

HB

127

<TARGET><BILL>HB 127</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
127</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

House Bill 127 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for an individual whose conviction has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent fund dividend because of a conviction that has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed."

The State of Alaska Department of Law Criminal Division's mission is to "assure safe and healthy communities by prosecuting and convicting criminal offenders throughout Alaska." Likewise, the State has a responsibility to ensure those convicted of crimes are prosecuted fairly and with due justice, and in the event of wrongful convictions, compensate those who have faced such an injustice.

Incarcerated Alaskans forgo their Permanent Fund Dividends to the State. HB 127 seeks to pay Permanent Fund Dividends to Alaskans whose convictions were vacated, reversed or dismissed. If passed, those eligible must apply for the PFD within 120 days following the new judgment or within 120 days of the effective date of the bill. Currently, this bill would help 4 Alaskans who were victims of wrongful conviction at a total cost of \$103,450.96 in owed PFDs.

The PFD is a defining characteristic of what it means to be an Alaskan. Providing the PFD to those Alaskans who have wrongfully had their liberties taken away from them is one of the few things the State of Alaska can do to help them reestablish a normal life in providing means to find housing, food and education.

A wrongful conviction is a true tragedy. The transition back to civilian life for these individuals can be difficult due to the loss of time with loved ones, let alone the loss of income otherwise earned. I ask your support for this bill that would help victims of injustice with their transition back into society as the State looks to ensure that the criminal justice system is ever more thorough and fair.

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Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

HB 127: Compensation of Permanent Fund Dividends for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment

Sectional Analysis

Section 1

- (i) Establishes that individuals whose convictions have been vacated, reversed or dismissed are eligible to receive the permanent fund dividend for each year the individual was ineligible while incarcerated
- (j) Sets the time frame for individuals being able to apply for permanent fund dividend compensation at no later than within 120 days after the vacation, reversal, or dismissal of their conviction.

Section 2

Amends AS 43.23.025(a), which involves the calculation of the annual value for the PFD, under subsection (C) to include (i) of section 1 of this Bill, which would factor the compensation of Permanent Fund Dividends for wrongful convictions into the calculation of the annual PFD values.

Section 3

Amends uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section that states that those who are eligible for PFD compensation as defined under section 1 of this bill, yet have had their conviction overturned before this act takes place, will have 120 days from its effective date to apply for the PFD.



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 24, 2017

To: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, House State Affairs

From: Representative Scott Kawasaki
District 1 Fairbanks

RE: Hearing Request for House Bill 127

I respectfully request a hearing for House Bill 127: An Act relating to permanent fund dividends for individuals who have had their convictions, vacations, reversed or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent fund dividend on account of their conviction being overturned.

I have included the following items with this request:

- HB 127: 30-L50480\A
- Sponsor Statement
- Sectional Analysis
- Supporting documents

Please let me know if there's anything else I can provide for you. I look forward to presenting HB 127 to the House State Affairs Committee.

30-LS0480\A
Martin
2/6/17

HOUSE BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for an individual whose conviction has**
2 **been vacated, reversed, or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the**
3 **permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent**
4 **fund dividend because of a conviction that has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed."**

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 *** Section 1.** AS 43.23.005 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

7 (i) An individual who was ineligible to receive a permanent fund dividend for
8 a dividend year under (d) of this section because of a conviction is eligible to receive
9 the permanent fund dividend for each year the individual was ineligible if the
10 individual's conviction is vacated or reversed, and

11 (1) the charges on which the conviction was based are later dismissed;

12 or

13 (2) the individual is retried and found not guilty.

14 (j) To receive a permanent fund dividend under (i) of this section, the

1 individual shall apply for the permanent fund dividend not later than 120 days after the
2 dismissal or not guilty finding under (i) of this section.

3 * **Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.025(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) By October 1 of each year, the commissioner shall determine the value of
5 each permanent fund dividend for that year by

6 (1) determining the total amount available for dividend payments,
7 which equals

8 (A) the amount of income of the Alaska permanent fund
9 transferred to the dividend fund under AS 37.13.145(b) during the current year;

10 (B) plus the unexpended and unobligated balances of prior
11 fiscal year appropriations that lapse into the dividend fund under
12 AS 43.23.045(d);

13 (C) less the amount necessary to pay prior year dividends from
14 the dividend fund in the current year under AS 43.23.005(h) **and (i)**,
15 43.23.021, and 43.23.055(3) and (7);

16 (D) less the amount necessary to pay dividends from the
17 dividend fund due to eligible applicants who, as determined by the department,
18 filed for a previous year's dividend by the filing deadline but who were not
19 included in a previous year's dividend computation;

20 (E) less appropriations from the dividend fund during the
21 current year, including amounts to pay costs of administering the dividend
22 program and the hold harmless provisions of AS 43.23.075;

23 (2) determining the number of individuals eligible to receive a
24 dividend payment for the current year and the number of estates and successors
25 eligible to receive a dividend payment for the current year under AS 43.23.005(h); and

26 (3) dividing the amount determined under (1) of this subsection by the
27 amount determined under (2) of this subsection.

28 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
29 read:

30 **TRANSITION.** Notwithstanding the time limit for applying for a permanent fund
31 dividend under AS 43.23.005(j), added by sec. 1 of this Act, an individual who is eligible

1 under AS 43.23.005(i), added by sec. 1 of this Act, and whose dismissal or not guilty finding
2 occurred before the effective date of this Act, shall apply for a permanent fund dividend under
3 AS 43.23.005(j), added by sec. 1 of this Act, not later than 120 days after the effective date of
4 this Act.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 127
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB127-DOR-PFD-2-24-2017
Title: CRIM. CONV. OVERTURNED: RECEIVE PAST
PFD
Sponsor: KAWASAKI
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Revenue
Appropriation: Taxation and Treasury
Allocation: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
OMB Component Number: 981

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/17

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: Sara Race, Director
Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
Approved By: Jerry Burnett, Deputy Commissioner
Agency: Department of Revenue

Phone: (907)465-4785
Date: 02/24/2017 12:00 PM
Date: 02/24/17

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 127

Analysis

The proposed legislation will eliminate the requirements set forth in regulation, 15 AAC 23.183(b)(1)(2)(3) that directly address the reversal or vacating of a disqualifying conviction for which an individual was incarcerated or sentenced, and therefore were denied a dividend.

The major program criteria changes in the proposed legislation include the following; removes the requirement that an annual dividend application be submitted to within the dividend year, expands the timeframe in which the individual must communicate with the Division and submit an application after a dismissed conviction, and reduces the annual dividend amount by including an estimated amount necessary to pay prior year dividends from the current year for individuals that may be dismissed from a conviction.

Estimating an amount to include in the annual calculation may be overstated for the first three to four years, until the division has a historical average to base the calculated amount upon. The first year estimate may be a calculation derived by analyzing prior appeals received in relation to dismissed convictions, along with statistics collected from Department of Corrections.



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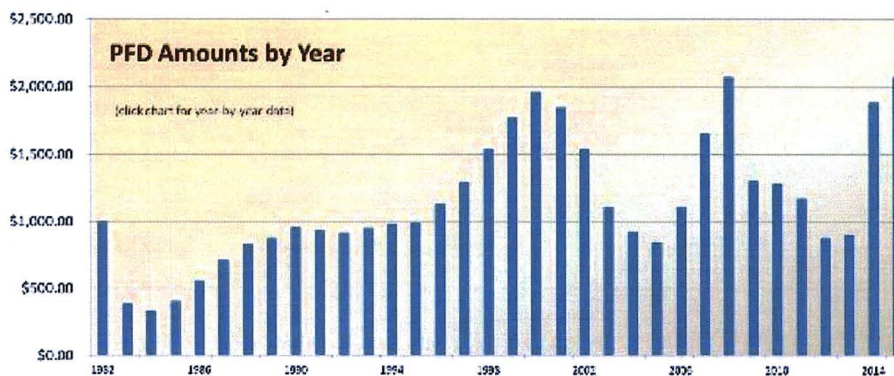
[HOME > DIVIDEND > THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND](#)

THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND

section links

[I have questions about my PFD](#)

PFD home



Realized income earned from the Fund's investments is accounted for in the earnings reserve account by state law. On June 30 of each year, the Legislature appropriates funds from the account for dividends, inflation proofing and for whatever other lawful purpose the Legislature may designate. All income in the earnings reserve is available for appropriation.

Each year, the dividend distribution is calculated using a formula set in state law. The formula is based on an average of the Fund's income over five years in order to produce a more stable flow of dividend amounts from year to year.

How the PFD amount is calculated

1. Add Fund Statutory Net Income from the current plus the previous four fiscal years.
2. Multiply by 21%
3. Divide by 2
4. Subtract prior year obligations, expenses and PFD program operations
5. Divide by the number of eligible applicants

Once the dividend amount has been calculated, the next step is to determine if enough income is available in the earnings reserve account to pay the dividend. While the full amount of the earnings reserve account is available for appropriation, the principal is not. It is possible that, in a given year, the calculation may produce a dividend although the funds may not be available to pay it.

The dividend program is administered by the Dividend Division of the Department of Revenue. For information on eligibility, applications and dividend status, please visit the [PFD Home Page](#).

[Privacy Policy](#)



Marvin Roberts

Yesterday at 10:17 PM · 👤

That first night I spent in jail was one of the hardest moments in my life. I had serious charges, murder was one of them. After being "Booked" I was put in the drunk tank at F.C.C.. I was not drunk. The tiny room smelled funny and the mattress was torn up. It was my first time in jail. I never got in trouble. Being only 19 and on the skinny side you could say I was scared. I told the Guard (C.O.) that I wasn't supposed to be in there, that I was innocent. Nobody heard me. I layed down on that torn mattress and had sad thoughts. Who could sleep in a situation like that? I prayed and asked God to get me out...please get me out. I prayed and still my spirit was breaking. I was hurting real bad. I don't know when I started crying or how long it lasted. My world was upside down. I'd love to say I was released the next day and that was that. No, this is not a happy ending. We spent over 18 years trapped in that nightmare. Fighting for our lives and never giving up! I say we because I was not alone. George Frese, Kevin Pease, and Eugene Vent were trapped with me. But we knew we were innocent and kept fighting. The Fairbanks Four we are called now. Back than we were lost boys. Lost, but still we kept faith. Finally, God answered our prayers. In December of 2015 our lives were given back to us. And I know this would not have happened without all of our supporters. Thank-you. I will always be grateful to all who brought us home to our families. I share this story because I wanted you to know what it was like for me, an innocent persons first time in jail. It really could happen to anybody. Can you imagine? We spent all of our twenties and most of our thirties in prison. All that lost time with our loved ones. We could have been building a retirement, mastering a trade. Instead I find myself working two jobs right now. Barely any time to spend with my family. The Fairbanks Four did not get compensated. Another reason I share my story is because there are currently two "House Bills" in the beginning stages in Juneau that could benefit The F-Four. 'HB 118' would compensate the wrongfully convicted, including us. 'HB 126' would let the wrongfully convicted receive all back dividends, including us. I once again ask for your help....please. If passed, these 'Bills' could do wonders for the boys and I. I'd love to spend more time with family. I want to get professional counseling for this trauma we endured. The 'Bills' would also be a deterrent against wrongful convictions. I would never want to see another innocent person locked up. Please, contact your local State Representative and/or Senator. Letters, e-mails, ph calls, anything. Ask them to support HB 118 and HB 126. Please, please, please...thank-you for believing in us...God bless all of you!



March 7, 2017

To: House State Affairs Committee members
Re: HB 127 and HB 118

Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins, Vice Chairwoman LeDoux and members of the State Affairs Committee,

Fairbanks Native Association was interior Alaska's first Alaska Native civil rights organization, and has advocated for the traditional rights of Alaska Native people ever since. After being incorporated in 1967 as a nonprofit under the laws of the State of Alaska, the Fairbanks Native Association worked to adapt and create innovative programs to meet changing community needs. Most programs have been expanded to provide all Fairbanks residents with early childhood education, healing services, and prevention efforts. For 50 years, FNA organization has had a positive impact on residents of all ages in the greater Fairbanks area. FNA programs are helping countless people to find new jobs, maintain sobriety, celebrate culture, and receive an education.

Fourteen months ago, Fairbanks Native Association celebrated the release from incarceration of the four men known as the Fairbanks Four, Marvin Roberts, George Frese, Eugene Vent and Kevin Pease. These men had maintained their innocence for 19 years and were partially vindicated after a five week trial when the state of Alaska traded the keys to their jail cells for the release of any civil liability in the prosecution and investigation of their cases. These four men can not seek compensation through the court processes available to most people. The State also did not provide these boys with any type of reparation to transition back into daily life; literally they are left with the shirts on their backs. Despite their proven innocence, the difficulty of reentering society is profound for the wrongfully convicted; the failure to compensate them adds insult to injury. Society has an obligation to promptly provide compassionate assistance to the wrongfully convicted

The process to guarantee true justice will be a long one. To ensure that no more Alaska Native men and women are falsely imprisoned, wrongfully convicted or victimized by the Alaska criminal justice system, many things must be examined and rehabilitated. It will involve oversight and training of law enforcement on false confessions, custodial interrogations and preservation of evidence best practices. It must include examination of charging and sentencing disparity as it applies to both rural and urban Alaska Natives and all Alaskans. Prosecutorial misconduct and the

605 Hughes Avenue, Suite 100 Fairbanks, AK 99701

* Phone 907-452-1648 * Fax 907-456-4148 * www.fairbanksnative.org *



mechanisms for accountability of State officials need to be codified with real and meaningful sanctions available. Eyewitness identification reform, access to post-conviction DNA testing, these reforms and subsequent change in law is often based on the work of Criminal Justice Reform Commissions similar to our own. Fairbanks Native Association supports all of the reforms above. We ask for your support in our endeavors.

House Bill 127 and 118 are important first steps in ensuring the integrity of our criminal justice system. Currently, the federal government, the District of Columbia and 30 states have compensation statutes. Twenty states do not. Alaska is one of those twenty. This is not an honored distinction. Please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Fairbanks Native Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Ginnis".

Steve Ginnis
Executive Director

February 27, 2017

Representative Scott Kawasaki
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Repayment of Withheld Permanent Fund Dividends for Eugene Vent, Marvin Roberts, Kevin Pease, and George Frese.

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

I am writing this letter to encourage you to keep up the fight for our boys and others whose sentences were commuted for any reason by the State of Alaska. I know each of the Fairbanks Four and am related to two of them: Eugene Vent and George Frese. Eugene is my late brother's boy and George is my sister's son.

We, now including the State of Alaska, knew that the facts of the case simply did not support the conviction of those arrested and charged with the horrific crime against John Hartman. They spent way too many years locked up for a crime they did not commit.

Specifically in Eugene's case, I would remind the Legislature that my nephew's confession was obtained under duress and when he was very young. As a result he and the other boys lost a major asset held by all Alaskans and that is the Alaska Permanent fund payment.

I have witnessed Eugene and George mature over the years and today with wisdom beyond their years, they continue to make the best of a bad situation by holding down jobs and contributing back to society and their community of Fairbanks. I believe they all deserve a chance to be called real Alaskans, citizens of this great state and honored with repayment of the Permanent Fund Dividend withheld for the past nearly twenty years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Annie Huntington-Kriska
9352 Morningside Loop, #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

This is the fund's history of annual individual payouts.

Year	Amount
1982	\$1,000.00
1983	\$386.15
1984	\$331.29
1985	\$404.00
1986	\$556.26
1987	\$708.19
1988	\$826.93
1989	\$873.16
1990	\$952.63
1991	\$931.34
1992	\$915.84
1993	\$949.46
1994	\$983.90
1995	\$990.30
1996	\$1,130.68
1997	\$1,296.54
1998	\$1,540.88
1999	\$1,769.84
2000	\$1,963.86
2001	\$1,850.28
2002	\$1,540.76

2003	\$1,107.56
2004	\$919.84
2005	\$845.76
2006	\$1,106.96
2007	\$1,654.00
2008	\$2,069.00 + \$1,200 Alaska Resource Rebate
2009	\$1,305.00
2010	\$1,281.00
2011	\$1,174.00
2012	\$878.00
2013	\$900.00
2014	\$1,884.00
2015	\$2,072.00
2016	\$1,022.00 (dividend was estimated to be \$2,052 however Governor <u>Walker</u> 's veto reduced it)

Source: Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (www.apfc.org/home/content/dividendamounts.cfm)

William Jodwalis

From: jody hassel <jodyhassel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Please pass HB127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is one of the things the State of Alaska can do to help the wrongfully convicted reestablish a normal life. The Fairbanks Four deserve and need our help. Thank you for your time Scott!

Sent from my iPhone

William Jodwalis

From: Julian Thibedeau <jrthibedeau09@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves, among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years, with nothing but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Sent from my LG Mobile

William Jodwalis

From: Alicia Hill <a.hill90@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: Rep. Kawasaki
Cc: House State Affairs Committee

Please accept this letter of support to pass HB 127.

The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I was only 11 years old when the story of the "Fairbanks Four" began. I heard everything people had to say about us Natives. For years after this, I did not feel valued as a native person. I was nearly 30 when they were released. I cannot even imagine the horror of spending nearly two decades in prison for a crime I did not commit. Now these men: Marvin, George, Eugene, and Kevin have been freed and have had to begin lives that were wrongfully stolen.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alicia Hill

William Jodwalis

From: emerson <emersonheads@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Public record comment

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, (please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite me being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three season, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads
1334 Overhill Drive
Fairbanks AK 99701
907-460-8950

William Jodwalis

From: Princess Lucaj <princesslucaj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Cc: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely & with gratitude for your public service!
Princess Daazhrai Johnson
Fairbanks, AK



February 28, 2017

To: House State Affairs Committee members
Re: HB 127 and HB 118

Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins, Vice Chairwoman LeDoux and members of the State Affairs Committee,

Tanana Chiefs Conference is an Alaska Native non-profit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. We are the traditional tribal consortium of 37 federally recognized tribes within 42 interior Alaskan communities. Our work is involved in the areas of health services, cultural and natural resources, and tribal development. TCC works closely with its membership to carry out its mission.

Fourteen months ago, Tanana Chiefs Conference celebrated the release from incarceration of the four men known as the Fairbanks Four, Marvin Roberts, George Frese, Eugene Vent and Kevin Pease. These men had maintained their innocence for 19 years and were partially vindicated after a five week trial when the state of Alaska traded the keys to their jail cells for the release of any civil liability in the prosecution and investigation of their cases. These four men can not seek compensation through the court processes available to most people. The State also did not provide these boys with any type of reparation to transition back into daily life; literally they are left with the shirts on their backs. Despite their proven innocence, the difficulty of reentering society is profound for the wrongfully convicted; the failure to compensate them adds insult to injury. Society has an obligation to promptly provide compassionate assistance to the wrongfully convicted

The process to guarantee true justice will be a long one. To ensure that no more Alaska Native men and women are falsely imprisoned, wrongfully convicted or victimized by the Alaska criminal justice system, many things must be examined and rehabilitated. It will involve oversight and training of law enforcement on false confessions, custodial interrogations and preservation of evidence best practices. It must include examination of charging and sentencing disparity as it applies to both rural and urban Alaska Natives and all Alaskans. Prosecutorial misconduct and the mechanisms for accountability of State officials need to be codified with real and meaningful sanctions available. Eyewitness identification reform, access to post-conviction DNA testing, these reforms and subsequent change in law is often based on the work of Criminal Justice Reform Commissions similar to our own. Tanana Chiefs Conference will be seeking all of the reforms above, this year and every year until lasting change is achieved. We ask for your support in our endeavors.

SUBREGIONS:

Upper Kuskokwim

McGrath
Medfra
Nikolai
Takotna

Lower Yukon

Anvik
Grayling
Holy Cross
Shageluk

Upper Tanana

Dot Lake
Eagle
Healy Lake
Northway
Tanacross
Tetlin
Tok

Yukon Flats

Arctic Village
Beaver
Birch Creek
Canyon Village
Chalkyitsik
Circle
Fort Yukon
Venetie

Yukon Koyukuk

Galena
Huslia
Kaltag
Koyukuk
Nulato
Ruby

Yukon Tanana

Alatna
Allakaket
Evansville
Fairbanks
Hughes
Lake Minchumina
Manley Hot Springs
Minto
Nenana
Rampart
Stevens Village
Tanana



House Bill 127 and 118 are important first steps in ensuring the integrity of our criminal justice system. Currently, the federal government, the District of Columbia and 30 states have compensation statutes. Twenty states do not. Alaska is one of those twenty. This is not an honored distinction. Please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Tanana Chiefs Conference

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor Joseph".

Victor Joseph,
President/Chief



LEADER in All We Do

March 7, 2017

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, House State Affairs Committee
State Capital Room 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Doyon support for HB 127, An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for overturned criminal convictions

Dear Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins,

This letter is a written statement of support on behalf of the Doyon, Limited Board of Directors, our employees, and shareholders for HB 127, "An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for an individual whose conviction has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent fund dividend because of a conviction that has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed."

Doyon is one of the thirteen Native regional corporations established by Congress under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. Doyon's mission is to promote the economic and social well-being of our present and future shareholders, to strengthen their Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

Just over a year ago, Doyon celebrated with Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Interior Alaska Native community the release of Marvin Roberts, George Frese, Eugene Vent and Kevin Pease from incarceration. These men, known as the Fairbanks Four maintained their innocence for 19 years and were partially vindicated after a five week trial when the State of Alaska traded the keys to their jail cells for the release of any civil liability in the prosecution and investigation of their cases.

Doyon also recognizes that the Alaska Permanent Fund is one of Alaska's greatest assets. While most Alaskans have benefitted from the vision of Governor Hammond and the Alaska State Legislature who originally enacted the permanent fund dividend program, the Fairbanks Four have not. HB 127 would allow for Alaska's wrongfully convicted to participate in the dividend program that continues to benefit all Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for the work you do on behalf of Alaska. If you have any questions regarding Doyon's support for HB 127, please contact our office at 907-459-2092.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Schutt
President and CEO
Doyon, Limited

William Jodwalis

From: Dorothy Shockley <shockleyd907@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:45 PM
Subject: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Re: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Please white out my title and organization. I meant to but sent it.
Thank you.
Dorothy

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 12:42 PM, Dorothy Shockley <shockleyd907@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Rep. Kawasaki and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 127. It is the least the state can do to compensate the wrongfully convicted.

I urge you all to pass HB 127 and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Respectfully,

--
Dorothy Shockley

--
Dorothy Shockley

William Jodwalis

From: Morgan VanHatten <morganvanhatten@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Fw: HB 118 and HB 127

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Feb 24, 2017 at 11:13 PM, Morgan VanHatten <morganvanhatten@yahoo.com> wrote:

To the state of Alaska:

I'm writing on behalf of those who have been wrongfully convicted for crimes they didn't commit. The depth of what these people have gone through is indescribable to say the least. They have been cheated out of time that can never be gotten back. It's important to let those people who have been wrongfully convicted know that they haven't been forgotten and we are all still fighting for justice. It's only right that the state pass HB118 and HB127 so that people like the Fairbanks Four can go on to lead healthy, productive lives and inspire others that through faith and the right people, anything is possible. I've always been a supporter of the Fairbanks Four and hope that you, Mr. Kawasaki do everything in your power to see that these young men get compensation for their time served. Thank you for all that you do for our state.

Sincerely,
Morgan King

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

William Jodwalis

From: Edwin Bifelt <edwin@zanehillscapital.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:58 PM
Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool;
Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Neal Foster
Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 127! PFD's for the wrongly convicted
Attachments: Edwin Bifelt_HB 127_Letter of Support.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon House members,

I urge you to support HB 127, which allows back pay of PFD's for those wrongly convicted. This is a direct benefit to the 'Fairbank Four'. As Alaskans I think we are all well aware of this case.

As a resident of rural Alaska, a business owner and strategic consultant and a city council member for the City of Huslia - I wholeheartedly support HB 127. I ask that the House please pass this bill in the first session.

I know you are all facing an immense and sometimes incomprehensible challenge as we face a growing state budget deficit. There is no 'easy' answer to this challenge, and the reality is (which we saw last year) there may not be significant progress this year. But this bill is an opportunity to 'get it right', at least once in this 30th Alaska Legislature. I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of these four men, that literally lost half their lives.

As a finance MBA I understand that in reality the effects of this compensation have little effect on the long-term fiscal solvency of our state. In addition this is a 'case' that is heavily embedded into the consciousness of rural Alaskans, Alaska Native's and many throughout the state. Your support will definitely be appreciated from all parts of the state.

As a person of logic, I think we all know there wont be very much 'wins' in this 30th legislature.. This is a chance for all of us to get a win.

I apologies for such a late letter of support. If you need any further info please contact me anytime. God bless you all.

Best Regards,

Edwin Bifelt
Owner/Principal Consultant

Zane Hills Capital, LLC
phone: 907-829-2248

www.zanehillscapital.com
www.twitter.com/zanehillscap
www.facebook.com/ZaneHillsCapital

William Jodwalis

From: liisarae@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127.

Liisia Edwardsen
PO box 132
Tanana, ak 99777

Sent from my iPhone

William Jodwalis

From: Tillila Beetus <tilbeetus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:16 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: HB 127 - E. Vent testimony

Hello, this is Eugene's testimony for your consideration

Eugene Vent

February 16 at 8:15pm · I don't post often, but lately I have been thinking about how life is out here, getting such a late start at adulthood and the struggles that come with it, I am a thirty seven year old Native man and just now getting the opportunity to find my destination, yeah, I heard it all... People tell me and the other three guys (Kevin, Marvin and George) that we deserve to be compensated or given millions for eighteen years of wrongful imprisonment... Now that I began working full-time, *I like my job... But everyday I catch that feeling of having been robbed of the most important years of my life, I appreciate all who are arguing for compensation... Scott Kawasaki, Bill Oberly and countless others, and now I am pleading that the people, citizens of Alaska once again rally behind this cause, that's what will make the difference, please come together and unite and demand compensation for 'The Fairbanks Four' It's only right, and now I believe that more and more as each day passes by, this type of Justice will only help reassure all Alaskans that these great examples of Injustice, our example... will be that much more less likely to happen, it is not about the money, but about accountability... and I hope we can all agree that what's right is right.*

Til Beetus
907-378-2541

William Jodwalis

From: Sharon Alden <fwxsca@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:47 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch;
Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing in support of HB 127

Those wrongfully incarcerated should have their Perminant Fund Dividends restored. This money will help those getting out of jail to restart their lives.

Thank you

Sharon Alden

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

William Jodwalis

From: Pam A. Miller <pammillerarctic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:54 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Support HB 127 Pay PFD's to those wrongfully convicted.

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 6:57 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Scott,

Thank you for introducing HB 127, a bill to pay PFD's to Alaskans whose convictions were vacated, reversed or dismissed.

This is an important bill towards the path of justice for the Fairbanks 4 and many others who have been wrongfully convicted.

I remember the great joy at the David Salmon Tribal Hall the day that all 4 of the men were reunited with their families, their communities, and the great burden that felt lifted that day after 20 + years.

But now these amazing, strong men continue to face the effects of their wrongful convictions that are far reaching into the future. This is far more than lost wages, benefits, or paying into Social Security or retirement systems for decades, savings, but also skills honed over years and years that deepen as they are shared with colleagues, mentors, and young people.

There is also the greater security that comes from building a life and along the way figuring out that fine balance of the work world and family, and how to grow a socially and culturally sustaining livelihood rooted from time in those special places hunting, fishing, harvesting, and more.

I strongly support those wrongfully convicted from receiving their past PFD's value with inflation to today for the years they were considered ineligible due to incarceration.

This bill is a small first step of the full compensation the Fairbanks 4 and unfortunately many others should be provided for the tragic time they lost.

Thank you for representing Fairbanks and the values that I trust all Alaskans share of justice, decency and plain old willingness to do right by people.

Best Regards,

Pamela A. Miller

1800 Musk Ox Trail

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907-441-2407

pammillerarctic@gmail.com

William Jodwalis

From: Lindsay Monty <cold_rain_nsnow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:06 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Supporting HB 127

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 6:57 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Kawasaki,
I'm writing in support of HB 127, so that people who've been wrongfully convicted can at least recover PFD funds to try and begin a normal life. This is just one way to rectify the unimaginable injustice of wrongful imprisonment. Please put yourself in another's shoes and vote in support of HB 127.

Thank you,
Lindsay Monty
Fairbanks, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

William Jodwalis

From: chuck hugny <chugny@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:18 AM
Subject: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
HB 127

Hi Scott, I wanted to encourage your support of HB 127 that would allow wrongfully imprisoned individuals "back payment" of their PFD's they missed while incarcerated. I do have a personal stake in this a high school teacher of Marvin Roberts, on of the Fairbanks four. It was always my assertion that Marvin was not capable of such a crime. Comments from other former students who were with Marvin that night only cemented my view of his innocence. As you are well aware he, and the other three young men, spent 16 years unjustly behind bars even after the true murders came forth. Marvin is making the best of a very bad situation. When our justice system fails in such a life destroying way I feel it is only just for them to be awarded the PFD's that would have rightfully be theirs!

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Charles " Chuck" Hugny
Mile 315 Parks Highway
North Nenana AK. 99760

Phone 1-907-750-5463

Sent from my iPhone

William Jodwalis

From: emerson <emersonheads@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: Fwd: Public record comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, (please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite me being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three season, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads
1334 Overhill Drive
Fairbanks AK 99701
907-460-8950

William Jodwalis

From: Don Ross <evrevross01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Rep. Kawasaki,

Restorative justice is a theme worthy of support. Your bill is a part of that process. The best of luck with it.

Yes, to creating a culture that cares for one another and the earth.

Peace Rider Don
2532 Roland Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

William Jodwalis

From: Rosie Ashby <ashbyrosie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 1:23 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: I support HB127 for Fairbanks Four

To whom it may concern,

I'm an Inupiaq Alaskan resident, who receives the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend; and know that each year that really helps keep up with costs of living up here in bush Alaska. Where costs are higher because of our remote areas. Rent/mortgages costs take a high amount out of our monthly incomes. Groceries cost for the month aren't pretty. Gas prices are high. Not to mention retail on our necessities of warm winter gear. These are all the things this bill I know may help the Fairbanks Four with. So I just want to take this time to show support. I highly support the bill being passed. They should have a right to their Permanent Fund Dividends that were not paid. Thank you for your time and God blessings. Taikuu!(Thank you in Inupiaq.)

- Fellow Alaskan just wanting to show support

Ashley Strauch

From: Billie Buckingham <ncountry@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127.

Thank you,
Billie Buckingham

Ashley Strauch

From: Tonya Garnett <tonyagarnett@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: HB127

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Tonya Garnett
tonyagarnett@hotmail.com
907-388-3805

Ashley Strauch

From: CLARISSA GUNTER <cgunter2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Support letter

To whom it may concern:

I believe it is very wrong to be accused of such horrible crimes that the Fairbanks Four were accused of. First your name is smeared all over the news papers and everyone is judging you. Then to sit in jail for 18 years for a crime the Fairbanks Four did not commit. Their whole lives were destroyed by this. At the very least they can be compensated for the pain and suffering they had to endure for 18 long years! They never got to learn a trade or go to college and starting life over in your 30's is not easy. They have endured enough pain and suffering they should at least be compensated and get their dividends from the past years.

--

*Sincerely,
Clarissa Gunter*

Ashley Strauch

From: Christy <christy_moses2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Thank you,

Christy Shank
907-388-4439
1607 27th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK
99701

Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Strauch

From: Valerie Webb <VEW@shanwil.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: HB 127

Hi All,

I support HB127! Thank you to whoever drafted this bill and brought it in front of you all. Please help this bill become a reality.

Thank you in advance,

Val



Valerie Webb, C.P.G. | Senior Geologist
2355 Hill Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

www.shannonwilson.com

Phone: (907) 479-0600 Fax: (907) 479-5691
Direct: (907) 458-3152 E-mail: vew@shanwil.com



Excellence. Innovation. Service. Value.
We Help Our Clients Achieve Their Goals.

Ashley Strauch

From: Travis Anderson <travisnicole@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Pfd

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB 127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction: on the contrary restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this 😊

I hope you have a wonderful rest of your day!

-Nicole and Travis Anderson

Ashley Strauch

From: Lou Brown <loubrown1952@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:13 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB127

February 28, 2017

Dear Legislator,

One of the things the State of Alaska can do to help the wrongfully convicted and help them reestablish a normal life is to pass HB127 which seeks to pay PFDs to Alaskans whose convictions were vacated, reversed or dismissed. It seems apparent that when an individual has been wrongfully convicted, reinstating their right to receive the PFD is the least the State can do to try to make a wrong right.

Thanks for considering my thoughts on this important matter.

Lou (Linda) Sue Brown

2630 Home run

Fairbanks, AK 99709

loubrown1952@gmail.com

--

Lou Brown
2630 Home Run
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-5629
loubrown1952@gmail.com

Ashley Strauch

From: Christin Anderson <mushroomchristin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:13 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: I support HB 127

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more."

I have met nice people who were incarcerated and released with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Everyone deserves mercy, and I believe that giving them their PFDs would be a step in the right direction, even more so for those who were wrongfully convicted.

Thank you,
Christin

Ashley Strauch

From: Sheryl Reily <sherylmareereily@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Subject: Support for HB 127

Dear Representative,

I am writing in support of HB 127 which will enable wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration.

It is the right moral choice and it will help them rebuild the lives that have been wrongfully taken from them by the State.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Maree Reily

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Ashley Strauch

From: Audrey C Bifelt <bifeltac@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Support HB 127

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB 127, to restore PFD payments to those wrongly convicted and incarcerated. Denying the PFD isn't right so please support HB 127. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Audrey C Bifelt

PO Box 49

Huslia, Alaska

99746

Ashley Strauch

From: Willow Bowen <bowenw@doyon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB127

Dear Scott -

I am writing to support HB127, a bill to restore PFD payments to the wrongfully convicted. If persons were wrongfully convicted and incarcerated, they suffered a gross injustice. HB127 does not compensate such persons to make up for their wrongful conviction. On the contrary, restoring their previously withheld PFD checks is simply a matter of returning something that was rightfully theirs all along. Failure to restore the withheld payments would be a perpetuation of injustice. Please do the right thing and support HB127. Thank you for your consideration.

This may seem like something small to our legislature in light of other issues, but to the Fairbanks Four, who have already suffered and lost much more than just 18 years of their life, it is a small token of restoring their faith in a broken system, and ours too.

Sincerely,

Willow Bowen

Fairbanks resident

Ashley Strauch

From: Mona Nollner <Mona.Nollner@tananachiefs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: letter

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Mona Nollner, Thank you for your work on the bills to seek compensation for the Fairbanks Four. These men are very important people to me. I realize this may be an uphill battle due to the current state budget and other factors. If there is anything I can do to help with these bills please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and best wishes this session.

Respectfully,

Mona Nollner

1223 26th Ave

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

907-712-4915

.....

Ashley Strauch

From: Emily Carroll <emilysidneycarroll@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: FAIRBANKS 4 HB127

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Emily Carroll. Thank you so for your all work on the bills to seek compensation for the Fairbanks Four.

These men are very important to me. One in particular happens to be one of my really good friends. These guys have been robbed a life time, no amount of money could ever fix or even come close to making what happened to them right or okay. These guys never got to have a chance like most of us in life and lost so many years and missed so much time with family they can never get back.

Realize this may be an uphill battle due to the current state budget and other factors. if there is anything I can do help with these bills please do not hesitate to contact me.

thank you for your time and best wishes this session.

Respectfully,

Emily Carroll

William Jodwalis

From: jody hassel <jodyhassel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Please pass HB127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is one of the things the State of Alaska can do to help the wrongfully convicted reestablish a normal life. The Fairbanks Four deserve and need our help. Thank you for your time Scott!

Sent from my iPhone

William Jodwalis

From: Julian Thibedeau <jrthibedeau09@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves, among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years, with nothing but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Sent from my LG Mobile

William Jodwalis

From: Alicia Hill <a.hill90@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: Rep. Kawasaki
Cc: House State Affairs Committee

Please accept this letter of support to pass HB 127.

The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I was only 11 years old when the story of the "Fairbanks Four" began. I heard everything people had to say about us Natives. For years after this, I did not feel valued as a native person. I was nearly 30 when they were released. I cannot even imagine the horror of spending nearly two decades in prison for a crime I did not commit. Now these men: Marvin, George, Eugene, and Kevin have been freed and have had to begin lives that were wrongfully stolen. The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alicia Hill

William Jodwalis

From: emerson <emersonheads@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Public record comment

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki, (please feel free to amend the introduction to properly reflect decorum)

I write in support of both Alaska House Bills 118 and 127. I think they represent what is right and just in the heart of Alaskans.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Fairbanks is my home, and Alaska will always be where my heart is despite me being away from her more than I would wish. I have inaugurated the Fairbanks Symphony chorus and was it's chorus master for three season, and I was the chorus master for numerous Opera Fairbanks productions, including conducting a few productions which included my own opera, commissioned by Opera Fairbanks.

I wrote Mass for the Oppressed for the release of the Fairbanks Four, which was premiered in Fairbanks in the summer of 2016 under the baton of Houston Symphony conductor, Robert Franz. The performance was attended by the Fairbanks Four. The audience gave the Four not one standing ovation, but two. The tears and palpable empathy which came from all those present was unforgettable, and as such, represents in artistic form, what these bills represent in hard, political and social currency.

I write in full support of these bills. They underline what is best about Alaskans: we are bigger and capable of embracing cultural divides, we are capable of ameliorating injustices, and we lift up the weak and underrepresented. This has been my experience in Fairbanks, and it has been my great pleasure to know that these traits don't just represent the Interior of Alaska, but rather, they are unequivocally Alaskan.

Thank you,

Emerson Eads
1334 Overhill Drive
Fairbanks AK 99701
907-460-8950

William Jodwalis

From: Princess Lucaj <princesslucaj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp
Cc: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 127

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 127. This bill enables wrongfully convicted Alaskans to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends for the years they are ineligible due to incarceration. The effects of a wrongful conviction are far reaching. The loss is immeasurable as far as opportunities, wages, family members, dignity, mental health, savings and more.

I have heard the stories of the "Fairbanks Four." They have returned to their families, and people who care, with nothing more than the clothes on their back. We all know the story of their trials, appeals and hearings. What we do not know is what happened after their release. They found themselves among everyone else who has been building their lives for the past 20 years. With nothing, but the items they had when they went into jail in the late 90s. They have had to learn so many new processes and technology that we take for granted.

The people who put them away may not even be serving our state anymore. It is up to this generation of leaders to make things right. There is no reason to release any guilty party from prison (unless they have served their sentence) due to political pressure. These men are free because they have always been innocent. I urge you to do the right thing and support the passage of this bill by the house and senate, it is a small price to pay compared to them giving their lives for someone else's mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely & with gratitude for your public service!
Princess Daazhrai Johnson
Fairbanks, AK