AKLN) including Alaska studies. Without this program, I would not be able to graduate because I am required to take certain classes that can not reasonably be offered in my school due to its size. I know that many of my fellow AKLN classmates are in the same situation. I strongly urge you to fund SB 139 and SB140 in support of AKLN.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lily Brechan <lilybrechan@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Monday, March 07, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 and SB 140 testimony

Hello, my name is Lily Brechan and I am currently a student in AKLN's online class: Alaska Studies. AKLN is a very important piece of many people's education. I strongly urge you to continue funding this program to make sure they continue to have access to a good education. This is also very helpful to students that learn better with online classes than with traditional classroom teachers. We would all greatly appreciate continued funding of this program.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lisa Worl <lmworljnu@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 1:58 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139

Honorable Senators of legislative Senate Finance committee,

I'm writing in support of Full funding of the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and the scheduled adjustment of \$50 to the BSA.

As a parent whose children have attended, are attending still, and recently graduated, I can clearly see the impacts of the last five years of cuts to our operating budget. The Juneau School district has had a decrease in our operating budget by nearly 17% in the past five years and eliminated about 100 jobs or positions. Our remaining staff are each working hard to continue providing the best teaching, learning and support possible to all students. Meanwhile the scope of the classes now being offered is vastly reduced (less CTE, fewer electives) as we focus the limited funds to core math, language arts, science and social studies and our class sizes continue to grow. Our families and students are paying more for their public education by holding several fundraisers to fill in the gaps for activities but also for basic like school supplies.

If you were to go into our schools, you would be impressed most by how much all our students are continuing to be positively engaged in learning. If you look at our student data, you might note that we are making progress in closing our achievements gaps with our students who struggle and you'd see our graduation rates be increased. Still, what you would quickly learn from our school staff and families is they are weary and frustrated as they full well know and see that we are not able to keep programs that have been effective at helping all this happen. Funding is greatly diminished for professional development and instructional support, for acquiring the technology to not only help in support of our teaching but also in meeting the mandatory testing requirements, and for maintaining and updating a school building that is in great disrepair and ill-equipped for serving the two student populations it houses. We appreciate and we need your support to provide quality education for all our students. Investing in our students ensures a stronger community.

Finally, I want you to know that, I personally support not only education funding but also creating a responsible fiscal plan that includes the much needed revenue generation such as income tax (most certainly on the 20% of the non-residents who work in Alaska seasonally and then leave the state with their wages), utilizing the permanent fund and additional taxes on other sources.

Thank you for your time and for your difficult though important work as you set our state budget.

Respectfully,

Lillian M. Worl  
9159 Wolfram Way  
Juneau, AK 99801

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** lynnette dihle <dihles@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Education Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I believe in making education funding a priority. This is based on being an Alaskan since 1975. From all that I have read, quality education for public schools affects the success of a state or country, and is a prevention measure at the same time.

Thank you,

Lynnette Dihle  
2454 Engineers Cutoff  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

## An Open Message to the Members of the Senate Finance Committee

As the state budget is being reviewed legislatively, I appreciate this opportunity to provide my opinion now to the members of the Senate Finance Committee. I understand the difficult experience you are faced with and ask that you consider the unique and already "bare bones" grant situations in rural Alaska.

As you may know, the remote regions in the state have always worked with less when compared to the financial situations created and supported by the sheer number of the population in our larger sister urban areas. Please consider the following concerns:

- State funded programs support the only services available to the vulnerable people (those in poverty, in addiction, in the criminal justice system, in volatile home situations, in substandard housing, our veterans, our Elders, our children, the people with mental health treatment need, etc.) and for rural Alaskans in general.
- The jobs funded by the state grants support the economy of rural Alaska and, with no funding and subsequently no jobs, a "domino effect" begins to unravel the support of the rural communities.
- The "wait period" for substance use treatment beds in the state is 4 to 6 months and rural residents die while they are waiting for treatment. If treatment funding is diminished across the state, these waiting periods will lengthen incrementally.
- The expected funding increase from Expanded Medicaid has been slow in coming and is not yet realized sufficiently to support the grant-funded services in rural Alaska.
- Historically, the state has spent millions and millions of dollars sending the people and children of rural Alaska to services in the urban areas of Alaska and out-of-state, to Texas, Utah, etc., for treatment. Realizing the clinical and financial error in this planning, the state spent additional funds to bring the children home and recommended treatment services for the child within the family, rather than only the child.
- The need for the state's most costly state services, the correctional centers, continues to grow and will increase annually if services are diminished.
- The services needed to address the "triad" of untreated mental health services, untreated substance use treatment services, and recidivism in the correctional system are in their infancy in this area of rural Alaska.
- Local treatment services for the families, adults, and children, can interrupt the cycle of addiction and recidivism and promote the community changes needed to support the fledgling families in recovery.

I encourage you to plan creatively and bravely to postpone the dramatic cuts to the state's budget. Utilize the available funds in the Permanent Fund to allow Medicaid Expansion to become strong in the state and support our services.

I ask that you retain the state grant funding without the dramatic budget cuts to allow services to continue as Medicaid grows. A plan to address lowering the grants incrementally over the next fiscal years would allow the Medicaid system itself to meet the need of processing the increased load of applications and payment and allow the rural areas of Alaska to continue to enroll beneficiaries in Medicaid to support services.

I ask that you maintain Nome's Youth Facility to allow youths and their families this service, rather than beginning the incarceration pattern of the past (youths are incarcerated in DJJ and then, as adults, begin their cycle of incarceration which never ends).

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Myra Murphy MSW  
P.O. Box 1062

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Brian Stoltz <brian.leo.stoltz@gmail.com>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts

You can cut all day long and it will not cover the budget gap. Start the conversation now on how you'll pay for it. Stop paying the PFD. Start income taxes. Now is the time. Liberal or conservative, every conversation I've had in the past few months thinks the same way. Have the courage to do the right thing for Alaska.

Brian Stoltz  
Fairbanks, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lesa Hollen <ldhollen@alaska.edu>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** UA financing budget

To Whom It May Concern;

Why are we not dipping into our surplus budget set aside for this situation that also occurred in 1985 Oil Bust, where people walked away from their homes? There was legislation passed by your peers and why is not being acted? We are dealing with the highest crime rates against women and children in the United States and cutting the University budget, causes multiple families to fall lower into poverty and violence. Do you not care about Alaskan Children and Women? A few fellow scientists are only adjunct professors and are on food stamps, because of the low pay already given. How can cutting the University Budget help save what little money you pay the staff? This is short sightedness and direct attack by GOP and Religious organizations to keep Alaskan Women and Children from gaining a higher education. Like Fidel Castro stated "To Defeat the United States, is to ruin their Education System". Are you all going to listen to Fidel Castro or your hearts to a child's smile when the light bulb turns on learning a new skill. Please stop allowing greed to run our lives and try and run a University as a Business, which President Hamilton stated would be the worst thing to happen to the University of Alaska. Truly glad to work with him at Office of Public Affairs at UA Statewide and learned his wisdom. Will you listen or be blinded by greed?

Sincerely,

Lesla Hollen, (Alaskan White Dragon)

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited, while imagination encompasses the world" Albert Einstein

Neuroscience Visualization M.S.  
Dept of Biochemistry & Chemistry  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
(907) 978-8784

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Ray Cammisa <raybird68@hotmail.com>  
**t:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 7:22 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget

The time is now to: institute a small personal income tax; and levy increased taxes on commercial fishing, mining, cruise ships, oil production, motor fuel, tobacco and alcohol, lower substitutes to oil companies, cut legislative pay and perks, stop all expenditures on capital projects, leave the ALO for a building that costs less. Support term limits and a comprehensive Conflict of Interest Law'.

The very best thing you can do for the State is retire for Office.!

Ray Cammisa  
17615 Lacey Dr  
99577

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Skip Stock <sstock@ncelec.com>  
**At:** Monday, March 07, 2016 11:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; House.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov  
**Cc:** governor@gov.state.ak.us; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Subject:** Budget Feedback - in hopes you were serious in asking for it

Assuming as accurate the current situation is as reported, to wit:

The current FY16 Budget = \$5.6B

The current FY16 Budget deficit = \$3.5B

The current (2/29/16) CBR balance = \$8.21B

The current (12/31/16) APF Earning Reserve = \$6.146B

Total spendable reserves = \$14.35B

Why would a plan, broadly structured along these lines, not meet current and future budget crises?

Surely others wiser than I have proposed similar solutions.....

**For FY16**

- Legislatively (and in the future Constitutionally) limit Budget growth going forward to Inflation (CPI) plus a percentage (1%), or some reasonable formula.
- Set and attain target Budget cuts (real ones) = \$1.75B (half of current deficit).
- Use reserves (CBR and APFER) equal to attained target budget cuts = \$1.75B (In other words, if reserves to be tapped are desired to be \$X, the budget cuts must also = \$X).
- DO NOT institute State sales or State income Tax or Affect PFD's.

**For FY17 (and beyond)**

· FY16 Budget \$5.6B + CPI(1.4%) + Growth (1%) – FY16 cuts (\$1.75B) = \$5.765B.

- Set and attain target Budget cuts (real ones) = to ½ of deficit, if any (and until oil comes back and/or we further diversify there will be deficits).

- Use reserves (CBR and APFER) equal to attained target budget cuts = to 1/2 of deficit.

- DO NOT institute State sales or State income Tax or Affect PFD's.

### **Key Points to Incorporate in a plan:**

- Manage Budget growth by requiring, constitutionally, a balanced budget.

- Never allow more than half of deficit to be met from Reserves.

- Require cuts for at least half of the deficit.

- Everything should be on the table.

### **Further random thoughts:**

- At current Reserves of approximately \$14B, even with no growth and no relief, under a plan similar to above, approximately 7 + years of reserves is available WITHOUT SALES OR INCOME TAX OR AFFECTING PFD's.

- The only reason a plan similar to above couldn't be made to work would seem to be partisan politics and sacred cow programs to keep important constituents mollified and to enable you all to continue to be re-elected.

- You ALL were elected to represent ALL the people of Alaska as a body not favored individuals or organizations.

- We place our fiduciary trust in you to be proper stewards of our State resources (bottom line – income to run the state).

- Why then are we to be burdened with yet more tax on our individual earnings to support an out of control government body that collectively cannot fulfill its fiduciary and sworn responsibility?

- Do NOT attempt to avoid or abrogate your sworn fiduciary responsibility to the people of Alaska by putting any of the sensitive budget issues to a "Vote of the People". That is the cowards way out. If the issues are too tough for the legislative body to figure out and come to agreement on, why do we need you?

- With regards to the Oil Industry - come to a FINAL tax structure/formula (ideally that neither side is completely happy with) that will give both the State of Alaska AND the Oil Industry fiscal certainty for some decades to come. Said fiscal certainty will allow for proper planning and development by both parties without wasted time and energy spent on perpetual argument over who has the best deal today.

- At current Reserves of approximately \$14B, even with no growth and no relief, under a plan similar to above, approximately 7 + years of reserves is available WITHOUT SALES OR INCOME TAX OR AFFECTING PFD's. (repetition intended).

Respectfully, and with great hope but little confidence that the adults in the room will win out,

The Stock Family,

3353 Wiley Post Loop

Anchorage Alaska

Residents for 52 and 61 years respectively, and wishing to be able to afford to remain so for many more

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Craig & Ginger Evens <halibut@gci.net>  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:05 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
**Subject:** SB 139

Senator Kelly, Senator MacKinnon and Senate Finance Committee,

Hello, my name is Ginger Evens and I represent myself. I am writing you today on SB 139. I encourage you, the Senate Finance Committee, to take appropriate actions to craft a sustainable state budget that includes revenue.

I would like the state budget to utilize some version of Governor Walker's plan to bring Alaska out of the current financial situation. What is unacceptable to me, a lifelong resident of Alaska, is no action by our legislators. Accessing the permanent fund earnings this spring to begin to address the budget short fall is necessary to keep Alaska moving towards the future.

I encourage the Senate Finance Committee to take the necessary steps to craft a sustainable state budget that includes revenue in the form of a state wide income tax.

I would also encourage you to maintain the current \$50.00 BSA in the budget for education funding. The education of our state's children is the future of our great state.

Sincerely,

Ginger Evens

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Rich Brenner <richbrenner.alaska@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on the Proposed Budget (SB139 & 140)


Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am asking that you please re-double your efforts to find a long-term fiscal solution to Alaska's budget challenges this session. In particular, I ask that you:

>Limit your budget cuts to those proposed by Governor Walker. Additional cuts will throw Alaska into a deep recession and would be irresponsible. Please fully fund the services that Alaska's economy needs including funding for: road repair, higher education, fisheries management, public safety, the ferry system, and care for the elderly and disadvantaged.

>Implement a balanced mixture of revenue from the Permanent Fund, income tax, and statewide sales tax.

The Alaska Legislature has had years to do something about declining oil revenue but has not acted. You simply cannot delay a decision any longer. Please find a sustainable long-term solution and spare Alaska from a devastating recession. We're counting on you.

Most Sincerely,  
hard E. Brenner

Auke Bay, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** PlBoyden <plboyden@gmail.com>  
**To:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:26 AM  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee  
Budget cuts.

We are not going to be able to cut our way out of the 3.5 billion deficit. We should not try to correct our problem at the expense of our seniors and children. I do not now or have I ever receive any of the senior bonuses that the state has offered, but there are a good number of folks that depend on it to live. Our young people are the future of our state and we should be doing everything we can to make sure a good education is available right here in the state. We need to keep our young folks here, after they have completed their education, whether it be in the trades or through college. I believe you should be looking at ways to create new revenue, tap the permanent fund, create an income tax and also a state sales tax. We Alaskans have had a free ride for too long and it is time we start paying for the services we have come to expect and enjoy. The taxes will make sure that all who enjoy our state get to help pay the expense, whether they come from outside to work here (income tax) or if they are a tourist (sales tax). However, there also needs to be a provision in any changing of the fund or implementing of taxes that states when and if the price of oil gets back up to X number of dollars per barrel these sources of revenue can be suspended. I mean suspended, not completely eliminated like we did with the income tax before, that way should this problem arise again in the future it would be much easier to re-implement the sources of revenue.

Thank You  
Paul A Boyden  
Winnipeg River, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Julia Bevins <jsbevins@icloud.com>  
**From:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:21 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Input

To State Finance Committee Senators,

Thank you for tackling this difficult problem.

Here's my input for AK State Budget. ISER's study says that if we cut the PDF, this affects rural Alaskans and the poor disproportionately. Scaled state income taxes would be most fair to Alaskans, but the best way to "share the pain" is to institute sales taxes so that revenue is raised not only from Alaskans, but also by visitors and out of state workers.

To raise revenue:

highest weighting on sales taxes,  
middle weighting on income taxes,  
smallest weighting on the PFD

Rents, licenses, and fees for state services can be increased. Some of these fees are really low compared with similar licenses in other states.

AHFC is a for-profit corporation which really serves Alaskans and adds good money to the state coffers. Are there other arenas of business for which the state could create for-profit corporations?

Regarding cuts: Cutting state agencies should be done with utmost care. Decisions about those cuts are best derived from inside those agencies. Budget dictates from outside those agencies could be disastrous.

I'm concerned about "gutting" the University of Alaska. If we do, that puts our state education into 3<sup>rd</sup> world status. We are far enough removed from the lower 48. Travel outside is expensive. Culture and climate issues

are different (eg cold climate engineering is specialized) and we need to be able to educate our populace. Substandard education will have negative consequences for our state in years beyond this economic downturn, and that is at all levels from K-12 and our university system.

There may be ways to fundraise and create endowments for our University and similarly, ways to facilitate the flow of money from the community into our public schools outside of government funding. I hope the state is taking a look at this. I've wondered if UA would be well advised to hire a fundraiser to ask for large grants and endowments from our wealthiest state citizens and corporations making their money in Alaska. I know that there are some corporations in some industries which capitalize on our wealth and drain money from our state. There may be creative ways to have those stakeholders really chip in. For example, Princess Tours makes a lot of money in our state without giving a lot back.

Relying heavily on ISER's recommendations I think would steer us in the right direction.

Good luck!

Julia Bevins

3 Checkmate Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99508

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Clinton R Hodges II <crh911s@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 3:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Requested Budget Feedback....

Dear Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

To be quite honest I'm disappointed with the proposed budgets coming out of the subcommittees in both houses. Frankly, they don't seem to be taking our current fiscal situation seriously. Furthermore, the bad news coming out of BP today that they will shut down three rigs and layoff hundreds of north slope workers will reverberate through our economy in a very negative way. We need meaningful cuts to the government workforce that deals with this reality, now.

I have confidence that the industry will recover by 2020-2021, but in the meantime we should leave tax rates and tax credits alone. We don't need to be kicking this industry in the gut while they're down.

I have testified several times and my position has evolved somewhat but it is basically the same. One, the budget doubled and the size of the workforce increased due to one time fed stimulus funds and \$100.00 plus oil. Sadly, the subcommittees failed to take either of these factors into account and failed to make meaningful cuts to get the budget back on track. Instead, and it appears, members of the caucus have their eyes on the earnings of the Permanent Fund.

President Ronald Reagan said it well that the problem isn't too little taxation but too much government spending. Yet, this legislature of majority Republicans are failing to heed this good advice and instead refusing to cut government spending and the workforce to levels that reflect the current economic reality.

Two legislators boldly stand out, Rep. Wilson and Rep. Gattis. We need more legislators willing to face the fiscal crisis head on like these two. They recognized that we can't afford a university system when our Constitution calls for a university. Research and grants rely on tax dollars and when all costs are factored in the truth is we just can't afford to fund everything the university would like to do. They recognize that low income seniors will not be able to rely on the government for many of the subsidies they have come to rely upon.

We must roll back government spending and the government workforce to pre-Palin levels. Remaining employees should be contributing to their health plans and retirement plans at levels equal to federal employees. A few months ago the Anchorage Assembly approved salary and benefit increases for teachers and a 1k bonus

with absolutely no way to pay for it. The Anchorage School District passed a budget that includes a 50.00/student increase. This isn't responsible budgeting it is pure idiocy.

Like the oil companies our state must cut the government workforce and quit dancing around. What sense does it make to cap the dividend and spend earnings to sustain a level of government that the private sector can't afford?

I think oil and gas will make a gradual comeback and this is the way we should respond too. With necessary and meaningful cuts to spending and the workforce and with an income tax we can weather this fiscal situation in the short term. In the long term if we need more revenue we can look at some of the earnings, a sales tax and tolls. In any event I don't support Walker's Plan and McGuire's Plan. Let's due Clint's Plan! As with any plan there should be sunset clauses in them.

Regards,

Clinton and Gerri Hodges

6930 East 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Anchorage, Ak 99504

907 240 3535

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## Arctic Alliance for People

PO Box 70416, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 [aap@fairbanksinfo.com](mailto:aap@fairbanksinfo.com)

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Dear Legislators,

Arctic Alliance for People is a collective of health and human services organizations in the Fairbanks North Star Borough that has been advocating on behalf of our sector for over three decades. We would like to thank you for your time and energy that has been put into coming up with a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska. We recognize that it is not an easy job, and appreciate your efforts. Every day, our organizations work to fill the gap between government services and critical community needs, creating a meaningful impact in the local economy as well as in the lives of the people we serve.

### **Solutions**

It is crucial that Alaska find new streams of revenue. Deep cuts alone to the budget will have a lasting negative impact on the Alaska economy. Cutting critical services and jobs from the budget will not benefit our community in the long run.

### **Impact of the non-profit sector on the economy**

Using standard economic indicators, the total employment in the non-profit sector is 63,000 people—or 19% of the Alaska workforce. The total impact from wages and salaries is \$2.5 billion. Our agencies offer economical solutions to our community needs. We are a good investment, with an immediate return by leveraging state dollars, resulting in stronger, healthier communities.

### **Prevention**

It may be cliché, but the old saying proves true, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Unfortunately, prevention programs are generally the first to go when cutting budgets. If we invested in programs, especially those benefitting ages from birth to 5 while the brain is still developing and hard wire connections are forming, we would alleviate problems that arise later in life.

### **Behavioral Health**

In Fairbanks, there is a behavioral health care crisis. Over the last few years, Fairbanks has seen drastic cuts made to behavior health services. As it is already, people with immediate mental health needs are being turned away from services. If cuts continue to happen, behavioral health care services will be seriously impaired.

Budgeting should be value-based so our families and communities are strengthened. There are additional information and statistics that can be provided by our member agencies to prove the impact we have on the well-being and economy of our community. We would be happy to provide those resources. Again, thank you for your work on behalf of all Alaskans, but particularly our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely, 

Brenda Riley, 2016 Board President

Arctic Alliance for People

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Candace <wasillacandace@yahoo.com>  
**From:** t:  
**To:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

Hello legislatures,

Please do not spend the earnings of the PFD. You should still reduce government spending than use the constitutional reserve for this year. Then have income tax or sales tax that more fair towards the lower income. Please have vote of the people with any change to how the PFD is distributed. We have many children that use there PFD towards education. As you know educational cost have only went up. Let's not take money away from children.

Thank you,  
Candace

Sent from my iPad

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** W Rice <wrice@acsalaska.net>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget feedback

Senators,

You have asked for feedback regarding your approach to the financial crisis that the State faces. I have lived in Alaska since pre-pipeline days and have seen the rise and fall of the state's economy over those years. Here are my comments.

First, it is impossible to cut government costs enough to solve the problem. That is not to say that the legislature hasn't wasted ungodly amounts of money over the past years. Having said that, cuts need to be made in a way that does not jeopardize the long-term health of the state's economy. For instance, the idea of cutting research at the University, which actually brings in dollars to the state, goes beyond the usual shortsightedness of politicians and is flat stupid.

The first step to cutting costs is for the legislature to look to its own actions. The Taj ma Hawker, a futile lawsuit over Medicare, guns on campuses with its added security costs, the supposed reduction in Legislative budget that is actually an increase over last year's, subsidizing the oil industry through tax credits—these are all obvious wastes of money. The giant mega-projects that have been used to funnel the state's money to large campaign contributors need to be terminated. That includes Susitna dam, the Knik Arm bridge, the Juneau/Skagway road and the other pipe dreams that seem to have a zombie-like ability to rise from the dead. The state's money should be spent on improving the life of its citizens, not on subsidizing huge corporations or lining the pockets of a few connected people. Education, health care, safety, infrastructure are all things that we need to be very careful about defunding. We have a great state here—Don't Screw It Up!

Unfortunately, there are legislators who are more concerned with throwing up smokescreens of guns, Planned Parenthood, deporting old people, and other partisan agendas than they are in dealing with the difficult issues that we face. Those people either need to get to work or find another job. We need legislators who will lay out specifics instead of using meaningless terms like "right-sizing government" or "cutting fat". Unfortunately, I have yet to meet a politician of either party who was more interested in governing than in getting re-elected. The future is not measured in two year increments.

What you need to be talking about is how we can quit believing we are entitled to live in a welfare state, and start paying for necessary government services. Everyone needs to contribute, and those that can afford to contribute more should do so. That means not only a cap on the Permanent Fund dividend, but also an income tax that will ensure that those outsiders who come up here to work at Prudhoe or fishing Bristol Bay pay their share. A sales tax is a poor substitute for a graduated tax on income. A sales tax is difficult for small businesses, the money paid by tourists is far less than the income tax on out of state workers, and it hits hardest on those people least able to pay. A sales tax on a gallon of milk for an Anchorage resident will be a third of what will be paid by someone in a village.

Everyone needs to contribute, and that includes the oil industry. Yes, we need stability in our taxing system, but the the current tax regime is a stable cash cow for private industry. The same goes for the mining, fishing, and tourist industries. We are a resource extraction state, and those companies that get rich extracting those resources need to pay their share.

One suggestion that would make an income tax more palatable is to tie it to the date of the dividend, and make the dividend assignable as payment for those taxes. That would mean that a person living a subsistence lifestyle in the bush, and paying no taxes would receive his dividend (albeit a reduced and capped dividend); a non-resident would write a check for his taxes, just like they would in every other state; and people like me, who don't rely on the dividend for living expenses, and can afford to pay taxes, will simply have their taxes deducted from the annual dividend check.

I don't like paying taxes any more than anyone else. I also don't like paying for food, or replacing a leaking roof on my house. However, I do like what those payments produce, and I generally like the services the State provides. Someone in the legislature needs to have the balls to stand up and tell their constituents that if they want schools, police, health care, roads, parks, fish and game management, and the other amenities the State provides, they need to pay for it. The free ride was great while it lasted, but it is over, and the sooner you people in the legislature face up to that, the less painful the transition will be.

Needless to say, I have no hope that anyone in the Legislature will pay any attention to these comments, since they are not accompanied by a fat bribe (oops, I meant campaign contribution).

Skeptically yours,  
Wilson Rice

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Dee Longenbaugh <deelong@alaskan.com>  
**To:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska history

As I am sure, all you members know how important Alaska history is to the state. If we neglect it, we will lose huge amounts of history. Wouldn't you all like to be able to tell others in the future that they can look up your record? How many years you have served and the work you have done? Of course. This is important. Will try to send more along, but that's enough for tonight.

Best,

Dee

Dee Longenbaugh

The Observatory, ABAA

[www.observatorybooks.com](http://www.observatorybooks.com)

[deelong@alaskan.com](mailto:deelong@alaskan.com)

299 North Franklin Street

Juneau, Alaska, 99801

907/586-9676

Since 1977

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>

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Paul <paul.alaskanproton.costello@gmail.com>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Deliberations

Senators,

As you deliberate the budget I would like you to keep a few things in mind:

We are all in this together.

The solutions to the budget deficit will be a combinations of revenue, cuts and use of the permanent fund.

We all have to contribute to the solution. That means we have to move toward individually contributing to the cost of government. A statewide sales tax will be necessary as well as a statewide income tax. All this temporary visitors and north slope employees who enjoy our infrastructure need to contribute to its well being. When I came into the state in '69 we had a sales tax, school tax and income tax. We need to go to that today. By doing so we will wean ourselves of the welfare state mentality we currently experience.

All non renewable resources need to pay their fair share.

Reduce the oil credits, the oil companies have had a free ride for too long.

Support education, including the University of Alaska. We need smart, talented, young people to lead the way in research, industry and commerce.

Be real careful with cuts. Don't hurt the elderly or the poor, for example. Get ride of that legislative office in Anchorage you spent so much money on.

Don't worry about re-election. If you do a good job for **everyone** that is what counts.

Thank you

Paul Costello  
Fairbanks

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bjørn Wolter <bjorn.wolter@gmail.com>  
**At:** Monday, March 07, 2016 6:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget feedback

The current iteration of the budget goes too far. Way too far. Is the legislature TRYING to put the state into a recession? Cutting government any further seriously jeopardizes our economic growth by reducing vital services that attract business, visitors, and employees to the state. Furthermore, state jobs are the backbone of most rural communities in this state, and reduction in government will seriously impact their economies, creating an influx of economic refugees into Anchorage, the MatSu, and Fairbanks.

State government is already struggling to provide essential services to Alaska, and cutting further will only harm our economy, not help. I urge you to consider responsible ways to generate more income for the state, such as leveraging the PFD. Polls have repeatedly shown a majority of the population favors this approach over deeper cuts. Please do not run our state and people into the ground pursuing some poorly defined notion of "right sized government".

Bjørn Wolter

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As an Alaskan I am deeply concerned about the Senate's proposal to defund the University beyond the cuts already requested by Governor Walker. I understand that the State faces an acute budget crisis, but this seems like an unproductive way to solve the problem. The University is a critical component to the quality of life in this state. It is a major employer, a unique institute for higher education, and a binding part of the communities surrounding it. I fear the proposed reduction of funding will debilitate the University beyond what even the State intends.

I am ready and willing to consider a state tax of some form or another in order to retain a healthy University. The University is what brought me to the state of Alaska, I was an employee for a period of time before finding work in the private sector, and as an alumni I have continued to enjoy taking classes there.

All representatives in the House and Senate need to think carefully about the dangers of cutting the University this deeply. Such acts could have negative ramifications to the economy that out-weigh any savings to the budget. As an active voter I will be playing close attention the votes of all representatives and Senators on this issue.

Sincerely,

Anna Ramsburgh

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** amhjgd@alaska.net  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Senate-Proposed Funding for the University of Alaska

Dear Hon. Senators of the Senate Finance Committee ,

Please accept this as my testimony in relation to the Senate Finance Committee's deliberations on the FY 17 budget. Before beginning, be assured that I appreciate all elected officials' support for their continued support of education in Alaska. Moreover, note that I am one of Hon. Senator Click Bishop's constituents.

In brief, I fervently hope you'll consider supporting a balanced approach to Alaska's fiscal challenges. In other words, please embrace fiscal prudence as well as enhanced state revenues. I should note that I work for the University of Alaska Statewide and have also worked in the research wings of UAF. So too have I worked extensively in social and economic development endeavors throughout the world. These experiences have given me firsthand exposure to the development value of tertiary education institutions, particularly the University of Alaska.

I can cite two examples of efforts and relevance from the University of Alaska: first, over the past few years, the University of Alaska has undertaken significant outreach efforts designed to increase the fraction of Alaskans who stay in-state for their college educations. We've communicated with 8th graders to get them better prepared for the Alaska Performance Scholarship; we've worked with high school counselors to get high school seniors to apply to UA earlier; and we've reached out to existing UA students to better inform them of scholarship options at UA. All these efforts are designed to better support Alaskans at home here in Alaska.

Another example: UAF has undertaken a biomedical research capacity-strengthening project, funded largely by the National Institutes of Health. This will develop homegrown capacities to undertake research on issues such as rabies. Why do this? Because otherwise there will be increased reliance on researchers from the Lower 48. Do we really want Alaska's problems and challenges to be researched by grad students and their advisers from Universities in the Lower 48? That may well increasingly be the case if the University of Alaska is subject to draconian and precipitous budget cuts--researchers will be less likely to accept University of Alaska appointments and graduate students will find the University of Alaska a less desirable locus for the studies.

In brief, I urge that the Senate propose to fund the University of Alaska---a premier Alaska agent of social and economic development---at or near the level proposed by Hon. Governor Bill Walker. Alaska needs to take its place in the integrated and increasingly complex national and world economy. To do so, we need talented and skilled researchers and laborers.

UA President Johnsen is leading an impressive, multi-year effort designed to make the UA system as efficient as possible. It is critical that this measured and balanced approach proceed without calamitous funding cutbacks.

To this end, I am cognizant of the revenue shortfalls the State faces and appreciate the difficult job you face. Nonetheless, I support the balanced approach to raising revenues proposed by the Governor. I am sorry but I believe the days of cutting our way out of the budget challenges are past. I therefore look forward to hearing of your perspectives on enhanced revenue opportunities for the State as well as enhanced funding for the University of Alaska.

I thank you for your time and for your continued support. If you have any questions about this testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank you for your time.

Arthur Hussey  
3875 Geist Road Suite E-113  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** r busey <bob@rbusey.org>  
**at:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:45 AM  
**TO:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Revenue & Budget

Dear Legislators,

It would be great if you could look seriously at non oil revenue. I realize that is an unpopular opinion but sometimes being a leader requires doing unpopular things. We all agree the state finances are incredibly stressed right now but, in the future, once this is all beyond us, a state which doesn't decimate the current infrastructure is one that doesn't end up looking like Louisiana.

Related, please minimize cuts to the school system and the University. There is no reason to penalize the youth for the mistakes of others. thank you —Bob Busey

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** kicksaver@acsalaska.net  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** scottlewisak@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** The Budget

I am Mike Hersey from Fairbanks, 99701.

Here is what I want you to do; fund the UAF's engineering bldg. Tie the permanent fund to resources development revenue. Raise the taxes on large scale mining operations-it is shameful how inadequate our resource recovery rate is for large mining. And if every one in Alaska is chipping in to work through this shortage, the oil companies need to pony up some revenue also!

Sincerely, Michael Hersey

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** David Lee <twininnovations@gmail.com>  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:57 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Rep. Mike Chenault; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Kurt Olson  
**Subject:** Support of governor's proposed budget for University of Alaska

Greetings,

I moved to Alaska in 1969. I love my state and my university. I have watched the university grow during this time, and it is in part due to the excellent support we have always had from the state of Alaska. All of my children have attended college right here in Alaska. I have one daughter currently attending UAS in Juneau. My children could not have afforded to attend college out of state. My worry is this - what are we doing to future college bound, Alaskan students? If they cannot get what they need here, at home, what message does that send? It says that we do not value education. We need our future Alaskans here in Alaska after they graduate from our great university. We need their expertise and value they add to our workforce.

I am a student as well, graduating in May at the age of 55 with my first college degree from Kenai Peninsula College. Future students will not have the opportunity to graduate with my current degree; it has been cut due to budget cuts. Many programs have been cut university-wide. The university will not be able to recover from the current proposal before the Senate if it is passed as is. It has been said, "We are only as great as our University." I hope that you believe this to be true and don't cut us by twenty-five million in one year!

I was getting my hair cut last week, and my hairdresser told me that two faculty members from our local College are looking for jobs outside of Alaska. We cannot let this happen, when amazing instructors are gone, they are no longer contributing to our future! We are only as strong as our educated students that stay and work in our great state.

I am in support of the governor's proposed budget. The budget set before the Senate is way off that initial budget cut of 15.8 million. How can the university recover from a twenty-five million reduction in one year? I understand it is a rough time for our state, but I beg you not to cut the University of Alaska to the point of no return.

Thank you for your time,

Susan Lee

Longtime Alaskan, student, and mother

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bill Brophy <bill@usibelli.com>  
**At:** Monday, March 07, 2016 3:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Cc:** Sen. John Coghill  
**Subject:** Funding for the University of Alaska

Dear Senators,

7 March 2016

I request you take aggressive action to preserve adequate funding for the University of Alaska.

The University needs a sound budget to provide programs that meet our state's needs for education, teaching, research, and service. The state's economic future depends on adequate funding today. Alaska businesses and communities will flourish with the well trained professionals the University provides. I agree with President Jim Johnsen; "It takes a great university to make a great state."

My employer, Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. has made a tremendous investment for many years in the University Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). To mention a few: the first financial contribution to the Engineering Building (\$500,000), the Museum of the North, several endowments that return scholarships for the treasured Emil Usibelli Awards, the School of Management, the College of Engineering and Mines, the Diesel/Heavy Equipment Program at Community and Technical College, and the Honors Program.

I strongly advocate for timely, reasonable, and adequate funding for UAF. A consistent and predicable fiscal policy is integral to the overall plan and vision for economic development and job growth in Alaska.

I am confident you will find solutions.

With best regards,

Bill

Bill Brophy

301 Snowy Owl Lane

Fairbanks, AK 99712

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Polar Hanneman's <sneakycaribou@gci.net>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** UA Funding

Attention Committee Members:

I am going to be to the point in my written testimony. I sent a longer message last week, perhaps to the house members. The spirit is the same in both emails. You must fund the UA system to the fullest amount possible. This is vital to the future of the university and to the state. We must have a university system of excellence and you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. With funding cut to exceeding low levels that is precisely what you are doing. You must also fund the Alaska primary and secondary school systems in the same way. Do not balance the budget on the backs of our children.

My husband and I urge you to put forth the funding so that the Engineering Building at UAF can finally be finished. That will make such a difference to an already world-renowned Cold Regions Engineering Program. It is time to quit funneling the money to UAA and put our money where it is so desperately needed.

Additionally, you must not make dire cuts to UA sport programs. There are many excellent sports programs at all the universities. I am speaking of one that is near and dear to our hearts, skiing. It is a division 1 program that draws junior skiers of excellence from around the world. These are some of the hardest working student athletes around with excellent coaches. The results speak for themselves. They consistently compete for top spots nationally and are often in the top five. These are individuals that often remain in the community and continue to contribute to its well being.

Finally I urge you to take the courageous step in this time of financial uncertainty and institute a state income tax or use earnings from the permanent fund in order to keep the state on the right track. Every Alaskan should help pay their way out of this crisis.

Sincerely,  
Keith and Carolyn Hanneman  
1306 Polar Dr.  
Fairbanks, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** MarkandCamille Terhune <markncamille1@gmail.com>  
**From:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** proposed UAF cuts

I am a 37 year working resident of Alaska. My husband, daughter, son and I have all attended the University of Alaska. My son is graduating in May and has applied for graduate studies. I am very concerned about the enormous cuts to the University of Alaska funding that are being proposed by the Finance subcommittee. These cuts are drastic and devastating and will cause lasting destruction to the University education system and research overall and to individual educational concentrations, as well as to the ability of the University system to remain accredited overall and within specific core degree specialties.

I am shocked that such short-sightedness is being exercised by those who are so involved in planning for the long-term continuance and success of our state. As a former employer whose organization provided professional services in-state, 70% or more of the professional staff I hired graduated from the University of Alaska. Some continued to pursue master's level education while employed. In addition, some non-professional staff were pursuing a technical or bachelor's level education. The University of Alaska is training the majority of our workforce at some level. This state has difficulty enticing professional and para-professional workers from other states into our workforce, with the exception of possibly the Anchorage area, and this is a problem for us. We are in need of teachers, counselors, engineers, health care professionals, etc. throughout our state and the University of Alaska system is educating students in these professions. We injure our entire workforce and the future of our state when we devastate the University Of Alaska system and public education.

It is time for you to think creatively and make some difficult decisions that will bring revenue into the state, not make cuts so deep that you are removing bone and limbs and causing permanent disability to educational or other systems. Some responsible cuts need to be made, but crippling systems, especially the University of Alaska, is irresponsible.

I am not a lover of taxation but the people of this state need to help contribute towards the benefits that they receive from our state government, such as roads and education. You can initiate a seasonal sales tax. All who travel on vacation know that you will pay taxes for anything related to traveling. However, Alaska businesses have long blocked such a tax. It is time to stop catering to tourism businesses and initiate a seasonal sales tax. The work tax can be increased according to income, taking care not to burden our lower income citizens. Alaska can choose to stop providing medical benefits and welfare to non-US citizens who move here to collect free benefits and a permanent fund dividend. I believe that this is a huge cost. The Permanent Fund dividends can be partially tapped, leaving some for parents and students for college planning and expenses. A responsible state income tax is possible, as long as a limit is put in place to keep the budget in check and from becoming dependent on taxation or becoming overly bloated with excess.

At the same time, development of other revenue streams is essential, which leads back to why you shouldn't cripple the University system, since mineral development, exploration, engineering, healthcare are part of their expertise, with research being an integral component. Incentives should be offered to all state funded programs and systems to find cost saving measures. Teach prudence by example and find the waste in your own offices and budgets. You have many options to choose from and I'm sure that creatively and collaboratively you can come up with more. What you lack is the conviction that supporting our educational institutions is valuable and supports the overall growth, health and well-being of our state. I urge you to support funding the University of Alaska. The Governor has already recommended \$16 million in further cuts over last year's enormous cuts. I urge both you and the Governor to change your way of thinking and support full funding for the University of Alaska and further, support funding for public education.

Sincerely,

Camille Connelly-Terhune  
[markncamille1@gmail.com](mailto:markncamille1@gmail.com)

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Josh Schmidt <ftjhs2@gmail.com>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 6:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Restore full funding to the UA system!

I urge you to eliminate the proposed cuts to the UA system. The university is one of the main reasons that many of us live here. It is not just about jobs, but about our quality of life and investment in our state. Without a robust UA system, many of us would no longer want to live here. I would much prefer an income tax over a cut to the UA system. We are willing to pay an income tax! Cuts at the level proposed would likely result in permanent harm to the UA system, but not actually solve the fiscal problem the state is in. UA is critical to our state going forward and we must make some investments in our future. The university is already losing talented people in anticipation of egregious cuts to programs. The losses to our economy will be many fold more than what is saved on paper through these ridiculous cuts. Please restore FULL funding to the UA system.

Thank you.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Wilner Eduardo <emwilner@alaska.edu>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** written testimony for the Senate Finance Committee

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to address the proposed cuts to the University budget.

I'm a professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and I teach students both in the humanities, and in the sciences. As part of my job, I interact with about 60 students each week. Please consider this a report from one of your boots on the ground (me).

I'm not about to harp on the obvious. That a maimed university will maim our community is a fact. What I need to share with you though, is the surprising way in which our students are reacting to the proposed cuts. Systematically, students are considering (many of them planning on) leaving our state to continue their education elsewhere.

We all assumed that a diminished campus in Fairbanks would channel the fleeing students into Anchorage. But I'm here to report to you that this is not what is actually happening (and every other faculty I've asked confirms the same trend). It seems that we've all miscalculated: if students cannot study in their community, they seem to feel that they might as well go for the big adventure, and leave state all together. We are losing the best of our future leaders.

In these times of crisis, we need local Alaskans that are trained to be superb, out-of-the-box, critical and innovative thinkers. Crises are ruthless with the naive. Our future local leaders are not shaped by luck or magic. They are shape, in great part, by the job our (excellent) university does. If we need to use our PFD's, or new taxes to avoid these cuts, so be it. Let's please invest in our future.

So please help us do our job in preparing these leaders. Please have the courage to oppose these cuts, even if it means stepping outside partisan lines.

Thank you.

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Eduardo Wilner  
Department of Philosophy;  
Department of Biology & Wildlife  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
P.O. Box 755740  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
907.474.7343  
[emwilner@alaska.edu](mailto:emwilner@alaska.edu)



# Kenai Peninsula College

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

March 8, 2016

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Gary J. Turner and I have been the director/CEO of Kenai Peninsula College, a unit of the University of Alaska Anchorage for the last 14 years. KPC has two campuses (one in Homer and one in Soldotna) and two extension sites (one in Seward and one in Anchorage). We were founded in 1964 and serve approximately 2,500 students on the Kenai Peninsula and across the state via distance education.

I sincerely appreciate the Senate Budget Subcommittee proposing a smaller reduction than the University House Finance Subcommittee, but I ask that you support the Governor's proposed UA budget.

While I understand the gravity of the Alaskan economy and the budget crisis we are facing, if this number stands or numbers north of a \$15.8 million net reduction (the UA budget as proposed by the governor) become reality you will have started the unraveling of a great university that serves our state in more ways than most realize.

With such a decreased budget your university will be unable to continue to offer the programs that meet, and that our state demands, from its only state university.

The university's future has been growing ever brighter in large part due to the legislature's past support. Your non-support if it occurs will be shown by the funding you provide which I will interpret that you do not have confidence in what we do and can do in the future. If your lack of confidence drives your budget number, don't succumb to that temptation. President Johnsen and the Board of Regents' Strategic Pathways plan will provide us a lean road map to our future. Give it a chance to work. Dedicated professionals like myself can be counted on to ensure our future success.

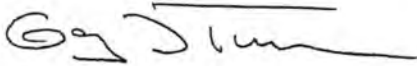
From where I sit, here's just one example of what I've seen at KPC: a few years ago a man in his mid-30s came to us and started taking Adult Basic Education courses so he could get his General Equivalency Diploma since he did not have a high school diploma. He was no longer able to perform in his past career due to injury. Due to his discipline and our help and guidance, he received his GED. He then went on to get a one-year certificate and then a 2-year degree. He then attended UAA to pursue and subsequently receive his four year degree. He now holds a well-paying job in Anchorage. If not for KPC, this man's future would have been very bleak. There are thousands of stories just like this being created at your University of Alaska in campuses across the state. We make a difference in people's lives.

Kenai River Campus – 156 College Road – Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Kachemak Bay Campus – 533 East Pioneer Ave – Homer, Alaska 99603  
Anchorage Extension Site – 3901 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 118 – Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Resurrection Bay Extension Site – P.O. Box 1049 – Seward, Alaska 99664

Without your support and funding our ability to make a difference will be lessened more than you can imagine or foresee into the future. We have faced large cuts the last two years. Once a university is gutted it can take decades for it to recover due to the loss of faculty and staff talent, and students. I ask that you consider what your legacy will be if you cut the university's budget as currently proposed by your committee, and how your action will have a long term negative effect on our state's economy.

I would hope that your actions will show your confidence in us and that your legacy will show that even in these difficult times you pledged to support the future of our great state by providing the necessary funds for a great university to become even better. A strong state ~~needs~~ *demand*s a strong university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary J. Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary J. Turner  
Director/CEO

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** James P Schwartz <schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com>  
**t:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:02 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Cuts to Public Broadcasting

Dear Co-chairs of the Finance Committee and Committee members;

I would like to express my strong objection to the language of a 100% reduction or, more accurately, the elimination of the public broadcasting funding for all of Alaska from the State budget. I am a life long resident of Petersburg, a retired teacher, and a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay for 34 years. The role public broadcasting plays in both areas that I have lived and worked in has been critical in getting crucial information to people for safety, business decisions, government functions, health, as well as entertainment. The legislature has already substantially cut the public broadcasting budget in previous years causing reductions in their services. Our local communities have stepped up with additional support but these proposed additional cuts threaten their viability. Federal funding that requires state participation is in jeopardy. Look at the level of local support these public broadcasting stations show with their fundraising. My own level of donations to public broadcasting has increased substantially.

As an Alaskan, surely you can see the essential role public broadcasting has played for the communities they serve. Public broadcasting is important for the state of Alaska to do its obligations as a governmental body. Do your part to fund public broadcasting at a sustainable level with the rest of us. Without it, the safety, health, supportive economic factors, and an educated public will be diminished significantly. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Schwartz  
PO Box 1506  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
907-518-1984

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Tom Pogson <alaskakayakschool@gmail.com>  
**To:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:42 AM  
**From:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** do not cut public broadcasting - it hurts so many Alaskans

Throughout the state, this will impact our access to local, regional, and national news, as well as undermine the health, safety, and emergency information that is provided to us through public broadcasting.

Tom Pogson  
PO Box 12  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sharon Neth <shari\_neth@lksd.org>  
**t:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** proposed cuts in Alaska's Public Broadcasting

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am greatly concerned over the proposed 100% cuts to Alaska's Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I have lived in Bethel for over thirty years. We do not and never have had cable in our home. Public Broadcasting is the only way we can keep up on what is happening locally, in our region, throughout our state, our nation, and our world, with information presented in a clear, non-biased format. We also savor the quality of the programming, which includes PBS Newshour, Masterpiece Theatre, Nova, Front Line, The American Experience, among others.

When my sons were younger, they watched a Nova program on trebuchets, and proceeded to construct one out of Legos that actually worked! I was finding small Lincoln logs and other "canons" that they'd been firing under furniture for weeks afterwards! One of those sons is now a mechanical engineer. The other, who watched Rob Ross paint "happy little clouds" every day after school as a young boy, is now a talented, world renown graphic artist, with gig posters in museums in Moscow, Russia and Havana, Cuba. He also has public sculptures in Bethel and Anchorage. Both of these sons live in Anchorage and continue to listen to the public radio programming they grew up listening to in our home. Because of this, they are knowledgeable about, and very concerned about what happens locally, statewide, and nationally; and go to the polls to vote faithfully. PBS has been and continues to be very important to our family, and our sons are an example of the investment Alaska has put into Public Broadcasting.

If we lose Public Broadcasting, those of us in Rural Alaska would lose our connection to important events that all Alaskans should be aware of; and we would be less educated in current events, science, and history. For those living in villages around us, the negative impact would be even more. Our local public radio station, KYUK, is critical to all of us in this area.

Please DO NOT eliminate Public Broadcasting from our state.

Sincerely,

Sharon Neth

P.O. Box 1872

Bethel, AK 99559

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Beverly Hoffman <bev@kuskofish.com>  
**t:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:13 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please no cuts to Public Broadcasting

My name is Beverly Hoffman. I am 64 years old. Alaskan born and raised. Most of my years have been along the Kuskokwim River in Bethel Alaska listening to Bethel Broadcasting, KYUK. For all of my adult life I have been a volunteer for this station and a huge supporter of our state public broadcasting efforts. Every year law makers talk about cuts to public broadcasting. This bothers me so much as we count on the services. Public Broadcasting connects the state and is a lifeline to those of us in rural Alaska. In our region support of public broadcasting is huge but we still need state support. Without it , public broadcasting would not get the federal matching funds and grants needed to survive. Cuts and layoffs would be horrible and small stations like KYUK would not be able to survive. Local, regional and state news , emergency alerts and other important information is provided to so many including myself through public broadcasting stations.

I support a 1,000 cap on our permanent fund, I support a statewide income tax and I thank you all for your hard work but please continue to support Public Broadcasting.

Quyana

Beverly Hoffman  
[bev@kuskofish.com](mailto:bev@kuskofish.com)  
743-3239  
Box 307  
Bethel Alaska 99559



## UNALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Police-Fire-EMS-Communications-Corrections

P.O. Box 370

Unalaska, AK 99685

Phone (907) 581-1233 • Fax (907) 581-5024



March 3, 2016

Senator Lyman Hoffman  
State of Alaska  
[Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)

Dear Sir:

The community of Unalaska is proactive about emergency preparedness, and we have to be. We are located in a volcanic region, with a very real potential for earthquakes, tsunamis and other multi-hazard events. The Aleutian Islands are also well known for frequent storms, which reach hurricane force several times each year.

KUCB is the only media service in Unalaska, and its signal reaches our entire population. In the event of an emergency, KUCB plays a vital role in the dissemination of information from first responders and officials involved in the management of emergency response.

Our emergency plan includes reaching the community over KUCB Radio. We practice our plan each year during a community-wide disaster drill, and the local radio station is an active participant in this drill. When the situation is not a drill, our citizens rely on KUCB to relay essential, time-sensitive, information. We've worked with KUCB over the years during various multi-hazard events to include multiple tsunami advisories and warnings. Already this year, we've turned to KUCB to announce extreme weather warnings and travel advisories.

We are aware that the State of Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis resulting in difficult budget decisions. KUCB and the public radio stations across the state have weathered a deep cut to their state operating grants in FY16. Another large cut could dismantle the emergency response network that is vital to keeping Alaskans safe during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Zac Schasteen

Chairman, Aleutian – Pribilof Local Emergency Planning Committee



March 7, 2016

Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Local Emergency Planning Committee for The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the City of Ketchikan, and the City of Saxman, assists in preparing for emergencies by maintaining the Emergency Operations Plan. This committee is made up of local officials including police, fire, public health professionals, representatives from the community and the media.

KRBD public radio is now the LP1 (Local Provider) of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) system for all of the communities on Revillagigedo Island (Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, and City of Saxman), as well as the communities of Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Hollis, and Hydaburg on Prince of Wales Island. Its signal reaches over 20,000 people. In the event of an emergency KRBD plays a vital role in the dissemination of information from first responders and officials involved in the management of the emergency response.

The State of Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis resulting in difficult budget decisions. KRBD along with the other six CoastAlaska stations expected and indeed realized a deep cut to state operating grants in FY16. It is our understanding that current budget proposals include even deeper cuts for FY17.

The Ketchikan Local Emergency Planning Committee needs KRBD to remain strong in order to continue to serve its mission to keep not only Revillagigedo residents informed, but several of the communities on Prince of Wales Island. In the event of an emergency KRBD is a reliable 24 hour multiplatform media source that citizens can rely upon to receive life-saving time sensitive information that is a necessity in emergency situations.

Public radio is an integral part of many communities throughout Alaska and we urge you to support public broadcasting by keeping funding reduction for public radio stations to a minimum. Large cuts to radio stations will significantly impact the services provided by public radio and in our case potentially dismantle the emergency response network vital to keeping Alaskans safe during emergencies.

*Abner L. Hoage*

Abner L. Hoage, LEPC Coordinator

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Tom Conley <luddite105@gmail.com>  
**t:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Stedman Bert  
**Subject:** BSA increase

Dear Bert,

I am very pleased and thankful that Senate Finance voted to retain the \$50 increase in the BSA envisioned in HB278. It will remain vital as we wade through the rest of the 2016 budget and seek to further prevent layoffs in Sitka's excellent teaching staff. Thanks for all your support.  
Sincerely, Tom Conley, Sitka School Board

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Christy Everett <christyeverett.personal@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 4:37 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Full funding of education

Honorable members of the Finance Committee:

A successful future for our state requires well educated citizens. Please retain full funding of the Base Student Allocation, including the proposed adjustment of \$50 per student, the pre-K program, and the UA system. It is extremely short-sighted to consider cutting funding for education. Alaska cannot attract or retain citizens who will continue to develop our state into the future without a strong education system. Studies have overwhelmingly shown the importance of early childhood education, and families will not stay here without good schools. As a mother of five, I ask you to please act in the interests of present and future Alaskans by fully funding all educational programs.

Sincerely,

Christine Everett  
2308 Robinson Circle  
North Pole, AK 99705

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Stefanie Wolter <swolter@bbslawyer.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:44 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Department of Education Budget

I am concerned about the money allocated to the Department of Education. I feel that the any cuts to this department directly or to the schools would be a mistake that would play out in the years to come. Please consider the following:

If Department of Education positions are cut, those employees will probably leave the state. The money they spent in the state will not be replaced. They will probably not return to the state, nor will their children.

If the Department of Education positions are cut, there will be less support for students and teachers. Less support means less opportunities for achievement. I thought the whole point of education was so that students could achieve.

If the Department of Education positions are cut, then nationally Alaska will be less represented and it will be harder to draw talent to the State.

If the Department of Education budget is cut, there will be less support for students. At one time it was important to the State of Alaska that ALL students had an opportunity to learn regardless as to where they lived or their ability. It seems like the diversity that Alaskans have held so close to their heart, has been forgotten by the legislature. At a local level, I am watching the students in my daughters' classes have less and less opportunity to learn, at a time when they are very interested in learning.

I'm not sure when Education became a target for budget cuts. I'm not sure what your experiences were in school, but if you have children or grandchildren in Alaska public schools you should realize that their experiences are lacking. If you want to find a fix for the Alaska state budget, maybe you should consider that cutting the Education budget is counterproductive. Only through the students in K-12 and post-secondary will the answers come. Maybe right now, as you cut the education budget you might be cutting the one person who motivates a teacher, who in turn motivates a student, who in turn could have come up with a working solution.

It might sound dramatic, but I am sure that most of you have had one teacher who motivated you. Or your spouse did. Or your child did. Or your grandchild did.

If you want the State to get stronger, build a strong base. The base is education.

Thank you,

Stefanie R. Wolter

Parent of a first grader and sixth grader who has already seen the education budget cut since the five years we have been here and who is scared of what the future holds for their learning if we stay in Alaska for the next five.

[swolter@bbslawyer.com](mailto:swolter@bbslawyer.com)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Annie Krause <akrausecsf@catholic-schools.org>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:01 AM  
**ro:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Re: Continued funding for ACPE

Good morning,

I'm writing in support of continued funding for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, particularly in regard to their Community Outreach program. As the only counselor in a PreK-12 school with over 400 students, I rely heavily on known, trusted sources of information and programming to engage my students in career exploration and postsecondary education/training. We use AKCIS extensively in our high school, and count on ACPE speakers to teach us about the newest changes in financial aid every October. It's important that these services continue to be available for students beyond the Anchorage and Juneau areas. Of course, we're all tightening our belts as budgets seem to dwindle across the state, but I believe that the best places to invest what we have are in programs to strengthen and educate our children. Please do not cut funding to our educational and training programs.

Respectfully,  
Annie Krause

- AMDG -

Annie Krause, M.Ed.  
School Counselor  
PreK-12  
Catholic Schools of Fairbanks  
615 Monroe St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Tele: (907) 452-2044  
Fax: (907) 452-5978  
[akrausecsf@catholic-schools.org](mailto:akrausecsf@catholic-schools.org)

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- AMDG -

Annie Krause, M.Ed.  
School Counselor  
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My name is Amy Jo Meiners, I am honored to be the 2016 Alaska Teacher of the Year. I was born and raised in Alaska, and I remember a time before oil when my grandparents and parents had the opportunity to contribute state taxes to fund a quality public education and other important health and safety services. When oil monies first came along they were able to supplant the need for our taxes, and a quality public education and other services could still be funded. Now, oil monies have dwindled and a quality public education is in jeopardy without stable funding. I urge you to give my generation the same opportunity to support services as my grandparents once had – allow me the chance to pay to support a quality public education. Please work to stabilize our multiple funding sources so that Alaska can continue its service to families for health, safety, and education. Given federal changes now, it is a crucial time for Alaska to invest in our children and our families. I am asking you to focus on revenue sources and quality, comprehensive services for the education, health, and safety of our children and families. The other day, one of my students, Jack, found in his research that NASA considers Apollo 13 to be their most successful failure. It led us into a conversation about when is a failure a success and when is it a failure? If you do nothing to stabilize funding, I believe it will be a great failure for Alaska on a galactic scale. However, you have the opportunity to turn this current economic state of failure into a success by choosing to focus on alternate funding sources and providing quality public education, health, and safety services that Alaskans can be proud of. Turn this economic downturn into the most successful failure it can be by stabilizing funding and supporting the public education and health of all Alaskans. Please bring out the creative thinking of the Apollo 13, as Jack and the rest of us need you to be successful! Stabilize funding. Support education.

My name is Andi Story. I am a Juneau school board member and testifying on behalf of our Board today.

Thank you for your support of education. I've heard some of you say there is nothing more important than helping kids. Like all states, one of the biggest responsibilities and expenditures in our budget is the necessary funding of our children's education. It's been said, how well we educate our children today will be reflected in the quality of our work force tomorrow. The public repeatedly prioritizes education as a highest value.

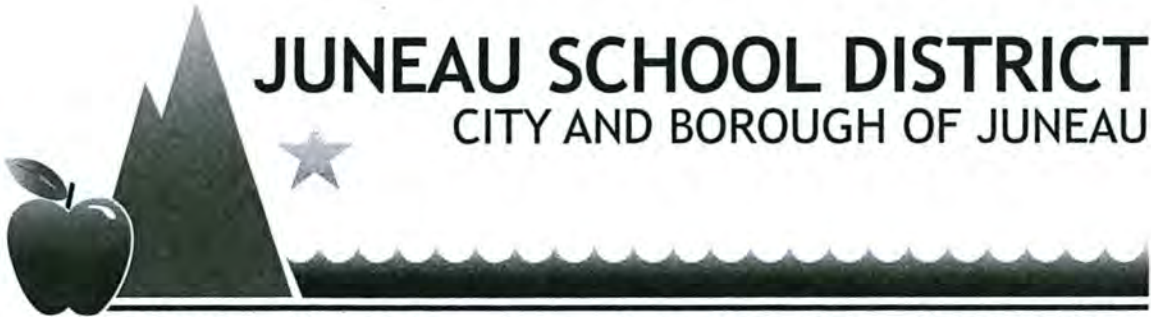
We ask this committee to prioritize, full funding of the Base Student allocation and the scheduled adjustment of \$50 dollars. This amount of funding is critical to keep class sizes reasonable and keep supports for helping children make academic gains. We have a wide variety of children's learning needs to meet. We've made efficiencies by cutting student and staff travel, supplies, consolidating positions & professional development. In the past five years our district has cut 95 positions and is facing further reductions. It's been extremely difficult.

Our Board understands that the state is facing tough financial times. That's why we urge the adoption of a comprehensive state fiscal plan, this year, that maintains services necessary for a strong economy. And make it possible for the Legislature, School Boards and staff to focus strategically, having a sustainable budget to work from.

Our school board relates to your positions, as you work on the budget and make agonizing choices about what effective programs to cut. You are fortunate that unlike our School Board, your Body has the authority to examine fiscal options and implement a state fiscal plan.

It is important to note, that the States that are seeing the most academic gains, have strong early learning programs, make Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade investments, with an emphasis on Career Technical programs that offer dual credit with Universities.

School Board members are working countless hours to continue improving the education of our children. Thank you for your dedication to ALL the children and youth of this state.



10014 Crazy Horse Drive • Juneau, Alaska 99801-8529 • (907) 523-1700

### Board of Education 2015-2016 Legislative Priorities

As a member of the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), we take part in adopting AASB Resolutions<sup>1</sup> and advocate for the following priority resolutions.

#### 2.1 Sustained, Reliable and Adequate State Fiscal Plan

The sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education are of highest concern to the Association of Alaska School Boards. AASB urges the Legislature to develop a state fiscal plan. This fiscal plan would provide a long-term approach to funding the costs of public education and other services upon which Alaska's students and their families depend. The plan should be strategic, sustainable and realistic, providing a framework for balancing budgets while adequately funding public education.

**This plan will create a stable economy for families, businesses, government and investors.**

#### 2.2 Urging Adequate, Equitable and Predictable Funding of Public Education

AASB urges the State of Alaska to provide adequate, equitable, and predictable funding of public education. AASB believes that adequate funding should include the following:

- State funding of the TRS-PERS retirement liability;
- An increase to the Base Student Allocation to account for both inflation and adequate pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education;
- Recognition of the need to keep pupil-teacher ratios to a level in line with research-based best practices;
- Career and technical education.

**The scheduled \$50 dollar BSA increase (HB 278) is a total \$12 million investment to children and youth statewide.** This is a commitment to their education which is of high value to Alaskans. **The Juneau School District is facing a shortfall for FY 17 and has cut \$10.7 million in services and 96 positions from FY 2011 – 16<sup>2</sup>.**

#### 2.6 Funding for Early Learning Programs in Alaska

AASB supports legislation to add additional funding for the planning and programming of voluntary early learning and family support programs.

**Alaska is at the bottom of the fifty states** in preparing preschoolers for the skills needed in kindergarten. High state standards are set in math, reading and writing standards for children age 5 through 7. Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers, quality preschool programs and Headstart save state revenues over time.

#### 2.22 Provide Reliable and Efficient Service by the Alaska Marine Highway System

School districts in Southeast Alaska and Southcentral Alaska depend on ferry access to provide transportation to and from other communities for academic and athletic activities. **Activities keep youth involved in education and build physical, team and leadership skills.** The lack of frequent and dependable ferry schedules makes it difficult to schedule affordable trips.

<sup>1</sup> AASB Resolutions – *Where We Stand*

<sup>2</sup> JSD Cumulative Budget Reductions – Operating Fund

Board of Education Members:

Brian Holst, President; Andi Story, Vice President; Lisa Worl, Clerk

Josh Keaton, Emil Mackey, Sean O'Brien, Barbara Thurston

Email the Board at: [schoolboard@juneauschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@juneauschools.org)

**Doniece Gott**


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**From:** Tiffany Jackson <QTTAdmin@arctic.net>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 4:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Education and Early Development Funding

Dear honorable law makers,

I submit this email to you in support of Best Beginnings. It is our understanding funding from Best Beginnings has been cut. The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe understands the financial situation the State of Alaska finds itself in right now, and does not envy the tough work you as legislators have in front you.

We would like to speak in favor of this organization, and the worthy programs they operate. We've had a grant through Best Beginnings to operate an Imagination Library in Sand Point and Cold Bay Alaska. Unlike many communities in the state, we've been able to successfully fundraise to wholly support our imagination library through local donations, and have to date provided 990 books to the youngest residents of Sand Point and Cold Bay. However, we recognize this is not the case for all communities, and we support the funding of Best Beginnings and the Imagination Library program which promotes reading and the love of reading to our youngest residents. We need to teach our children the importance of reading, and to develop a love of reading so they can be successful later on. Best Beginnings helps promote this.

  
Sincerely,

Tiffany Jackson

**Tiffany Jackson**

*Executive Director*


Qagan Tayagungin Tribe

P.O. Box 447

Sand Point, AK 99661

[QTTAdmin@arctic.net](mailto:QTTAdmin@arctic.net)

Phone: 907-383-5616

: 907-383-5814

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Frank Soos <fmsoos@alaska.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** budget

Dear Finance Committee Members:

Thank you for asking for input on the budget.

We must raise revenue.

The cuts proposed by Governor Walker alone will put a tremendous strain on education from preschool to grad. school. We may have to take cuts at that level. But be sure, they are damaging. They have already been damaging. When these cuts come along, both the physical elements of schools and the personnel suffer. If you were to walk through any of our campuses right now, the physical plants still look pretty good. But buildings need regular maintenance and we have unfinished buildings that have no use whatsoever until they are finished. In 1986, the last time the price of oil tanked, the campus here in Fairbanks began to look like an urban bus station before the drain was reversed and buildings were repaired. Now, this particular campus probably has double the square footage of research and classroom space it had in 1986. Of these new buildings, the new science buildings are state of the art. And because of that, the need for maintenance of these buildings is going to be greater.

What you cannot see easily as you walk through the campuses is the number of faculty and staff positions that have gone unfilled, the number real full time jobs that have been eliminated in favor of part-time jobs. When this sort of linkage happens, it damages the faculty and the student body both. As people retire, younger faculty bring new life to a school. This need for fresh faces is equally imperative at the public school level as well. We are losing programs and we will lose students soon after.

At this point, we need to recognize that oil prices will not rebound to \$100-plus per barrel levels any time soon. They probably never will. Waiting for oil to rebound gets us nowhere. It also puts the state in a weak bargaining position with the oil companies. If we generate our own revenue base, we actually strengthen our ability to bargain with the oil companies. We are less at their mercy.

The governor's plan for income taxes, PFD reduction, a sales tax is a good place to start. I cannot understand why raising revenue has not been at the top of the agenda for you all. We have cut all we can. We have cut the things that make a state a good place to live. We must raise our own revenue to sustain the things we value.

Frank Soos  
Fairbanks

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Kristen Pratt  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 3:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on Proposed DHSS Budget cuts

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

**From:** Jennifer Meyer [mailto:jameyer2@alaska.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 10:07 AM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Proposed DHSS Budget cuts

Dear DHSS Committee Senators and Representatives,

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate my thoughts regarding the proposed budget cuts to the DHSS 2017 budget. I urge you to instead support the Governors proposed DHSS Budget.

I would like to specifically speak to the proposed cuts to the Section of Public Health Nursing (PHN). As a past public health nurse who served the YK Delta Region, I find the proposed cuts to this section, and the reduction of 30/200 positions appalling. Rep. Wilson states, 'I've done the research and there won't be any impact,' which is completely untrue. What is true is that the states ability to respond during an emergency or outbreak of disease will be significantly impacted and prevention oriented public health efforts dangerously limited.

Public Health Nurses are your only field staff located outside of Anchorage within the Division of Public Health. They have a unique skill set that allows them to provide health education, community mobilization, individual clinical nursing services and population health assessments. They are your 'safety net' for Alaskans who fall through the cracks of our health care system. Without them, individuals with communicable diseases (STD's, TB etc.) would be sicker longer and infect more community members.

If you think the nurses who work in the Section of Epidemiology will simply take on more case work, remember this will cost the state much, much more in travel/lodging and per diem to investigate and treat

clients outside of Anchorage. Additionally, Anchorage based staff don't have the community relationships a local public health nurse would have and this will impact the success of the investigations.


Rep Wilson did not do her homework and the rest of the sub committee does not seem to understand the difference between health care and public health. By cutting Public Health Nursing you have no dedicated workforce looking upstream at what is causing poor community health outcomes in the first place. Additionally, these types of suggested budget reductions will result in closure of several public health centers.

We all need to tighten our belts during this fiscal crisis, but the cut and run approach to the deficit is short sighted and puts the public at risk. Cutting 15% of your statewide public health nurse safety net is unwise in the age of Ebola, Zika and Measles.

After all, we had a measles case in Fairbanks last year. Parents in Fairbanks are also well known for knowingly exposing their young children to another child with active chicken pox instead of getting the vaccine. Fairbanks also voted to remove fluoride from the community water system thus potentially moving more vulnerable children into dental pain, suffering and lost school days. Believe me, there is so much public health work to be done and the public health nurses are your boots on the ground, building organizational relationships, moving communities towards better individual health choices, linking people to a medical home and contributing to evidence based public policies.

I urge you to consider the quality of life we want to have here in Alaska both now and for future generations. Please support the Governor's Budget for DHSS. Thank you.

J.A.Meyer

  
Jennifer Meyer RN, MPH, CPH  
Assistant Professor of Allied Health  
UAF College of Rural and Community Development, Kuskokwim Campus  
<http://www.bethel.uaf.edu/> Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KuskokwimCampus>  
Allied Health Department Co-Chair  
Personal Care Attendant Program Head  
[jameyer2@alaska.edu](mailto:jameyer2@alaska.edu)  
[@JenniferMeyer6](https://twitter.com/JenniferMeyer6)

For more information about e-learning and community-based Allied Health Programs, please contact me directly or visit: [elearning.uaf.edu](http://elearning.uaf.edu)

Alaska Public Health Association <http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/>

Healthy Alaskans 2020 <http://hss.state.ak.us/ha2020/>

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Maxine <mistressmax@mindspring.com>  
**From:** Monday, March 07, 2016 4:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee Operating Budget Deliberations  
**Attachments:** SCIUfunding[1].pdf; Special Crimes Investigation Unit Status Update 2015 (1).pdf

March 6, 2016

Re: Alaska Senate Finance Committee Operating Budget

Dear Alaska State Senate Finance Committee Members,

This is a letter to confirm that the Community United for Safety and Protection opposes any budget cuts on the most vulnerable Alaskans. Please don't balance the state budget on the backs of the drug addicted, the elderly, the disabled, and the down on out.

Instead, you should consider reallocating \$578,239, the yearly budget for the Special Crimes Investigative Unit (a part of the Alaska Bureau of Investigations). Its "main purpose" is to "locate and rescue juvenile victims that are being forced to work as prostitutes in the commercial sexual exploitation of children." However, in its 25 months of investigation, the SCIU has yet to investigate a case resulting in any charges of trafficking a minor. In fact, no one has been charged with trafficking a minor in Alaska since 2009 (people have been charged with making child pornography and with trying to pay for sex with fictitious minors - those are federal cases investigated by the FBI and Anchorage PD).

Instead of using the sex trafficking law to target the people they were intended to, the fund has been primarily used to charge marginalized adult women in the sex industry under AS 11.66.110-135 for sex trafficking themselves. In its first year, everyone charged with trafficking was an alleged prostitute who was charged with prostitution of themselves in the very same case they were charged with trafficking ("aiding or facilitating" their own prostitution or having a "place of prostitution"). At the end of 2014, four out of the seven total trafficking cases were against sex workers and none of them involved minors. The Department of Law has not yet responded to a January 15, 2016 records request for 2015 cases.

Though the SCIU is also tasked with investigating sex trafficking, SCIU officers have both refused to take reports from sex workers and have followed up on such reports in threatening and highly sexualized

manners. We consider this type of response to crime victims of any age, especially minors, incredibly inappropriate and we hope you do too.

It is incumbent upon you as our representatives to scrutinize this budget item and be responsible to the health and welfare of the most vulnerable Alaskans are not sacrificed.

Thanks for your attention in this matter,

Maxine Doogan

Terra Burns

Kat McElroy

Community United For Safety And Protection

[Www.sextraffickingalaska.com](http://www.sextraffickingalaska.com)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Ann Woodall <amwoodall@alaska.edu>  
**At:** Monday, March 07, 2016 8:45 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee

I'm mom and day care worker. I don't think that budget cuts for school is actually good way to run things. instead of cutting school budget how about you cut OCS budget. They take children away who are not actually getting abuse and leave children in the parents home who are. They give back children who come from drugs and adopt children out who was accidentally hurt by parent who did everything asked and more. OCS not for keeping family together if you watch rethinking foster care you understand the actual problem in state and around the world. Take kids out home does more damage emotional even if a child is really getting abuse neglected. All OCS care about is getting their paycheck not about safety and health and well-being of the child or children. It shouldn't be up to OCS what happened to the child and children because they don't care. Many times I have had report on family who were hurting their children and OCS never did anything. Other times I saw family hurt children hurt because the wrongful doing of the state because of accident. Accident happened no parent is perfect but lose your kids cause accidents is unreal. That problem we are facing in the future and in today world. Cut school money won't help the kids cut OCS money will help the children . please leave my name out but this is my point of view.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing  
FY17 Operating Budget  
March 7, 2016

- My name is Marianne Mills and I represent senior service providers around the state; I am the President of AgeNet, Alaska's association of member agencies and advocates for vulnerable older Alaskans and their family caregivers.
- The members of AgeNet appreciate the difficult budget situation which you face and we recognize that a combination of cuts and increased revenues are needed to address Alaska's Fiscal Crisis.
- On the revenue side, we support the use of Permanent Fund earnings.
- On the expense side, we need to help older Alaskans remain in their own homes for as long as possible through the senior grant program. It only costs \$600 per senior per year to fund the senior grants. A hot meal at the local senior center combats malnutrition and isolation which leads to illness, injury, and expensive hospital care.
- Home delivered meals for homebound senior citizens ensure good nutrition and a daily safety check to those whose only human contact that day is often the meal delivery driver. Research shows that states which invest more in home-delivered meal programs see greater reductions in nursing home placements. A nursing home placement for one older Alaskan costs a quarter million dollars per year.
- If a senior is fortunate to have family to depend on, we want to make it possible for the family caregiver to continue to care for them. Caring for an older person with dementia or physical disabilities can be physically and emotionally demanding and caregivers often neglect their own help.
- The caregiver support grant program offers training on caregiving skills, such as proper lifting, services such as respite care to give the caregiver a much-needed break, and items which relieve the stress of the caregiver, such as minor home modifications. Adult Day services provide a safe, structured setting for the elder so that family members can go to work with piece of mind.

Senior grants have proven to help older Alaskans remain with dignity in their own homes and communities. They also support families to care for their own and save the state money by preventing elders from going into costly institutions.

Thank you for your support.

For further information, please call Marianne Mills at (907) 723-0226.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Peg Foster <cabin@mtaonline.net>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please Listen to the small Communities

Dear Finance Committee;

Please fund our public radio, tv stations and the OWL(online with Libraries) programs. In our small community of Talkeetna we depend on these programs to be informed of everything going on. If there is a major disaster in our area, like fire, flood, etc....the radio is our only life line to what is going on.

We know we all need to incur cuts and tighten our spending, so I am offering a suggestion, cut the funds from the Su Wantana Dam Project.....That is surely wasted funding

Sincerely  
Peg and Kevin Foster  
PO Box 124  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Bill Tremblay, Petersburg Resident

I am the President of the Board of Directors for KFSK Radio in Petersburg, Alaska and on the board of Coast Alaska; our Regional Public Radio Cooperative.

I'm asking the legislature to fund to Public Radio. I'm sensitive to the State budget situation. However, a 100% reduction in the State funding will likely put us off the air in just a couple of years. We took a 18% cut last year and we're being asked to absorb a 28% cut by the Governor this year; this means we've taken a 42% hit in just two years.

State funds are used with local contributions and business underwriting to demonstrate a base level of support required for Federal matching grants. Our Federal grants require a minimum of \$300,000 in local or State contributions to be eligible. There is also a minimum requirement for employment that will not be met at our station if the State eliminates all of their funds.

Since 2013 our town of 3,000 has increased their annual membership fundraising from \$63,000 to \$88,000; a \$25,000 annual increase in just three years. Our local businesses have also increased their support but one can only wonder how much more can be contributed in a community that is facing additional cuts to education, mental health services, and other family support needs.

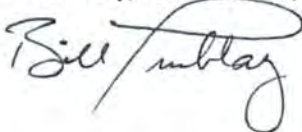
The depiction of ONLY a 20% loss to Public Radio by eliminating State funding is very misleading as it doesn't consider how this will affect our federal grants. While the House proposal eliminates State funding they also want to invest money into finding new ways to contact people when there emergencies. WHY? Shouldn't you look at how effective your existing systems are BEFORE you spend money to try things another way?

KFSK is one of seven stations in southeast Alaska who joined together almost 19 years ago to join a separate non-profit to save a costs by sharing employees and resources. We're held up as a model nationally for a way to save costs and have expanded services to six other stations in the state. We're looking at more ways to share services with other non-profits that support public radio but we need time to transition; which won't happen if we're tossed off the fiscal cliff.

KFSK broadcasts from Petersburg but supports five repeaters to reach smaller communities in central southeast Alaska. Our topography makes these repeaters necessary. Many people in remote locations don't have access to cell phones, cable, or satellite dishes. We carry Muskeg Messages to persons in outlying areas to keep them in touch with loved ones or when emergencies require their attention.

Eliminating State funding to Public Radio will start the domino's falling. The loss of more than \$500,000 of State money to the stations associated with Coast Alaska will result in the elimination of more than \$600,000 in federal matching funds. Cuts to our stations will likely result in our participation with the Alaska Public Radio Network. While we enjoy the coverage they provide of the news from Juneau and D.C.; we also know our listeners want to hear local news first...which would be our priority. The loss of our stations membership to APRN will likely result in additional federal grant money to their network as they will lose a significant audience and population.

Bill Tremblay; P.O. Box 662, Petersburg, AK 99833 (907) 772-4461



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Molly Dibb <molly.dibb@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:51 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

YES!!!

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Molly Dibb

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Sarah Wolf <sarah.wolf50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dolly Parton funding

I want to express the need for early education especially with reading. I have 3 children and all have received these wonderful books/gifts. I am also the daughter of a researcher and author for early literacy. The impact is huge. Having a little library of books for the young ones to access at home is invaluable. I hope they will continue to fund this important program. If you would like more info on research I can help or want more feedback from a mom I'm more than willing Thank you for your time and consideration. Our littles need this Sarah kemp  
451-1899

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tiffany Blackburn <spiffytiffany80@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dear Finance Committee and Governor Bill Walker's Team,

Please save the the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

We love receiving books for our son William, who is 13 months old; and reading to him every day.

Thank you for all you do for Alaska's children.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Blackburn  
Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott


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**From:** Candice Robb <[crobb@aebsd.org](mailto:crobb@aebsd.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Invest in Alaska's next generation

Greetings,

I am a registered Alaska voter, an elementary school teacher, and a mother. It's come to my attention that Early Childhood programs are possibly being cut from the Alaska state education budget. These programs are critical to prepare our children for the now rigorous kindergarten and first grade expectations in America's schools. Children are expected to read, write, and perform on such a higher level than they did when we were young people. Without early childhood programs to support these young people before they enter the school system, they are in danger of lagging far behind their peers at home and abroad. My son will begin pre-K in a few years, and it is my hope that there will still be wonderful early childhood education in Alaska. As a stakeholder on all levels, a voter, a teacher, and a mother in Alaska, I ask that you would consider not cutting education dollars in any area, but especially not early childhood education. Let's not set our children up for failure before they even begin. Let's invest in their success.

Thank you,  
Candice Robb

  
Candice Robb, NBCT  
1st and 2nd Grade  
Sand Point School  
[crobb@aebsd.org](mailto:crobb@aebsd.org)  
(907) 383-2393 ext 6023

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Andria Werning <awerning@bestbeginningsalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please fund early childhood education in Alaska

Dear Senators,

I'm Andria Werning and I am employed at Best Beginnings as the Program Manager for Anchorage Imagination Library.

I am writing to show my support for Best Beginnings, which works to increase children's literacy through their support of programs such as the Imagination Library. Please restore funding for early childhood education programs. This is a long term, worthwhile and cost effective investment in our state, which can pay off with higher graduation rates and healthier communities.

I understand that the State of Alaska is currently experiencing a difficult financial situation, but I also know we all care about the many children in Alaska who need access to books and the parents who need help and encouragement to read to their children. Please understand that the future of our state is depending on us – we must invest in the education of the next generation, these children will soon be our leaders.

With support from Best Beginnings, dedicated volunteers with Imagination Libraries all over the state are currently providing a new, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month to more than 20,000 children in Alaska. The total cost per book (including purchase of the book and postage for it to be delivered directly to the child's mailbox) is less than \$2.50 per book. That is such a small investment of funds compared to the benefits that it brings to our community! Any Imagination Library family will tell you that when that book arrives in the mail, the child demands to read it "right now". Not only do these books encourage print awareness and brain development, but also encourage a precious time for children to feel safe and loved while being read to by their parent. That time is so important to the emotional development of the child.

As Program Manager for the Anchorage Imagination Library, I am constantly hearing from parents, educators, and other community members about what a huge difference this program makes to Alaskan children.

Without the support that Best Beginnings receives from the State, our ability to enroll children in the Imagination Library program would be severely decreased and multiple Imagination Library affiliates within Alaska will have to shut down completely. Alaska children will suffer, and the future of our great state will suffer with them.

Please restore funding for early childhood education including Best Beginnings, Pre-K, and Parents as Teachers. Thousands of children all over the state are counting on you.

Thank you for this opportunity to share this information with you.

Sincerely,  
Andria Werning

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Andria Werning, Program Manager  
Anchorage Imagination Library  
3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.297.3305 phone  
907.297.3304 fax  
[awerning@bestbeginningsalaska.org](mailto:awerning@bestbeginningsalaska.org)

**Anchorage Imagination Library's parent organization, Best Beginnings, is excited to be a part of Pick. ck. Give. this year! We'd be honored if you'd remember us when applying for your PFD!**



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Cate Remme <cremme@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It is one of the best programs available today for young readers. You already closed the Talking Book Center, the least you can do is fund this successful children's reading program.

Mae Remme

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Farmer <njfarmer8386@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** save dolly parton's imagination library

as the parent of a child who receives books from dolly parton's imagination library and it's partners, i ask that you please save this program! Please!

Jessica Farmer

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bill Waite <williamtwaite@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early childhood education funding

Hello:  
I know our state is in the midst of a fiscal crisis. But sacrificng our children's education is not the solution for that would mean sacrificing the future of a generation.

Bring back an income tax; tax me now and fund education. Our long term future depends on today's youth. We can manage our current challenges and still invest in our future.

I vote for education.

Respectfully,  
Bill Waite  
13600 November Glenn Highway  
PO Box 109  
Sutton Alaska 99674

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Melissa Ford <melissa@nomesweethomes.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Keep head start and PreK grants

Head start and Preschool are extremely important programs for early child education.

I am writing to ask that these are not cut from the operating budget.

Please restore the Early Childhood Education Programs to the Ammended

Budget

Melissa K. Ford

Broker/Owner of Nome Sweet Homes

PO Box 1052, Nome AK 99762

Phone: 907-443-7368

Fax: 866-770-4984

[www.nomesweethomes.com](http://www.nomesweethomes.com)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik <ukallaysaaq@nwplanning.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:50 PM  
**To:** Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Neal Foster; Sen. Donny Olson; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Pre-K FUNDING

**Importance:** High

Kia ora Finance Committee & Donny, Neal & Ben,

Budget cuts are a challenge this year. As you help set priorities in the budget, I encourage you to protect early childhood funding. As a parent, I know what a difference the services make -- especially in rural Alaska.

These include programs such as the Parents as Teachers, PreK grants, and Best Beginnings. I ask that you restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amounts in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik  
PO Box 356  
Nome, AK 99762

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kacy Hillman <kacydale@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

As the parent of children who receive books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

This program is vital to raising the future of Alaska, our children.

Thank you,  
Kacy Hillman

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** dylanne <dylanne.92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education funding

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support to restore Early Childhood Education funding!! This funding is important and crucial to the educational development of OUR FUTURE, OUR CHILDREN!

Thank you!

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Andrea Wilson <andreamkwilson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Early Childhood Education to be restored

Dear members of the Finance committee,

I am writing to ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

My family and I have benefited from these programs over the course of the last 6 years. My children are currently ages 6, 5, and 3. They have enriched our children's capacity for learning, for early literacy, and our family time. These programs help children to succeed at an early age, which is important for their growth and development as well as our community.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Wilson

907-529-2567  
2930 Rita Circle,  
Anchorage, AK 99502

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tj <tshirriel@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:54 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Embracing the Change

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Lea Filippi <leafilippi@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Early Childhood Education

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am writing to encourage you to restore funding for early childhood education programs to the level in Governor Walker's proposed budget for fiscal year 2017. I am not asking because of any personal benefit that I would receive. My son is already in elementary school. I am asking because it is sound fiscal policy. these investments in early education for the youngest Alaskans will go a long way toward reducing the need for more costly interventions that are more commonly needed when children do not have access to high quality early education. I appreciate your attention to this matter. We cannot afford to be penny wise and pound foolish.

Lea Filippi  
4411 Woronzof Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
(907) 272-1384

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** John Bender <bender.john@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! These books are shared not only among my six children, but with our friends and neighbors. This is a great, and low cost program, that saves money in the long run by improving reading skills outside of the classroom.

Best regards,  
John and Sharon Bender  
Talkeenta, AK 99676

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Joe Casey <Joe.Casey@erm.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

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Please visit ERM's web site: <http://www.erm.com>

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** A Gmail <avanderyost@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

For some families, these books might be the only ones they receive. Reading to our children is healthy for both the parent, the child, and also the child's future teachers. Please keep this program.

Anne Vander Naald

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Mary Stover <maryjo1469@yahoo.com>  
**:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** jeffom358@gmail.com  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As an economist I am befuddled and depressed at the completely illogical cuts to childhood development programs. The direct savings on our penal system are enough to make these programs financial gains. Please run the numbers and do the right thing.

Sincerely, Jeffrey S. Cramer

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from the road.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Chelsea S <cseagars@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:45 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

I want to encourage you to please fund Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. My daughter receives books from the Imagination Library program. She is so excited every time a new book arrives. We read together as a family everyday. This program has helped me as a parent learn new ways of encouraging my daughter to connect with and to think about the books we are reading. I do not think I would have learned these skills elsewhere and without them my high energy daughter would probably not have the patience to sit still for reading time. She is four years old and just starting to learn to read on her own.

The children of Alaska are our future, and funding programs like these is making the choice to invest in our state's future. I understand that we are facing difficult times financially, but this is **not** an appropriate area to cut funding.

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you,  
Chelsea Casey



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jen Cerovski <jencerovski@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

As a elementary teacher and parent, I can't emphasize enough the impact reading to one's child as an infant, toddler, and preschoolers has on later learning success. The books my child receives from the Imagination library are all high quality choices. I suspect that for some struggling households, these might be the only books young children are exposed to before school begins. Early education is monumentally important. Please invest in the children of our future!

Thank you,  
Jen Cerovski  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Lauren Attanas <lauren.attanas@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Written testimony re: Early Childhood Education programs

March 9, 2016

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Everyone knows the saying, "a stitch in time saves nine". Early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers, Pre-kindergarten, and Best Beginnings are that "stitch in time". Study after study shows that early intervention is the key to ensuring the success of young children as they enter public schools. As the parent of two children under the age of five, I am keenly aware of this and of my role in ensuring that my kids are able to put their best foot forward in school. Unfortunately, lots of parents don't have the resources to fully realize their role in shaping their kids' success in school, and that's where these programs come in. That's where your responsibility as forward-thinking lawmakers comes in too! The Alaska legislature cannot cut its way to financial solvency for the state, and it would be unwise to slash funding to programs that ensure a bright future for this state as a whole. Please restore the ECE funding to the full amount specified in Governor Walker's ended FY 2017 budget!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Attanas

4975 Kathys Lane

Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Johns, Melissa <Melissa.Johns@bannerhealth.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My daughters love this program please don't take this away from the great state of Alaska. At almost 3 years of age they would rather get a book than toys. My girls will pretend to read to each other and sit while I read to them.

Thank you,

Melissa Johns

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** All Alaska Pediatric Partnership <tamar@a2p2.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on early childhood programs

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership. Through our work to improve health and wellness outcomes for children in Alaska, we are deeply immersed in the most up to date information and research regarding the health and development of children. The fact that early childhood, meaning the years between 0-3 are THE most important years in a child's development. Long gone are the beliefs that we should wait to invest in children when they reach school age. The first three years of a child's life are extremely critical and will set up a child for either failure or success. The research around this data is overwhelmingly undisputed. The early childhood programs that stand to be cut from the budget are some of the only programs the state of Alaska has for children of that age group. Best Beginnings, Pre-K and parents as teachers don't just provide "fun" activities for kids or free babysitting services. They provide supports, tool and assistance to parents that are crucial to ensuring their children develop to be contributing, tax-paying members of our community.

New data coming out of Alaska is showing that the time frame between zero to one year of age is when children in Alaska experience adverse childhood experiences. Parents who do not have the skills, tools or support to be good, strong parents for their babies are most likely to take their own trauma-related stress out on their infants, causing lifelong damage that will result in higher costs to the state for that person throughout their life whether Medicaid, correctional facilities or financial assistance. Taking away these programs is literally a divestment in Alaska's most important infrastructure – it's people.

Please consider returning funding to these programs and showing Alaskans that you understand and support the investment in early childhood and in the future of our state.

Sincerely,

**Tamar Ben-Yosef**

Executive Director  
**All Alaska Pediatric Partnership**  
P: 907.903-6770  
E: Tamar@a2p2.org  
P.O Box 230567  
Anchorage, AK 99523  
www.a2p2.org

Join our mailing list to receive our newsletter and notifications of partnership meetings, events and trainings.

<http://tinyurl.com/jlnbrrl>

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** ukienat <ukienat@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:55 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

I have five children and we could not afford to be buying them new books every month. The program allowed us to get new books in our house every month, made extra special by being a piece of mail just for them. Please don't cut this program. The children of Alaska need it.

~Natalia Collini, mother of 5 under 6.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Alicia & Justin Clark <ak\_clarks@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUNDING

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

I also am the mother of a special needs child who is in desperate need of the services provided under these programs like Pre-K, Best Beginnings, and other early childhood education and intervention programs. These programs are not extra, they are necessary. The most vulnerable among our population should be the first taken care of. Please restore the funding to these programs at at least Governor Walker's proposed levels. We need these programs. Intervention now saves millions of dollars down the line. Cutting these programs is short sighted, and not in the best interest of the state in any way.

Thank you,

Alicia Clark

Alicia, Justin and Kade Clark  
31150 Catch Up St.  
Anchor Point AK 99556

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** mistie <mistie@awanatravel.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It is important that we keep programs like these. Reading is key for Parent and child bonding and early learning.

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** gloriatolan@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Cut some of the perks you all are receiving. Our young children benefit greatly from this program.

Tax the rich folks like you should and you wouldn't have to cut meaningfull programs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sara Griffith <sara.a.griffith@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Funding for Childhood Education

To Whom it May Concern:

In a changing world full of illiteracy, you have a chance to make a difference and promote literacy by funding the Programs in our great state of Alaska. These programs are dedicated to enriching the lives of our children i.e. Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and The Northstar Imagination Library. The funding has been cut the last few years and has greatly impacted the programs themselves.

Without the funding to educate our children now will there be a real future? Our children are our future, and the impact we have upon them now will shape who they become tomorrow. Literacy is power. Knowledge is power. Let us not be regressive but progressive!

The Communities are doing their parts - I myself have donated for the programs but it is not enough. The State must stand with us and together as one, with strength and fervor, we shall persevere. If not, we will all fall. Do we want to be remembered as the generation that failed our children when our parents did not fail us? I think not!

Please DO NOT cut the funding for these programs as they are worth every penny...our children are worth every penny!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sara Ann Miller (Griffith)  
2243 Mavencamp Circle  
North Pole, AK 99705

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** kborkovec2@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** christy & chris dailey <brendel13@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Hello,

I would like to request that the funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. While I understand the need for cuts these programs are not the place to do it.

Thank you,  
Christy Dailey

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** LIO Glennallen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: for Senate Finance Committee

Good Afternoon,

Please accept the email below as written testimony for SB 139 being heard today.

Thank you,  
Emilie Frisbie  
Glennallen LIO

**From:** Kim Roeske [mailto:kroeske@crsd.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:44 PM  
**To:** LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** for Senate Finance Committee

Good afternoon. My name is Kimberly Roeske.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee and thank you also for your hard work to solve Alaska's financial challenges.

I am sending this today on behalf of the students in the Copper River School District. I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically **fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase**. Thank you also for restoring the **Broadband Assistance Grants** that so many districts need.

**The Copper River School District does not receive money from a borough or local industry like many other districts do.** The effects of deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy. 81% of our budget is spent on staffing and every job lost in the Copper River Valley has a ripple effect.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Brandy & Wayne Arrington <brandy\_wayne\_arrington@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE PRE-K FUNDING

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!  
Please do not take away Pre-K funding. Pre-K programs are an important part of a students success in life.

Thank you,

Brandy and Wayne Arrington  
Nome, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Andi Shaw <compasspointconnection@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program! I ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Please help us out. I have just adopted three children, one of whom is under 5 years of age, and this is a wonderful program! All three children are very engaged in reading through the books we receive in the mail.

Blessings,

Andi Shaw

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Amanda Goins <amandago2882@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

~ Amanda Goins

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Chelsea Sternicki <chelseasternicki@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education funding

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask that you maintain funding for Early Childhood Education programs. My child receives a book every month through the Imagination Library program. Although we are financially able to purchase books for her, we still really appreciate the program as it expands the content that our daughter is exposed to. More importantly, Best Beginnings provides books to many families who could not otherwise afford books for their children. In these instances, every dollar spent towards early literacy through the Best Beginnings program is invaluable. Research shows that exposure to books during the first five years of life positively affects a child's brain development. Without such exposure children often need remediation upon entering kindergarten, which is costly for elementary schools. It seems that funding Early Childhood Education programs is the most straightforward and effective way to prepare young children for future success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Chelsea Sternicki  
chelseasternicki@gmail.com

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Erin <emyakush@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dolly Parton

Please don't cut the funding for the Dolly Parton library. My daughter feels so special when she gets something in the mail. The titles that library sends are perfect and we read one nightly. My daughter would be so sad if the program ended.

We were also really hoping to get her a spot in the widening the new preschool at Shaw elementary bc we can not afford the \$350+ preschools that are offered in our area. I know many other parents are in a similar situation. I know how important pre school is for kindergarten readiness, and I don't want to do my daughter a disservice by not trying my hardest to secure her a spot in the fall.

Thank you for your consideration  
Erin Adams, Wasilla AK

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Melis Coady <meliscoady@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Education Programs

Attn: Finance Committee

I know times are tough and it is time to tighten the belt but supporting early childhood programs is the best way to support Alaskan families. The days of one wage earner in homes is nearly over. Universal Pre-K, grants for daycare, and programs that generally fund early childhood development have enormous spill over effects. With income tax a close eventuality consider supporting young families in this very important way.

Thank you and good luck,  
Melis Coady  
Talkeetna, AK

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Jennifer Haldeman <jennhaldeman83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:54 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Haldeman  
Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Sherine Titus <sherinekt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:55 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Funding . Please Open

Hi,

My name is Sherine Titus and am an early childhood educator. I am writing about the funding cuts to the early childhood programs. I know the house and senate have to make some tough decisions on what programs should have funding cut but I urge you not to let early childhood be one of them. The children and families I serve in Fairbanks benefit greatly from the early childhood education and to be able to have childcare while they are at work. If we cut early childhood fundings we are also doing damage to our economy as a great percentage of our workers rely on childcare. Please reconsider and educate yourself on the damaging effects the budget cuts will have on our children, families and economy.

Sincerely,

Sherine Titus  
Parent and Early Childhood Educator

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Lynn Gray <lynn\_gray@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My son loves reading because having these books that coming monthly so it's something he loves looking forward too. He was also able to read the most books in his school class month because we had so many books to read from.

"The mountains are calling and I must go. ~ John Muir

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** tjakwhisnant@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Imagination library

We absolutely love this program. My 9 month old loves books, not just to chew on, and each month it helps keep the variety. We would be extremely disappointed if this program ended. I think it is beneficial to all families.

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Audrey Buma <audreybuma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood education-Please fund

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in the hopes to help convince you to not cut early education funding out of the budget. Please do not cut Best Beginnings, Parents as Teacher or Imagination Library. As a mother of two small children I can't imagine not having the help these organizations have given. It is important to help children and there families at this stage in life so they have a better future. These early years are so important to having functional hard working adults later.

Please reconsider and think of all the Alaskan children that these cuts will hurt. Please invest in the children of your future.

Sincerely,

Audrey Buma  
Juneau AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Alaina Kreft <plath\_a@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dolly Imagination Library

Learning and reading is important to young childrens' minds and future. My daughter is so excited to recieve her book every month, and supports her habit and love of reading. Sad to hear about the program being discontinued. Hopefully this is not the case.

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Bob Wood <bobwoodinalaska@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Re fund early childhood education

As a parent of a young Alaskan I am asking you to please maintain funding to early childhood education at the levels proposed by the governor.  
In this time of great economic uncertainty we need to be investing in the minds of our children to prepare for a new era in Alaska..  
We must accept the reality that the free ride is over.  
Please show the leadership necessary to make the hard decisions now, looking past personal political aspirations, and invest in our children.

Bob Wood

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kathryn Mathews <kathykm46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Kathryn Mathews

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Elena Ikonnikova <lenaikona@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---


**From:** JoAnn Quigg <jquigg@wileng.net>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program! As you know, early introduction to books and reading lead to an appreciation for reading and gives kids a jump on their education. My observations are that kids that have early successes with learning enjoy learning and those that enjoy learning continue to do so throughout life. A lot of kids served by this program may be underprivileged so that their parents can't afford to supply the books that they get through this program. But, for even those that can afford to buy books, the fact that books are delivered to the house and laying around makes it much more likely that they are read and used.

My family is also part of the Parents as Teachers program. We have been "blessed" by twins and with 3 kids under the age of 3, the presence of our Parents as Teacher mentor has brought some calming sanity into our household. We have found the program to be very helpful.

We hope that the State can continue funding these valuable programs as well as others for early childhood development. Starting an education early can only add to success later in life.

Thank you

 JoAnn Quigg

16291 Ocean View Dr

Juneau, AK 99801



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Lisa <lusa\_@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! I ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

My children have benefitted greatly from this. Children that have an amazing start in life do way better as adults!  
Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** LIO Glennallen  
**To:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Written Testimony SB 139


Please see the email below which is written testimony for SB 139.  
Thank you,  
Emilie Frisbie

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**From:** Debbie Lorence [mailto:dlorence@crsd.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Copper River School District

For the record, my name is Debbie Lorence. I am the high school social teacher at Glennallen High School.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee.

 I also want to thank the members for the hard work they are doing to solve the state's financial challenges.

On behalf of the students in the Copper River School District, I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. I encourage you to make the decisions necessary to pass a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska so that our schools can continue to prepare students for their future.

Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase. Thank you also for restoring the Broadband Assistance Grants that so many districts need.

Deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy and make it more difficult to provide engaging classroom instruction for our students, particularly in places like the Copper River School District in rural Alaska.

 Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

My name is Mary Howarth-Hernandez. (of Glennallen AK)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee.

I also want to thank the members for the hard work they are doing to solve the state's financial challenges.

On behalf of the students in the Copper River School District, I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. I encourage you to make the decisions necessary to pass a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska so that our schools can continue to prepare students for their future.

Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase. Thank you also for restoring the Broadband Assistance Grants that so many districts need.

Deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy and make it more difficult to provide engaging classroom instruction for our students, particularly in places like the Copper River School District in rural Alaska.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Anna Kohl <ajkohl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Early Childhood Education - Best Beginnings

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my support and urge you to join me in supporting early childhood education in Alaska. This invaluable service is the best investment in Alaska's future that we can make, and in my mind should be a non-negotiable component of any state plan.

Please restore Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

As a lifelong Alaskan, I urge you to make this investment in our future.

Sincerely,  
Anna Kohl  
2001 Sunrise Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Ryan Wilfer <rrwilfer@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Debra Burdick-Hinton <debburdick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Please restore funding to early Ed. It's the best bang for the buck our state can get. With the horrible early childhood statistics that we are #1 in, I can't even imagine what net gain there could possibly be of eliminating such a small amount of funds that touches our most valuable and vulnerable resource, our youngest residents.

AK DEED should be applying for federal preschool for all funds given our demographics. Why is this not happening? Ak one of just a couple states that has never applied. EED has stated repeatedly during the Parnell admin that the state admin will not allow them to apply. Can that please change?

Early Ed most important of all public Ed. If our state truly can not afford a preK-12 publically funded Ed then stop funding the senior year. Tgevaverage senior takes just enough classes to be eligible for sports. They should start pursuing higher Ed, apprenticeship or work. But I DO believe we can fully fund preK-12 and we save money in the long run with an more educated population that got the best early start.

is a major reason myself and many long term Alaskans with young families are considering leaving our state. A state that places so little value on early Ed with the highest rates of horrible early Ed and child abuse statistics in the country is not a place I want to live. These precious resources and the professionals that support them do not have a powerful lobby or voice. Please just do the right thing.

Thank you for your time to read this. I write this with great concern for our youngest children :-)

Debra Burdick-Hinton  
Seward , AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Chilsea Rexford <Chilsea.Rexford@north-slope.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

I oppose to this cut. I live in a very small city, Barrow, Alaska, & Dolly's Library is essential to our family even if it comes in duplicates. My 3 oldest boys, all age 7 read to their 3 younger siblings. Not to mention the cost of a gallon of milk equals the cost of a children's book here.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Chelsa J <chelsajane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! This program is very important to us reading is a huge part of our lives!

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Heidi Walter <heidi.c.walter23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It would be greatly appreciated. This program is wonderful and it would be really sad to see it disappear.

Thank you kindly,

Heidi Walter

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Laura Cisneros <lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** I support Early Childhood Education programs in Alaska

Good afternoon,

My organization's mission, and therefore my job, is to mobilize people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. I do this work not just because I am passionate about it, but because a ton of research confirms how critical it is.

My job as a member of the Alaska community is to speak up for the future I want to see for this state. My son, now in 3rd grade, started school 1 year ahead and is in the gifted program. He directly benefitted from the services and information provided by early childhood programs in Alaska – BEFORE I worked at Best Beginnings. I want families and children in Alaska to have the same services and information my family received so their children can be prepared to SUCCEED when they begin kindergarten. The future I hope to see: prepared kindergarteners, successful students, contributing and caring members of our community. It starts now.

Please reinstate the funds for early childhood education programs to the level in the Governor's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Laura Cisneros

**Laura Cisneros/Partnerships Director/Best Beginnings**

3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A, Anchorage, AK 99501 / P: 907.297.3309/ F: 907.297.3304

lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org

www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org

**Lovalaska**

Pick.Click.Give.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** David Popiel <davidpopiel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our son Max looks forward to the Imagination Library book each month. He has read all of them and more than a few have remained in the rotation for regular reading. This program is an incredibly valuable public service that should be continued. I wholeheartedly support the program and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

David Popiel  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Vanessa Mattingly <nessa410@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education Funding

To Whom it may concern:

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

This is such a critical program for our children and our future. Early Childhood programs ensure that our children are able to start school with the knowledge and experiences they need to compete with the rest of the world. To discount the program in anyway is to penalize all of the children, and with them, ourselves and our future. As Linda Creed wrote, "the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way."

Please restore funding so that we can teach them well and they can lead the way to the future for all of us.

Vanessa Mattingly

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Hanna Eklund <hanna eklund@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our children are our future.

Sincerely,

Hanna Eklund  
Honorary Consul of Finland in Alaska  
President of the Anchorage Suomi Finland Club

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** jennifer Smith <jensmith\_21@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:25 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please restore early childhood education funding

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for all your hard work in working for our state! I urge you to, however, please consider restoring the funding for early childhood education. Particularly the funding that allows millions of small children (under 5) to receive books each month at no cost to them! The Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Personally, my children have benefited greatly from these books! My daughter especially has absolutely thrived with these books. Many of them are her absolute favorites and we read them multiple times per day, we take them on trips, and she now "reads" them to me. She is only 2 but she can recite many of these books to me word for word now. We truly appreciate this program and what a difference it has made with her speaking and reading ability at such an early age. I know there are many kids out there who wouldn't get books very often if it weren't for this program. Please work to restore funding to help our small children reach and soar far above their potential!

Thank you,

Jennifer Smith  
banks, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Sheena Tanner <sheenackt@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Susan Stone <susancrippen5@gmail.com>  
**t:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Learning

Please keep finding for early learning programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. These types of programs help to increase learning and parental involvement early on, which translates to more productive citizens later on. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Keuma  
Concerned Parent

Sent by phone.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Nicki Holmen <nicole.holmen@TNC.ORG>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Bright Beginnings and Dolly Parton's Imagination library.

Greetings.

I just want to voice my request that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget to allow for the continuation of programs such as Imagination Library which I believe is an incredible program for children and education.

Thanks,

Nicki

**Nicki Holmen**  
*Financial Analyst*  
[nicole.holmen@tnc.org](mailto:nicole.holmen@tnc.org)  
(907) 865-5711 Ext. ##### (Direct)

**The Nature Conservancy  
Alaska Program**  
715 L Street  
Suite 100  
Anchorage AK  
99501



[nature.org/alaska](http://nature.org/alaska)

[facebook.com/natureconservancyalaska](https://www.facebook.com/natureconservancyalaska)

[twitter.com/nature\\_AK](https://twitter.com/nature_AK)

Check out Alaska's [2015 Annual Report](#)



**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** heathergithens@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Please, please save this program!!!

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Cortni Hostetler <h.cortni@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early education budget

Dear finance committee,

It has been brought to my attention that funding for early education programs has been cut from the fiscal budget for 2017. This is of great concern to me, my family and the community, as these programs greatly benefit the youth and our community. Early education is fundamental for educational successes later in life. There is no better place to invest our money than in the education of our youth.

Please reconsider cutting these programs, as for many youth it will mean they no longer receive books and other educational tools that they currently have access to. Thank you for your consideration.

Cortni Rachlin  
907-301-8800

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**n:** Kristi B Michels <kbhall@uaa.alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our children are our future, as clichéd as that may sound. I know balancing a budget is a difficult task, but taking funding from programs that are used to mold our younger generation is a very bad idea. My husband and I both work and are comfortable enough to buy books for our boys; however kid's books are not cheap and I'm sure there are many families that rely on receiving their books from "Dolly".

I hope that you restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY2017 Budget.

Thank you for your time,

Kristi Michels

## Doniece Gott

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**n:** cinderbdt@gmail.com on behalf of Bryan D. Thomas <bryan.d.thomas@acm.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education programs are critical

Early Childhood Education programs are critical to our state. This is an example of exactly what I want our government to do. Please restore funding to the level of Governor Walker's request. Thank you.

## Doniece Gott

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**m:** Whitney Hann <wlh24@nau.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thanks,  
Whitney Hann

## Doniece Gott

---

**n:** Lauren Sill <lauren.sill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Early childhood education and literacy is so important to the future of this state. I understand cuts need to be made, but getting rid of funding for these programs is not the right place and will hurt the state in the long run. Please restore funding to the amounts proposed by Governor Walker.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Lauren Sill

## Doniece Gott

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**n:** Theresa Norris <norristeresa@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:00 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Small Schools

I do not want you to close small schools. I'm from a small community and closing the school would be devastating to our community. We would no longer have the diversity of the old and the young enriching our community. The young would move away no longer having a school to provide an education for their children. And I'm sure this applies to all other small communities.

My children all grew up in Cooper Landing and have told me they would never trade what they received here growing up in this small community. Their knowledge and experience has benefited them throughout their entire adult life. Thank you, I hope you will support small schools.

Theresa Norris

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**n:** Lily Skiles <lilyskiles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My daughters absolutely ADORE our monthly books and can't wait to read them over and over again.

I ask you to please place Early Childhood Education at the top of your priority list. The children of Alaska need your support.

Thank you so much,  
Lily Bosshart

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Igluguq Okleasik <igluguq@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** pre-K funding

Hello. My son attends pre-school and is learning an immense amount of things, how to get along with others and getting acclimated into the school system and just having fun. Preschool funding is direly needed especially for rural Alaska. Daycare is scarce and in short supply.

Please restore and fully fund the Early Childhood Education program to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Quyaana. -Igluguq Dianne Okleasik, parent and citizen of the State of Alaska

"We must know the white man's language to survive in this world, but we must know our language to survive forever." ~Darryle Babe Wilson, Elder of the Ajumawi-Atsugewi Nation

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Morgan Kincaid <Morgan.Kincaid@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education Funding

Early Childhood programs such as Parents as Teachers, PreK grants, and Best Beginnings help give Alaskan children the best possible start in life. Supporting community resources that promote school readiness and healthy family development should be our highest priority as a community, and our local government should be setting a good example by generously funding these early childhood education programs- for the sake of our state's future, and in the name of doing what's right by our children. The youth and families who thrive as a direct result of having access to these kinds of early childhood programs are a benefit to all Alaskan citizens. Children who are not school ready and who therefore do not achieve their full potential in life become problem citizens down the line. Fund their success before they become a real financial drain on our community.

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

 Thank you,

Morgan Kincaid

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Aubree Wattenbarger <awattenbarger@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In a world full of technology, these children with such young minds need physical books to hold, to read, and to enjoy. Between the ages of 0 to 5 is when the most learning takes place in a child's brain. Having literature around them where it may not be accessible otherwise is crucial. As a preschool teacher, a special-education teacher and a mother, I find books play a primary role in the development of young minds. Please keep funding in early childhood education.

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sincerely,  
Aubree Wattenbarger

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** islandgirls255 <islandgirls255@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my GCI Note 4

## Doniece Gott

---

**n:** Kimberly Ferguson <kimmyroseak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Imagination library

I'm writing to make my voice heard. I am a nurse on the biggest labor and delivery unit in Anchorage. I share with everyone the information about the imagination library reading program and activities set up for our young children to encourage reading and imagination. I touch the lives of all demographics, some have only this and the public library as options for books for their children in the early years. Please understand the importance of this program and its ability to bring reading and imagination to them at the earliest of ages.

Thank you,  
Kimberly Lunn

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Robert Yerkes <royal74us@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Operation budget

Please cut at least 500 million to 1 billion from the State of Alaska's 2017 operation budget this legislative session. I support no new taxes. Trim the fat. Your reelection depends on it.

Thank-you,

Robert Yerkes  
Anchorage Ak

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Brittany <brittany.sofia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Budget

> Dear Legislators:

>

> Please work to develop a budget that is functional this year and into the future. I support a plan that finds new sources of revenue including income taxes, reducing or restructuring the PFD, and other taxes such as tourist and taxing workers coming from out of Alaska. I am willing to pay for state services that will improve my quality of life. Please prioritize education funding.

>

> Thank you for your time,

>

> Brittany Bauman

## Doniece Gott

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**m:** Jennie Hafele  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:26 PM  
**Subject:** Testimony/SB 139

Hollis Hall  
Resident: HD 1  
Fairbanks, AK

Subject: SB 139 Operating Budget

As I hear testimony before this committee on gavel to gavel and here today I get the feeling that some do not think the shortfall of \$3.5 billion is a problem but it is and it will affect us all. I would request of the legislature to make reductions in spending to programs that are nice but not essential, study means by which our PFD can alleviate our fiscal problems, and most importantly, lay the ground work for instituting a personal tax on those who live and work in our great state. Students may have to forgo educational frills, parents will need to shoulder more responsibly for their children, and seniors will have to pay more for their share. It is past time for us to take responsibility for all of the things we have asked our government to fund.

---

Please enter into the record the testimony above to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 139 dated 3/9/2016.

CC: Interior Delegation members

Comments submitted via phone to:

Jennie Hafele  
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office  
1292 Sadler Way Suite 308  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: 907-452-4448  
Fax: 907-456-3346  
Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website  
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature  
Click [HERE](#) to send your legislator a Public Opinion Message during session

## Senate Finance Testimony 3-9-2016

Thanks to Chairman's Kelly & McKinnon and the rest of the committee for hearing the voices of Alaskans. I am going to quickly say a few things about my submitted testimony that you all will find in your e-mail boxes and look forward to hearing from You on. The complexities of the operating budget make any 1-2-3 solutions all but impossible. With the looming economic issues that are sure to arise out of oil industry downsizing, fish market gluts and above inflation government sector growth all play into Alaska's Future. What can the Legislature do about this?

I want to urge you folks to sharpen your pencils and ulus when looking at where the operating budget can be trimmed or restructured to reduce waste and slush spending. Looking to develop revenue through new fees, taxes and PFD formulas does nothing but extend the unsustainable budgeting practices that have been so prevalent in the State of Alaska for much of the past decade. The State Constitution is clear about the role of government in Alaska.

*“the pursuit of happiness” for We The People is not defined as having to pay Taxes that reduce “the enjoyments of the rewards of their own industry” so that Our government continues to grow.”*

If We don't address this promptly and properly, the slide may become too fast and then We really will have a mess to clean up. So, tune out the big dollar special interest groups and listen to Alaskans when they say that the cuts have to be found and the spending constrained. The path We are on now is not sustainable by any stretch of the definition.

Tomorrow the Senate is going to start committee hearings on Governor Walker's bill that aims to cap and tap the Permanent Fund in order to cover for fiscal shortfalls in his submitted budget plans... Alaskans across the scope of politics and socio-economic standing are speaking out against this and the other bills in the docket because they also realize that the State of Alaska must cut back it's spending just like We as Alaskans have to do. So, when you're considering line-items in this budget, make sure of two things... will this budget lend itself to developing an even leaner version next go

around and is it something that is defined as a necessity for Public Safety and General Welfare? I hope that you all are hearing the voices of Alaskans when they say that You have to Protect The PFD.

Considerations:

Requesting the State to get to \$4.2B for FY2017 then down to \$4.0 in FY2018 and eventually to \$3.8 in FY2019

1. Why is DOT administrating police and fire at the airports? Shouldn't all public safety functions fall under the Dept. of Public Safety to reduce duplicate efforts and costs?
2. The VPSO program costs us \$214000 per officer because of added administrative costs that do not go to the actual performance of the duties. A restructuring of the VPSO program can save millions annually.
3. No more funding of vacant positions like the 80 within the Alaska Department of Public Safety that cost over \$6Million annually.
4. Channeling any funds into a gas line project is a waste of time. We will not find a customer who is willing to pay 5 times the cost. We have to know what the market can bear and then adjust accordingly, putting the pipeline before the demand can only work if we can build it for half the price and take the majority interest in the output.
5. The University of Alaska needs to get onboard and start developing their land grants. They have to pull their own weight and they have the resources to do so.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity to share with you folks!

Submitted Respectfully,  
Jon Corbett  
Dillingham, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

---

**n:** Julie Cisco <cisco.julie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget, of course

Good afternoon -- I am closely monitoring the budget situation and the decisions being made in Juneau. I will not consider any new or increased taxes or a big raid on the PFD fund earnings until you have all done what you need to: cut to the bone.

You're not making any attempt to do that. You're playing shell games, politics and hiding behind platitudes. Don't talk down to us and don't try to pretend we don't understand because we're not in Juneau.

We understand. We manage our households and our businesses responsibly, but not spending more than we bring in and making careful, informed choices for purchases or improvements. You aren't even trying to do any of that.

Cut all the pork. Cut all the non-starting projects: bridge across Knik Arm, road to Ambler, in-state gas line and LNG plant. We have no business spending money we don't have on projects with no proven return on investment. Cut special assistants, fancy leases, travel expenses and don't tell me you already have.

I work for a public entity and am not speaking for my entity, but in the departments I oversee 'no' has become word of the day. No travel to Outside conferences. No new vehicles. No fancy new toys. Just no.

I'm doing my part. Are you?

Julie Cisco  
Sterling

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** narrowrd@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:51 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget

When it comes to education, five of the 10 biggest spending districts in the country are located in Alaska.

"While the Yupiit School District has one of the nation's highest education expenditures, it also has a poverty rate of 36.2%, and more than 55% of households rely on food stamps..."

"Despite spending the fourth most per student of ANY district in the United States, the North Slope Borough had a graduation rate of just 58.3%."

"The Lake And Peninsula School District spends an average of \$42,160 per student in instruction and support services a year, which is about \$31,500 more than the average spending per student in the typical American school district."

While Alaska spends more per student than almost every other state, it consistently ranks at the bottom in results. For that matter, across the country, "In five of the worst-funded districts, graduation rates are in excess of 92%. In five of the best-funded states, less than 80% of a given class graduates high school." Money does not positively correlate to success. That is the only given.

The reason government says it needs more money for education is because of the remote nature of Alaskan towns. Let's put that nonsense away. First- Alaska has a robust homeschool program in place- parents are given some \$1500 or so for education expenses- this should be the baseline number for all negotiations. How \$1500 gets to almost \$40,000 once the state becomes the teacher is beyond me.

Second, this isn't about educating those with special needs. Although special education is a huge part of Alaska's budget, it is not unique to only Alaska. There is a county in Oregon, the Scio School District 95, that spends an average of \$2,195 per student a year, and they have a graduation rate of over 99%.

Last, education in the US was founded when everything was remote, before income tax etc. The goal in educating youth was to avoid ignorance which leads to mischief, and to cultivate a productive and selfless generation. That needs to be our aim today.

Beyond education, anything not constitutionally mandated should be cut. If local government wants social programs that are bloated, and success is measured only by the amount of money spend, they can have that discussion and levy local taxes. But the state shouldn't levy taxes for all Alaskans, steal from the PFD, or cut programs that are constitutionally mandated in order to fund programs not constitutionally mandated.

-Micah Shields

dotna AK

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Dee Longenbaugh <deelong@alaskan.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska budget

Please adopt Gov. Walker's budget - fair and sensible. Thank you.

Dee

Dee Longenbaugh

The Observatory, ABAA

[www.observatorybooks.com](http://www.observatorybooks.com)

[deelong@alaskan.com](mailto:deelong@alaskan.com)

299 North Franklin Street

Juneau, Alaska, 99801

907/586-9676

Since 1977

>

>

**Doniece Gott**

---

**n:** Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay <vivandclyde@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget testimony

We have written emails, attended a previous hearing, talked to legislators, filled out surveys and always we express the same concerns...please STOP cutting the State's budget and start implementing revenue from income taxes similar to what was previously in effect , capping the PFD and revising the tax and credit structure for the oil companies and other smaller taxes as suggested by the Governor.. The legislature needs to be more forward thinking and not just "re-active" to the current crisis. If you continue cutting the budget and services, this State will go into a depressed economy with many Alaskans leaving the state and those remaining suffering from a lack of services in all areas. Law enforcement, education, road maintenance, every department in the state has already been affected by cuts. Legislators talk about not giving \$ to the poorest Senior citizens, not funding public radio/TV, cutting health, education and welfare further...for WHAT? So that there is nothing left for citizens of Alaska? So we have to start over again when the crisis is finally over? We do NOT want the legislature to assume oil prices will rise, we want all of us to begin paying a portion of our income in taxes, having a set amount for the PFD and working how that dividend is funded and paid, and a change in the way the State does business with the oil companies. Many proposals to increase income are out there, and we have commented on those - positively. Focus on the revenue side...there have been ENOUGH CUTS.

Thank you,

Vivian Finlay and Clyde Boyer (married)

--  
455 Elderberry Drive,  
Homer, AK. 99603 USA  
(907) 435-3903

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Jeff Brown <jbrown@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:48 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Budget Testimony

As an Alaskan resident and voter I request the Senate Finance Committee consider the following actions:

- 1) Institute a state income tax based on 10% of the Federal income tax owed. This would apply to non-residents and residents.
- 2) Place a cap of \$500 on the PFD checks to residents until the fiscal crisis is resolved.
- 3) Eliminate the \$500 million in oil subsidies the state is currently funding.
- 4) Do not appropriate any further state money for the natural gas pipeline until this fiscal crisis has passed. The private partners can continue to develop - just not with state money.
- 5) Forgo any further appropriations for procuring, building, or remodeling any buildings for State government (including Legislative Offices) until this fiscal crisis ends.

These remedies should be put in place this session, if at all possible.

 Thank You,

Maureen Conerton  
214 Dixon  
Juneau, AK 99801

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Willy Dunne <wdunne907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** KBBi; Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** Testimony for March 9 committee hearing

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am unable to testify in person but please take into consideration my testimony via email.

I understand the difficulty of developing a budget under the fiscal circumstances we are facing. Before state spending is cut to a level that harms our health and safety, our economy and our opportunities, please develop reasonable sources of revenue to replace the diminishing revenue from oil.

Specifically today, I would like to testify for adequate funding for public broadcasting. I wish I could tell you following story in person, because it is a powerful example of how local public radio serves our community in a very cost effective manner.

It was early summer in 1998 and although I live in Fritz Creek, I was commuting to work on a project in Ninilchik. I was listening to KBBi radio when the regular programming was interrupted to air a story about a wildfire in the East End Road area. As I listened, I realized that the fire was close to my house where my 9 year old daughter was home with a teen babysitter for the day. I was immediately alarmed and, without the widespread cellphone service we have today, I quickly started the 45 minute drive home. As I was driving home my concern increased as the KBBi news reporter described the advance of the wildfire and it became clear that it was headed directly toward my home with my daughter and her babysitter inside. I eventually made it to a landline phone and called home to check on them. I learned that there was very heavy smoke at my house and even with poor visibility and difficulty even breathing, the kids were able to make it down the hill to our neighbor's home where they were gathered up and driven to safety. I eventually met them a few miles from our home at a road block set up by firefighters. I am incredibly grateful that no one was hurt and that I was able to be there for my daughter ONLY because our local public radio was able to broadcast the emergency information and they continued to update conditions on the air as the fire progressed.

Public broadcasting benefits all Alaska residents. We support this service with membership dollars, donations and business underwriting, but we need additional support from the legislature, please allow adequate funding to support this vital service.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.



Willy Dunne

40508 Waterman Rd

Homer, AK 99603

907-299-6226

## Doniece Gott

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**n:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:57 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Curtis E. Nayokpuk  
**Subject:** FW: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony - correction to add

Forwarding update to Senate Finance as requested.

---

**From:** Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisl@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony

Oops, look like I left out "support for water and sewer funding in rural areas" on erosion and relocation segment if you can add that in? -cn

*Curtis E. Nayokpuk since 1992 d/b/a: NAYOKPUK SERVICES P.O Box 72029 Shishmaref, Alaska 99772 Fax: 907-649-2009 Cell: 639-1231*

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sen. Donny Olson" <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov> To: "Curtis E. Nayokpuk" <curtisl@gci.net> Cc: Sent: Wed, 9 Mar 2016 20:15:41 +0000 Subject: RE: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony

Dear Curtis Nayokpuk,

I forwarded your email to Senate Finance in order for it to be added to public testimony. I am also printing your recommendations for Senator Olson. He appreciates constituents being active in the process. Thank you for providing this information.

Sincerely, Sydney Seay Staff to Sen Olson

**From:** Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisl@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** William E Booth <evan.booth@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached \*\*\*Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Senator Donald Olson, Morning,

Was planning to call in on your Senate Finance testimony but busy during the time schedule, maybe the Mayor called in. Good to see an open public forum from rural areas to hear what is effecting other communities and to voice local concerns.

My comments for Shishmaref: may have been short version via phone on local issues but added a couple points on airport/DOT.

-Rural airports are vital to community health and safety as we are dependent on daily air service for basic needs and medical travel. Summer barge service is mainly for large/heavy cargo and yearly fuel deliveries that lock us in a high fuel price for the rest of the year. This in support for the PCE program for rural areas.

- On erosion and relocation, we have seawall protection projects (to keep us safe till poss. relocation) not completed due to requirement of 35% match to Federal funds that small at risk communities have no access to. If the State of Alaska could be the source of "match" funds a lot of Federal funded projects (not only seawalls) would be built in rural communities. Maybe a

"match' Senate Bill to support Federal funding for rural projects in regards to health and safety? We can do "in kind" local resources but a lot of it needs a funding match.

-With the need for ULSD fuel use in airport equipment this requires shipments by air delivery as it is a limited amount the barge service don't carry. As rural airport maintenance contractor for the State DOT am at times rationing fuel late in the season till more is delivered. Also with weather changes I've seen over the last ten years you would assume with some low snow years we would be running less equipment time but see more work removing mid-winter ice from December thru February rain showers and this will require new eq. needs for airport sanding and mat'l stock pile or supply if local resources are not usable. Support for rural DOT funding.

Thank you and keep up the good work! -cn *Curtis E. Nayokpuk*

*since 1992 d/b/a: NAYOKPUK SERVICES PO Box 72029 Shishmaref, Ak 99772 Fax: 907-649-2009 Cell: 639-1231*

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** jimmy <jimbob@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB139 & 140

Legislators:

I urge you to stop listening to Big Oil, GCI, the Rasmuson Foundation, University of Alaska and all the other special interests who plead with the legislature 24/7 to rob the permanent fund, tax individuals, not tax Big Oil, and not cut the budget. The ordinary working Alaskan understands there is a spending problem and a broken tax system written by Oil company accountants to their advantage.

It appears the Legislature is preparing a budget and will then later decide how the budget should be funded. Only a government would act in such an irresponsible manner. No private company or individual would decide how much to spend without first determining how much revenue was available and then deciding the spending plan. Cut the bloated state budget so we live within our income. Serious across the board cuts, not smoke and mirrors. Cut the budget to about 3.5 billion for this year.

Many of you Legislators are bought and paid for by Big Oil and the corporations and you feel you are beholding to them. Well, Alaskans are catching on and we will not set still for it much longer. We are told about secret tax credits, complicated schemes about "old oil" and "new oil", direct payments to construct facilities, and no production taxes until oil reaches \$73 per barrel. Not one person in 10,000 could understand this secret, complicated, corrupted tax system. I doubt that most Legislators even understand it except for those who are in the pockets of the oil companies. This must change now.

Why would we let 500,000 barrels of oil go down the pipeline daily and not receive any payment for it except our royalty share of oil from some fields?? What fools are we to give away our finite resource? I suggest you repeal SB21, all tax credits, and any other secret schemes. Replace the existing tax/credit, new oil, old oil, scheme with a flat percentage production tax per barrel. No one in state government can outsmart the Oil company lawyers and accountants. Alaska can't even do a decent job of auditing the oil companies. Should we just trust them? No, we can't and that is why a production tax per barrel is the fairest, simplest system. A few state employees can monitor production, calculate the market price for oil and give the oil company a bill on a weekly basis.

I resent the threats and punishment that the oil companies issue. Look at BP this week, cutting down on production at a time when the Legislature is considering raising the production tax and eliminating certain tax credit. This is punitive and extortion. If the companies want our oil for nothing and start arbitrarily shutting down production in agreement with each other as happened this week, I would rather we shut it all down than give the oil away to mega corporations. I suggest a tax on all gas in the ground until a gas line is built. The oil companies have had decades to construct a gas line and bring our gas to market as required under our leases. If the oil companies had built 100 miles of line per year, the gas line would have been done years ago. They must produce or pay.

Keep your hands off the permanent fund. Too many Alaskans count on that money each year. It benefits the economy and the people can determine the best use of the money rather than the bloated state government. I also oppose any state income tax because this hurts the productive individual and rewards the non productive. One of the effects of a state income tax would be to essentially take the PFD away from working

productive individuals and let the non working non productive individuals keep their PFD. This is simply a redistribution of wealth in a most unfair way.

One will be happy with the outcome but that is the job you were elected to do. Do the right thing and cut the state budget. Leave the Permanent Fund intact and change the tax structure on the oil patch.

Thank you,

Jimmy Rice P.O. Box 4063 Soldotna Ak. 99669

[jimbob@gci.net](mailto:jimbob@gci.net)

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Clare Hill <chillydog1990@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

To the committee:

Thank you for taking the time to read my message. I am a 25+ year resident of Fairbanks. I am a retired public school teacher. I have four adult children who currently all live and work in Alaska.

Please take two giant steps back and look at the big picture. This narrow, blinkered view that consists of "don't take my PFD and keep cutting government" will only hurt Alaska in the long run. Anyone who has taken the time to investigate our budget even briefly understands that the way out of our crisis involves a multi-pronged approach--none of which is desirable or fun. We MUST institute an income tax, we MUST cap the dividend and use the fund as it was meant to be used, we MUST revise our oil tax/credit structure to require more out of the producers, and we possibly should institute a sales tax. Alaska is worth paying for! Every other state in the union requires some sort of buy-in from its residents. Alaskans love to brag about their independence--well, it's time to stop holding our hands out for an allowance. It's time for all of us to step up to the plate and invest in our beloved home.

Please don't let Alaska become a third-world country with poor infrastructure, a sorry education system, and no hope for our children's futures. Take the long view and plan for the kind of place we want to live in for the next 100 years!

Thank you,

Clare Hill

(home) 4320 Parks Ridge Rd.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(mailing) P. O. Box 196

Ester, AK 99725

907-479-4344

**Doniece Gott**

---

**n:** Bill Stevens <casscon@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Bill Stevens  
**Subject:** SUGGESTED CUTS

**03/09/16**  
**1015**

**Honorable Members Comprising the Finance Committee,**

**The real solution to the problem is to cut all State expenditures by 10% this year and next year. No “sacred cows”.**

**Further, starting immediately, reduce the number of State employees role by 15% through attrition.**

**Cap PFD distribution at \$1,000 per person and apply any resulting excess to the principle.**

**No more free wheeling junkets.**

**No State income tax or State sales tax.**

**Thank you.**

**Bill Stevens**  
**P.O. Box 8596**  
**Nikiski, Alaska 99635**

**907-394-0544**

## Doniece Gott

---

**m:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Curtis E. Nayokpuk ; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** FW: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached \*\*\*Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Forwarding to Senate Finance Committee to be added to Public Testimony.  
Thank you,  
Sydney Seay  
Staff to Senator Olson

**From:** Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisl@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** William E Booth <evan.booth@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached \*\*\*Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Senator Donald Olson,

Morning,

was planning to call in on your Senate Finance testimony but busy during the time schedule, maybe the Mayor called in.. Good to see an open public forum from rural areas to hear what is effecting other communities and to voice local concerns.

My comments for Shishmaref: may have been short version via phone on local issues but added a couple points on airport/DOT.

-Rural airports are vital to community health and safety as we are dependent on daily air service for basic needs and medical travel. Summer barge service is mainly for large/heavy cargo and yearly fuel deliveries that lock us in a high fuel price for the rest of the year. This in support for the PCE program for rural areas.

- On erosion and relocation, we have seawall protection projects (to keep us safe till poss. relocation) not completed due to requirement of 35% match to Federal funds that small at risk communities have no access to. If the State of Alaska could be the source of "match" funds a lot of Federal funded projects (not only seawalls) would be built in rural communities. Maybe a "match" Senate Bill to support Federal funding for rural projects in regards to health and safety? We can do "in kind" local resources but a lot of it needs a funding match.

-With the need for ULSD fuel use in airport equipment this requires shipments by air delivery as it is a limited amount the barge service don't carry. As rural airport maintenance contractor for the State DOT am at times rationing fuel late in the season till more is delivered. Also with weather changes I've seen over the last ten years you would assume with some low snow years we would be running less equipment time but see more work removing mid-winter ice from December thru February rain showers and this will require new eq. needs for airport sanding and mat'l stock pile or supply if local resources are not usable. Support for rural DOT funding.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

-cn

*Curtis E. Nayokpuk*  
since 1992 d/b/a:  
**NAYOKPUK SERVICES**  
P.O Box 72029  
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772  
Fax: 907-649-2009  
Cell: 639-1231

----- Original Message -----

From:

"Sen. Donny Olson" <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>

To:

"Sen. Donny Olson" <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>

Cc:

Sent:

Tue, 8 Mar 2016 00:20:18 +0000

Subject:

ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached \*\*\*Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

In the event that you are not able to open the attached ULU pdf, following is the information for Senate public testimony tomorrow:

### **SENATE FINANCE PUBLIC TESTIMONY THIS WEEK**

JUNEAU – The Senate Finance Committee will be hearing public testimony on SB 139 (operating budget) and SB 140 (mental health budget) from communities around Alaska on the FY2017 budget March 7- 9. For District T communities, testimony will be taken according to the schedule below:

#### **Tuesday, March 8**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Nome, Kotzebue**

**11:15 – 12:00 p.m. Barrow**

**3:45 – 5:30 p.m., Statewide Teleconference – Off-net sites**

**\*\*Expect long wait times\*\***

Please go to your local Legislative Liaison Office (LIO) to give your testimony. People going to an LIO to testify need to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the ending time; otherwise, testimony could end early. If you are not close or cannot make it to an LIO (off net site), you can call in from 3:45 pm – 5:30 pm the toll free number **1-844-586-9085** (testimony is limited to 2 minutes). Watch the live stream at: <http://akl.tv> .

My office has had many phone calls and emails from people all over the state with their perspectives about impending cuts to Pre-K, Best Beginning, school broadband, Public Broadcasting, Behavioral Health programs, Nome Youth Facility, senior benefits, service reductions, and loss of income (especially as it relates to the PFD). That is just to name a few items that will impact our rural areas.

**Doniece Gott**

---

**m:** KReardon <reardonscher@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:13 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Input on Budget

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am pleased you are asking for Alaskans to voice their opinions on our current fiscal situation and decisions that must be made to ensure a healthy and stable future for our state. I am retired and want to stay in a vibrant Alaska. My husband is currently working with an engineering firm and our 22 year old son wants to return to Alaska to live and work after finishing college in architecture . My family has a vested interest in keeping the economy strong & our housing market stable. We do believe in some government spending cut-backs – However, this must be balanced with continued services that make Alaska a good place to work and live. We believe we need to develop new revenue sources to keep our economy strong and our state's credit rating at triple AAA. Our big 3 oil companies are cutting back as there is a national over supply of oil right now and very low prices. We will see oil company lay-offs that will have an impact on our economy. We want to encourage these oil engineers and other professionals to stay by keeping other sector jobs strong. Cutting away only at the government and state agencies also creates job losses for many Alaskans and again we need people to stay and find work here.

**My family strongly urges a balanced approach & moving this direction this YEAR!**

Yes-Use the Permanent Fund earnings in some manner that maintains the fund-Percent of Market value-Or similar strategy

Yes-It is fine to limit or lower the dividend-We have had 30 YEARS of this FREE RIDE & it is time to pay the piper

Yes-Look at a restructuring of the oil company tax & subsidy structure

Yes-Implement a fair income &/or sales tax that make people aware of the costs

Yes-Drop the Medicare Expansion law suit

Yes-Move Anch offices to the Atwood Buidling

Thank-You

Kerry Reardon

907-338-1183 hm

[reardonscher@gci.net](mailto:reardonscher@gci.net)

## Doniece Gott

---

**m:** James T Nelson <aktomn@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:12 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fiscal Mess

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** James T Nelson <aktomn@gci.net>  
**Date:** March 9, 2016 at 11:04:25 AM AKST  
**To:** [GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov](mailto:GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov)  
**Subject:** Fiscal Mess

Thank you all for your efforts. I agree with Clem Tillion's column in today's Alaska Dispatch (March 9, 2016). We do need to bite the bullet and pay our own way, but we should not lay off hundreds of teachers, shut down state services, or force senior citizens to leave the state. The economic damage will be bad enough without the legislature adding to it. Cut the boondoggles first (Susitna Dam, the State's rocket launch in Kodiak, Knik Arm bridge, etc.), and then pass most or all of the Governor's proposals.

I understand many of you have constituents who reject facts, but you do not have to. Do your jobs and take care of the state of Alaska.

Thanks again, Tom Nelson

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Pete Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:45 PM  
**To:** Doniece Gott  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony/SB139

---

**From:** Jennie Hafele  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:42 PM  
**Cc:** [timmabery@gmail.com](mailto:timmabery@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony/SB139

Timothy J. Mabery  
Resident: HD 2  
North, AK  
[timmabery@gmail.com](mailto:timmabery@gmail.com)

Subject: SB 139 Operating Budget

The permanent fund is an established constitutional possession of the Alaska people. Its dividend is calculated by the 5 year average of return on the fund investments made by the permanent fund. The dividend has nothing to do with the price of oil or the amount of money the State of Alaska receives as revenue. I feel that if the state asks us to give up our constitutional rights in perpetuity than we should be getting something back from them (the state).

If I am wrong about this calculation, please inform me.

---

Please enter into the record the testimony above to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 139 dated 3/9/2016.

CC: Interior Delegation members

Comments submitted via phone to:

Jennie Hafele  
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office  
1292 Sadler Way Suite 308  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: 907-452-4448  
Fax: 907-456-3346  
Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website  
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature  
Click [HERE](#) to send your legislator a Public Opinion Message during session

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jordan Watson <jordan.t.watson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget

Dear Finance Committee,

I'm a Juneau resident but am currently unavailable to give in-person testimony so I hope that you'll still accept my written testimony instead.

I wanted to express my support of income-generation proposals as a method by which to help mitigate the State's budget shortfall. We all rely on a number of services provided by the State and even if cutting all of those resources would solve our fiscal problem, it would certainly not leave us with a better State and economy in the long run. But we all know the reality that even cutting State government completely will not solve the problem.

I support an income tax and a restructuring of the PFD (if it can be done so as to not instigate a regressive impact on the lower income demographic that relies on this money). If PFD earnings will be drastically reduced, then perhaps having an income level cutoff that would still facilitate something for lower income earners.

If voters are still adamant about relying on oil revenues, then perhaps a tax (or altered pfd structure) that is reliant on State revenue. When revenues are high (whether from oil tax or from pdf earnings) then the income tax is less. And vice versa.

Nevada does not have an income tax but they have gambling revenue. If the casinos closed tomorrow and the revenue source went away, then certainly the state would have to ask its residents to contribute to the services upon which both sides of the aisle have become accustomed. Well, it seems that our casinos have closed and it's time for us to find alternatives.

I have paid State income tax in California, Oregon, Hawaii, Georgia, and Massachusetts and I am happy to add Alaska to that list in order to continue to make Alaska a great place to live.

Thank you,  
Jordan Watson

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Dan Vandermeer <djvandermeer@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** budget

Cut spending. No taxes.  
Lost over a quarter billion? Some finance committee.

Dan Vandermeer,  
Anchorage Super-Voter

## Doniece Gott

---

**n:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: reconsideration of OWL funding Haines

Forwarding to Senate Finance as testimony.

**From:** director@haineslibrary.org [mailto:director@haineslibrary.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** reconsideration of OWL funding

Dear Senator Olson,

I'm writing to request that you please consider reinstating OWL funding into the budget.

**OWL (Online With Libraries)** provides broadband subsidies for Alaska's small and remote public libraries, a videoconferencing network for all Alaskans, and leveraged e-rate subsidies.

OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so is a good investment. **For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4. If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars go on the table.**

Without OWL, Alaskan libraries will lose:

- Affordable and high speed Internet connections necessary for 21st century tasks and competencies.
- Videoconferencing capabilities which has allowed for student participation in classes not available in their own communities, local Board trainings, personal legal advice, healthcare advocacy, and shared programs and trainings between libraries.
- Access to information and resources and online library catalogs available only through consistent and high speed internet connections.

OWL is a critical program that enables libraries to provide basic internet service to all Alaska residents. **Cutting the OWL program will not only create hardship for libraries and communities across the state but will jeopardize federal E-rate funding that pays for 79% of Alaska's high broadband costs to rural and remote libraries.** OWL is a critical program that enables libraries to provide basic internet service to all Alaska residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful reconsideration of this important funding for rural libraries.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Brown

Director, Haines Borough Public Library

President, Alaska Library Association

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Ruthie Strong <ruthiestrong8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** OWL

Please keep OWL up and running it is a useful function for rural communities.  
Ruth M Strong  
P O Box15  
Talkeetna, Ak 99676

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Martha Schoenthal <martha@projdevelopment.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Chris Kowalczewski; Ann Yadon  
**Subject:** please fund OWL

I was shocked to hear that the Finance Committee has cut the Online With Libraries funding. Please restore it.

My name is Martha Schoenthal; I live in Anchorage, Alaska. As a Project Manager, I have assisted many communities on and off the road system with developing their new libraries. This includes: Ketchikan, Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, Sitka, and Skagway. ON the road system, I have worked with North Pole, Talkeetna, Willow, Sutton, Wasilla, and Anchor Point.

If the funding cut remains – it will not hurt me directly. I can afford a computer and have high speed internet access here at home. But it will really hurt these smaller communities, on very limited budgets, **a lot**. The state OWL funding is used to leverage a required match for federal funding for providing free internet usage in libraries. For many of these communities, the library is the only free public access to computers. And one source to stave off the digital divide between the haves and have nots. Many folks in the smaller communities simply do not have access to internet, cannot afford it, or cannot afford computers period.

One thing I really like about working with Librarians is that they keep statistics. On the state library website, for 2013, you will find that there are a total of 904 public use computers in our libraries. And there were 77,869 separate sessions on those computers. That's almost 1200 sessions per year for EVERY computer in the state. The finance committee might want to reflect on how many voters that represents.

The public computers and internet access are used to hunt for and apply for jobs. One study estimated that 40% of public library usage was related to employment. They are also used for:

- Download City, Borough, State forms
- Prepare a resumé
- Obtain passport information
- File for Permanent Fund Dividend
- Prepare quit-claim deeds or make a will
- Check and send e-mail
- Skype "back home"
- Participate in on-line or distance learning classes
- File federal taxes

Access medical and health information

Take a proctored on-line test

Home-schooler research

School project research

Print airline boarding passes

Thank-you for your consideration,

Martha

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Deborah Carver <angora@acsalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** please fund OWL

Please do not cut the OWL funds from the budget. Kodiak Library is one of the only places in our community many people have to get online for job information etc.

Deborah Carver

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:01 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: OWL funding

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**From:** MARGARET VOS [mailto:pegone@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:11 AM  
**To:** Senator.Click. <Bishop@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Senator. <Lynan.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL funding

Dear Senator,

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in its range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. If libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Margaret Vos

Talkeetna, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:02 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** RE: OWL Funding

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tasja Williams [mailto:tasjaalaska@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:16 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL Funding

Mr. Olson,

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in its range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. If libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Sincerely  
Natasja Williams  
Talkeetna Public Library Aid

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tiffany Brunson <tiphane3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please Fund OWL

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please restore funding for the OWL program in the state budget. I realize these are difficult financial times for Alaska, which is exactly the reason to keep the funding for OWL. 95% of Alaskan public libraries receive federal e-rate funding to provide high-speed internet connectivity, firewalls and filters. For every \$1 of local funds spent on the OWL program, the federal e-rate program provides \$4. By cutting OWL, these federal funds will be gone from Alaskan communities which cannot foot the local bill. In eliminating the \$761,800 from the budget, you are also refusing 4 times that in federal funding.

Free internet is absolutely vital in our highly connected world. The internet provided by local libraries in Alaska's communities allows those without the means to pay for their own internet to search and apply for jobs, keep in touch with loved ones, attend long distance classes and training and be part of an informed community. Last year at the Kodiak Public Library, OWL was used approximately 50,000 times. Please do not take this vital service away from those who most need it and refuse those federal dollars.

The \$761,800 you plan to cut will not make much of a dent in our budget deficit, but it will have a huge impact on our public libraries and the communities they serve.

Thank you.

Tiffany Brunson  
Kodiak, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** David Klein <dklein7@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. Tammie Wilson  
**Subject:** State funding for University is essential for present and future economy of the Fairbanks community as well as for thstate

I am an alumni of UAF, first attended classes at University of Alaska in 1948, received a Master of Science degree in wildlife management, served in the 4th Infantry in Alaska during the Korean War, worked for the Territorial Alaska Game Commission in SE Alaska for five years prior to statehood and for the ADF&G after statehood. Became Leader of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at UAF in 1962 and a faculty member in the Dept. of Biology and Wildlife after completing a PhD at the University of British Columbia. My position was federally funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The thesis research was on ecology of deer in SE Alaska.

I served on the Alaska Growth Policy Committee during Governor Jay Hammond's administration. I am now retired from UAF as a Professor Emeritus and continue to advise students in the sciences, write and publish technical papers, give invited lectures, and assist in teaching field courses in wildlife ecology, habitat management, and related climate change. Virtually all of this work I have done since retirement has been on a volunteer basis. I have seen and participated in the growth of the University of Alaska into an internationally recognized and leading university with focus on the biological and physical sciences of northern regions, but also including the social sciences, rural health and education.

The University of Alaska budget must be maintained at a level sufficient to enable it to provide a level of education and associated research to enable it to serve the educational needs of young Alaskans and to provide them with the mental and physical tools they will need in the world we will be leaving them. I strongly endorse Governor Walker's proposed state budget and its level of funding for the University. And I believe we must include a state income tax as well as equitable taxing of those who would extract our natural resources. Use of interest income from the Permanent Fund is also justified as "rainy day" use for this year's and next years budget to see us through the current economic slow down. This was the intent of Governor Hammond when he proposed establishment of the Permanent Fund and recommended maintaining the state income tax but at a reduced level during oil boom, however the state income tax was totally eliminated by the State Legislature at that time.

Thank you for this opportunity express my views on the current budget negotiations.

David R. Klein  
2027 Weston Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[dklein7@alaska.edu](mailto:dklein7@alaska.edu)

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## Doniece Gott

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**From:** E. Thomas Robinson <etrobinson@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:00 AM  
**Subject:** Education & the University of Alaska

I am greatly concerned about the proposed actions, cuts that are being considered in education and in particular, the University of Alaska. I am a 40+ year resident living in Senate District C and House District 5. I am a Professor Emeritus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks where by contract, my work load covered teaching, research, and service. I will not go into a lengthy detail of my interaction while on contract, but simply say many others attested to my significant and favorable impact in my tripartite efforts, when I retired and was awarded Professor Emeritus status. The Board of Regents are there for both the University and the State, I would think that you would value direction of that Board as well as officials of the University to provide insight and direction in this Constitutional based asset. Please use these resources in making decisions, decisions that provide positive impacts on our great State.

In 1917 the University was established. I am extremely proud of the fact that University of Alaska Fairbanks has earned, developed, and is recognized as a Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant Institution. This recognition with its triple designation is one of very few, I believe 17, in the Nation. The fact that the University has not been provided with sufficient land transfers is a separate contributing issue to current financial position, but only noted here. This is an issue to be pursued separately.

The University's development reflects a leadership role that has been earned since 1917. During this time other units were developed to serve Alaska, many with teaching, instructional, community college type, closer to population centers in Alaska. As time passed the University of Alaska system consolidated and developed into the current three major units, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Southeast. I totally can relate and appreciate the efforts of our legislators to learn, interact, and understand what it takes to maintain accreditation of the University, the many units within the units that have their own separate accreditation needs and requirements.

The scope of cuts suggest by the House committee will require amputation instead of a transfusion. Although the Senate committee suggests \$10 million less than the Governor proposed, such major cut backs in funding can make impacts that will cause the Schools or separately accredited units to be cut, even though they will cause very negative ripples through the Alaska economy. An example, education cuts causing the loss of accreditation could mean graduating students not being employable in Alaska (and other) schools, exacerbating an already existing headache in finding new entry level teachers in many school districts. I certainly want my grandchildren to attend accredited schools.

A very sad part of this financial approach is that the Board of Regents are being forced to dealing with these major cuts that have been dealt to them by others. The Board has been time and time again, required to direct scarce resources at the direction of the Legislature instead of directing those resources as they deemed

necessary. A significant example is direction from the Legislature to establish a sports complex that wasn't asked for or considered necessary by the Board in lieu of resources they had requested.

Thank you for all your work and effort, and please do not short change education in Alaska, in particular keeping the University of Alaska, and UAF, the quality institution it is. Forcing amputation and cuts that negatively impact accreditation, quality, or loss of accredited units, should not be a viable direction. Education is an asset that needs to help lead us through years to come. Please on behalf of all of Alaska, follow the Governor's proposed level of funding. This level of cuts remains significant but allows for the University President to continue his restructuring plan and should save major amputations.

E. Thomas Robinson, CPA, CMA, Professor Emeritus  
School of Management, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Ducks Unlimited Member; Youth & Education National committee  
3744 Mitchell Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4635  
H:907.479.2110; C:750.3396 F:455.9110 email: [etrobinson@alaska.edu](mailto:etrobinson@alaska.edu)



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public testimony: Senate Finance

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

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**From:** Rita Campbell [mailto:[campbellrita50@yahoo.com](mailto:campbellrita50@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <[Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <[Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; [sen.mike.dunleavey@ak.leg.gov](mailto:sen.mike.dunleavey@ak.leg.gov); Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Peter Micciche <[Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Public testimony: Senate Finance

On Wednesday, March 9, 2016 2:43 PM, Rita Campbell <[campbellrita50@yahoo.com](mailto:campbellrita50@yahoo.com)> wrote:

I am writing at this time, March 9, 2016, 2:34pm to urge, as strongly as is humanly possible the full funding of the following programs, at the recommendations by Governor Walker of Alaska or better. I urge full funding of the Personal Care Assistance program, Senior Benefits, the Adult Medicaid Dental Program, the Community Developmental Disability (DD) Grants, the Senior Community Based Grants, Pioneer Homes, Senior and Disability Services General Relief Assistance, Public Safety, and Early Childhood Education Programs.

I am an Alaskan, a regular voter, and I fully support and advocate for all of these programs, for full funding, and full support. I do not advocate that one penny be taken from any of the above programs, as it is counter-productive, unkind, unethical, and unconscionable to do so. These are vital and proven programs, and without them innocent Alaskans will almost certainly suffer skin conditions, falls they would not have otherwise had if they had full assistants to help with their care, dignity, and independence, and others also would not develop in positive, healthy ways, to contribute to our society, and in this case, almost certainly many would suffer in silence, die prematurely, or fall into a life of crime, which would otherwise not have been the case, if they had known the full funding, and full benefits of these vital programs, listed above.

If any mythical budget crisis exists in reality, certainly there are far better, more ethical, more socially responsible alternatives to find money for budget purposes and expenses to benefit our society at large than to ride roughshod on the backs of the most vulnerable, the most ill, the most elder, the youngest, the ones already with the most disabilities and challenges in this life, and all of those least able to defend themselves, or speak for themselves in our state.

Also I do not appreciate the lack of accessible, prior public information on this topic, or the lack of public opportunity to testify, or to comment on this matter. Most people work and have families, so such short notice, and apparent secrecy appears to go against democratic and ethical principles of fair play, and equal opportunity. There should have been letters sent to all those potentially affected, and not just to select recipients. This matter should have been posted in our Alaskan newspapers, and on public websites, radio stations, public media outlets, and in any way possible, so that the public would have been fully aware, and given every reasonable opportunity and time to accommodate their schedules, so they could more likely testify on this matter. I highly doubt that sufficient numbers of people even knew about these proposed cuts, nor that more than a virtual handful had even the practical opportunity to comment in any democratic or fair way, and that is not right.

Thank you kindly for what good you may do for all of your constituents, not just the already greatly privileged ones, and for for considering my views in this matter. Have a good day, ladies and gentlemen.

Rita Campbell  
4009 Beluga Circle  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
907 235 2033

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jenna Steffes <jsteffes@accessalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Cut Funding to the Community DD/General Relief Allocations in the House Or PCA Funding

First of all, I would like to thank the House Finance Committee for the recent amendment to restore a portion of the Senior Community Grants. With the drastic decline in oil prices, I realize that the state is in a fiscal situation where cuts must be made, and it was encouraging to hear that the testimony of the public was taken into account when making these difficult decisions. However, I hope the Senate Finance Committee will also observe that these programs that allow Alaskans to remain Independent in their community are indispensable and that the current level of funding to those programs that serve the most vulnerable population of Alaska be restored because they actually do save money for the state.

Personally, I do not have family or friends that require Independent Living Services or Personal Care Attendant Services. However, I work at an Independent Living Center and every day I can see the positive affects these programs provide the people of Fairbanks and the surrounding areas. From programs that aid individuals to find secure and stable housing to programs that provide durable medical equipment to individuals who experience a temporary or permanent disability. This kind of assistance that is produced at Independent Living Centers is invaluable not only to the public but to the state as well. Preventing institutionalization by allowing an individual the opportunity to acquire services such as a personal care attendant actually saves the state money. This service is critical in providing elderly and disabled Alaskans with the support they need to complete daily living activities.

So please I am asking that funding be restored to the Community DD Grants and General Relief Allocations in the House as well as rethink the current budget reduction of \$9 million to PCA funding. These are vital programs that help a very vulnerable population of Alaska take control of their lives and maintain their independence in the community of their choice.

Thank you,

Jenna Steffes

Administrative Assistant

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** KATHLEEN FITZGERALD <camolady650@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for Heath and Social Services/Operating Budget

Please support the Senate figure of 2.5% cut instead of the House 5% cut to DD grants. These dollars are critical to individuals and families. They make a direct difference in the daily lives of people with disabilities- Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
41285 Goldeneye Ave.  
Soldotna  
907-260-6329

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** magen@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** finance.committe@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@mxjnu03.legis.state.ak.us>  
**Subject:** Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender  
**Date:** March 9, 2016 at 3:21:07 PM AKST  
**To:** [magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

[finance.committe@akleg.gov](mailto:finance.committe@akleg.gov)  
Unrouteable address

----- This is a copy of the message, including all the headers. -----

Return-path: <[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)>  
Received: from [mxl145v246.mxlogic.net](mailto:mxl145v246.mxlogic.net) ([208.65.145.246] helo=[s12p02m091.mxlogic.net](mailto:s12p02m091.mxlogic.net))  
by [mxjnu03.legis.state.ak.us](mailto:mxjnu03.legis.state.ak.us) with esmtps (TLSv1.2:DHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384:256)  
(Exim 4.84)  
(envelope-from <[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)>)  
id 1adoLi-0006VR-Bm  
for [finance.committe@akleg.gov](mailto:finance.committe@akleg.gov); Wed, 09 Mar 2016 15:21:06 -0900  
Authentication-Results: [s12p02m091.mxlogic.net](mailto:s12p02m091.mxlogic.net); spf=pass  
Received: from unknown [66.175.52.148] (EHLO [mail42c28.carrierzone.com](mailto:mail42c28.carrierzone.com))  
by [s12p02m091.mxlogic.net](mailto:s12p02m091.mxlogic.net)(mxl\_mta-8.5.0-8)  
with ESMTTP id 8edb0e65.0.116276.00-2393.233207.s12p02m091.mxlogic.net (envelope-from  
<[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)>);  
Wed, 09 Mar 2016 17:20:57 -0700 (MST)  
X-POP-User: [magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)  
Received: from [192.168.1.21] (63-140-87-5-radius.dynamic.acsalaska.net [63.140.87.5])  
by [mail42c28.carrierzone.com](mailto:mail42c28.carrierzone.com) (8.14.9/8.13.1) with ESMTTP id u2A0KsZ7014165  
for <[finance.committe@akleg.gov](mailto:finance.committe@akleg.gov)>; Thu, 10 Mar 2016 00:20:56 +0000  
From: "[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)" <[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)>  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable  
Subject: Funding

Message-Id: <8D7DD7A5-966F-42C8-893A-D792E4E63C2C@alaska.net>

Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2016 15:20:53 -0900

To: [finance.committe@akleg.gov](mailto:finance.committe@akleg.gov)

Mime-Version: 1.0 (Mac OS X Mail 9.2 (3112\))

X-Mailer: Apple Mail (2.3112)

X-CTCH-RefID:

str=0001.0A010203.56E0BDE8.0065,ss=1,re=0.000,recu=0.000,reip=0.000,cl=1,cld=1,fgs=0

X-CTCH-VOD: Unknown

X-CTCH-Spam: Unknown

X-CTCH-Score: 0.000

X-CTCH-Rules:

X-CTCH-Flags: 0

X-CTCH-ScoreCust: 0.000

X-AnalysisOut: [v=2.1 cv=NiFTjhOg c=1 sm=1 tr=0 a=i7IwFE1dvpbx+YBE2Y5WGg==]

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X-AnalysisOut: [ogOcEt9IA:10 a=B881tNINIOf\_4bCFq\_0A:9 a=QEXdDO2ut3YA:10]

Received-SPF: Pass ([s12p02m091.mxlogic.net](mailto:s12p02m091.mxlogic.net): domain of [alaska.net](mailto:alaska.net) designates 66.175.52.148 as permitted sender)

X-MX-SPF: validation succeeded

X-Spam: [F=0.1428571429; B=0.500(0); STSI=0.500(-8); STSM=0.400(-8); CM=0.500;

CY=0.50; MH=0.500(2016030911); S=0.200(2015072901); spf=0.500; SC=]

X-MAIL-FROM: <[magen@alaska.net](mailto:magen@alaska.net)>

X-SOURCE-IP: [66.175.52.148]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of Darryl K. Magen, who is a young adult with Mental =  
retardation. Our son is a productive member of our community and well =  
liked. He would not be so if it were not for the assistance he =  
receives due the necessary funds provided by State resources. He =  
currently needs job shadowing, personal hygiene assistance, emergency =  
implementation assistance and several home care needs assistance. He =  
has been the victim of many =E2=80=9Cbudget=E2=80=9D cuts and decreases =  
and each year becomes much more difficult for him to acquire the =  
services which allow him as much independence as possible and keep him =  
out of an institutional setting. We implore you to support the Senate =  
figure for DD grants!

Thank you,  
Mrs. Charlissa R. Magen

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Maureen Knutsen <maureen.knutsen@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Radio funding

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed 100% cut to state funding for public broadcasting. I have been listening to KDLG in Dillingham since 1975 and am a current member of the Friends of KDLG advisory board. I depend on KDLG for local news, weather, and fishing information that I can't get anywhere else and state and national news, too! I am proud of the quality staff we have, the programs we broadcast and the services our station provides to a large area of southwest Alaska. Our federal funding is tied to our state support and will be lost with a total cut of state funding. Please reconsider the total cut and restore some state money for public broadcasting.

Thank you,  
Maureen Knutsen  
PO Box 134  
Naknek, AK 99633  
9072466675

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sara Russell <sereed78@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

**Point 1: Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program:** We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.

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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget that this is also an opportunity to support natural resource production and strengthen our food system.

Sara Russell  
Po box 940205  
Houston, AK 99694

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Amy Pettit <knappa7@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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Amy Pettit  
7537 N Wolverine Rd  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Charles Stillman <geopolitical@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget that this is also an opportunity to support natural resource production and strengthen our food system.

Also, bring back the damn income tax. This free ride nonsense has got to end.

Charles Stillman  
7250 W Silver Drive  
Meadow Lakes, AK 99623



4014 Lake Street, suite 201  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
907-235-8177 ext. 5  
[info@homerswcd.org](mailto:info@homerswcd.org)

State of Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

It is an unfortunate reality of the financial times of this great state that we are facing the formidable task of increasing revenue, while balancing this out with practical and responsible cuts to services provided. These kind of decisions and restructuring are never easy. We trust in our administration, our elected officials, and the public voice to ensure that all services provided are of value to the people of Alaska, its industries, and its future.

We understand that all state departments have been requested to make cuts to staffing and programs in a manner that provides the greatest savings while minimizing the loss of valuable services to our citizens. It is in this light that we would like to address the *Invasive Species and Agricultural Pest* services provided by the **Plant Materials Center**. This service is one that is of regular benefit to our office and our many cooperators, so we would like to provide some reflective expression on the value this state service provides to many citizens, as well as the agricultural industry.

The impact of invasive species on agricultural production and forest health has been well documented across the globe. In Alaska, we are in a unique position to be defending a front line that long ago advanced across other states. The economic impact of invasive species across the US is well over \$10 billion a year, and that does not include the indirect impacts to local food webs, forest health, tourism, and other victims of decreased biodiversity. The potential for invasives and agricultural pests to significantly impact the agricultural industry in Alaska is a real threat that increases every year as the climate changes and potential vectors increase in frequency and volume. As our statewide economic model watches oil & gas revenue decline sharply, diversification of our economic engines will be a fundamental aspect of our future stability. In Alaska, fisheries, tourism, real estate, and agriculture rank very close behind oil & gas as economic engines, and all four of these have the demonstrated potential to be severely impacted by neglectful management of invasive species. As a cumulative biological factor, this area of resource management is not the kind that can be put on hold. Every season of neglect allows increased spread and establishment of opportunistic species that become exponentially more difficult to manage.

The program brings in enough federal dollars to operate on a \$300,000 budget, while the state pays only the salary of one individual. It is our sincere opinion that the position of Invasive Plants and Agricultural Pest Coordinator is of a value far greater than the potential immediate savings in payroll for the state. In actuality, it is the promotion of this type of service that could help to stabilize the economic downturn in our state and diversify our financial resources.

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

*"To provide education and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of soil- and water- related resources through cooperative programs that protect, restore and improve our environment."*

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jennifer Haldeman <jennhaldeman83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget that this is also an opportunity to support natural resource production and strengthen our food system.

Jennifer Haldeman  
PO BOX 298936  
WASILLA, AK 99629

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Whitney Lowell <whitneylowell29@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Point 2 is personally critical. I am in my last year of undergraduate studies and will graduate next Spring with a BS in Environmental Science and a minor in Nutrition. I have a vested interest in Arctic food security and developing sustainable food systems in Arctic regions, namely Alaska. By eliminating research funding to the UA system, this directly effects my ability to continue my education in my desired masters and doctoral programs I want to apply to with in SNRE at UAF.

Eliminating funding to research will bottle neck students. Students graduating from the UA system who are wanting to pursue research and higher education within the state will have diminishing options forcing students to seek their educations out of state. This is a HUGE disservice to Alaskan's and the economy.


Please reconsider the drastic proposed UA cuts, this only hurts students and our future as a state.

**Point 3: Provide funding for Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC):** The PMC provides a wide variety of fundamental services to the agriculture industry including: certified seed production, horticultural recommendations, conducting variety trials, disease testing and production of the State's only native plant directory. These services help many individual Alaska farmers every year and are an invaluable data source for future growers.

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 Whitney Lowell  
1912 Toklat Street  
Anchorage, AK 99508



## Alaska Food Policy Council

3601 C Street, Ste. 722  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907-269-8072

akfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

### AFPC Governing Board

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Elizabeth Hodges Snyder,  
*Anchorage*

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Diane Peck, *Anchorage*

#### AmeriCorp VISTA

Samantha Ford, *Anchorage*

March 9, 2016

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Alaska Food Policy Council is a group of Alaskans who believe that food security is vital to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. We want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. We are writing today to share our thoughts about cuts in the current budget draft makes so deep that they will weaken Alaska's food security.

We understand that the state faces fiscal challenges and we recognize and value your expertise in addressing the budget cuts that must be made. We think these necessary changes also provide opportunities: to support farmers, fisherman, and other local businesses; to reduce the number of food dollars that flow out of our state every year; and to strengthen our food system so that when our food chain is disrupted by a late barge or natural disaster, we have safe, healthy, Alaska Grown and produced products to stock our shelves. Much of this can be accomplished in the private sector, but if we cut the budget for building block programs that support these fledgling industries, it will be difficult to recover. With that in mind, here are five suggestions we urge you to consider in the coming days:

- **Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program:** We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.
- **Restore research and outreach funding to the University of Alaska system:** While the proposed budget makes no specific cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, or the 4-H Program, *non-specific* cuts to the UA budget could force the universities to make tough choices that could reduce funding for those programs by up to 71%.
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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget the opportunity to support natural resource *production* and the strengthening of our food system.

Sincerely,



Victoria Briggs, Co-Chair



Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, Co-Chair

cc:

Governor Bill Walker

Members of the Alaska Senate

Members of the Alaska House of Representatives

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Summer Capet <Sumadore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Summer Capet  
3920 Gardner St.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

## Doniece Gott

---

**m:** Darlene Galido <darlido@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

Availability of "real" food (that our grandparents would recognize as food) is crucial for a healthy and self-reliant Alaska. I applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of budget cuts that will affect our precious food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Darlene Galido  
1925 Arctic Blvd  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Samantha Russell <Russell.rabbits@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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Samantha Russell  
2650 Snowshoe Lane  
Wasilla, AK 99654

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** laura cole <laura@229parks.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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laura cole  
po box 41  
denali national park, AK 99755

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Maggie Calica <mcalicshaman@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:07 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

Please use a multi prong approach over the next few years to balance the budget. I fully support:

- 1) reduced spending; don't rob Peter to pay Paul. We must keep services for the mentally ill, the aged, and our students.
- 2) income tax, those of us who've been here remember we used to have it. It's time to bring it back. We need to generate revenue now.
- 3) reduce the amount of the permanent fund dividend. The first check I remember is \$5000. The amount has been reduced over time, let's reduce it again. What about increasing the waiting period to receive the PFD.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Calica

Sent from my iPad

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** James Clark <jacl@gci.net>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:37 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Solutions

Dear Senators,

Most of Alaska's citizens favor a comprehensive solution to our Budget Crisis NOW. We favor a combination solution that may include::

1. Use the Earnings of the Permanent Fund to Fund Government
2. Cancel some of the Oil Tax Credits that reduce State oil tax revenues
3. Introduce a State Sales Tax with a 'Sunset termination' OR
4. Introduce a State Income Tax with a 'Sunset Termination'
5. Discontinue further cuts to all Levels of Education. You Have Cut Enough
6. Discontinue further cuts to State Government. You have Cut Enough
7. Work cooperatively with Governor Walker to merge these solutions. Stop being antagonistic to Governor Walker.
8. Listen to the Citizens of Alaska. Lots of acceptable solutions are on the table. Please Listen To Us!

Thanks for Serving,

Dr James A Clark

Anchorage

COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINANCE COMMITTEE, MARCH 1, 2016  
AND IN WRITING TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, MARCH 8, 2016

Patricia M. Ivey, 106 Oak Drive, Fairbanks AK 99709, mailing PO Box 60634 Fairbanks AK 99706,  
phone: 907-590-8800, email iveypat@gmail.com

Hello. I am Pat Ivey, a 40 year resident of Fairbanks, a retiree and an undeclared super voter. I you today to speak on behalf of the Alaska's university, its youth and its seniors. I represent no group or entity today. My comments are entirely my own.

REQUESTS

IN SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million cut to the University of Alaska budget (House Finance version). There is no way the university can absorb cuts of this magnitude in so short a time without declaring financial exigency and thus losing all of its federal funding also. Alaska already leads the rush to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education. The University of Alaska is a land, sea and space grant institution established and governed by many laws relating to its status. Cuts of this magnitude prohibit the university from carrying out mandates and its ability to serve Alaskans.
- Restore the \$19 million to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for senior programs. Seniors are the fastest growing population within Alaska, figures not driven by seniors coming in from outside (less than 2%), but by seniors who were born here or came young, have worked, contributed to the economy and aged here and have no intention of leaving in their lifetimes.
- Restore funding to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for youth services. Alaska ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in terms of support for youth below the poverty line. Don't further exacerbate K-12 school dropout rates caused by kids not being able to concentrate because they are homeless and/or starving.
- Fund the FY2017 operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve fund (CBRF) if we don't have enough money in the general fund. That's what the CBRF was created for and right now contains \$8.69 BILLION. It will give us a softer landing rather than certain death at the bottom of the current bust cycle by allowing us time to do intelligently what we should have done after the 1980s recession—diversify our economy, protect our most vulnerable populations, and compete successfully in the state, national and world market.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

FUNDING SOURCES

The CBRF is the only way to go in this legislative session. It takes more time than available to reinstate state taxes, put the infrastructure in place and begin receiving the revenue to help us now. Capping the permanent fund dividends and diverting the leftover permanent fund interest to the general fund will probably also be necessary, but my guess is nobody is going to try that in an election year. But we can start now to diversify so we begin to receive general fund revenues from non-oil revenue sources before

we run out of the CBRF. And we can reinstate the state income tax to start generating revenue by 2018 to include wages of people who work in Alaska and live elsewhere.

## THE UNIVERSITY

Federal funding is the major contributor to university research. A significant component of Fed decisions to fund university research depends on the amount of state support for its university. Very often, federal funds are matched by rapidly disappearing state funds. No state funds, no matching fed funds, a double whammy.

University research produces data vital to the conduct of our lives and our industries— witness climate, housing, agriculture, engineering and marine research. Brings dollars into the state. For every one dollar of research funds, four dollars goes into Alaska's economy.

Cooperative Extension, takes the research data, translates it into ways we can apply to our lives and industries for our own self-sustainability, and works with us to make that happen. We better ourselves and contribute further to our economy as a result. Win-win.

Fire science produces trained personnel to predict, control and fight fires. Given higher than normal temperatures and reduced snow cover this winter, we are going to need all the help we can get. The University of Alaska has never been, and will never be, able to sustain itself without state support. The university is a land grant university but never received the lands necessary to sustain itself.

Former university president Mark Hamilton led the charge for nearly a decade to get us to diversify our economy to offset a crash in oil revenues. If any diversification occurred since then, nothing resulted to significantly add to the state's treasury, despite all university efforts. Former president Patrick Gamble, Hamilton's successor, saw that, looked at the continuing downturn in state funding, and led a massive strategic planning effort to get the university into position to handle budget reductions. President Johnson got here just in time for the hangover and thank heaven, he had worked for President Hamilton before so had previous university experience.

But God himself could not have imagined the cuts proposed by the 2016 legislature.

When cuts of this magnitude were imminent in the 1980s, the university was forced to declare its intention to declare financial exigency. Thankfully, the state pulled back from the edge, and the university was able to proceed to restructure without financial exigency. Financial exigency would lose UA all of its federal funding—ALL OF IT—and most likely most of not all of its corporate and private funding. UA might not be there yet, but my guess is that it might be inevitable given the current path of this legislature.

Regarding the university's ability to teach students, degree programs will be cut according to President Johnson, but it takes time. The university is legally bound to provide the resources for students in declared degree programs to finish their degrees if they choose to stay here. Legally bound. At the least that would take a year or two, four at the max, to chop that program.

The university is like the largest seagoing vessel you can imagine. You cannot hit the brakes and stop it on a dime. It takes time to grind a university to a halt.

Meanwhile, if history repeats itself, UA's now uncertain future is bound to scare away federal, corporate and private sources of funding, marketable faculty are looking for positions elsewhere, and students are going to states where the degree outlook is more stable. Budget cuts of this severity devalue degrees.

Circumpolar shipping routes are about to open if they haven't already. Alaska is the only state IN THE NATION on that route but we have little or no infrastructure except Unalaska to participate and absent the university research to help make that happen in a sustainable manner, the entire nation loses out. Or the nation, not wanting to lose out, funnels billions of dollars to other universities to do the work on Alaska land and waterways and all the economic benefit is reaped elsewhere. Ditto climate change research funds. Our coastlines are eroding daily. Alaska is warming faster than anywhere else. The first large fire occurred in Delta Junction in February and it rained last week in Denali. IN FEBRUARY!

According to the American Council on Education, Alaska is leading the charge to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education, predicting that at the rate the trend is going, Alaska's state support for higher education will reach zero by 2025. The University of Alaska cannot survive without state support.

#### ALASKA'S YOUTH AND SENIORS

Cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services jeopardizes Alaska's most vulnerable—it's youth and elders. Youth poverty levels are rising. Youth homelessness is rising. Services and facilities are outstripped by need. Those who need the help are the site bound. They cannot afford to leave the state else if they wanted to. Churches and nonprofit organizations strive to fill the gap but are running out of resources.

The elder population is rising exponentially. Massive attempts are underway to help seniors age safely at home, and yet homeless camps are also filled with seniors. The senior population at or below poverty level is rising. The number of seniors over 85 years old is rising exponentially. Assisted living facilities cannot keep up with demand and many seniors cannot pay the astronomical prices for those facilities anyway. Community senior centers provide meals on wheels to home bound seniors. In the Fairbanks area alone, the Fairbanks Senior Center will serve upwards of 50,000 meals on wheels and meals at the senior center in 2016 alone. This does not include all the educational programs and information distribution to keep seniors healthy, housed at home wherever possible, and safe. DHSS funds support to senior centers and youth programs through grants is vital to even begin meeting these demands. General relief, public assistance heating assistance, and the rest of the senior programs keeps elders at home and healthy for as long as possible so that our woefully inadequate number of assisted living facilities and nursing homes are not further overwhelmed. Homeless camps are full of seniors and youth now. I can't begin to imagine the economic impact of the DHSS cuts, other than to imagine our streets littered with the frozen bodies of the destitute.

#### RESTATE SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million proposed cuts to the UA budget proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee
- Restore \$19 million funding to the Department of Health and Social Services for senior services.
- Restore funding to DHSS for youth services.
- Fund the operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve if we don't have enough money in the general fund.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

## RESOURCES

Land grant university definition - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant\\_university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university)

Sea grant university definition - <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/whoweare.aspx>

Space grant university definition - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Space\\_Grant\\_College\\_and\\_Fellowship\\_Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Space_Grant_College_and_Fellowship_Program)

State Support for Higher Education - Now <http://www.acenet.edu/the-presidency/columns-and-features/Pages/state-funding-a-race-to-the-bottom.aspx> and in the 1980s <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED311794.pdf>

Role of UA Research - <https://www.alaska.edu/files/state/2016-research-finalreview.pdf>

Arctic Priorities - <http://www.adn.com/article/20160228/interview-It-gov-mallott-shares-arctic-priorities>

Climate change - <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/alaska.html> and

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/barrow-alaska-ground-zero-for-climate-change-7553696/?no-ist>

Cooperative Extension Service - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska\\_Cooperative\\_Extension\\_Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Cooperative_Extension_Service)

Youth statistics - <http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/report-childhood-poverty-rates-increasing-in-alaska/35426050> and

[http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report\\_cards/long/ak\\_long.pdf](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/long/ak_long.pdf)

Aging Statistics - [http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA\\_StatePlan\\_FY16-FY19.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_StatePlan_FY16-FY19.pdf) and

<https://www.caregiverlist.com/Alaska/DepartmentOnAging.aspx>

FY 2017 Budget and the Constitutional Budget Reserve - <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/Other/SwissArmyKnife10.pdf> page 26,

and <http://treasury.dor.alaska.gov/Investments/Constitutional-Budget-Reserve.aspx> and

<http://www.legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2016/Operating/HouseSubNumbers/UOA-Narrative.pdf> and

[http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska\\_news/budget-crisis-leads-to-possible-restructure-of-ua-system/article\\_9d61e928-c538-11e5-ba45-033c110d85f1.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/budget-crisis-leads-to-possible-restructure-of-ua-system/article_9d61e928-c538-11e5-ba45-033c110d85f1.html) and <http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf> and

<http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf> and

<http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/BudgetReports/LY2016/Operating/SenateFinance/2016-AgencySummary.pdf>

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Frank Rion <frion@accessalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:23 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please consider the TRUE costs of budget cuts to Vital Programs!

My name is Frank Rion, both as a lifelong Alaskan and disabled since my Stroke in 2007, I have been a direct beneficiary of various programs such as those offered through the Department of Vocational Rehab and Access Alaska. As well as nearly a decade volunteering with agencies such as

Alaska Regional Hospital, and Adult Protective Services I've witnessed firsthand the good works these and similar agencies do for Alaska.

As an employee at Access Alaska in the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet, I witness an operation that saves the citizens of Alaska

A sizeable amount of money annually in medical savings. It is a frequent fact that budget restraints frequently cause cuts from social programs

In greater depth than other programs. Often due either to being undervalued or just not advocated for enough in the legislatures.

Once upon a time preventative measures were valued in America for the savings garnered both in an individual's health, but also in the obvious

savings in healthcare costs down the road. This analogy is just as prevalent with most preventative social programs, and the State will definitely

pay in the long run if programs are cut now without due consideration.

Alaska is presently facing some of the tough decisions that many other States have had to deal with in recent decades, and unlike with many States

Alaska still has several options to help overcome its deficits. Reinstating a State income tax, in conjunction with the Permanent Fund or revisiting the recent disastrous tax incentives handed to the oil companies doing business with the State to name but two.

In closing we need realistic solutions to this situation, not just belt tightening measures. Cost cutting measures must seriously be examined lest

They cost us all FAR more in future than they save us today.

Sincerely



Frank John Rion, DME Program Access Alaska, Inc




**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** J. Arlene Ronda <jaronda51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget

I SUPPORT a graduated INCOME TAX sufficient to play its part in providing a THRIVING Public education system, state infrastructure, social services and environmental protection.  
Where there is a choice between permanent fund dividend payments and setting adequate use taxes and income taxes, I favor maintaining a dividend payment.  
As to oil and gas production tax credits it looks like Alaskan citizens are paying production companies more than the citizens will ever get back from their "investment". That should stop. Now.  
Thanks for your work on our behalf.  
Arlene Ronda  
Homer

 Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lou Theiss <theiss111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:35 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Cuts - falling dominos shock

Last yrs operating budget cut AST budget. The good people at DPS took it all seriously and gave Girdwood 6 months notice. Not even time to vote in policing power or raise our own taxes for public safety.

At first we got offered high priced plans that would have subsidized APD and AST at our expense. Local property tax payers would be burdened with the cost of patrolling State Highways. That is a statewide cost.

I support a strong AST, DPS presence . Let's give them a workable budget. Let's pay for it with statewide taxes and user fees: income tax; gas tax; vehicle licensing fees;

Lou Theiss, Girdwood

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Margie Brennan <athensokster@icloud.com>  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

You need to put the mega bullshit projects on hold (Ambler road, Knik bridge, Road to nowhere out of Juneau, Susitna dam, Rail extension to Pt Mac and the LNG project) and lay everyone off that is involved with these projects until we have the money to pay for them. You blew \$35,000 On the Tajmahawker project because no one wanted to be the one that said it was a bad deal. No there isn't one place to cut that will make up the full deficit. But if we cut everywhere we can, it will get there. And we wouldn't have to touch the permanent fund. You want to take \$43,000 from the elderly but don't want to be ethical about your own spending and pay. We need to get some taxes from all the out of state workers. 87,000 of them. We also need to get some money from the millions of tourist that come up here and pay nothing. How can you make a financial decision on the LNG project if you don't even have a place to sell the gas or a price for it? And then you want to spend \$1.4 million on someone to find this market? You people march to the beat of a different drum them people that have to live within a budget. I could balance this budget in six months. There would be some unhappy people but the majority of Alaskans would be satisfied.

Jerry Harris  
Willow

Sent from my iPad

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Loren Stanton <lorenk@kpunet.net>  
**Int:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** So you want input on the state budget??

Dear Legislators:

I am going to take you all at face value and suspend disbelief for a moment and actually try to give you some advice about the state's finances.

If I am going to believe that you will listen I will lay it out for you. I understand you think you need money to run, you need to secure your base, and you think you need to be political about the budget but the fact is Alaskans are tired of all that political nitpicking. The only thing you need to run, win, and secure your base is to take care of the budget. I have worked on in excess of 20 campaigns, worked on capitol hill in Washington, and have worked for the Alaska Senate.

First, no one wants the Oil business to receive any tax credits. Cut them all. I know that once Alaskan's are reducing their PFD's or paying an income tax or a statewide sales tax that the gifts to the oil business will basically us giving the oil companies money back that we already put in the PF or are paying out of our own pockets. This cannot stand.

Second, we need to get out of the gas business. Cut the gas line money. All of it now reputed to be at around 100 million depending on who you talk to...we don't need to be paying into a fund with our "partners" when they are not even interested in making this investment now. This is a good business decision. Stop sending good money after bad. No more planning for a gas line. No more funding "marketing" money for a gas line and certainly we do not need a line item for 1.3 million for someone to galavant around the pacific rim trying to sell our overpriced, non existent gas. Cut the 40 Million. Cut the subset of 26.5 million.

Third, cut all consultants and so called experts that you all hire. If you cannot understand something yourself hire staff that can do the research. If staff cannot understand it get new staff or consult the professionals in the department most relevant to the subject at hand or even ask legislative research.

Fourth, stop paying Washington lobbyists.

Fifth, you need to look at the last 15 years of budget actuals. I found the information so you certainly can. If the legislature spent 47 M in 2007 then you certainly don't need 69 M in 2016! Almost every department needs to be cut back to reasonable levels where they can do the job they are supposed to and no more. I don't think you need to do it line by line or even itemize it. Let the commissioners do their jobs and be the "bad guys". Cut the departments by a percentage or an amount. I am not a believer in across the board cuts but almost all departments need to be cut a reasonable amount and the 2007 actuals are educational and reasonable. 10 years ago we were not poor nor were we being as extravagant as today.

There are some department exceptions but not many. Education is an obvious exception. There are other good reasons that a department increased its expenditures since 2007 but the legislature is not one of them. The governors office has not grown its budget much in 10 years. It is time to be leaders...cut your budget by 40% minimum!

As for corrections we need to stop jailing people for no purpose. Specifically we need to follow the constitution and allow for reasonable bail pretrial. Most judges around the state are jacking up bail pretrial. We need to end the practice of requiring third party custodians pretrial. That does not allow for the constitutional reasonable bail provision to work.

I could talk about line items but I think the work should be done by administrators.

I give this advice quickly and concisely but if you need additional help contact me by email.

Sincerely,

L. Keith Stanton  
Ketchikan

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Annie Passarello <lillysparrow@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on the operating budget proposals

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

First off, I appreciate the challenge facing the committee and I want to say thank you for taking the task before you seriously as your proposal will impact all Alaskans.

I will not pretend to have had the time to look at every line item cut that was proposed as I do have a full-time job and as such simply do not have the time to read the entire breathed of Walker's document and other proposals.

That being said, I am in favor of limiting the PFD and creating a "set amount" each year. By capping the PFD two things will occur. First off, the public will be guaranteed a PFD so you will eliminate the ire that would surely occur if you cut the program entirely. Second, the cap would allow the funds generated in excess of the cap to be utilized in other areas of the budget. The oil crisis is not going to go away any time soon and Alaskans need to accept that. My proposal would be to cap the PFD at \$500.00 per person who qualifies and files on time.

Second, there is a warranted fear over the loss of jobs on the slope and in the oil sector. Instead of viewing this as a negative I suggest we look at this as an opportunity to take Alaska in the direction of renewable and sustainable resources. Renewable energy jobs are the largest growing sector of jobs in the country and Alaska can capitalize on that trend. We can begin to work to generate opportunities for solar energy to offset the loss of oil and gas. We need to invest in programs that can train solar installers and designers. In addition, the city of Juneau is embarking on a renewable energy project to power the city using hydro power. Again, this is possible in various regions of Alaska and would generate jobs to create. It is something worth considering as we move into a oil recession.

We need to create a budget that does not rely on the oil revenue. That is what created the problem we are not facing. Relying on single source revenue was never a good plan and someone had to have the foresight to think that someday that revenue would slow or dry up entirely. We need to diversify our revenue generation.

In addition to capping the PFD, I suggest an across the board, flat-rate tax of 1% to all households. Yes, it means filing state taxes, but that is not uncommon and in fact is it something that occurs in 46 other states. There is a growing number of out-of-state residents - meaning those of us from the Lower 48 that relocated to Alaska and now call Alaska home. For those of us from out-of-state paying a state tax is not a burden or unreasonable as this is something we are very used to. It would be novel to those born and raised Alaskans but not to the rest of us. A flat tax on all income, no loopholes, no exceptions, no corporate right offs, none of that, a rate of 1% for all of us equally applied would help balance the budget and not place any undo burden on the citizens.

Finally, the issue of a sales tax has come up. Some towns already have a sales tax, Homer and Wasilla are just examples. The issues is how much to tax and what is taxable are the areas of concern. My suggestion is to look at Pennsylvania as an example. In Pennsylvania the sales tax is 6% but not on food, clothes, or items of shelter. Human necessities are not taxed. Buying food in a grocery store is not taxed but eating at a restaurant is

taxed. This means that tourists will help contribute to the overall state income as they predominately eat out and mostly don't buy clothes or items for shelter here. There is concern of sales tax but that will not impact tourism as again the majority of tourists come from countries, states, towns, etc that have very high sales tax.

Furthermore the Pennsylvania tax rate has not changed once in 41 years (as long as I've been alive it's been 6%). It's not an egregious amount and it contributes to these states income.

These are my suggestions for your review. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Annie Passarello  
Anchorage

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sharon Winner <winners@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Proposed cuts go too far

Cuts like the ones to pre-K, the university, foster care programs & senior citizens for home heating, etc. are horribly misguided. If you want to cut, cut out spending on more studies on what to do about the LIO & on ridiculous lawsuits that we can't win, and stop passing unconstitutional laws like the current proposed law regarding sex education in schools that will just lead to more unneeded legal spending. We need new revenue & a plan for fiscal stability along the lines of what Gov. Walker has proposed, and as Gunnar Knapp's presentation makes clear. We also need to make sure we are getting adequate tax returns from the oil & gas industry instead of paying them money for no return. We need all these things to get done THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

Sharon M. Winner

Paralegal & Office Manager

Winner & Associates, P.C.

100 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 700

Anchorage, AK 99501-2044

(907) 277-9522 (office)

(907) 277-9524 (direct)

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swinner@winnerlaw.com

www.winnerlaw.com

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Sent from my iPad

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** ed czech <edddd26@hotmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget testimony

Dear Sirs,

Do not raid the pfd or implement any kind of tax until all funding for Alaska mega projects has been removed from the buget. This includes Susitna hydroproject, Ambler mining road, Juneau road to nowhere, Knick Arm bridge to nowhere. It is despicable that you would consider destroying the Alaskan frontier by stealing the money out of hardworking Alaskans pocketbooks. If you need to fund the government tax the oil companies, loggers, industrial fishers and trawlers and miners.

Sincerely,

Edward J Czech

Hope, Alaska

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

BOROUGH OF HAINES RESOLUTION

No. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE BOROUGH OF HAINES, ALASKA, REQUESTING ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LESS SEVERE CUTS TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and additional fiscal years in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in rough choices and difficult cuts in all facets of State Government all across Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential emergency service supported by the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural, and education information to Alaska residents, not to mention programming and entertainment; and

**WHEREAS**, the public broadcasting budget is facing significant reductions in the legislative process; and


**WHEREAS**, cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY 17 but the proportion of the reduction for public broadcasting is disproportionate in comparison and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency information, regional information sharing, entertainment and community information.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** by the Assembly of the Borough of Haines, Alaska, to respectfully request the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission in FY20 17 budget.

ADOPTED: January 26, 2016

ATTEST:

  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
David L. Jack, Mayor



Proposed by:	Assemblyman Morgan
Attorney Review:	02/25/2016
Vote:	6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Absent

**MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 16-07R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LESS SEVERE BUDGET CUTS TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION.**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and additional years in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in all facets of state government across Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential emergency service supported by the State of Alaska; and


**WHEREAS**, public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural and educational information to Alaska residents, in addition to programming and entertainment; and


**WHEREAS**, the public broadcasting budget is facing significant proposed reductions in the legislative process; and

**WHEREAS**, cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY2017, but the proportion of the proposed reduction for public broadcasting is disproportionate in comparison and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of emergency information, regional information sharing, entertainment and community information;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska, respectfully requests the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission than are currently being proposed for the FY2017 budget.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Schaefer, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Emily A. Deach  
Municipal Clerk  
(SEAL)





"Yee gu.aa yax x'wan."

An Indian Reorganization Act Village  
Under Act of Congress June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1935  
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska 99827  
HC60 Box 2207 Haines, Alaska 99827  
Phone: (907) 767-5505  
Fax: (907) 767-5518  
Email: klukwan@chilkat-nsn.gov

## RESOLUTION # 2016-1

### A Resolution of Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Council Requesting Alaska Legislature to Consider Less Severe Cuts to Public Broadcasting Services in Alaska

- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village Tribe has been in existence since time & immemorial; and
- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan is a duly constituted Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250) and in accordance with section 16 & 17; and
- WHEREAS;** the Chilkat Indian Village Council acting as the duly constituted governing body of the Chilkat Indian Village, pursuant of Article V Section (j) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Chilkat Indian Village has authority to negotiate with federal and state agencies and organizations for the benefit of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS;** the State of Alaska is facing another challenging budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2017, and likely additional fiscal years in the near future ; and
- WHEREAS,** a budget shortfall of this magnitude results in tough choices and difficult cuts in every facet of State Government all across Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Public Broadcasting is a statewide essential service supported by the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS;** public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural, and education information to Alaska residents, not to mention entertaining programming; and
- WHEREAS;** the public broadcasting budget is facing another round of significant reductions in the legislative process; and
- WHEREAS;** cuts to all segments of government are expected for FY17 but the proportion of the reduction to public broadcasting appears disproportionate and will adversely affect the availability of local services across Alaska, especially in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of community and regional news and information sharing; and
- WHEREAS;** losses in federal matching funds for stations will result from additional state cuts; and

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE

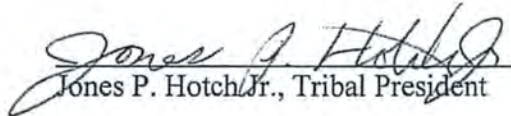


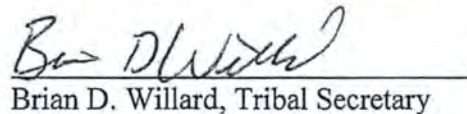
"Yee gu.aa yax x'wan."

**An Indian Reorganization Act Village  
Under Act of Congress June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1935**  
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska 99827  
HC60 Box 2207 Haines, Alaska 99827  
Phone: (907) 767-5505  
Fax: (907) 767-5518  
Email: klukwan@chilkat-nsn.gov

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Chilkat Indian Village Council respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to Alaska's Public Broadcasting Services in the FY2017 budget.

**CERTIFICATION:** This certifies that the foregoing resolution of the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan, Alaska was adopted. The Chilkat Indian Village Council is made up of 7 members with a quorum of 7 established. The foregoing resolution was adopted on this 19th day of February, 2016, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent, 0 excused and 0 abstaining.

  
Jones P. Hotch Jr., Tribal President

  
Brian D. Willard, Tribal Secretary

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Gretchen Clarke <gretchensclarke@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:54 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Public Broadcasting

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of public broadcasting and the vital role it plays throughout Alaska. While I appreciate the difficult financial circumstances facing the state and the difficult decisions that must be made, public broadcasting, like police and fire, plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities. A 100% cut would cause serious and permanent financial harm to the public radio stations around the state, including my own local station, KCAW. Stations would be forced to enact layoffs which would result in loss of essential daily local, regional, and state news and information including essential local/community health, public safety and emergency information--information not otherwise readily available throughout the state, particularly in rural Alaska.

Stations are already maximizing local and listener support through membership revenue. Local support is strong, but it cannot carry another round of state cuts. Further cutting funding for public broadcasting will have a domino effect locally, regionally, and statewide as stations are forced to layoff staff. This, in turn, will jeopardize federal operating grants which require a minimum number of employees. Thus federal matching dollars coming into Alaska will be reduced.

As a tough fiscal climate in the state, but eliminating public services like public broadcasting will further jeopardize the welfare of our great state. I urge you to please keep public broadcasting alive.

Regards,

Gretchen Clarke  
Sitka, Alaska

--

Gretchen S. Clarke, MPH  
[gretchensclarke@gmail.com](mailto:gretchensclarke@gmail.com)

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Rosenblatt, Joel <Joel.Rosenblatt@morganstanley.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:48 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Radio

Dear Finance Committee:

I have been a frequent visitor to Alaska over the past 23 years, have family in Valdez and have been a supporter and contributor to KCHU Terminal Radio

during that time period as well as my local Public radio station here in Pennsylvania.

KCHU is truly unique as it serves the largest geographic region of any Public Radio station in the entire United States. While Alaska is truly unique also,

The remote areas that this public radio station serves cover places that have no internet and spotty TV service.

If you haven't been there, once you get past the 11 mile marker from Valdez to the 70 mile marker, there is no phone service but you can hear the news on KCHU.

From mile marker 70 to 90 there is spotty coverage. This station plays a key part not only in their immediate community but in a large geographical area around it.

Cutting funding from public radio and broadcasting is foolish when you consider YOUR constituents that are listeners and may be affected by it.

I urge you to rethink your understanding. This is Public Radio, the key word being Public...and those people are voters.

  
Joel

Joel Rosenblatt, CRPS

*First Vice President*

*Wealth Advisor*

*Senior Investment Management Consultant*

*Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist*

NMLS # 1369289

**The Rosenblatt – Kempf Group at  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Cicciarella, Bob

Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:55 PM

To: Representative\_Seaton

Subject: KBBI Funding

Paul,

I was just informed that a decision was made to no longer provide State funding for KBBI Radio in Homer. I totally understand the issues with the State of Alaska's financial situation and know that the legislators have a difficult task ahead however, I feel that supporting KBBI's funding would have a minimal financial impact but yield a maximum return on investment to warrant a reconsideration.

As I am sure you know, KBBI is the most listened to Radio Station in the Greater Homer Area where we do not have the luxury of a big city market with multiple private stations to choose from. Local residents tune in for information not only day to day but whenever there is a major emergency where KBBI is the "Go To" resource. Residents benefitted from key up-to-date information broadcasted during the Mile 17 Fire, Redoubt Eruption, multiple Power Outages as well as during Tsunami Siren Alerts and Severe Storms so much so there is a message announcement at the end of the Tsunami Warning Siren activation, directing the public to tune in to your local radio station for more information.

Emergency Services depends on KBBI as a resource vehicle to deliver timely information to the public during major emergencies and disasters. KESA along with The Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management have used air time to proactively deliver public education on topics such as disaster planning, Fire Wise-wildland fire mitigation programs.

I pledge my support for this non-profit radio station to continue to receive State funding to help keep them in operation at least until other alternatives or means of income can be secured.

Respectfully,

Bob

Robert W. Cicciarella

Chief, Kachemak Emergency Services

President, Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association IAFC, CFI, NFPA, NASAR

53048 Ashwood Ave

Homer, Alaska 99603

(907) 235-9811

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor CVB <unalaskacvb@gmail.com>  
**It:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** KUCB Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

Dear House Finance Committee,

I hope this finds you doing well. It is a trying time for the state in terms of budget and I appreciate all of your hard work toward this very difficult and complex issue. I wish to express my fear for the lack of public media funding in the state for FY17 and the effect it would have on our community of Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor. We are very fortunate to have and dependent upon KUCB 89.7FM as our only source of daily news for the community. KUCB is vital here due to our lack of reliable cellular service and internet as we cannot always access important information without their aid. I listen to the station seven days a week to keep abreast of the happenings within our community. As a Tourism Bureau I refer potential visitors, those seeking employment/relocation here, and local businesses to KUCB as it is the only local source of pertinent information. In addition to the news, KUCB manages our community calendar, posts classifieds, runs public service announcements, aids in promoting local events, and so much more. Please consider the priceless value of public media specifically in smaller Alaskan communities whom are not on the road system when pushing budget cuts. We simply would not have daily local news without the brilliant work of KUCB in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,  
Randy Shinn

Kandy Shinn  
Executive Director  
Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor  
Convention and Visitors Bureau

907-581-2612  
[www.unalaska.info](http://www.unalaska.info)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jeremy Cohen <coh.jer@gmail.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Fund Public Radio

Public Radio in Alaska is an essential service! Whether I am at my cabin in McCarthy, home in Anchorage, or traveling around the state of Alaska for work, I depend on public radio for news and safety messaging. I cannot recount the number of times public radio was the vector for me to learn important, sometimes potentially life-saving information. Public radio also provides as close to bias-free news coverage as perhaps is possible, for which I greatly appreciate it. I can only assume that any legislator that truly feels public broadcasting in Alaska is a non-essential service has never spent an appreciable amount of time in rural communities in the state. I will continue to fund public broadcasting in Alaska as long as it exists, and I will be sure to not offer my support for any legislator that votes to remove it from sources of public funding. I cannot think of a friend or acquaintance who has verbalized to me their desire to strip public broadcasting of public funding.

Thank you for considering my comments,  
Jeremy Cohen

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Radio

Kristen Pratt  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

-----Original Message-----

From: tamar harrison [mailto:tidaldrift@outlook.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:58 AM  
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public Radio

Hello,  
My name is Tamar Harrison and I live in Skagway. I am writing to ask you to please not cut funding for public radio. Here in the Upper Lynn canal we have KHNS and it truly is a vital part of our community. From emergency broadcasts to daily local news, it is a massive part of how our very isolated communities stay connected. Please consider us. Thank you  
Tamar Harrison

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Restore all FY17 State Grant Funding for Public Broadcasting!

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

**From:** James Nelson [mailto:akwxmon@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:10 PM

**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>

**Cc:** Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Restore all FY17 State Grant Funding for Public Broadcasting!

Dear Alaska Senate,

I am a loyal fan of public/community radio bringing community news and also alerting listeners in ways to help our community. Please do not take this away from our communities.

Secure/Preserve emergency response and local voices

- We understand the tough choices that the Governor and legislature face due to the financial crisis of the State of Alaska. The Governor has included in the FY17 budget, a 27% cut to public broadcasting.
- KNBA is the official 'Local Primary 2' station in Anchorage and Mat-Su area. In emergency situations and in the event the first station is unable to broadcast emergency alert communications, KNBA will be relied upon to do this. This is out of the nearly 30 radio stations in our market. KNBA and other public stations have the technical infrastructure to disseminate emergency information. While internet and cell service maybe available, these can be unreliable in times of emergency and unaffordable to economically disadvantaged and elderly. The KNBA emergency alert system is key to the welfare and safety to Alaska largest city and local vicinity.
- 100% cut will cause serious financial instability for KNBA, our network of stations and the daily Native news service. Stations airing our National Native News programming will no longer be able to provide this to their communities. The loss of state funding will severely impact KNBA's ability to administer and attract an additional 25% of federal matching dollars. The daily Native news service and the Native Voice 1 distribution service could lose additional tens of thousands federal matching dollars.

- Broadcast of Yup'ik, Inupiaq and Tlingit language programming would not be available in the Anchorage area and throughout the state, where young Alaskan's are striving to find connection with their identity.
- Commercial broadcasters and other media do not invest the resources to produce daily productions with local Alaska Native voices as only KNBA does.
- KNBA will not be able to recoup the loss of \$108,000 State of Alaska grant with local resources or federal grants and more remote villages with no cash economy would not have a public safety outlet.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Mountain Sky Hotel <reservations@mountainskyhotel.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Media

Thank you Representative Jim Colver for your continued support of Public Media. Senator Mike Dunleavy 100% non funding is ridiculous - yes there is lots of cuts that needs to be done for the budget - including your pay & benefits. Believe it would be possible to cut some of the funding but 100% is not fair. Thanks Ramouna

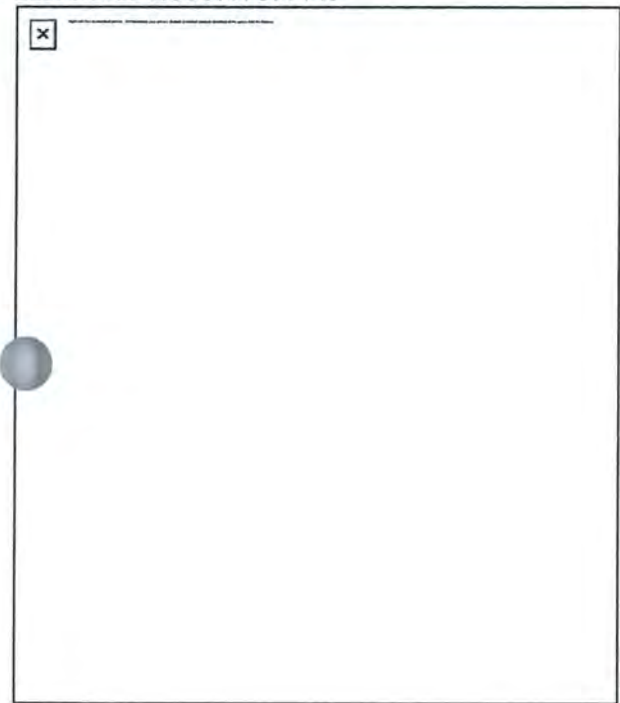
**Mountain Sky Hotel & Suites**

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Valdez, AK 99686

Ph: 907.835.4445 Fax: 907.835.2437

Toll Free: 1.800.478.4445



**Be Green, Keep it on the Screen**

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** karinbodony@exede.net  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Radio Funding

Good afternoon,

I am writing to ask you to consider restoring funding for Public Radio in Alaska. In rural communities of Alaska, Public Radio is a central part of community life. Through Public Radio we receive national, state and local news. It is a vital tool for communicating information related to hunting and fishing, including openings and closures, and important public health and safety information related to things like wildfires and floods. In much of Alaska there are areas where there is no cell phone coverage, and people rely on their radio to get information. Our Public Radio station also shares important community events, including basketball games, dog races, and other activities that connect us to people in surrounding villages.

Unless you have spent time in rural Alaska, it can be difficult to comprehend how vital the radio still is in these communities. Please take this into consideration while working on the budget for the coming fiscal year. I understand that you are facing huge difficulties and must make difficult choices, but I do not believe a 100 percent cut to Public Radio funding should be one of those choices.

Respectfully,  
Karin Bodony

PO Box 84  
Galena, AK 99741

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect radio funding

*Kristen Pratt*  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

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**From:** Kendall Nordin [mailto:kendall\_somewhere@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:22 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please protect radio funding

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I apologize for not being able to call in during one of the open phone sessions, but I will be at work during that time. Thank you for listening and considering this important citizen input.

In a previous career, I worked in DC on helping to pass the FCC regulations that reinstated Low Power FM Radio licenses. We fought in a broad coalition with groups as diverse as conservative Christian communities and Jazz fanatics in large cities. We all knew that radio, and truly local radio is a fundamental tool for communities to function well. Here in Skagway we rely on KHNS for weather, road conditions, water conditions, tsunami warnings, local news, community announcements, native programming, and entertainment. With prohibitively expensive cable tv and internet rates, it's also our only free source to world wide, national, state, and first nation news. If it disappears, so does our tether to each other and our lifeline to the larger communities we belong to -- the State of Alaska & the country as a whole.

By gutting the funding for public radio, we will lose all of our federal matching grant and therefore our ability to use the public airwaves in the Upper Lynn Canal to our maximum advantage. As our communities are so spread out, this will diminish our ability to connect with our fellow citizens, leave us without good information and reporting on local affairs, and will hinder our ability to participate in the important decisions of this area democratically. I also firmly believe that those actions ultimately lead to a halting of any comprehensive progress towards local economic growth, which our state desperately needs. I support Governor Walker's proposal of maintaining the cut at 27% of the original line item.

I am not unaware of the current economic crisis we face in Alaska. But when priorities have to be defined, protection of free access to local information on the public airwaves should be without question near the top of the list.

Thank you again for spending your valuable time listening to and weighing our concerns.  
Kendall Emery,  
Skagway, Alaska.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** math <math.trafton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:04 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Cutting Public Broadcasting?

To whom it may concern:

I have recently heard of proposals to cut funding to Alaska public broadcasting. As an Alaskan, I would like to express that I am **strongly against** any measures to further defund such valuable state entities.

I know that we are facing very difficult financial times, and all areas are essentially subject to scrutiny and potential cuts -- some more than others. Completely removing funding to any program that is widely used is always dangerous, but it's especially dangerous when it's a force as integral to Alaskan communities as public broadcast. Alaskans are, on average, far more cut off than any other Americans. Many of us live on islands or off the roadways, and many of our nearest neighboring cities or towns are hundreds of miles away. It can indeed be expensive to broadcast material across these divides, but sometimes it's all we have. It's important that Alaskans remain connected to the community through news and other broadcasting.

I live in Sitka, and not only is the radio vital for relaying important national news, it's also responsible for reporting on local activities. Even more than this, though, it's vital in creating and supporting community activities.

I strongly urge you to reconsider any efforts to further cut funding to Alaska public broadcasting.

My sincerest gratitude,  
-Math Trafton

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Pete Kelly  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:17 AM  
**To:** Doniece Gott  
**Subject:** FW:

Testimony

**From:** Maite Kettleon [mailto:youthkettleon@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:32 AM

**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>

**Subject:**

March 8th,16  
Maite Lorente Rial  
101 Etolin St  
Sitka, AK-99835  
907 7523747

Dear Senator:

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in it's range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. if libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Sincerely,

Maite Lorente Rial

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: OWL Funding

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

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**From:** Nancy Bertels [mailto:Nancy.Bertels@matsugov.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL Funding

 Dear Senators:

Please consider adding OWL funding back into the Senate Finance Committee's Budget. Since its inception OWL has been vital for 43 rural libraries in bringing broadband internet into their communities. This program brings with it a 4-1 match of federal e-rate dollars and guarantees that folks across that state without the resources will be able to participate in the 21st century at their local public libraries. It enables them to be able to apply for jobs, file their taxes and secure skills that might not be available in their communities. except through their public library

In these difficult budget times, the videoconferencing capabilities of OWL has been able to connect residents of rural communities with college classes, communication with their local and state legislators and the ability to attend statewide meetings without incurring the high costs of travel from rural Alaska. Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Nancy Bertels

 on Public Library

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska OWL program

*Kristen Pratt*  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

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**From:** Greg Mandel [mailto:greg.mandel@cityofsitka.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska OWL program

lo,

I'm the Electronic Outreach Librarian at Sitka Public Library, and I want to urge you to fully fund the Alaska OWL program.

The Alaska OWL program assists our library in offering public access to the Internet. A lot of our citizens here can't afford home computers, or home internet access. They depend on the library to connect to the outside world via the Internet, and the Alaska OWL program gives us bandwidth support that would cost us an additional \$300-400 a month for our public access computers without the assistance of the OWL program.

In addition, the Alaska OWL program connects our patrons and the citizens of Sitka to the rest of the state through a whole host of videoconferencing programs. The OWL network offers programs on everything from health and safety, to panel discussions on important social issues and pending legislation. The network allows citizens from our community to have a voice to express their concerns about these important issues, and gives them the opportunity to connect with other Alaskans from all around the state to discuss these important matters that affect their lives. The citizens of our community use the OWL network to learn, and to connect to educational programs that improve and enrich their daily lives in a way that they will not be able to do without the OWL network.

I realize you've got a lot of numbers at your disposal, a lot of facts and figures. But I'd like to put a human face on what the OWL program offers to communities like Sitka, in Southeast Alaska, that are isolated and depend

on internet connectivity to the outside world. A while back, a local woman here was providing foster care for a young child who was diagnosed with childhood diabetes. And she needed information on how to care for the child, just day-to-day care with issues like how and what to feed and treat her child, and she was able – through our OWL connection at the library – connect with doctors in Anchorage who, for two days taught her how to eat and feed her child. And without the library’s OWL connection, she would not have been able to make that connection.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Greg Mandel

Electronic Outreach Librarian

Kettleon Memorial Library

320 Harbor Drive

Sitka, AK 99835

(907) 747-4025

[greg.mandel@cityofsitka.org](mailto:greg.mandel@cityofsitka.org)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: OWL Funding

*Kristen Pratt*  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

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**From:** Lisa Booch [mailto:boochlisa@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:22 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL Funding

Senator MacKinnon,

I am a 26 year veteran of the Kodiak Public Library.

I had a chance to speak to the Governor before he was our Governor. In that conversation I expressed to him the evolving role of libraries as a bridge to technology for a vast number of our residents. This is the same technology that local, federal and Alaska state agencies are using to cut their budgets by closing local offices and reducing personnel in favor of an internet interface with the residents of Alaska.

Who then takes care of your residents that do not have computers skills? Who provides equipment and broadband service to those that can not afford it at home? Who takes people in hand that do not understand the agencies instructions and forms?

Your Public Libraries and their staff have become your local representative, your satellite office. We are your partners, we fill those gaps and those needs.

Just as a carpenter needs his tools to frame a house, your Public Libraries need broadband internet to do their job. We are a tool in your belt as essential as the hammer in the carpenters tool belt. The governor understands this, and that is why he left OWL in the budget.

Please restore OWL funding into the budget so that we can continue to serve you and also receive those 4-1 matching federal e-rate dollars.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Booch  
Kodiak Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Restore funding for OWL

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

**From:** carla doroff [mailto:carla.doroff@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:23 AM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restore funding for OWL

name is Carla Doroff, and I'm asking you to restore funding for OWL.

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in its range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. If libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference.

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska OWL Funding

*Kristen Pratt*  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

---

**From:** Debra Waldorf [mailto:dwaldorf@ci.homer.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska OWL Funding

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

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Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Waldorf

Library Technician II

Homer Public Library

 [waldorf@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:waldorf@ci.homer.ak.us)

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**t:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Restore OWL funding in the Governor's budget

*Kristen Pratt*  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

---

**From:** Beth Skow [mailto:bskow@palmerak.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Beth Skow <bskow@palmerak.org>  
**Subject:** Restore OWL funding in the Governor's budget

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

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Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Thank you,

Beth Skow  
Library Director

City of Palmer  
Palmer Public Library

<http://pplak.org>

907 761-1371

907 746-3570 (Fax)

655 S. Valley Way

Palmer, Alaska 99645

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Sen. Pete Kelly  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:17 AM  
**To:** Doniece Gott  
**Subject:** FW: Restore funding for OWL

**From:** Page Brannon [mailto:brannon.page@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Restore funding for OWL

My name is Page Brannon, and I'm asking you to restore funding for OWL.

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

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	Lauren D. Fisher	UAF Fairbanks					✓		
	Mikhail Romardor	UAF Fairbanks					✓		
	David K. Moore	UAF Supporter community							✓
	Gordon Spencer	UAF FAIRBANKS					✓		
	Sandy Campos	UAF Fbx						✓	
	Patricia L. Seifert	UAF							
	Colin Coocetti	UAF					✓		
	Nicole Gumburg	UAF					✓		
	Kyrie Long	UAF					✓		
	Patrick Honora	UAF							✓



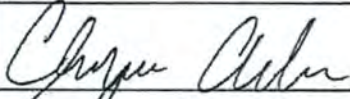

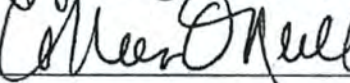
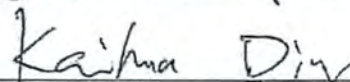



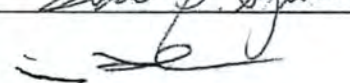
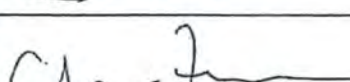
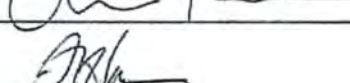
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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Comnty. Supporter
	Cheyenne Anderson	UAF / SW	541-230-4951	Cheyenne-davis-13@hotmail.com			/	/	
	Laycie Schneider	SW	907-456-5985	arctic.horizons@gmail.com			/		
	Colleen O'Neill	SW	907-388-1298	yanert.alaska@gmail.com				/	
	Kaihua Ding	UAF	907-455-3799	kding2@uaf.edu					/
	Anner Bruklov	UAF	907-347-8878	anringdear2@gmail.com					
	Steven Hunt	UAF	907-888-0404	shunt6712@gmail.com			/		
	Elena B. Sparrow	UAF	907-388-7030				/		
	Michele Frandsen	UAF	907-488-8232	frandsen@9ci.net				/	
	Christine Frandsen	UAF	907-347-1032	cfrandsen09@gmail.com			/		
	William Hazel	UAF	907-460-2728	billhazel@gmail.com				/	



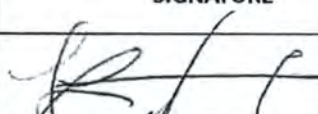
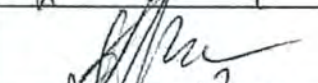
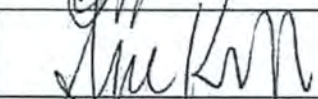
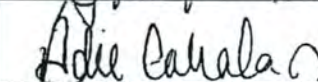
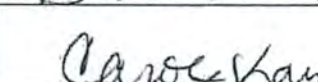
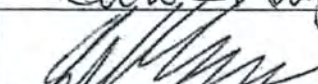
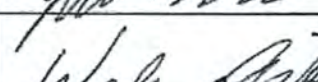
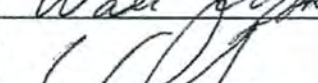
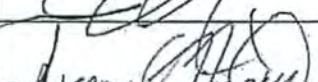

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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Comnty. Supporter
	Teresa Larry	UAF	907-452-6389	tlarry10@gmail	1				
	Victoria Forsythe	UAF	385-315-5563	victoria.forsythe@gmail.com			✓		
	Sue Keller	UAF	907-474-6703					✓	
	Adie Callahan	UAF	907-347-1626	subtractie@hotmail.com			✓	✓	
	Carol Kaynor	UAF	907-455-9663	carol.kaynor.com				✓	
	Jessica Garra	UAF	907-590-8204				✓		
	Wade Albright	UAF	907-479-9233	rwa907@gmail.com				✓	
	William Schab	UAF	907-699-2437	afschab@gmail.com			✓		
	Jeremy Nicoll	UAF	907-699-0708	jeremynicoll@gmail.com				✓	
	Victoria Wolf	UAF	907-452-5900	vickygwolf@gmail.com				✓	



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	JOHN S. THOMAS	UA	972-7027	stthomas@ua.edu				X	
	Chris Young	UA	374-3358	idchris256@gmail.com				X	
	Peter W Schutte	UAF SW	510 557 5846	Kaederr@gmail.com				X	
	Matthew Chandler	UA	450 8328					X	
	Sanae Sobel	UA	8340	—				X	
	Tabitha Hutchings	UAF/sw	8433					X	
	Allen Nassbaumer	UAF	5410	allen@alaska.edu			X	X	
	Dustin Bacon	SW		dustin2813@hotmail.com			X	X	
	Morgan Dufrene	SW	750-5262	Morgan.dufrene@gmail.com					
	Taylor Dine	SW	474.5987	tdine@alaska.edu			X	X	



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	Elizabeth Hinkey	UAF	907-750-9463	echinkey@alaska.edu			X		
	Ross Boling	UAF	(907) 903-0326	boling97@gmail			X		
	SARAH VILLALON	SW	360-5856 480-2122	Svillalon@central.alaska.edu				X	
	Elaine Main	SW	907 347 4998	elainemaine@hotmail.com				X	
	Connie Malatek	SW	907-388-5827	cmalatek@gmail.com				X	
	MIKE AMPATI	SW	907 456 4788					X	
	DIANE PEDERSON	SW	907 347 1779	dpederson@yahoo.com					X
	Kelly Ott	SW	907 388-7211	kellyott@gmail.com				X	
	Rita Murphy	SW	907-388-4633	rdawako@gmail				X	
	JAMES THOMAS	SW	702 493-1565	jthomas travels@yahoo.com				X	



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<i>Natasha Farley</i>	Natasha Farley	UAF	687-4175	nifarley@alaska.edu			X		
<i>Sally Kieper</i>	Sally Kieper	UAF	347-7017	Sally.Kieper@gmail.com				X	
<i>Nycoltt Ripley</i>	Nycoltt Ripley	UA	978-7879	navabkey@hotmail.com				X	
<i>Dianne Miller</i>	Dianne Miller	UA	388-8948					X	
<i>Lael Oldman</i>	Lael Oldman	UA	862-310-9563	laelie@yahoo.com				X	
<i>Buffy Kuiper</i>	Buffy Kuiper	UA	460-6341	alaskanprincess@hotmail.com				X	
<i>Dawn Lighthall</i>	Dawn Lighthall	UA	388-7669	dawn.alaska@yahoo.com				X	
<i>Lisa Molinar</i>	Lisa Molinar	UA	450-8207	lamolinar@alaska.ed				X	
<i>Connie Hooper</i>	Connie Hooper	UA	457-7407	clhooper60@gmail.com				X	
<i>Diane Slusher</i>	Diane Slusher	UA	799-9598	dianeslusher@gmail.com				X	



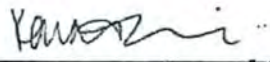
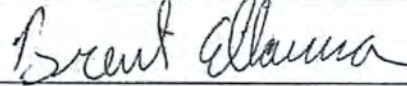
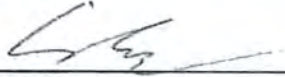
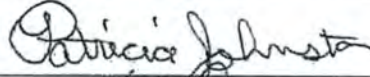
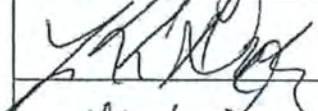

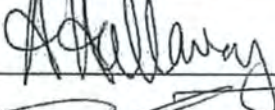

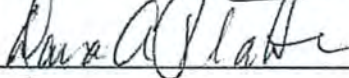
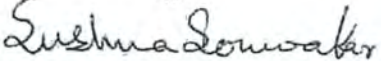
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	Kennedy Dembosi	UAF	9075752171	kennedy.dembosi@gmail.com	X		X		
	Brent Ellanna	UAF	9073713229	Brentae-241@yahoo.com			X		
	Craig Baldwin	UAF	488-9135					X	
	Patricia Johnston	UAF	457-3563	patriciaj@sci.net				X	
	Lausette M. Dietz	UAF	450-8410	ldietz@alaska.edu				X	
	Keiko A. Herrick	UAF	455-4664	keiko.herrick@gmail.com				X	
	Ashley Hollaway	SW	590-4710	ashleygallagher4@hotmail.com				X	
	Dane Filmyr	UAF	347-8405	dane-1:00@hotmail.com			X		
	Dana Platt	SW	347-0916	dplatt@yahoo.com				X	
	Sushma Sonwalkar	SW	6874274					X	



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	Gregg Christopher	UAF	907-978-8443	gchristopher@gmail.com				X	
	Kevin Jacobson	UAS	750 2937	JacobsonKE@gmail.com				X	
	LINDA M BACHOF	UAF SW	62-356-8036	Lindabachof@hotmail.com				X	
	Roxanne M Speagle	UAF SW	347-5667	roxie.speagle@live.com				X	
	DEBRA Kouda	UAF SW	347-8976	dkouda@me.com				X	
	Elizabeth Gottsche	UA	503 448 5855	dogowlan92@hotmail.com			X	X	
	Jeff Whiteside	UAF/SW	907 998-6770	jeff@jeffwhiteside.com				X	
	John A Koestle	UAF/SW	374-8353	Akoestle@hotmail.com				X	
	Eric Jensen	UAF/SW	458-7018	ajepj@hotmail.com				X	
	Elizabeth Lilly	UAF	479-8891	eklilly@hotmail.com				X	



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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Commy. Supporter
	Elaine Partnow	UAF	(907) 479-9654	gaaljudge@acs.alaska.net					X
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	Charleen Bdena	ALL	4576287	ccagun66@hotmail.com					X
	Jeannie English	UAF	488-2627	msjeanenglish@hotmail.com					X
	Jay Lawless	UAF	4882627	jaylawless@yahoo.com					X
	Christina Sinclair	UAF	687-1514	cmsinclair1@gmail.com			X		X
	Tristin Sinclair	UAF	687 1513	Tristin.Sinclair@gmail.com			X		
	Yelena Matusovich	UAF	4741060	Ymtrich@alaska.edu					
	Kim Freeman	UAF	451-1030	ksinfree@gmail.com					X
	Christina Puleo	UAF	443-889-4294	thefamily8eador					X



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	Anna Goddard	UAF alum	907 452-706	anna.goddard@gmail.com					X
	John Brown	School of Health Professions	5900614	Jbrown302@hotmail.com					X
	Lareena Goertz	UAF	907 347-4269	deseraul@yahoo.com					X
	Eric Schuetzle	UAF	474-1286	chevros@gmail.com					X
	Donald A Callahan	UAF alum	388-1658	akcallahan40@gmail.com					X
	Sharon Alden		455-7882	fwkscae@yahoo.com					X
	Gary Black	UAF	687-4001	garyblack21@gmail.com					X
	JUNE E ROGERS	UAF	451-0122	sandcastle@acs.alaska.net					X
	Jill Yordy	UAF	328-0488	sunbean27@gmail.com					X
	Deanna Blackburn	UAF	947-5011	djblackburn@alaska.edu					X



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	Tristan Glowa	UAF	907-750-8119	tkglowa@gmail.com			X			X
	Sarah Hartman	UAF	907 347 2512	Sarah.hava.n@gmail.com			X			
	Francisco Cervantes	UAF	9079872407	Fransroida@outlook.com			X			
	Mark Dallman	Statewide	9076994944	madallman83@gmail.com						X
	Irene Wood	UAF	907457-1402	digitalid2@yehwo.com			X			X
	Tina Taurine	UAF	907-479-2723	ttaurine@uci.uaf						X
	Jeanne Olson	St. Lewis	907/488-8800	corvic@mosquitonet.com						X
	Robert Siftar	UAF	907-479-4281	wildalaska@mosquitonet.com						X
	Kate Siftar	UAF	9074744281	KMDSA1@gmail.com						X
	Duncan Marriott	UAF	907 978 0635	duncan.marriott@gmail.com			X	X	X	



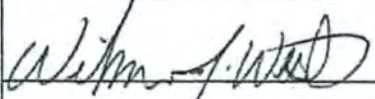
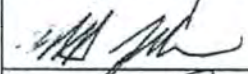

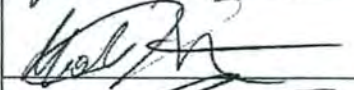


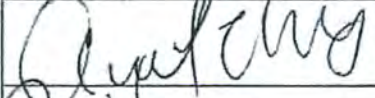
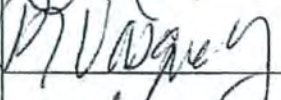


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	Wilmer J. West	All	907 378 6464	electricwilly@gmail.com					X
	Matt Mertes	UAF	907-699-4637	velosnex@gmail			X		
	Spencer Tordoff	UAF	206-934-735	stordoff@alaska.edu			X		
	Molly Putman	UAF	907-322-1610	mollyputman@gmail.com			X		
	Mason Schoemaker	UAF	907 322 1408	Mtschoemaker@gmail.com			X		
	Kate Willy	UAF	845-489-4909	K8willy@juno.com				X	
	Angel Vasquez	UAF	907-750-8454	avvasquez@alaska.edu				X	
	Rebecca Vasquez	UAF	907-358-6976	rvasquez@alaska.edu				X	
	Levi Barsis	UAF	907-3986197	lbarsis@alaska.edu			X		
	Krystal Reese	UAF	907-378-1824	kthreese@alaska.edu				X	



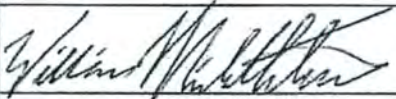
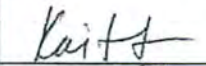
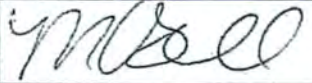
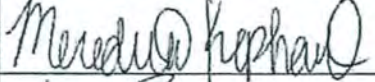
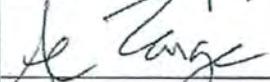
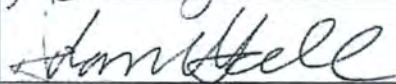


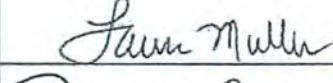
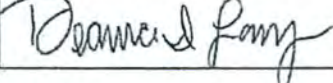
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	Meredith Kephart	UAF	918-407-5350	msullivan@alaska.edu			X		
	Anna Lange	UAF	(907)479.6192	ataskan.tanza@gmail.com					✓
	Adam Hall	UAF	907-378-9573	colhall@alaska.edu			X		
	Mary Sampsel	UAF	N/A	N/A.					✓
	Alessa Holt	UAF	907-687-9044	acholt@alaska.edu			X		
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	Deanna Lazaru	UAF	907-687-7980	deanna@lucidperceptions.com			X		



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	Quinn Asquith-Heinz	UAF	(907) 314-3057	quinnasquithheinz@gmail.com			✓		
	Krista Scott	UAF	<del>907 321 4069</del>	kescott8@alaska.edu			✓		
	Nick Droyvestein	UAF	9073214069	NDroyvestein@gmail.com			✓		
	Emily McGee	UAF	(907) 440-4891	emcgee5@alaska.edu			X		
	Mikhail Chelyadin	UAF	(209) 777-8969	machelyadin@Alaska.edu			X		
	Hunter Worcester	UAF	(907) 378-4550	HSWORSTER@ALASKA.EDU			X		
	Anne Walker	UAF	(907) 475-5200	annemarie.walker.25@gmail.com			✓		
	Jordan Valentin	UAF	907 371-4717	jordan.valentin@live.com			X		
	Ruth Peterson	<del>UAF</del> ALL	907 378-3300	ruthfaith@gci.net					X
	Cynthia West	ALL	9075909378	Cyndee West@gmail.com					X



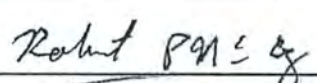
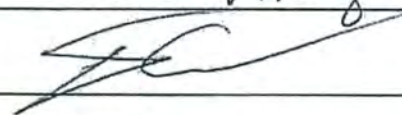
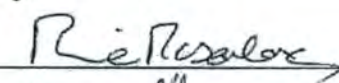

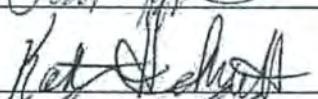
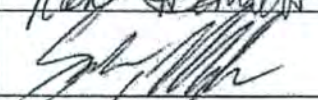
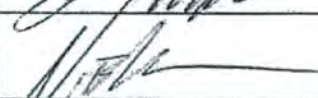
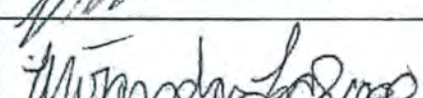
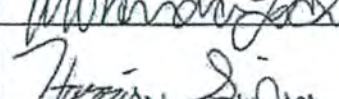
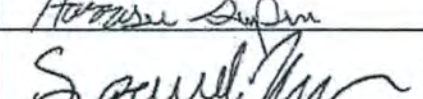
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	Robert P McCoy	UAF	4747282						
	Jeremy Cramer	UAF	907-799-6055	jercramer@gmail.com					
	Ronnie Rosenberg	UAF	907-486-9072	rdrosenberg@ATT.NET					
	Craig Helmuth	UAF	907479956	CHUM@ALASKA.NET					
	Katherine Helmuth	UAF	9074799146	Kath.helmuth@alaska.edu					
	Sarah Miller	UAF	9074797530	Sarahdmiller@hotmail.com			X		
	NICHOLAS E BRENNER	UAF	9077506255	nbrenner93@gmail.com			X		
	Miranda Lockwood	UAF	9076992394	dr.machick37@hotmail.com					X
	Harrison Simpson	UAF	9073224257	harry_simpson324@gmail.com			X		X
	Spencer Nace	Between Campuses	9076873247	Spencer.Nace@gmail.com			X		X



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	Madara Mason	UAF		madaramason@gmail.com				X	
	Sean Holland	UAF	907-978-3900	Sean.m.holland@gmail.com				X	
	Robrn Shoaps	UAF	-	shoapsrobri@gmail.com		X			
	Karen Taylor	UAF	907-978-8157	kataylorfish@hotmail.com				X	
	Jason Faulk	UAF	957 277 3132	jason.faulk@yahoo.com				X	
	POULSEN, TROY	UAF	360 798					X	
	Anna Spencer	UAF	907 441 4388	aspencer@ualaska.edu				X	
	James Ballesteros	UAF	907 451 1993	sgtwinchdwd@yahoo.com				X	
	Andrew Miller	UAF	907 590 0529	Amiller12@Alaska.edu				X	
	Robert Kinman	UAF	907 347 363	robert_kay21@hotmail.com					X



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	Gabrielle Sergie	UAF	907-477-2217	gksergie@alaska.edu			✓		
	Crystal Andre			andre-bryis95@icloud.com					✓
	Trevor Schoening	UAF					✓		
	Nikhil Ket	UAF	907-388-7428	nikhilketos@gmail.com			✓		
SAIRA WALIA		UAF	907 371 4407	saira.ded.ind@gmail.com			✓		
	Aaron Andrews	UAF	907-750-2617	alandnews3@alaska.edu			✓		
	Rerey Hughes	UAF	907-460-9600	rjhughes3@akstate.edu			✓		
	Jason Nancy	UAF					✓		
	John N. Daviey	All	474-4927	jdaviey1945@gmail.com					✓
	Robert Shields	UAF		rjsholdrissine@gmail.com			✓		



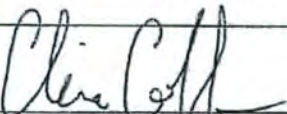

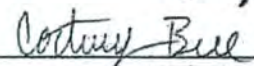
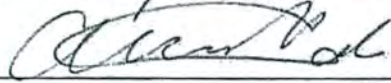
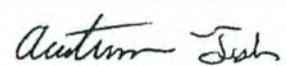
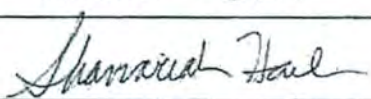
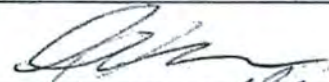
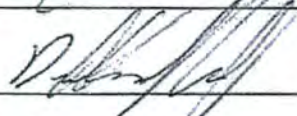
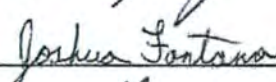

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	Chris Coffman	UAF	457-3081	chriscoff2002@yahoo.com		✓			
	Sarah Stanley	UAF	750-8978	5425stanley@gmail.com		✓			
	Courtney Bue	UAF	378-9493	clbue@alaska.edu			✓		
	Alea Hale	UAF	799-9454	alea.hale@gmail.com			✓		
	Autumn Fish	UAF	978-2401	aafish11@gmail.com			✓		
	Shanariah Hale	UAF	378-9464	shahale@alaska.edu			✓		
	CYNTHIA M WEST	UAF	750-5171	GOLDENTHAER HARRIS@GMAIL.COM				✓	
	David Kedenoff	UAF	770-883-8545	dkkedenoff@gmail.com		✓			
	Joshua Fontana	UAF	504-610-2756	jaFontana@alaska.edu			✓		
	Seth Jones	UAF	513-706-0938	seth.a.jones@gmail.com		✓			



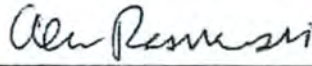
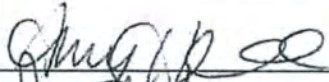


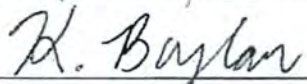
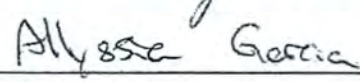
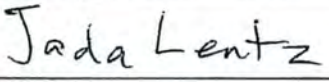
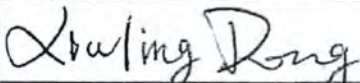

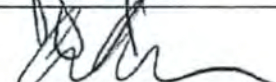
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	ALAN PASIKOWSKI	UAF	—	—			X		
	Amy Hendricks	UAF					X		
	LARNICE HOWARD	UAF	—	—			X		
	Israel Alexander	UAF	—	—			X		
	K. Boylan	UAF			X		X		
	Alyssa Garcia	UAF	—	—			X		
	Jada Lentz	UAF	—	—			X		
	Xiuling Dong	UAF	—	—			X		
	Jay Bryan	UAF	—	—			X		
	DOCTOR ANDREWS	UAF	—	—			X		



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<i>Antoin Hamber-Piller</i>	ANTOININA HAMMERSLAND - PILLACA	UAF	907-617 - 7869	anhammersland pillaca@alaska .edu			✓		
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<del><i>Kate Ariola</i></del>	Kate Ariola	UAF	(907) 687- 3790	kariola2@alaska .edu			X		
<i>Gunnar Verzeg</i>	Gunnar Verzeg	UAF	907-617 6256	gkverzeg@alaska .edu			X		
<del><i>Colby Free</i></del>	Colby Free	UAF	907-687 0494	colbyfree@alaska .edu			X		
<i>Keenan Sanderson</i>	Keenan Sanderson	UAF	907-821 - 8920	ksanderson @alaska.edu			X		
<i>Riannon Watson</i>	Riannon Watson	UAF	—	—					✓
<i>Tristan Van Cise</i>	Tristan Van Cise	UAF	907-738-0011	tristanvancise @gmail.com			X		
<i>Thomas Szidlasti</i>	Thomas Szidlasti	UAF	907-803-3862	tosz.doski@ alaska.edu			X		
<i>Conan Storm</i>	Conan Storm	UAF	(907) 371 0273	NON					✓



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	Josh Pharris	UAF	(208) 901-5415	jgpharris@gmail.com			X		
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	Donna Sabo	UAF	907-2301430	donnasabo42@alaska.edu			X		
	Caleb Alkire	UAF	907-394-5861	cmelkire@alaska.edu			X		
	AKSHAY. RAMCHANDRAN	UAF	907-688-9454	aramachandran@alaska.edu			X		
	Abel Bult-Itto	UAF	907-978-2169	abultitto@gmail.com		✓			
	Tristan Matson	UAF					✓		
	Olivia Garrett	UAF	907-744-4888	olgarrett@alaska.edu					X
	Amelia Tulim	UAF		amtulim@alaska.edu			X		



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	MIKE POWERS	UAF	479-4639	michaff@powers@gmail.com				X	
	S. BANDOPADHYAY	UAF	479-0011	aythiminer@msn.com		X			
	M. Kayt Sunwood	UAF	479-5298	Suntalkere@gmail.com				X	
	Richard McDonald	UAF	617-2500	rich.mcdonald@gmail.com		X			
	Robert Shields	UAF	799-7045	rsjholdingsinc@gmail.com					X
	JOHN BYRNE	UAF	328 8821	JOHNBYRNE107@gmail.com					
	Carol Barnhardt	UAF	479-4357	barnhardtcarol@gmail.com		X			
	UASO EICKEN	UAF	457-1593	eicken@qci.net					X
	Mark Herrmann	UAF	388-0264						X
	TODD SHERMAN	UAF	479-0548						X



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	Andy Scitz	UAF SFOS		andrew.c.scitz@gmail.com		X			
	RANA KURAPATI	UAF-Fin. Serv.		rkurapati@alaska.edu				X	
	Carol Gering	UAF eLearning		carol.gering@gmail.com				X	
	Brad Lobland	UAF HR		bradLHR@gmail.com				X	
	Anne Brenner Armstrong	UAF SOE		abarnstronj@gmail.com		X			
	ANDREA FERROVANTI	UAF		<del>andrea.ferrovanti@alaska.edu</del> stick_jazz@yahoo.com		X			
	FAYE GAUVAINT	UAF						X	
	SAMARA TABER	UAF						X	
	Jessica Armstrong	UAF		jarmstrong9@gmail.com				X	
	Cathy Oehring	UAF						X	



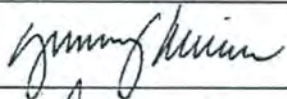
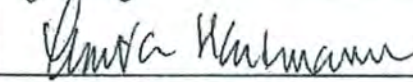
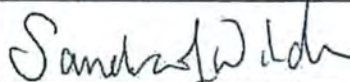
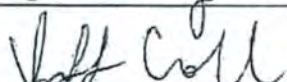
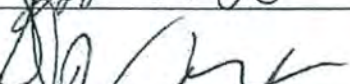

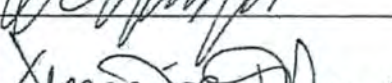

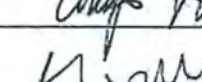
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	Virginia Kinke	UAF	347 4225	gin.kinke@gmail.com				X	
	ANITA HARTMANN	UAF	456-2874					X	
P.A. Meritt	Patricia A. Meritt	UAF/CTC	474-0841			X			
	Sandra Wilder	UAF							
	Jennifer Carroll	UAF/CRCD	374-4899	Wcarroll@gmail.com		X			
	Jare Weber	UAF/CRCD	455-6627	jweber@alaska.edu		X			
	WILLIAM BARKES	UAF/CTC	362 1005	ALASKA.BILL@GMAIL.COM		X			
	Jennifer Tilbury	UAF/CTC	3289217	earlybird22@hotmail.com		X			
	FRANZ J. MEYER	UAF	687-3609	aurora_two@gsi.net		X			
	Andrew McDonnell	UAF	374 5967	drewmcd@gmail.com		X			



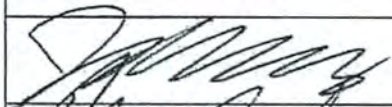
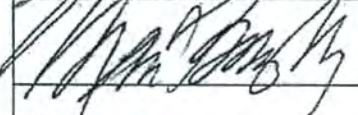
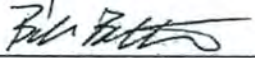
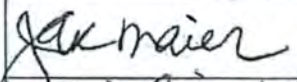
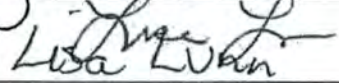
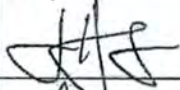
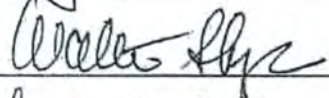
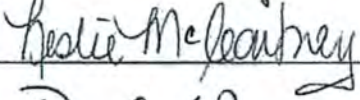


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	JESSICA CHERRY	UAF	907 320 4314	JCHERRY@GMAIL.COM		X			
	MARA BACsulAKY	UAF	907 479 3096	mbacsulaky@alaska.net		X			
	Bob BOLTON	UAF	907 378 6773	sunndog@icefog.org			X		
	Julie MAIER	UAF	907-3780241	julie@themaier.org		X			
	Lisa Lunn	UAF	907 474 1928	LLUNN@Alaska.edu		X			
	John Hender	UAF	907-474-6508				X		
	WALTER SLyVA	UAF	907-474-2718	walslyva@alaska.edu		X			
	Leslie McCartney	UAF	907 474 7737	lmcartney@alaska.edu		✓			
	Daryl Farmer	UAF	907-694-3861	farmer-d2002@yahoo.com			✓		
	Catherine L. Hanks	UAF	907-474-8860	chanks@mac.com			X		



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	Jesus Lewis	UAF	9073784566	jllewis@alaska.edu	X				
	Kaitlin Parke	UAF	907-332-7711	kparke@alaska.edu			X		
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	Amy Lovecraft	UAF	9074571984			X			
	BERILL BLAIR	UAF	907-412-7144	berill.blair@gmail.com			X		
	Laura Schneider	UAF	907-474-7126	telemarktrail@yahoo.com				X	
	Mary E Perreault	UAF	907-332-7381	ffmbperreault@gmail.com			X		
	Cathy Walling	UAF	907-388-8377	cathy.a.walling@gmail.com			X		X



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	Raif Johnson-Keady	UAF	907 978 0969	raifk@alaska.edu				✗	
	Averi Cokeley	UAF	907-450-9303	amcokeley@alaska.edu			✓		
	Marina Wallace	UAF	907-394-2511	mwallace@alaska.edu				✗	
	Nathan White	UAF	907-371-9320		✓		✓		
	HEATHER ZELL	UAF	949-322-9273	hmezell@alaska.edu			✓		
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	JILL DAVIDSON	UAF/CLA	907-488-6112	—				X	
	Liz Sewell	UAF	907-388-6645	—			X	X	
	Juli Griswold	UAF	907-699-2850	—				X	
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	Jane Monahan	UAF	907-378-8707	—				X	
	Sasha Wood	UAF	907-590-9090	—				X	
	Kim Anderson	UAF	456-1484 907- <del>474-2461</del>	—				X	
	Sonathon Quinnes	UAF	954-806-4052	—			X	X	
	Erica Harris	UAF	907-612-0207	—	X		X		



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<i>Jacob Williams</i>	Jacob Williams	UAF	907-799-6483	jcwilliams7@alaska.edu			✓	✓	
<i>Jacalyn Meyer</i>	Jacalyn Morgan	UAF	907-687-6881	jacalyn.e.morgan@alaska.edu			✓		
<i>Levi weis</i>	Levi weis	UAF	907-378-0903	Levi.weis95@gmail.com			✓		
<i>Dan M</i>	Daniel McEster	UAF	907-539-5692	dmcenster@alaska.edu			✓		
<i>Rebecca Hatfield</i>	Rebecca Hatfield	UAF	937-668-6668	rebecca.natfield29@gmail.com			✓		
<i>Douglas Cost</i>	Douglas Cost	UAF	(907) 370-3171	dougcost@hotmail.com			✓		
<i>Andrei Rjeesticki</i>	Andrei Rjeesticki	UAF	907-978-4156	qsiris@verizon.net			✓		
<i>Hazuki Fukuda</i>	Hazuki Fukuda	UAF	907-479-8848 347	hfukuda@alaska.edu			✓		
<i>Daniel Mulkey</i>	Daniel Mulkey	UAF	907 223 1797	djmulkey2@alaska.edu			✓		
<i>Claire-Elise Baalks</i>	Claire-Elise Baalks	UAF	907-575-8619	cabaalks@alaska.edu			✓		



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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Commy. Supporter
<i>Autumn Fish</i>	Autumn Fish	UAF	907-978-2401	aafish@alaska.edu			X		
<i>Roy P Johnson</i>	Roy P Johnson	UAF	907 328 4126	roy-p-j@me.com	X				
<i>Kim Stewart</i>	Kim Stewart	UAF	907-388-7371	kstewart@alaska.edu		X			
<i>Chisato Murakami</i>	Chisato Murakami	UAF	907-474-7076	cmurakami@alaska.edu		X		X	
<i>Linda Brown</i>	LINDA BROWN	UAF	(907) 479-5629	loubrown1952@gmail.com					
<i>Kate Nagibina</i>	Kate Nagibina	UAF	(907) 232-0635	knaginabina08@gmail.com			X		
<i>Brittany Galvez</i>	Brittany Galvez	UAF	(320) 293-0146	bjgalvez@alaska.edu			X		
<i>Richard Hultholm</i>	Richard Hultholm	UAF	(907) 388-4824	rhultholm@hotmail.com			X		
<i>Tegan White-Nesbitt</i>	Tegan White-Nesbitt	UAF	(907) 750-3258	t-w-n@gmx.de			X	X	
<i>Melanie Wortham</i>	Melanie Wortham	UAF		mworsham@alaska.edu			X		



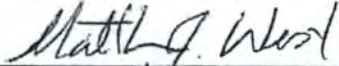
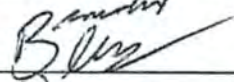
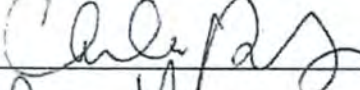


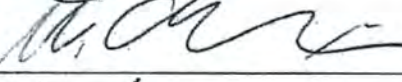
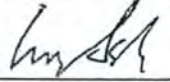
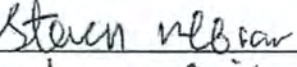
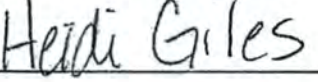

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	Matthew West	AU	907.347.6711	matthew9378@gmail.com			X		
	BRANDON BLUM	UAF	907-982-4864	blum@hotmail.com			X		
	Chelsea Boehl	UAF	907-750-1757	<del>chelsea</del> chelseaboehl@uaf.edu			X		
	ALEX HERMON	UAF	907-231-6809	alexhermon@alaska.edu			X		
	Donald Crocker	UAF	907-744-2819	optimuscrocker@gmail.com				X	
	Mark Oldmixon	UAF	802-598-7706	meixmixon@gmail.com					X
	Ivona Ash	UAF	907-299-0800	ivona@alaska.edu			X		
	STEVEN MCGRAW	UAF	907-347-4587	sdmcgraw@alaska.edu			X		
	Heidi Giles	UAF	347-1954	hgiles1303@gmail.com					X
	Agnes Lansen	UAF	865 94 2564	aklansen@alaska.edu			X		



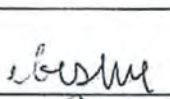


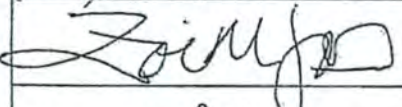
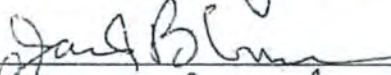
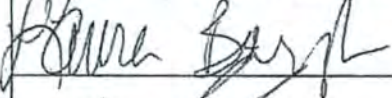

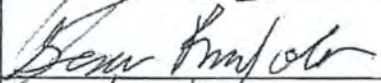

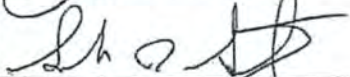
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	ELENA BUSHUE	UAF	9075381944	eweena@gmail.com			X		
	PAUL ADASIAK	UAF	907452-5411	pfadastak@gmail.com				X	
	Arin Brooker	VAF	907-891-360	ecbrooker@alaska.edu			X		
	Zoë M. Jones	UAF	909-949-8741	zjones@alaska.edu		X			
	James Brashear	UAF	907 479 8542	dbbrashear@uci.com		X			
	Laura Bergh	UAF	907 4523278	vpa@mosquitonet.com					X
	Elinor Maya Salgado	UAF	9073881080	3rdfilme@gmail.com		X			
	Sean Kwitola	UAF	9079787339	gettosoubike@gmail.com			X		
	JOHN NELSON	UAF	907 7507730	JohnNelson7@alaska.edu			X		
	Sarah R Swartz	UAF	907-687-9415	Sarah.Swartz@gmail.com				X	



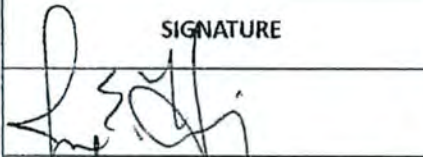

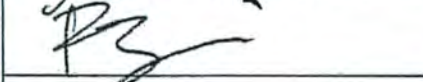
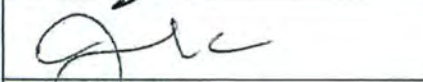

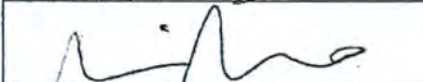
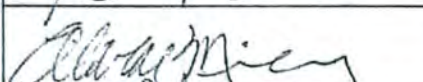
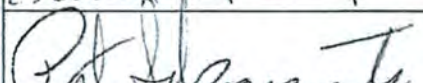
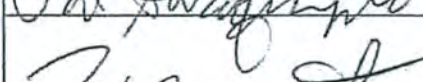

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	Joan Hornig	UAF	371-6789	-		X			
	Steve Hunt	UAF	907 888-0404						
	Eric Cousins	UAF	907-888-3255			X			
	Jamye L. Clark	UAF		jclark09@gmail.com		X			
	Eileen M. Horney	UAF	617-419-0161			X			
	Diana DiStefano	UAF		dldsoose@gmail.com		X			
	Ellsae Miner	UAF	510-206-6953					X	
	Pat Sekaquaptewa	UAF	536 613-7317	psekaquaptewa@gmail.com		X			
	L. Kestori	UAF	907 490-3110			X		X	
	Caitlin Hawthorne	UAF	907- <del>544</del> - 974-3652	caithawthorne@gmail.com					



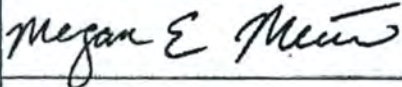


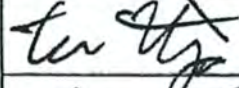
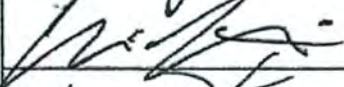
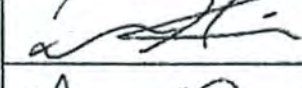
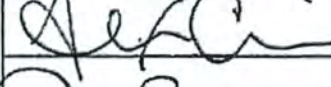
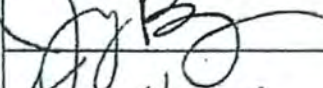
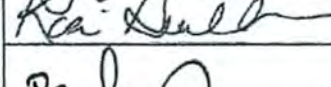

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	Megan Mericle	UAF	336-013-5921	memericle2@gmail.com			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Maeve Kirk	UAF	208-863-3427	mexirk@icmail.lcsz.edu					
	MICAH ALLEN	UAF	917 254 5508	Micah.Q.Allen@gmail		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Eric Heyne	UAF	978-4877	erichayne@gmail.com					
	Chris Petrucci	UAF	203-213-5192	cpetrucci@alaska.edu			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Sean Hill	UAF	478-454-8362	seanhill173@gmail.com		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	ALEX CHISUM	UAF	775-342-8180	alexandrchisum@gmail				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Jaclyn Bergamino	UAF	907-378-6784	jaclyn.bergamino@gmail.com			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Kori Hensell	UAF	251-942-7333	ekhensell@alaska.edu			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Bret Lick	UAF	907.455.4202	bret.lick@gmail.com		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



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	Anne Brunner Armstrong	UAF	(907) 479-2560	abrunnstm@gmail.com		✓			
	CATHERINE J. MORRISON	UAF	907-388-9240	catmorrison@alaska.edu				✓	
	Mariah Hunsicker	UAF	907-714-2871	mnhunsicker@alaska.edu			✓		
	Natalie Taylor	UAF	907-371-5109	natayt3@gmail.com		✓			
	Craig Sanders	UAF	(814) 558-6029	cssanders@alaska.edu			✓		
	Whittier Strong	UAF	907.371.7681	wstrong@alaska.edu			✓		
	Alex Alfaro	UAF	301-540-2472	alex.alfaro13@msn.com			✓		
	HEATHER ZELL	UAF	949 322 9273	hmezell@alaska.edu			✓		
	Regan Campbell	UAF	(812) 296-0338	jrcompbells@alaska.edu			✓		
	Georgeanna Heaverley	UAF	(907) 398-1849	gheaverley@gmail.com			✓		



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	Cecily Hodges	<del>WAS</del>	907-978-6956	cecilyapea@hotmail.com					X
	Walter Evans		907-451-2028	wrevans@sci.net					X
	CHRISTOPHER K Clark		907 479 0714	mclark@alaska.com					X
	Corinne McVee		907-230-4614	Corinne@acaf.org					X
	JOE BERTAGNOLI		907 650 7426	jbertagnoli@gei.net					X
	Michael Lund		907 712 4579	chauncey@eguel.com					X
	Jeff Goldsmith		907-300-0209	jgoldsmith@gmail.com					X
	Michael Koske		907 968-6697	M.Koske@AFAA-APT.org					X
	John White		907 789 2518						X
	Pete Ford		907-721-3788						X


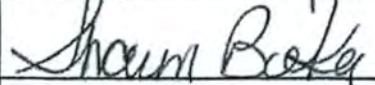
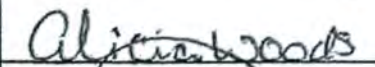


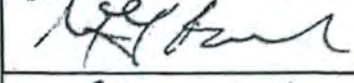
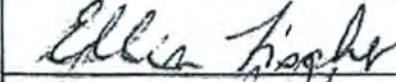
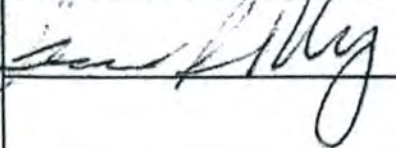


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	SANDRA R THOMPSON		(907) 529-5519	hockeymom1987@yahoo.com					✓
	Sharon Baker		(907) 290-9656	slbaker@cascolaska.net					✓
	Alicia Woods		(907) 707-1364	nordthernwoods2004@yahoo.com					✓
	Susan V Jones		907-90-2045	dorth.vaderwill@gmail.com					✓
	Pete Perotovic		745-4747	pete.perotovic@alaska.edu		X			
	M.F. Korte		745-7714	pkorte@alaska.edu					
	Ellen Fischer		907-835-5135 805-215-0494	ellenfischer@gmail.com					✓
	Frances Blumsky		907-789-5033	f.blumsky@alaska.edu		X			




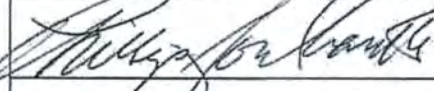
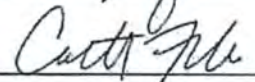
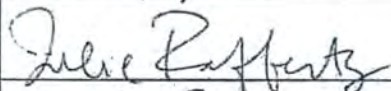

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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Comnty. Supporter
	Sabine Sickman	UAF	907-871-8821	rememberica@yahoo.com		X			
	Phillip Charette	UAF	541-519-2635 <del>907-474-0071</del>	phillipcharette@gmail.com		X			
	Crystal Franke	UAF	907-687-0458	crystalfrank1@gmail.com				X	
	Julie Rafferty	UAF	907-474-0071	raffertyjulie@hotmail.com				X	
	Ronnie Houchin	UAF	812-322-5599	rhouchin@gmail.com				X	



Please return to: United Academics AAUP/AFT – 309 Constitution Hall, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tel: 907-474-2461 Fax: 907-474-2465 E-mail: [alaska.unitedacademics@gmail.com](mailto:alaska.unitedacademics@gmail.com)



# Stand Together Now for Student Success!

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SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	COLLEGE/CAMPUS	NON-WORK PHONE NUMBER	NON-WORK E-MAIL	Part-time Faculty	Full-time Faculty	Student	Staff/Admin	Commy. Supporter
	Sara Hensel	UAF	503 459 7556	sarahensel@gmail.com			X	X	
	Annette Freiburger	UAF	378-3848	freiburger@gci.net					
	Amy Wald	UAF	590-9021	amywald@hotmail.com				X	
	Amy Bristor	UAF	590-0270	albristor@alaska.edu				X	
	Caitlin Kaber	UAF	360-749-5099	cekaber@alaska.edu			X	X	
	John Beck	UAF	907 378 6472	jbeck@alaska.edu			X	X	
	Eldon H HAYS	All	907 455 9378						X
	Miles J west	All	907 455 9378						X



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## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Putt Clark <clark.putt@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:06 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** University Funding

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Finance Committee:

Please consider maintaining the Governor's proposed budget for the University. The University system is like a heartbeat for Alaska. It is integral not only bringing funding IN to Alaska, via grant funding to multitudes of programs, but it also helps to supply a more educated populace.

I would hope this doesn't need stating, but given there are some who seem only to have contempt for education, I will say this: an educated population is the FOUNDATION of a healthy, happy and financially secure society. Don't cut the feet off of Alaska by slashing the funding to the UA system.

My own mother graduated from UAF. A single mother of two, she took out student loans to pay for her education and for our survival. We grew up poor in a cabin with no running water. Her early income as an English teacher was barely a living wage. She gradually earned more over the years and managed to buy her own property.

When I came of age, I attended UAF as well. My brother, his wife and my husband all graduated from UAF, and now, my oldest son attends UAF.

Budget cuts equate to the loss of programs and leads to many people going ELSEWHERE for their education. Some programs can never compete with specialized schools "Outside", however, it's important to maintain them to a lesser degree so our Alaskan students have a strong foundation to become successful in their field. It would be better to at least have our youth attend in Alaska for their first few years of college, then transfer elsewhere, than to lose them entirely to schools outside. Think of THAT financial loss!

Please reconsider the cuts, and maintain the funding for the University system.

Thank you,

Putt Clark  
P.O. Box 80106  
Fairbanks, AK  
99708

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Frank Box <fbox@accessalaska.org>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:45 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Doug Toelle; Flora Olrun; Cathy Gerby  
**Subject:** Budget cuts will negatively affect Vulnerable Alaskans (remember, even the healthiest Citizens are only temporarily able bodied)

My Name Is T. Frank Box, I currently work at Access Alaska as a Certified Brain Injury Specialist, and Independent Living Advocate. In my previous career as a North Slope welder fabricator I remember what the price of oil can do to our state budget and the potential difficulties in planning for the future. As a person that survived a disabling medical condition and went on to become employed as a productive contributing member of a nonprofit that helps people in similar situations I can speak to the financial efficiencies that Centers for Independent Living afford. Previously much of Access Alaska's funding came through the SOA Department of Labor- currently that has been moved to Department of Senior & Disability Services. As a former disabled worker that was restored to functional independence through programs that are currently on the chopping block, I am advocating for a closer examination of the cost saving potential before the final draft is signed.

IL Services work well with other existing programs, and pick up the slack when other resources fall short. People do not get turned away because they cannot pay or do not have Medical Insurance. This issue is close to my heart as I fell into the otherwise healthy group until a seizure in the middle of the night, two brain surgeries, 30 Radiation treatments, and 12 months of chemotherapy left me unable to work in my former occupation. Even though I had adequate health insurance while employed, those benefits were quickly depleted. Attempting to advocate for myself after part of my brain had been removed was not a realistic option. IL services advocates assisted me in getting SSDI disability benefits, and helped give me the stability to succeed in completing retraining for workforce reentry to a new profession and transition from disability benefits to self-supporting employment as I became ready.

Now I get to see it every day at my job, people that would otherwise fall through the cracks that may be waitlisted for Medicaid services come in to get DME (durable medical equipment) crutches, walkers, miscellaneous braces & supports, in addition to incontinence supplies, hospital beds, etc.... Access Alaska's DME/reuse program saves the state of Alaska Medicaid & other insurances between 400 and \$600,000 a year. So cuts to these type of programs seems penny wise and dollar foolish. As do cutting services that may keep people out of costly state-funded institutions were actually working and contributing to the financial prosperity of the state.

I would suggest a broad based state income tax, and looking at restructuring the recently modified oil tax rate along with discontinuing the unneeded expense of the lawsuit against Gov. Walker over Medicaid expansion before looking at the permanent fund dividends.

On Tuesday, March 1 at the head injury support group meeting the 20 members present were polled on their opinions and the agreement among us was unanimous about waiting until other options are exhausted before going into the permanent fund which many of them depended on for co-pays and school supplies for their children.

Tuesday, March 15 my co-facilitator will assist me at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month she also facilitates the DD grant services here at Access Alaska and relies on PCA & paratransit services to remain independent /gainfully employed. Our DME/reuse data entry technician also relies on the services to remain

independent/gainfully employed. As a matter of fact, 51% of Access Alaska's employees and board members experience some sort of disability.

*T. Frank Box*

*Access Alaska Inc.*

*Independent Living Advocate*

*(907) 263-1914*

**Access Alaska**

1217 East 10th Avenue

Anchorage AK 99501

(The former Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center)

**[www.accessalaska.org](http://www.accessalaska.org)**

*"Life holds no greater prize, than the opportunity to work hard at work worth doing."*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

**P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.**

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Elaine Carpenter <ecarpenter@accessalaska.org>  
**It:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:53 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Peter Micciche  
**Subject:** SFY17 Senior Budget Reductions

Please, please, please consider our vulnerable community members who need these services! It only makes long-term economic sense to help people stay in their homes receiving personal care service for as long as possible rather than the higher cost of nursing facilities.

### Elaine Carpenter

CDPCS Program Manager

Access Alaska, Inc.

33880 Community College Dr.

Soldotna, AK 99669

mailing Address

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DSM e-mail: [AccessAk.Kenai@direct.aai.akhie.com](mailto:AccessAk.Kenai@direct.aai.akhie.com)

Choice with dignity, compassion and integrity.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sandi Koval <leftykoval@yahoo.com>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Regarding our beloved Alaska Seniors and FY2017 statewide operations budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Regarding our beloved Alaska Seniors and FY2017 statewide operations budget:

I am asking you to please remember that many of our beloved Elders in this state are the very pioneers who have contributed to and have supported our communities for decades. Now, as they enter their final years of life it is our responsibility to help them maintain their dignified independence. Services such as senior nutrition programs and Care-A-Van senior rides are NOT luxury items; rather these are the very necessities which promote continued dignified ageing and independent health-promoting lifestyles. Without such access as senior-rides many of our Elders will honestly become shut-ins; unable to get out from their homes, their lives will have less purpose and they will become sedentary and health will deteriorate in multiple unfortunate and PREVENTABLE ways. Further, many Elders simply no longer have the appetite, energy, and/or money to prepare a daily healthy meal with all of the thoughtfully prepared nutritional value that a senior meals program can offer. Congregate settings also offer a meeting place for our older-ones and there is no monetary value to put on such an important necessity in a social-being's healthy life! Furthermore, home-delivered senior meals bring this life promoting nutrition to our frail Elders who quite obviously need this service. Malnourishment should never be a reason that an Elder can no longer live in his/her home – or what sends her/him to the hospital. This is the truth of it: If our state budget decision-makers choose to cut funding for these types of services, then MANY Elders will suffer. Know this is factual as you make your decisions; and please, please remember that as Alaskans we must honor our Elders and do all that is necessary to promote and support their health and dignity to the very end. A cradle to grave society never questions or sacrifices the necessities. It is not too far-reaching to hope that as our beloved senior citizens take their final breaths of life in Alaska that they do so knowing the state of Alaska they've loved and supported for so long still gives value to their existence.

Thank you for inviting me to testify as a citizen.

Respectfully,

Sandra Koval

Sitka, Alaska, (907) 738-8280

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Amber Mossholder <amossholder@accessalaska.org>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:04 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Proposed Budget

Dear Finance Committee Members-

I want to speak about some services that we currently provide in our state that are currently at risk of being cut in the proposed budget. First of all, thank you for restoring 2.5% of the cut to Senior and Disability grant programs. I have been able to work in this field for the entire 16 years that I have lived in Alaska and I have been fortunate to see what a tremendous impact these grant programs have on families.

At this time, I would like to share with you some of my experience with the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program. My job is to help our elders and others who experience disabilities find their way through the very complicated state system of getting services provided in their own homes. These are people who experience such a high level of medical need that they would otherwise be living in a nursing home. Services provided in their home include bathing, getting dressed, eating meals, and washing their laundry. I provide support for these processes in the Mat-Su region and also in the South West Bethel-based villages. Without these PCA services, many of the elders in rural communities would be forced to move to facilities in urban areas of our state such as Anchorage. Most of these elders have lived their entire lives in their small rural community and may only speak their native tongue. Moving to a nursing home in the city is devastating to them emotionally. They are not able to eat their traditional foods. They are not surrounded by their family members and cannot watch their grandchildren grow up. Not to mention, the extreme cost of supporting someone living in a nursing home outweighs the cost of supporting them physically and emotionally in their own community. The proposed cut to the PCA program is currently at -\$9million.

I completely understand the problem our state is facing with trying to plan a responsible fiscal budget. I ask that you not plan that budget at the expense of our elders. These are parents and grandparents who have strived to make their families complete and better their communities. They deserve the very best we can offer to them. We should actively strive to keep them in their own homes for as long as possible and contributing to their family and community.

Thank you for your time,

**Amber Mossholder**

**Mat Su/Bethel Program Manager**



**DSM Email: [Amber.Mossholder@direct.aai.akhie.com](mailto:Amber.Mossholder@direct.aai.akhie.com)**

**Office: (907) 357-2588**

**☎: (907) 357-5585**

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Marjorie Scholl <mscholl@sproutalaska.org>  
**It:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Education is a Must!

To The Senate Finance committee,

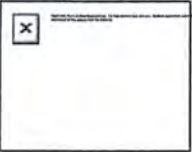
I would like to extend my many thanks for the support that The State of Alaska has given our community in early education. You would be very impressed with the direct changes that the agency I work for , Sprout Family Services, has made in our individual families lives. My job as playgroup coordinator alone, is one of many facets of our Agency and I am always noting the healthier choices that parents are making for their families due to my attention, articles that I have researched and brought to them, eye balling and referring families to Therapist here, and the encouragement that I give to our families for their positive efforts

It is so important to support and be a part of these parents lives. Everyone is so busy in our society, so it makes sense to make ensure we have assigned community members to be a proactive helping asset to young families.

I am one of 11 co-workers here at Sprout, and I am very impressed with the genuine responsibility we all feel, to give above and beyond help to young ones and their parents, as Therapist, child development specialists, movement and art specialists, and social workers. Thanks so much for Parents as Teachers support.

Sincerely, Marjorie

Marjorie Scholl  
Sprout Playgroup Coordinator  
3691 Ben Walters Ln. Ste.4,  
Homer, Alaska, 99603  
(907)235-6044



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Coleen Fitzgerald <cfitzgerald@nwarctic.org>  
**nt:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Mentor Program

I am a first year SPED teacher in Kivalina. We are very isolated here and I have been unable to stay in contact with the district people when I had questions. The folks in the mentor program helped me when I needed answers and couldn't wait on district. They also helped me procure materials that I needed that are unavailable in Kivalina. Thanks mentors!

Coleen Fitzgerald  
SPED teacher  
Kivalina

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** eliza eller <ellers@ionia.org>  
**At:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** testimony for mental health services in the operating budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you think about the many many families in your districts who utilize basic mental health and addiction treatment services every day, rather than more expensive emergency room care. Mental health services have a complicated stigma - but they are used in the same ways and have the same positive outcomes which save as many lives as primary health care services. These grants are vital for the continued safety and basic wellness of our population in this state!

IF they are cut, even a little, everyone knows that those costs will NOT be saved in the overall state budget - instead, the costs will increase in emergency services AND court/prison costs AND quality of life will dip below acceptable for many families who experience these challenges. Instead, please adopt measures to raise state income so that these health grants can continue to serve the populations who need them most.

With this email, I can ask you to make humane and moral decisions - but instead, I will ask you to make fiscally responsible decisions and make NO CUTS, not even percentage cuts, to the behavioral health grants. Please, DO NOT pull the wool over your own eyes and look the other way. You will be proud of your record and 90% of your constituents will thank you: those who have people in their families who suffer from bi-polar disorder, for example; as well as those who are dealing with the absurd tardiness and overwhelm of the court systems; as well as those who have a loved one hit in a car accident by a drunk driver; as well as those who experience violence at home.

**Behavioral illness touches us all. Prevent and treat, don't ignore.** It helps. That's just common sense.

Thank you for having the political and moral courage to step up and find ways to pay for these vital grants.

Sincerely,  
Eliza Eller  
Ionia  
907-252-2314

Ted and Eliza Eller Ionia, Inc. 54932 Burdock Rd. Kasilof, Ak 99610 907-262-2824