

**ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**1410**

**HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1995-1996**

1422

opportunity for subsistence taking and uses of fish and game resources.

Mr. Chairman, the only way the hunter in rural Alaska can put food on the table is to get a hunting license. Therefore, many of the hunters in rural Alaska contribute a substantial amount to the Fish and Game on the "hunting side." The Constitution states that there will be no dedicated funds. We proposed that this finance committee retain the level of funding from the general fund for the Division of Subsistence at the level it was funded last year and for the general fund to be replenished from the proceeds of licenses from rural Alaska. Rural Alaskan's do not hunt for "trophies" but hunts to put food on the table.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I submit with my testimony a fact sheet prepared by ADF&G of what the results will be of a gutted Division of Subsistence. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this very important fiscal matter.

## Subsistence Division Budget Gutted Further

The House budget cuts the Division of Subsistence program (general funds) by \$200,000. Combined with general fund cuts over the past six years, the Division's general fund program has been reduced by 50% (from \$2.1 million in 1992 to \$1.1 million in 1997) (see attached graph). State general funds are used to fulfill out statutory mandate to ensure adequate opportunity for subsistence taking and uses. With these funds, we pay for 15 full-time and 3 seasonal staff. These cuts would result in a loss of 3 full-time and 1 part-time staff, nearly one-third the staff charged to fulfill our statewide mandate.

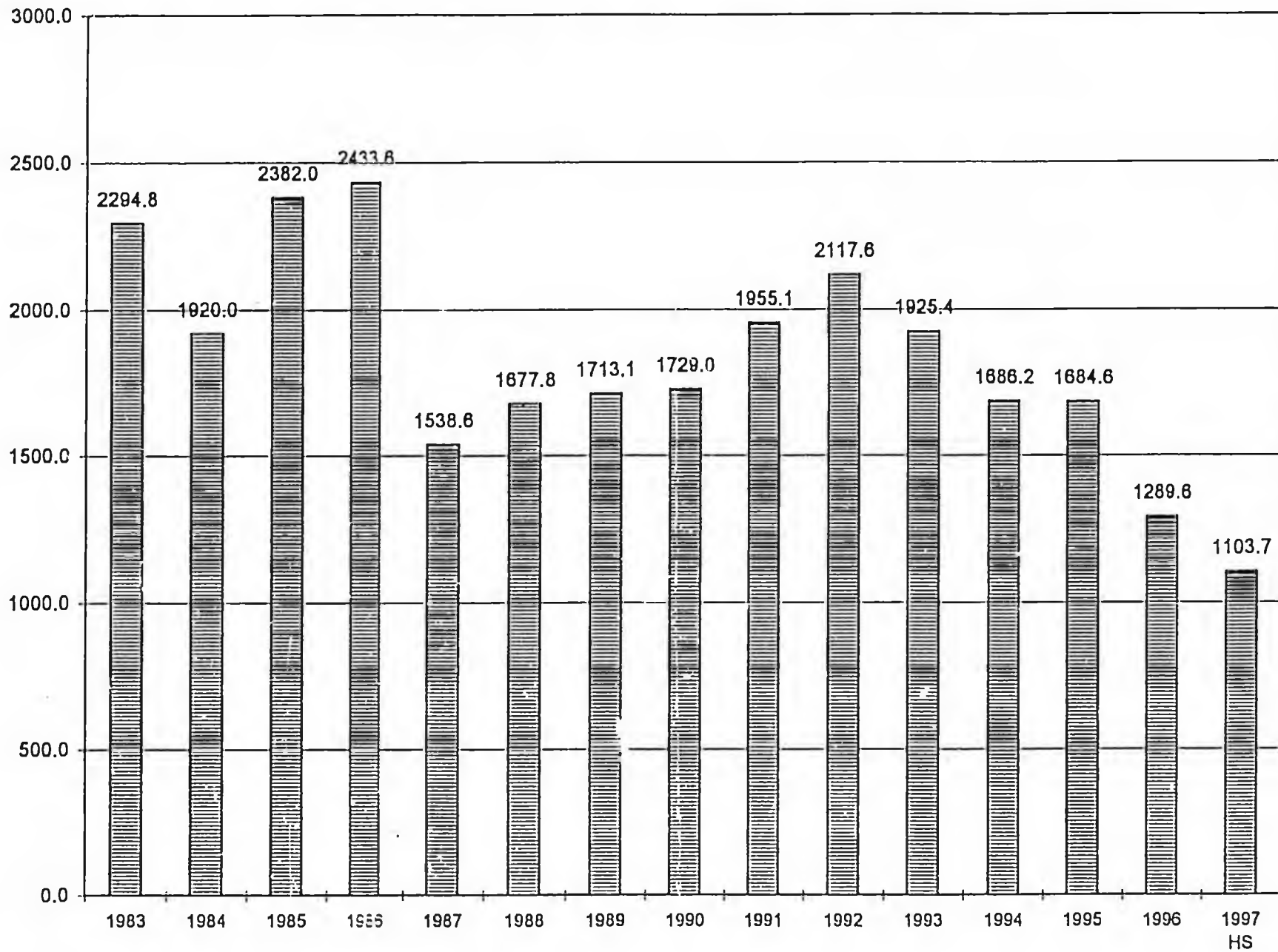
### A Gutted Program

At this funding level, the Division of Subsistence cannot carry out its legal mandates – to collect and present information on subsistence fishing and hunting to resource managers and to the public, so that subsistence uses can be protected within the state. At this funding level:

- The Division becomes simply a cataloger of old information.
- Staff would not directly participate in resource management decisions.
- New subsistence information would not be collected in most areas.
- Reliable subsistence information collected by the Division would become increasingly outdated.
- The Boards increasingly would depend on information collected under state harvest ticket and permit systems, which are notoriously inaccurate for representing subsistence hunting patterns in villages.
- Board decisions necessarily would have to be more conservative.
- Remaining staff in the Division would be centralized in Juneau, Anchorage, or Fairbanks. Regional office functions would be closed in Angoon, Nome, and Fort Yukon, and possibly Dillingham and Bethel.
- Collaborative projects with subsistence user groups would not take place under state funding.
- The Division would not have the core staff to attract federal money for subsistence research.
- The ability of the state to regain subsistence management is further eroded.

House budget public hearing, March 23  
9 a.m. (House Finance hearing room? 5th Capital)

# Division of Subsistence General Fund FY83-96, 97 House



My name is Lucy Hope. I live in Wasilla, and am President of Mat-Su Education Association, representing 856 teachers.

First, I want to acknowledge the committee for fully funding pupil transportation. This is very significant for the Mat-Su Borough.

However the flat funding of public education since the early 90's is showing up as a huge budget cut to our School District.

One of the areas that will be cut is every teacher who teaches art in elementary schools, and elective teachers at the 5 high schools.

Before we had art teachers, we provided art instruction through Artists in Schools <sup>grant</sup> Program. The proposed elimination of this will END art instruction for all 5500 elementary children.

and severely restrict  
art education for the  
other 6500 students. Your  
hallways in this capitol will  
no longer feature <sup>such</sup> unique  
& stunning artwork from  
children around the Mat-Su  
~~Wentworth~~ District.

I think this is un-  
acceptable, and urge you to  
reconsider educational  
funding and funding for  
arts.

Thank you

Lucy Hope  
P.O. Box 870887  
Wasilla AK  
99687  
376-4796

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee  
 (committee name)  
 committee on HB 412, dated 3-23-96.  
 bill/subject

My name is Carla Potter. I am an Artist residing and working in Ketchikan. The Arts-Humanities Council has and continues to provide me with many opportunities to pursue my artistic career. All of these opportunities provide me with income that is spent in many sectors of the community. The arts Council also administers most of the programs that provide wholesome quality entertainment for my family throughout the year. Programs like the first night series which only high quality performing arts we would otherwise not have access to. This whole community benefits from the activities of this arts council. Not only are the arts our cultural heart they provide many jobs /industry for the community as well. The Arts Council also administers the artist in schools program. With arts education virtually eliminated at the elementary level. This program is vital to the youth of our community.

Many times it is the only exposure these

P.S.

4 times in your Document for House Finance budget subcommittee Dept of Adm. You mention people being more creative. Maybe we aren't getting creative education and that's why you're having a hard time getting it together to keep these programs funded.

(Continuation of written testimony)

STOP The Artistic Illiteracy  
movement!!!

children get to an quality arts experience.

I feel that the fact we have to fight so hard to preserve arts funding is symptomatic of the lack of arts education in our schools. The arts are a discipline just as math and science are. To fully understand, appreciate or utilize the arts a person needs education in the use of the Visual language. Just as one may appreciate the beautiful sound of a foreign language we can only fully understand its full meaning with in depth study. So it is with the arts. Don't foster Arts Illiteracy. Fully Fund the Arts Council. Increase Arts education. Instill State income Taxes.

I also rely heavily on Public radio - T.V. I support them annually with membership Fees. We need more revenue. Be responsible not ignorant.

Signed:

Cassie Potter

Phone: 225-4145

Testifier

Myself

Representing (Optional)

423 Cedar

Address

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office  
Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
committee on HB412 (committee name) dated March 23, 96  
bill/subject

I am appalled by the idea of cutting the state arts council from the budget.

As a life-long Alaskan and small business owner, I feel that a healthy art community/state is VITAL to our state.

Art is not an extra - it speaks of the cultural identity of our state =

- ① ART draws visitors to our state - tourists come to see the arts of Alaska, I receive letters all winter from tourists who have seen my art.
- ② ART creates industry = Ask the arts council for number.
- ③ ART provides education through creative process: As an 'artist in school' - I tie regular coursework in science + natural history into hands on learning experience.
- ④ ART brings groups together - an example this year in Ketchikan = the Forest Service, timber industry and arts council working together!

Signed: Ervin Zerbetz Phone: 225-8212  
Testifier  
citizen  
Representing (Optional)  
Box 9943, Ketchikan AK 99901  
Address

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
committee on HB 412 (committee name) dated March 23, '96  
bill/subject

Public Radio and Television did a wonderful job, this past year, of reorganizing, cooperating, and maintaining services to Alaskans. They should be commended for their efforts, and set as an example to other state-depts, instead of being ~~cut~~ cut from the budget.

To be fair - I will offer a suggestion for savings: As a former state employee I remember the scurry at the end of the fiscal year to spend extra money in order to maintain budget levels for the coming year. I would love to see departments rewarded for spending less than allocated, instead of penalized - A change of policy in this area could provide savings to our state.

Signed: Evon Zerbetz Phone: 907-225-8212

Testifier citizen

Representing (Optional) Box 8943, Ketchikan, 99901  
Address

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
(committee name)  
committee on HB 412 bill/subject, dated 5/23/96

I oppose the proposed cuts to the DOE.  
I speak as a citizen concerned over  
the current state of affairs of the  
arts, both nationwide and on my State  
and local level.

I have spent equal time living in Alaska  
California, New York, and New Mexico and  
feel I can safely say Alaska is an  
"archaic" State. The people living here  
and working and supporting the goals of  
the larger industries have a need for and  
the right to decent health care, education  
and arts programs.

Thank you.

Signed: Matthew Shields Phone: 225-5684  
Testifier  
CITIZEN  
Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 2251 Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Address

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
committee on HB 412 (committee name) dated 3/03/96  
bill/subject

This issue is small so I will be brief.  
I would reiterate all of the opposition I have  
heard to moving out the Arts budget + cuts to  
public radio + television. I am gravely concerned  
as to the priorities of a legislature that would seriously  
consider these recommendations. Alaska is a growing  
+ developing state, it is inevitable that there will  
be many demands for financing. It is my opinion  
that the quality of life that we strive for in <sup>this</sup> great state,  
can be nothing more than a hollow promise  
if these proposed budget cuts become reality. Art  
in all forms is essential to any measure of quality  
in life. Art stimulates the imagination, fosters  
creativity + enables growth. Necessity is not  
the mother of invention — art is. Do not cut the arts  
budget on the public radio + television budgets.

Signed: SUSAN M. CROCKER Phone: 225-8490

Testifier SELF

Representing (Optional)  
Box 9258 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901  
Address

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the NOISE FINANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE  
committee on DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (committee name) dated 23 MARCH 96  
bill/subject

I AM DAVID VEIT, PRESIDENT OF SUMNER DYS  
COUNCIL, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DYS COUNCIL FOR  
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND.

YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD MANY ECONOMIC  
ARGUMENTS TO SUSTAIN THE STATE COUNCIL ON THE  
DYS, SO I WILL NOT REPEAT THEM. RATHER I WOULD  
LIKE TO REMIND THE COMMITTEE THAT ONE PURPOSE  
OF GOVERNMENT IS TO LEAD AND PROVIDE THE  
GREATEST AND BRANDEST DEVELOPMENT OF ITS POPULACE.

I AM PERSONALLY ALARMED BY THE BACKWARD  
MARCH TO A MORE REPRESSIVE AND NARROWED  
CONCEPT OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PERSON AND A  
CITIZEN OF THIS GREAT STATE OF ALASKA. I ENCOURAGE  
YOU TO RECONSIDER THE FUNDAMENTAL POSITIVE WAYS  
THAT THE DYS IN ALASKA IMPACT ALL OF US.

Signed:

DAVID VEIT  
Testify  
SUMNER DYS COUNCIL  
Representing (Optional)  
P.O. BOX 235 CRAIG, AK 99921  
Address

Phone: 826-3652-41  
826-2287-21

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE  
(committee name)  
 committee on HB 412, dated 3/23/96.  
 bill/subject:

I would like to make a statement in response to the proposed  
 reductions in the Division of Public Health.

I am a long time public health nurse. I know what happens when  
 travel budgets are cut. I have seen the results of reduced public  
 health services: with reduced disease prevention and containment  
 services, diseases and disabilities increase at great cost to  
 individuals and the state. Other states are sadly aware of this,  
 and are scrambling to make up for years of costly disarray in their  
 public health systems. The Division spends a good deal of money on  
 travel to provide services. That is the unavoidable cost of our  
 state's geography and demographics. The Division serves villages  
 and communities by traveling to them. Many little communities do  
 not have any other health care provider than a public health nurse  
 who visits one or two times a year. Thus, travel is essential.

The other proposed cuts in the Division's budget will affect  
 service delivery. Our work today is so complex and in so many  
 program areas that the workers in the field need enormous support  
 from administration. I respectfully ask you to reflect on the  
 potential consequences of these cuts. In public health, money spent  
 up front is money saved. I am happy to provide any further  
 information to you from my perspective. Thank you.

Signed: Jeanne W. Povitti Phone: 907-225-5992  
Testifier  
Jelly  
 Representing (Optional)  
PO BOX 3904 Ketchikan AK 99901  
 Address:

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee  
(committee name)  
committee on HR 412, dated 3-23-96  
bill/subject

Alaska is different from the other states.  
Alaskans follow, realize this, and  
therefore nothing further need be  
said as matter. I also agree that  
the budgets must be cut. There  
are many places to cut waste.  
The arts, education, public radio  
and TV should be fully funded,  
because all are essential to  
the basic needs of Alaskans, and  
it is not practical to privatize  
food and to provide for these  
necessities.

Signed: A. Fred Miller Phone: 907-225-6666  
Alan Miller  
Testifier  
Private citizen  
Representing (Optional)  
637 Main St  
Address

## Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee  
 (committee name)  
 committee on HB 412, dated 3-23-96.  
 bill/subject

My name is Karen Petersen. I am ~~an~~ a 10 year volunteer  
 at KRBD FM and also a 10 year volunteer in S.E.  
 Symphony as a cellist. Every year Public Radio receives  
 a DISPROPORTIONATE cut to funding and every year  
 we are told its the last time will be cut. HA!  
 Politicians wonder why no one believes them....  
 Public Radio is unique in Alaska and more than  
 anywhere else in the US, provides a life line to  
 Alaskans. Congressman Don Young always asks public  
 testifiers is ~~that~~ they're Alaskans. We are Alaskans -  
 fighting to keep Alaskan programs going. The same  
 goes for the Arts Council - S.E. Symphony was formerly  
 the Shostakovich Symphony and that name is more  
 apro-poe. We have 4000~~00~~ in the bank - that's our  
 total operating budget. We rely on the infrastructure →

Signed:

Karen Petersen  
 Testifier

Phone: 225-7607

Representing (Optional)  
PO Box 9068 - Ketchikan Ak  
 Address

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office  
 Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

(Continuation of written testimony)

of the Arts Council to support our performances.  
Since the schools have eliminated their music programs we have ~~to~~ several young people who play with us - the youngest is 8 years old. If SE Symphony ~~can't~~ ceased to exist their music program would also stop.

Please do not increase your paychecks on the backs of the Arts and Public Radio

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier  
Representing (Optional)  
Address

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office  
Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee  
(committee name)  
committee on HB 412, dated 3/23/96.  
bill/subject

Mr. Chairman ! As a concerned citizen I came to this teleconference to testify in favor of Public Broadcasting and the Arts. After an hour and a half my 3 year old and 2 mo old have had enough. ~~my 3 year old~~ I can not imagin living in Ketchikan with out Public Broadcasting & the Arts Council. My daughter loves Sesame St and lot. of other PBS programs. I want my baby to have those same programs to watch. We are constantly hearing how TV has too much violence and can be so ugly. Public Television is the only channel you can leave on all day & night and know it will always be educational and be in good taste. Public Radio is also very important to us. My husband and I used to live in a remote cabin and Public Radio was our only link to the world. That is how we stayed up to date on the world, the locals and you in Juneau. Even though we live in town now, Public Radio is still our major source of information & entertainment. For family entertainment (continued)

Signed: Ann Wickness Continued. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

Representing (Optional) KTN, AK.  
Address

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office  
Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

(Continuation of written testimony)

In Town, The Arts Council is the organization that provides all the events. From the Blueberry Festival to Concerts to Educational workshops to the Theater. If the Arts Council is zeroed out, Entertainment in Ketchikan will go back to the Bars, and those of us with strong family values will be left with nowhere to go.

Thank you for funding Education and please fund Public Broadcasting and the Arts Council.

Signed:

Don P. Widness  
 Testifier

Phone: (907) 225-1906

Representing (Optional)  
51681 S. Tongass Hwy Ketchikan, AK 99901  
 Address

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
committee on Public Communications/Arts (committee name), dated 7/23/96.  
bill/subject

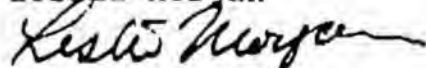
I chose to live in Alaska 15 years ago  
because of its strong Public Radio & Arts. We  
cannot eliminate Arts/Public Radio-TV. They  
provide a vehicle to share information news life  
information article to sanity during long summer  
work hours and long winter sedentary days.  
My family & I feel this is our life line  
to the other communities of this state. We  
are in a broadcast shadow for public TV, so must  
subscribe to cable. I can tell you what happens  
on the streets of Chicago & Denver daily, but  
I would not be able to tell you anything about  
the daily happenings in Anytown, Alaska if you  
make these cuts - THAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Support  
Public Broadcasting PLEASE! I pay tax & vote tax

Signed: Bob Wideman Phone: 225-1906  
Testifier  
Myself  
Representing (Optional)  
Box 7962  
Address

The Arts and Humanities are an essential part of education. Perhaps they are not directly connected to economic concerns or even, on the surface, to the interests of the majority, they none the less have an important role in a healthy culture. Just as few people are interested in an education in medicine, we cannot deny the benefit we all receive from the tiny proportion of people who pursue such a course. The effect of the Arts and Humanities is less apparent but has an impact far beyond the minority who take interest in them. The primary benefit is their role as "cultural fertilizer" providing a rich soil out of which a healthy culture can grow. Generally speaking, this "cultural fertilizer" consists of encouraging flexibility of thought and, to a certain degree, an ability to observe ourselves more dispassionately. The fact that the majority are not interested in such tools does not negate the effect of those who are on society as a whole.

The Arts and Humanities are not essential in a decaying culture but they are essential for a healthy one.

Leslie Morgan



P.O. Box 23309

Ketchikan, AK 99901

March 20, 1996

Alaska Legislature  
Finance Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Finance Committee,

It has come to our attention that you are considering further funding reductions for Public Television and Radio in Alaska.

Your failure to understand the importance of Public Radio and Television in Alaska communities, large and small, is appalling. For the thousands of us who cannot receive cable TV for one reason or another the Public TV and Radio service is absolutely vital. There is nothing commercially available to replace the statewide weather broadcast by NOAA, the educational programs, nature programs, news programs and even financial programs. These Public Stations need a strong signal that will reach us! And they are doing it now on reduced funding you set last year. The development of Alaska One (KUAC, KYUK and KTOO) for instance has given us an even better product than RATNET and I support them with my own money as a subscriber. They are doing their part to operate with less.

Please think about the quality of life for Alaskans as you make your budget cuts. We want a leaner, cost efficient government, not a mean spirited, backward place where no one enjoys life at all. Surely there is still real "fat" you can cut that would not have such a negative impact on those who look to you for leadership.

We will be watching closely to see who is supportive and non-supportive of our Public Television and Radio funding. If you folks in the Legislature and on the Finance Committee are not "in tune" with what Alaskans want, ask your friends and neighbors back home.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Ann Schallert

  
Donald W. Sindler

Ketchikan, Alaska

cc: Governor Tony Knowles, Juneau, AK

Sean Parnell  
House Finance Committee  
fax: 465-2278

Representative Sean Parnell,

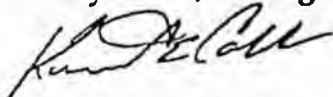
I'm writing to enlist your support for the funding of public radio, in particular that of the Kachemak Bay Broadcasting Incorporated. I manage a 40 plus unit motel in the Homer area, and I have found public radio to be an essential part of the services I can provide my customers. Through public radio I can keep abreast of local weather and fishing conditions for which most of my customers make the voyage to Homer for. Public radio also keeps me informed about interesting things going on within the Homer community that my customers may find of interest as well as those around the state. With the increase in tourism and the vast distances they traverse I have found that only public radio provides the detailed and widespread coverage that I need to stay informed on conditions and happenings that directly affect my business.

Recently there has been much discussion concerning the comparative industries in this area: oil and tourism. Needless to say my livelihood, and those of my employees rely on the tourist industry which I feel has been demeaned for the sake of the big business oil dollar. I find it objectionable to think that special breaks and conditions can be given to the oil industry which serves a minority of Alaskans while a public service, like radio, for all Alaskans continues to be the objects of cuts. I seriously hope you will reconsider the direction Alaska seems to be taking and in your hands guide it towards tourism and Alaskans which benefit more and is ecologically less damaging than the harvesting of oil.

For all of us the continuance and upgrade of public radio is not only important, but directly affects our lives and those of our visitors.

Thank you for helping us create better businesses,

Kenny Cobb, manager



Beluga Lake Lodge  
984 Ocean Dr.  
Homer, AK 996603



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 888  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

## Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: (H)ELN

Date: 3-23-96

Bill Number(s): HB412

Subject(s): Budget

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

AGAINST cuts of 6.5 million to Health & Social Services Dept  
AGAINST cuts to Alaska marine Hwy Systems  
5% Growth in MEDICAL FOR 97 IS UNREALISTIC WITH  
RISE IN BIRTH RATES IN RURAL ALASKA  
AGAINST RED IN ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FR. 4% TO 2.3%  
FOR CUTS TO MEDS (RATNET) NOT MEETING NEEDS OF AREA

Mildred Trout  
Testifier's name (s):

Jeff  
Representing (opt.):

P.O. Box 287 Bethel  
Address

907-543-6260  
Phone



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

## Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: (H) Fin

Date: 3.23.96

Bill Number(s): HB412

Subject(s): EDUCATION, Alcoholism TX, MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

### **Please enter my testimony into the record.**

\* I'm AN ALASKAN NATIVE I DID NOT HAVE Public TV or radio FOR 22 YEARS I CAN DO W/O IT. BESIDES TECHNOLOGY TODAY allows or would allow me to ACCESS ANY PROGRAM OFF THE SATELLITE TRANSDONDER WITH THE AID OF A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLAR Receiver - I see alot of waste in Public BROADCASTING - KNOW I could not DO W/O STUDENT LOAN AID, MENTAL HEALTH professionals & their programs - we need alcoholism TREATMENT AND intervention program Funding

PETER TWITCHELL Thank You. Self  
Testifier's name (s): Representing (opt.)

P. o. Box 703 Bethel, AK 907 543 3853  
Address 99559 Phone



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

## Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: Reps: Hawley (H Fid)

Date: 3/23/96

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Public Radio & Mental Health

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

*I would like to request that the Committee restore the cuts from the Governor's budget in relationship to Public Radio & Public TV, Mental Health & DD services.*

Charles Ferguson  
Testifier's name (s):

Self  
Representing (opt.)

P.O. Box 119 Bethel, AK.  
Address

543-5472  
Phone



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

## Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: House Finance Budget Sub

Date: March 25, 1996

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Budget

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

*As a public health professional, I have several issues I would like to discuss with you. First, thank you for not cutting the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault within the Dept. of Safety. Domestic violence and sexual assault*

MARK W. JENKINS  
Testifier's name (s):

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH  
Representing (opt.) COMP.

P.O. Box 2316  
Address

(907) 543-6040  
Phone

MARK W. JENKINS

March 25, 1996  
Testimony for the  
second

remain essential areas for public health funding, it is time that this public health issue receive appropriate funding. Second, continued funding from the State of Alaska for Public Broadcasting (radio/ARCS) is critical for the health, emergency, and communication needs of rural Alaskan residents. The proposed phase out of the public funding for these programs will be disastrous for rural residents. We rely on these services for important information. Please do not cut these Public Broadcasting Programs. Lastly, Public-funded Arts Programs are critical to the health and well-being of Alaskan residents. The choice to cut funding for the Arts is near-sighted and will result in great harm to the people of rural Alaska. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Mark W. Jenkins.



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

Written Testimony  
for the  
Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: House Finance Budget Subcommittee

Date: March 23 1996

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Budget

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

*Good morning. My name is Carmen Lowry and I am the Executive Director of the Tundra Women's Coalition. TWC provides immediate safety, intervention services and prevention services - to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. I would like to address 3 issues:*

Carmen Lowry  
Testifier's name (s):

Tundra Women's Coalition  
Representing (opt.)

P.O. Box 1537  
Address

(907) 543-3444  
Phone

- (1) Thank you for your support to addressing the needs of domestic violence and Sexual assault. Supporting the CDUSA directly translates into supporting victims of crime AND supporting healthy, non-violent relationships. Thank you, esp. Rep. Parnell for your continued support.
- (2) Public Broadcasting is an essential service, please don't cut our communication life lines.
- (3) I fully support a State Income tax. Essential services can not be sacrificed while we sit back and not pay part of the services.

Thank you.

*Tommy Parnell*



# Alaska State Legislature

## Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE  
(committee name)

committee on HB412 Op Budget, dated 23 March 1996  
(bill/subject)

Please restore funding for public broadcasting, which provides in-depth news coverage and other important information to a large constituency of listeners. Having volunteered my service to KCAW in Sitka, and lately to the translator repair group in Cordova for KCHU-Valde. I can assure you that there is a large constituency volunteering their time and/or money to keep public radio and TV on the air, to link Alaskans with the rest of the state, nation, and world.

Reducing the budget for Subsistence Division of the Dept. of Fish + Game, makes little sense, unless the State of Alaska is abdicating control of this facet of resource management to the federal government.

Power Cost Equalization is important in Cordova, as this program provides better than half of our generation and maintenance cost. Until facilities are constructed to reduce ~~the costs~~ these costs, I encourage you to maintain this program, or if necessary, reduce it gradually.

Thank you.

Signed: Charles Branch  
Testifier Name

We support a state income tax based on income generated in Alaska, by both residents and non-residents.

Charles Branch and Brenda Branch  
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1692 Cordova AK 99574  
Address

907-424-3894  
Phone Number

Pete Kelly  
House Finance Committee  
fax: 465-2278

Representative Pete Kelly,

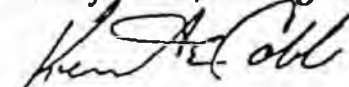
I'm writing to enlist your support for the funding of public radio, in particular that of the Kachemak Bay Broadcasting Incorporated. I manage a 40 plus unit motel in the Homer area, and I have found public radio to be an essential part of the services I can provide my customers. Through public radio I can keep abreast of local weather and fishing conditions for which most of my customers make the voyage to Homer for. Public radio also keeps me informed about interesting things going on within the Homer community that my customers may find of interest as well as those around the state. With the increase in tourism and the vast distances they traverse I have found that only public radio provides the detailed and widespread coverage that I need to stay informed on conditions and happenings that directly affect my business.

Recently there has been much discussion concerning the comparative industries in this area: oil and tourism. Needless to say my livelihood, and those of my employees rely on the tourist industry which I feel has been demeaned for the sake of the big business oil dollar. I find it objectionable to think that special breaks and conditions can be given to the oil industry which serves a minority of Alaskans while a public service, like radio, for all Alaskans continues to be the objects of cuts. I seriously hope you will reconsider the direction Alaska seems to be taking and in your hands guide it towards tourism and Alaskans which benefit more and is ecologically less damaging than the harvesting of oil.

For all of us the continuance and upgrade of public radio is not only important, but directly affects our lives and those of our visitors.

Thank you for helping us create better businesses,

Kenny Cobb, manager



Beluga Lake Lodge  
984 Ocean Dr.  
Homer, AK 996603

**David & Maryann Frazier**  
2636 Sheperdia Drive  
Anchorage AK 99508  
274-2869

---

**March 23, 1996**

**To: Mark Hanley, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee Member**

**Re: Funding cuts for Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA)**

**My husband and I are long time residents: 37 years for me and 28 years for him. He owns and runs an insurance brokerage company here and I am a bookkeeper. We own a home, a 4-plex and property. We have two children in school, one in junior high and one in grade school. We are all concerned about the proposed funding cuts to eliminate the ASCA and the devastating impact it would have on the entire state.**

**You see, we are more than just taxpayers and students. We are also citizens of this state, and as such, we are representatives of life in Alaska when we travel, and we travel quite a bit. Eliminating funding for the Arts doesn't just hurt the Art community, it hurts everyone. Art in this isolated region of the world is a connecting and uniting force. Without it we become void culturally. Without culture there is no richness to life. Without that, we simply labor.**

**My family would have little to stay in Alaska for if funding for the arts is eliminated. I am not just a bookkeeper, but also a dancer and painter. Both of my children dance and the oldest is a budding musician. My husband and I spend our extra money on supporting live performance and visual arts in Alaska. We have seen the magic the arts has on our lives and our children and know that it must continue for us. There are other states who value the arts. Must we be so short sighted?**

**Please vote for continuing the ASCA. Our family does not support eliminating the Council or its role in Alaska.**

**Maryann and David Frazier**

# ASSOCIATED ISLAND BROKERS

March 25, 1996

House Finance Committee  
 Alaska State Legislature  
 State Capitol  
 Juneau, Alaska

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/23	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Mark Hanley	From	Sharlene Sullivan		
Co./Dept.		Co.	AIBI		
Phone #		Phone #	486-2000		
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	486-2016		

Dear House Finance Committee,

This letter is regarding proposed budget cuts by the House sub-committee for Occupational Licensing for Fiscal Year 1997.

Associated Island Brokers, Inc. of Kodiak, a member of the Alaska Association of Realtors, shares the concerns of the Association regarding proposed budget cuts for Fiscal Year '97, and supports the position it has taken. These budget cuts would significantly affect objectives, positions and publications vital to the operation of the Association and its members. The effects of these cuts would be far-reaching and long-lasting, defeating the purposes for which it was established.

Associated Island Brokers, Inc. joins the Alaska Association of Realtors in respectfully requesting the reinstatement of these funds needed to continue such essential programs.

Sincerely,



Sharlene Sullivan, Broker



218 CENTER AVE., SUITE 200  
 OFFICE: (907) 486-2000

KODIAK, ALASKA 99615  
 FAX: (907) 486-4016





# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance

committee name

committee on

Education Funding  
bill/subject

dated

3/29/96

I've worked as a teacher and principal at the elementary level for 25 years in the state of Alaska. I've seen a real decline in services & funding the past 10 years. I am currently working at Sears Elementary in Kenai & have been in this district, Kenai Peninsula Bd for 20 years. Our district has been in an ongoing cut mode for 9 years - flesh, fat & now down to the bones - the very structure of our educational system which is people's jobs. Education without people is like a cart without a horse - it goes nowhere.

Speaking on behalf of young children, the most effective & important tools we can put into their lives are more positive adults. I'm asking the legislature to increase funding to education in a major way. I can cite studies for you which have proven strong educational support for young children keep them out of prison. The added \$148mil we are using to build prisons could in future be diminished or disappear with the injection of a stronger education system. (over)

Signed:

Josquin Imle

Testifier

Education

Representing (Optional)

714 Cypress, Kenai Ak. 99611

Address

(907) 283-4347

Phone No.

Our state is the wealthiest in the nation. To underfund education is a matter of misplaced priorities. With \$19 billion in savings earnings, \$150 mil in journey alone, I find it baffling that there is not enough for school districts to keep up with inflation, let alone expand programs.

A state tax, an endowment for future funding + use of permanent fund interest, all seem like obvious methods to support the state's mandate to fund education adequately. I do not see the current level of funding in the Kenai district as adequate. I would like to see the foundation formula increased immediately by 10% to help close the gap from the past 9 years, and then 4% a year in future to keep up with inflation.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_\_\_  
 committee name  
 committee on Budget , dated 3/19/96  
 bill/subject:

I Believe That All programs, Departments +  
 Community Members have Reasons to Not Receive  
 Cuts. Your Decisions are Difficult, & Painful &  
 Unpopular. It appears to me that we have  
 Multiple revenue sources that are not being  
 Tapped. Income Taxes are only one. Alaska  
 is a wonderful place to visit & live. Each person  
 who Benefits from Alaska needs to contribute,  
 not just take. The historical experience of Alaska  
 is that people Decent, Take & leave. Lets Change it.  
 What a Concept - to give each - please help her to give Back  
 Revenues to approved to bills. please See.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Testifier  
Kenai  
 Representing (Optional)  
Kenai  
 Address  
283-9479  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 committee name  
 committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET, dated 3/23/96  
 bill/subject

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my strong support of any funding or assistance regarding the issues of Domestic Violence. This is an issue that needs the support of people like yourselves as well as the people that it affects.

Thank you.

Signed: Judith L. Ruyon  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
KENAI

Address

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 committee name  
 committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET, dated 3/23/96  
 bill/subject

FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS MUST BE SEEN OR VIEWED AS A PRIORITY. VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE BECAUSE PEOPLE GET AWAY WITH IT. I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASE OF VIOLENCE IN OUR YOUTH. FUNDING TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL TO HELP STOP THIS GROWTH. WE CAN'T PRETEND THAT VIOLENCE IN THE HOME DOES NOT AFFECT ANYONE, ANYMORE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EARNEST CONSIDERATIONS. I KNOW YOU WILL CHOOSE TO TAKE A PRO-ACTIVE STEP IN ASSURING A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE..

Signed: Kenneth M. Hunt  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
11611 3RD AVE #1, KENAI AK 99611  
 Address  
(907) 283-2025  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET, dated 3/23/96  
bill/subject

I support continued  
domestic violence shelters &  
funding. Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

Signed: *Patricia S. James*  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
1611 3 Rd. AVE #2 Kenai AK  
Address

283 3522  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 committee name  
 committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET, dated 3/23/96  
 bill/subject

I strongly urge Funding for DVSA programs be given priority in the state Operating Budget. At maintenance funding DVSA services to Alaskan women and children are suffering. Any budget cuts will endanger these women and children. Does Alaska want to continue to lead the nation in sexual assaults ??? DVSA programs need increased funding to provide services to children, to provide emergency transportation and to provide support groups. The DVSA program needs to provide a competitive salary for its employees. The state needs to attract competent DVSA employees in order to provide quality services to Alaskan women and children. DVSA program funding deserves highest priority.

Signed: Millie Russell  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
Rt 1 Box 155 Kenai AK 99611  
 Address  
907 - 776 - 5647  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET dated 3/23/96  
bill/subject

It's Time to STAND, To STAND HAND & HAND w/ victims...

It's Time STAND Against Domestic Violence

+ sexual ASSAULT.  
use your HAND TO STAND AGAINST violence

By signing a budget that  
Prioritizes funds to support

Programs that shelter, train, educate + support  
Women & children who are victims of

Domestic violence. Violence Against Women +  
children CAN NO longer BE LAST ON THE  
list.

PLEASE TAKE A STAND, PUT THE PEN IN HAND  
+ INCREASE FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Signed: [Signature]  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
1611 3rd Ave #1 Kenai AK  
Address 99611  
283-9479  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE  
 committee name  
 committee on \_\_\_\_\_, dated March 23, 1996  
 bill/subject

I Support public radio AVAILABLE throughout ALASKA.  
 Please consider capping permanent fund dividends or  
 institute A state-wide tax to close budget shortages.

Signed: Jeff Graham JEFF GRAHAM  
 Testifier  
Myself  
 Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 1725 Soldotna, AK 99659  
 Address  
203-3793  
 Phone No.

TO: House Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 519  
Juneau, 99801-1182

From: Ph/fax 262-9601

Re: Reserve a safety net for **your** constituents when their jobs are lost  
by slashed state spending

Date: 3/23/96

From: James E. Fisher,  pro bono leg counsel, Alaska Legal Services (ALSC)

At a recent constituent hearing, I was shocked when my request to increase ALSC's grant, was emotionally and emphatically illustrated by the requests of more than 20 very worried employees of the Alaska Employment Service, concerned over prospective unemployment when lack of funding deletes the Kenai, Homer and Seward Offices. I predict, only a short time will pass until some of those neighbors will need Alaska Legal Services for help in a crisis resulting from unemployment.

It is probably not much comfort to those Alaskans, that the prospective job loss imminent for them, is apparently the fault of less Federal funding.

As a safety net, when your constituents lose jobs from slashed state spending, I urge the reservation of 1% of the sum(s) cut from state programs, to be added to the present level of the Alaska Legal Services allocation. If this safety net is reserved to ALSC it would assure the continuation of crisis help for those "knocked off their feet" by slashed state spending.

Many Alaskans feel insecure over the job/economy situation—which is probably not helped by repeated media reports of drastically proposed less state spending.<sup>1</sup>

To provide the crisis help for children, families, and other vulnerable Alaskans, legislative strengthening of the ALSC grant is wise because:

>>> ALSC is uniquely able to help Alaskans hurt by slashed state spending.  
>>>ALSC has a proven record of helping Alaskans catapulted into severe crisis to get "back on their feet" and is functioning statewide.

---

<sup>1</sup> Senator John Sachet, as a former Finance Chair, observed that 2000 jobs (state, local & private) would be lost for each \$100,000,000 in slashed state spending.

Without the direction of Ak Legal Services the Pro Bono Program will not perform. The private lawyers will be unable to systematically contribute to justice in Alaska, as such lawyers do now under the Pro Bono Program. Therefore, if Ak Legal Services is weakened (or horrors, vanishes if ALSC collapses) the amount of pro bono justice will decline, possibly to a drastic extent.

For protection of your constituents, I implore you to reserve to the ALSC grant an additional 1% of any overall state spending cuts, to insure crisis help will be available when it will be desperately needed by our Alaskan neighbors.

Thanks again for hearing my plea,

James E. Fisher  
171 Farnsworth Blvd. 99669, ph/fax:262-9601

(HF32396h.ear)



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on   HB 412 - Operating   dated   3-23-96    
bill/subject   Budget  

I support continued funding for programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence + sexual assault

Signed:   Randy Smith    
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
  P.O. Box 2526 - Kenai    
Address  
  283-7492    
Phone No.

## Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee committee on SB197/Operating Budget, dated 3/22/96.

Please protect funding for victim services in Alaska. Domestic violence & sexual assault are public safety issues which directly affect the lives of many Alaskans.

Consider:

- Alaskan women are killed at 1.5 times the national average.
- Last year, 67% of the murders investigated by the Alaska State Troopers involved domestic violence.
- Alaska leads the nation in per capita sexual assaults of adults.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault has identified a \$735,500 current unmet financial need for victim service programs around the state. Locally, we at the Women's Resource & Crisis Center in Kenai are unable to adequately provide the requested children's services due to lack of sufficient funding. Women and children who need to reach our safe shelter from rural communities often must stay in abusive situations because there is not enough funding for their emergency travel.

Maintenance funding will not meet the current need. We urge you to deal with this public safety issue responsibly by ensuring that shelter and advocacy services are funded at a level which offers victims the safety and protection they deserve. Budget cuts should not endanger the lives of women and children. Thank you for your support.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Brenda G. Wieffering* 3/22/96

Brenda G. Wieffering, Executive Director  
Women's Resource & Crisis Center  
325 S. Spruce St., Kenai, AK 99611

Phone: 283-9479



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 committee on SB197 committee name  
STATE OPERATING BUDGET dated 3/23/96  
 bill/subject:

How could you even consider withdrawing funding of shelters for victims of Domestic Violence and sexual assault?

Where do you propose the victims should go? Stay and get abused some more? Put friends or families lives in jeopardy when the abuser comes after them with knife or gun?

If you don't believe it happens, research ~~articles~~ articles in the Anchorage Daily News (ie Willa Pritchard, <sup>3/6/96</sup> Susan Overbeck <sup>3/20/96</sup> Joyce Simpson, <sup>3/6/96</sup> Theresa <sup>7/30/96</sup> ... to name just a few.

Maybe human life isn't as valuable as animal life. Consider the number of animal shelters compared to Women + childrens shelters. Nationwide, for every 9 animal shelters theres 1 Domestic violence shelter

Please think long & hard, what are the alternat

Signed: Gail Rivera  
 Testifier:

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 4244 Soldotna AK 99669  
 Address  
907-283-4884  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 committee name  
 committee on STATE OPERATING BUDGET dated 3/23/96  
 bill/subject

It is imperative that we continue to provide Shelter to victims of domestic violence and sexual Assault. Alaska leads the nation in domestic violence and sexual assault. It would be tragic, given the statistics we have, to cut needed support and shelter - it would only lead to endangering victims even more.

Signed: Cheri Smith  
 Testifier .

Representing (Optional)  
Box 1747 Kenai

Address  
283-4709

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 412 . dated 3-23-96  
bill/subject

I would like to speak out in favor of funding for Public Broadcasting, both TV and radio. The development of PBS was such a positive step forward; it would be very sad to lose it now. It is more important than ever to have access to this source of information. PBS sets high standards for an industry desperately in need of standards. PBS is a reliable source of family and educational entertainment. Commercial TV has so little to offer a discerning audience. I am a contributing member of my local PBS media but these funds raised by my neighbors are not enough. Please support PBS in our state. Thank you.

Signed: *Gretchen L. Hundertma* Gretchen L. Hundertma  
Testifier

self

Representing (Optional)

HCI Box 3812, Sterling, AK 99672  
Address

(907) 262-1907  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Budget, dated 3-23-96  
bill/subject

After reading the 95 report to the Board of Forestry by ADF+G Habitat and Restoration Division and then hearing about proposed cuts to the Habitat division I have these comments.

When ADF+G staff uniformly believe implementation of the F.P.A. remains seriously deficient this alarms me. When funding cuts (proposed and in last three years) for proper monitoring make it difficult to protect the other resources (fish and wildlife) this alarms me.

"ADF+G cannot confidently advise the Board of Forestry or the public on the full range of effects <sup>on</sup> forest practices on Alaska's fish and wildlife resources (95 report). This is plainly shortsighted and probably damaging to commercial fishing especially when you view the Cumulative effects. Please restore then increase funding to ADF+G

Signed: John Z Murray  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

224 OBSERVATORY ST SITKA

Address

907 747 6212

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on BUDGET, dated 23 MARCH 1996.  
bill/subject

I WAS, AND AM HORRIFIED TO KNOW ~~THE~~ THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT VOTE TO ZERO FUND THE ARTS COUNCIL. THE ARTS OUR OUR HISTORY AND OUR FUTURE, THE ARTS REFLECT OUR HUMANITY. IN ALASKA THE ARTS PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOLS - ESPECIALLY RURAL SCHOOLS WHERE BUDGET CUTS HAVE ELIMINATED FULL-TIME ARTS PROGRAMS - HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, TALENT HAS BEEN NURTURED BY OTHER YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS. THEY ARE OUR FUTURE. CREATIVITY ~~STRENGTHENS~~ BUILDS SELF-ESTEEM, OFFERS HOPE, POSSIBILITIES, AND TEACHES PROBLEM SOLVING. THE ARTS ARE NOT A LUXURY - THEY ARE ESSENTIAL. I URGE YOU RESTORE FUNDING TO THE ARTS COUNCIL.

I URGE YOU, AS WELL, TO NOT CUT PUBLIC BROADCASTING. YOUR PUBLIC - ESPECIALLY IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES DEPENDS ON THE NEWS, WEATHER, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS. PUBLIC BROADCASTING IS A LIFELINE OF CONNECTION WITH

Signed: Linda Halton LINDA HALTON  
Testifier

SELF  
Representing (Optional)  
439 VERSTOVIA ST. SITKA 99835  
Address  
747-6910  
Phone No.

AND BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITIES WE DO NOT WANT THIS CUT



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
 committee name  
 committee on Budget/ HB 366 , dated 3/29/96  
 bill/subject

I would like to offer the following testimony on behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA). ALFA is a Sitka based fishermen's organization with over 100 members in communities throughout Southeast. On behalf of ALFA's membership, I would like to express our disappointment that funding for the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) has been cut from the budget and request this committee restore it.

Commercial fishing has changed a lot in recent years, one of the positive changes has been an increase in safety and a decrease in the number of lives lost each year. This change is almost entirely due to the training AMSEA provides <sup>on</sup> how to plan for an emergency and use the safety equipment on board. AMSEA is the major and often sole organization that provides this training in communities throughout the state.

The numbers show the importance and effectiveness of this training is without question. Deaths in commercial fisheries have decreased by over 50% and statewide deaths has also decreased by 50%.

The only question is how to secure stable funding for AMSEA. Rep. Austerman's bill (HB 366) earmarks 50% of the inport ~~from~~ commercial fishermen's contribution to fishermen's fund earn for AMSEA. This is consistent with the goals of fishermen's fund and has ALFA's full support. In closing, I would like to stress the importance

Signed: DANIEL FALVEY  
 Testifier

ALFA

Representing (Optional)

Box 6083 SITKA 99835

Address

747-8710

Phone No.

THE IMPORTANCE & EFFECTIVENESS OF AMSEA'S TRAINING, AND THE NEED FOR YOUR COMMITTEE TO RESTORE THE \$80,000 FUNDING IF AMSEA IS TO CONTINUE TO EXIST.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Subcommittee Close Out Budget, dated March 22, 1996.  
bill/subject

I urge the House Finance Committee to restore funding to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. ASCA is a model state agency in terms of serving a maximum number of people with a minimum amount of funding. ASCA's budget is currently only 11% of what it was in 1983. In spite of this drastic 89% cut over the years, ASCA has continued to serve a wide variety of people and communities. Last year's ASCA grants went to 46 communities and enriched the lives of thousands of Alaskans and in turn generated thousands more dollars in these communities. The arts are not a frill in our lives; they are essential to the well being of Alaskan citizens and communities. Elimination of ASCA is not a cost saving measure. It would, rather, cost the state and its communities the thousands of matching dollars that are raised from federal, corporate, and local sources.

I also urge reinstatement of full funding for public broadcasting. Public radio is an essential service for Alaskans in rural communities. It provides vital communication links for people all over the state.

Signed: Carolyn Servid  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 2420, Sitka

Address

907-747-3794

Phone No.



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance  
 COMMITTEE ON Alaska Works Program COMMITTEE NAME  
Child Care Assistance Cuts DATED March 23, 1996  
 BILL/SUBJECT

I've heard the discussions about welfare reform and how important it is to support families leaving the welfare system. I don't understand how cutting these two main supportive programs will support welfare reform. Transition from anything bureaucratic costs money! Please keep in mind people leaving the welfare system need help to keep moving into economic self sufficiency.

The current AK Work program has provided some families the opportunity to grow and achieve a job. ~~and state~~ It is not perfect, but has been established and has achieved its goal to get people off welfare to work.

Please consider what these programs provide and how important their goals are for families leaving our welfare system. Single parent families use the child care assistance program to stay off welfare.

SIGNED

Gileen Cummings

TESTIFIER

Myself / Head Start

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1267 Jacqueline Lane North Pole, AK 99705

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

488-9386



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance  
 COMMITTEE ON Cuts to public broadcasting DATED 3-23-96  
 BILL/SUBJECT

I'd like to point out to the committee the lack of public support for Rep. Kobring's proposal to phase out funding for public broadcasting. If the public supported this at all I could accept this proposal because we are a democracy.

This seems very politically motivated, and is thus bad legislation. This phase out will harm all areas, not just the rural areas. We all need objective daily news, not a privatized news provider. There is little profit making potential in news provision - most people understand this.

You have a duty to protect our public b/c system, something that has benefitted all Alaskans since 1969.

SIGNED Joy Morrison  
 TESTIFIER Joy Morrison

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)  
4410 Woodrider Drive, Jbx, AK 99709 4748328  
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance  
 COMMITTEE ON H 3412 DATED 3/24/96  
COMMITTEE NAME  
BILLSUBJECT

Cuts to the Alaska State Council on the Arts are detrimental to the future of Alaskan communities across the state. Arts are crucial to a thorough education of both children and adults. Arts teach discipline, responsibility, problem-solving, creativity, independent thinking, and the ability to work together for a common good. These are all skills which are essential in the circumstances which face us in today's world.

Education in arts - for both children and adults - is central to the formation of responsible and productive communities and promotes the social involvement of citizens in the discussion, definition, and implementation of social values. Empirical research has shown that our understanding of and ability to discuss and apply values to our real life situations depends on our imagination. Arts also assist us in identifying common experiences and shared values, and in bringing order to our reality and our societies.

Education in, exposure to, and involvement in the arts have been shown to decrease the use of violence as a means of resolving differences and to increase tolerance and mutual respect between persons of diverse beliefs, races, and cultures. These abilities are critical for democratic government in an increasingly complex and pluralistic society.

In schools, the introduction of strong arts programs results in improvement in math, science, and reading scores, as well as a decrease in the drop-out rate. While some children will feel a need and find a way to draw, dance or sing without a school program in arts, love

SIGNED Carolyn A. Roebler Carolyn A. Roebler, AP  
 TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1316 Peavine Rd Fairbanks AK 99709 907/474-0753  
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER (day time)

Just as some would excel in science or language without programs in those subjects, many children will be poorly prepared for entrance into tomorrow's fast-changing, international, competitive, and visually oriented information era, without the skills and benefits developed through access to and involvement in the arts. Arts in education is about training every child to understand, to analyze, to critique, and to communicate effectively. Increasingly, we are bombarded with mail, with media messages, with advertising - what we pay attention to is determined by layout, by sound bites, by music which moves us. In order to be in control of, and not simply be controlled by, the information we are receiving, we must understand how and why images communicate, how and why nonverbal messages and music communicate, how and why movements and rituals communicate, as well as how and why metaphors from literature, drama, poetry and song communicate. Arts education in the schools helps children to integrate the various other subjects they are learning.

Words are only a small portion of the information we all use to communicate daily. Arts are one of the primary means through which we express values, discuss values, and come to common decisions about societal and shared values. If we do not educate our children (and ourselves) in these disciplines - and they are disciplines - they will be poorly prepared to enter into the workplaces of today and tomorrow and very poorly prepared to enter into the social and political process through which we shape our shared future.

Public funding for the arts contributes to the equitable distribution of our resources and ensures that the benefits of the arts are available to all Alaskans. Public funding also ensures that a variety of voices are heard and perspectives are displayed, not merely the voices and opinions of those with the most money, power, media access, or other resources. Promoting the involvement of all citizens is essential for the healthy functioning of a democracy. Arts have a primary role in the dialogue about and development of our social and moral values. Ensuring equality of access to the arts is central to the role of government in a democratic society.

Cutting the ASCA appropriation will result in a tremendous loss to our State, culturally, economically, and socially. I urge you to continue to ~~continue~~ participate in funding the arts for the good of all Alaskans.

CAROLYN A. ROEBER, OF

**FRED W. TRIEM**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**PROCTOR IN ADMIRALTY**  
**P.O. BOX 129**  
**PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833**  
**(907) 772-3917**  
23 March 1996

House Finance Committee  
Alaska Legislature  
Juneau

In re: Appropriation for Public Broadcasting—radio and television

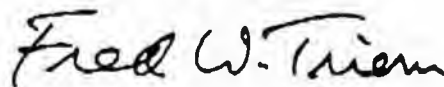
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Among the reasons for maintaining the present funding level for public broadcasting in Alaska, please consider the following:

- (1) Public broadcasting promotes public safety:**
  - (a) broadcasting of weather information—for safe travel, boating, and flying
  - (b) emergency broadcasting—disaster and weather warning alerts; tsunami warnings
- (2) Public broadcasting promotes public health:**
  - (a) educational programs about disease prevention—example: hepatitis
  - (b) informational programs—example, recent public t.v. show about ebola virus
- (3) Public broadcasting promotes public education:**
  - (a) children's programs—*Where in the world is Carmen San Diego?* (teaches geography; produced in conjunction with Natl. Geographic Society)
  - (b) science and math programs—teaches basic concepts to children and adults
  - (c) adult education—broadcast of GED and telecourses to rural and bush areas

Please do not cut funding for public broadcasting—we are barely hanging on now!  
Regards from Petersburg.

Sincerely,



Fred W. Triem

3.23.86

Representatives:

I understand making difficult budget decisions. I'm on the board of directors of Narrows Broadcasting Corporation (KFSK, Petersburg) a public radio station that lost a third of our budget last year for a total of 70% in cuts over the past few years. We will not survive another 15% cut coming so soon after such drastic decreases. To indicate otherwise is a misrepresentation of the facts.

One fact is that Alaska is about to take a giant step backwards. In a world where government and business are laboring to increase the public's access to information the \$808,500 reduction in state funding will effectively deny access to life saving emergency messages, education, weather, community public service announcements, and local, state and national news. It will exaggerate the isolation and alienation of the rural population and destroy an existing telecommunications infrastructure.

Public broadcasting has been working to eliminate its dependence on state and federal funding. Reorganization and implementation of cost saving measures are in progress and being closely watched by the public broadcasting stations throughout the United States. If we succeed, our restructuring could provide an example for others, but we need that chance to succeed. A chance that could be realized through a cut-free recovery period. A chance to save an essential service to rural areas, a communications asset to the state and offer a model of operations to the rest of the country.

Governor Knowles understands this and has recommended funding for public broadcasting remain at last year's level. Don't sacrifice a part of Alaska's future and the leadership role we are taking in restructuring for a quick economic fix in the present.

Sincerely,

Chris Weiss  
Box 32  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

## Testimonial on Budget.

What? Again you want to take away the few programs that add to the quality of living in Alaska -

Do not cut the state Arts Council! Besides the benefits of the arts to the human spirit, why would a tourist want to come see the only state where there is no arts council. How embarrassing is that?

Do not cut spending to ARCS and Public radio! These are essential services. These programs are a true link for Alaskans to the lower 48 and the world; especially for those living in the rural areas -

Ms Sandy K. Stolle  
PO Box 2363  
Seward, AK 99664  
224-5857

MARILYN L. DUGGAR

P O Box 355

Nenana, Alaska

March 23, 1996

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I am "speaking" to you to implore you not to cut public school funding. We desperately need to keep up with the quality of education of the rest of the US and of the World. While searching for places to cut, as you must, do not look to the children's education to take from. As a school board member I have witnessed repeated cutbacks that we have had to deal with. I believe we are to the bare bones already. We have taken away valuable programs that were considered extraneous, such as reading incentive programs, extra aids for high needs children, and many more. We have combined classes in the elementary leaving one teacher with two grade levels. Many high school electives are no longer available as we have fewer teachers there to teacher the state requirements of a basic no frills education.

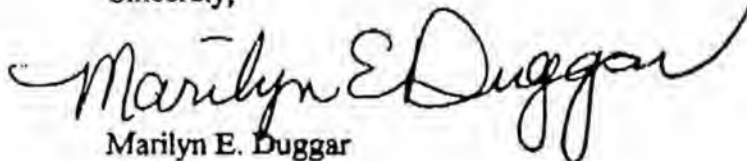
I would like to see the correspondence programs to continue with your funding. Correspondence values are unparalleled with any other program offered through state or federal education. The children in out-lying parts of our state, disabled students, and students who just don't fit into the school system and work better on their own are benefited.

The RSVP Program for the rural students is such a valuable tools for hands on experience in job fields students are interested in. This program encourages students to pursue vocational education in a field they are already familiar with instead of leaving High School hoping to fall into something. I think the RSVP Program would do well to be encouraged rather than cut.

I empathize with your task of cutting the budget. There are many more programs I would like to see receive their full funding, but I believe that there is no program as worthy and important to receive full funding as public education.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Marilyn E. Duggar

Box 633

Petersburg, AK 99833

772-4647

To All Members of the House Finance Committee -

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the proposed budget cuts to Public Broadcasting and to the Arts Council.

First about Public Broadcasting - The region is still trying to achieve equilibrium after all the budget cuts last year, on both the state and federal levels. To face even more extreme cuts this year is too much to bear. I fear for the loss of the station here in Petersburg. KFSK is vital to the denizens of the entire southcentral coast. It is our only link to national and international news services of any depth, timely state and local news, and cultural programming, not to mention the involvement on the local level of volunteers from children to senior citizens, who play shows all in the area listen to. I cannot imagine life here w/out this radio station - as it is today.

I think the regions public radio managers have done a great deal of inventive reorganizing, downsizing, and reprogramming to survive all the cuts we've already experienced. Extreme cuts could mean no more Petersburg station to possibly a public radio MUZAK. I can play CD's all day in my home - I look to radio for all the other services it provides, plus the music. We need to support this public radio system, on a state level. ~~we need to support this public radio system~~

About the State Arts Council—

Everywhere you turn these days you see research supporting the development and teaching of art and music as important counterparts to learning math and science and language. As a parent of two children heading into our public school system, I am disappointed in how little art and music is taught to our children. I believe there should be more and in every grade. ~~Unless~~ The schools currently provide something, but w/ budget cuts may not be able to continue their programs.

The local arts council relies on some state funding to provide residents of Petersburg w/ the occasional performance by professional artists and with artists, teaching writers, and performing artists to come to town and hold workshops. How isolated our town will become without these efforts. We need to have state support for the arts — for our children, for ourselves.

Let's balance the budget some other way. ~~There~~ Cutting programs that are a benefit for the well being of the people of Alaska is not the way.

Please continue to support Public Broadcasting and The State Arts Council.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fugua

House Finance Committee Secretary

F. 465-2228

Please copy & distribute to all members

Re Funding for public Radio/TV.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have previously supported public Radio & TV both with donated time and money. I will continue to do so in the future.

I believe that public Radio/TV is most important to our community & Alaska Rural Areas as a whole.

Please do not further cut public Radio/TV funding.

---

Sincerely,

David A. Berg

P.O. Box 1435

Petersburg 99833

907-772-3404

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

**TO:** HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**FAX #:** 465-~~348~~ 2278

**DATE:** 3-23-96

**MESSAGE:** One page to follow

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 61 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska  
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME-IMPACTS OF PROPOSED FY97 GENERAL FUND REDUCTIONS BY THE HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

### Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Budget Cuts: \$400 GF

- This cut is in addition to the governor's budget reduction which cut \$200 GF and replaced it with program receipts for the limnology program.
- This additional reduction includes half of the program receipts (\$100) in the governor's budget as well as \$300 GF. This cut will limit the ability to do the science that allows the department to maximize sockeye salmon production—the bread and butte of the commercial fishing industry.
- It all but eliminates the division's regional planning program for hatchery production. It eliminates the people who would develop a comprehensive plan for statewide hatchery salmon production and it slows the development of new fisheries like sea urchins.
- Cuts an additional \$292.8 in fish and game funds which will prohibit the division from using the proceeds of civil judgements to conduct mitigation projects, such as the one to determine what has caused the serious decline in production of Nushagak coho salmon.
- Could result in the lay-off of up to 12 PFTs.

### Habitat and Restoration Division Budget Cuts: \$395.7 GF

- The proposed level of general funds will result in major damage to the division's primary management tool for salmon protection: the stream permitting component.
- This proposal is bad for fish, bad for fishermen, and will hurt small operators and industries that rely on the division to help them with design and construction of "fish friendly" facilities. It is not legal for the division to use its federal funds for permitting.
- The division has already eliminated general funds for lower priority projects in order to safeguard the salmon protection program. This proposed budget cut will hurt our ability to work on major initiatives like the Kenai River Center and efforts to develop gold mining projects that minimize effects on fish and wildlife in the Fairbanks area.
- The division will close area offices and review permits from paper, in urban offices, with limited field visits. This represents a 17% cut and is in addition to the \$500 legislative reduction for the current year. It could result in the lay-off of up to 5 PFTs.

**Subsistence Division Budget Cuts: \$200 GF**

- This represents a 15% cut and is in addition to the legislative reduction of \$395 for the current year and further erodes the state's ability to regain subsistence management.
- Reliable subsistence information collected by the division will become increasingly outdated and new information will not be collected in most areas. The division will become simply a cataloger of old information.
- The Boards of Fisheries and Game will have to increasingly depend on information collected under state harvest ticket and permit systems, which are notoriously inaccurate for representing subsistence hunting patterns in villages.
- The Boards will not have the information they need to precisely allocate resources to subsistence and other uses, resulting in more conservative management of these resources.
- Collaborative projects with subsistence user groups will not take place using state funding.
- The division will not have the core staff to attract federal money for subsistence research. Staff will not be able to directly participate in resource management decisions.
- Remaining staff in the division will be centralized in Juneau, Anchorage, or Fairbanks. Regional office functions will be closed in Angoon, Nome, and Fort Yukon, and possibly Dillingham and Bethel. At least 3 PFTs and 1 seasonal position will be laid-off.

**Sport Fish Division Budget Cut: \$100GF**

- The division added \$200 in GF/Program Receipts in FY97 to reflect revenue from Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association for the release of approximately 400,000 king salmon smolt at Earl West Cove. This reduction cuts the funding in half.
- The number of king salmon smolt produced and released will be substantially reduced and the cost effectiveness of running the Crystal Lake Hatchery will be jeopardized.

**Agency-wide Travel Reduction: \$101.2 GF**

- The department has over 40 offices statewide and literally hundreds of field camps to operate. The department is also very active in negotiations, treaties, legal disputes and a variety of other interactions on both the national and international level. As a result, travel is an integral part of the department's mission of managing the state's fish and wildlife resources.
- This cut is based on an inaccurate proration of general funds in the travel line and penalized the department for attempting to reflect the actual costs of travel in its budget. State agencies do not normally track line item expenditures by funding source.
- The cut has been evenly distributed throughout the department with approximately 75% coming out of the Commercial Fisheries Management and Development division.

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 61 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska  
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

March 23, 1996

Rick Halford & Steve Frank, Co-Chairs  
Senate Finance Committee  
Capital Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

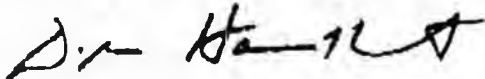
Mark Hanley & Richard Foster, Co-Chairs  
House Finance Committee  
Capital Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Messrs. Halford, Frank, Hanley and Foster:

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), the oldest association of commercial fishermen in the State of Alaska, is pleased to submit the enclosed testimony for the record concerning the impacts to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game of the proposed FY97 General Fund reductions by the House Finance Subcommittee.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number above. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,  
CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED



Dorne Hawxhurst, Executive Director

22 March 1996

Dear Representative Vic Kohring,

We were shocked to hear the news from three public radio stations throughout Alaska, small to large, that funding for public broadcasting is in grave danger of being cut. We can't imagine how rural Alaska will keep up on the events of the world, including their state and local region, without access to the public radio stations that broadcast around the state.

We are ardent supporters of KTNA here in Talkeetna. We give a small amount of money, and we spend several hours a week volunteering. Our radio is on and tuned to KTNA throughout the day. We are informed, entertained, and educated by our local public radio station. In the morning, at midday, and in the evening, we hear national news through NPR and Pacifica, state news through APRN, and local news from KTNA. I understand that cutting funds to public radio or public television would practically eliminate APRN's ability to broadcast over satellite. A cut to KTNA's funds would severely hamper their ability to provide three half-hour news programs each day. The news staff there now consists of one three-quarter time position. How would we know what was happening in the rest of the world and in our local world without APRN and KTNA? The loss of the state satellite would prevent KTNA from rebroadcasting NPR from KUAC or KSKA as they presently do.

Have you ever tried to receive Anchorage radio signals in Talkeetna or anyplace else in the upper Susitna Valley? I just scanned the AM and FM dials on my radio and I picked up Christian radio, rock-n-roll, rock-n-roll, static, rock-n-roll, static, country, and more rock-n-roll. We have a fairly nice stereo receiver. I wonder what someone in the Bush picks up on a battery powered radio. KTNA. If KTNA folds, they lose information and connection to the news stream, not to mention the ability to hear a wide variety of music.

Please do not eliminate rural Alaska's access to public information. We are fortunate enough to live on the highway system so we can receive a newspaper. We can even get Channel 2. But how much Mat-Su or Talkeetna news does any Anchorage media cover? Maybe one or two items a week and those tend to be features, not real news about what affects our life up here. KTNA is our source of information on the events in the Mat-Su area. Let's not forget that Alaska is primarily a rural state. I'd rather see my tax dollars go to public broadcasting than to more law enforcement or prisons or wherever else you want to spend the money.

**The only purpose the elimination of funds serves is to prevent the people of the state from being informed about their government's actions. They will know that you took that away from them. But they won't know what you did with that money because they won't be able to listen to their public radio station to hear APRN or their local news.**

**PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING!**

Sincerely,

Corinne Smith

Paul Button

PO Box 138, Talkeetna, AK 99676

*Corinne Smith*  
*Paul Button*

P.S. Unfortunately we cannot pickup Channel 7, but we do not think the public television budget should be cut either.

cc: Rep. Mark Hanley, Rep. Richard Foster

**David & Maryann Frazier**  
2636 Shepherdia Drive  
Anchorage AK 99508  
274-2869

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March 23, 1996

To: Sean Parnell  
House Finance Committee Member

Re: Funding cuts for Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA)

My husband and I are long time residents: 37 years for me and 28 years for him. He owns and runs an insurance brokerage company here and I am a bookkeeper. We own a home, a 4-plex and property. We have two children in school, one in junior high and one in grade school. We are all concerned about the proposed funding cuts to eliminate the ASCA and the devastating impact it would have on the entire state.

You see, we are more than just taxpayers and students. We are also citizens of this state, and as such, we are representatives of life in Alaska when we travel, and we travel quite a bit. Eliminating funding for the Arts doesn't just hurt the Art community, it hurts everyone. Art in this isolated region of the world is a connecting and uniting force. Without it we become void culturally. Without culture there is no richness to life. Without that, we simply labor.

My family would have little to stay in Alaska for if funding for the arts is eliminated. I am not just a bookkeeper, but also a dancer and painter. Both of my children dance and the oldest is a budding musician. My husband and I spend our extra money on supporting live performance and visual arts in Alaska. We have seen the magic the arts has on our lives and our children and know that it must continue for us. There are other states who value the arts. Must we be so short sighted?

**Please vote for continuing the ASCA. Our family does not support eliminating the Council or its role in Alaska.**

Maryann and David Frazier

3/23/96

Representative Sean Parnell  
Finance Committee  
Fax: 465-2278

Dear Representative Parnell,

Your proposed cut to public broadcasting is very distressing to me. I depend on the local, national and International news I get from my local radio station, KBBI, APRN, and National Public Radio and from the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS. None of Homer's commercial radio stations make any effort to provide the kind of news coverage I get from these sources.

My children grew up watching Sesame Street. Now they watch Nova, Bill Nye - Science Guy, The New Explorers. My high school daughter is taking a PE class via distance education from UAA. These programs educate above and beyond school! My husband and I keep in touch with what is going on around the state by watching Anchorage Edition and 120 Days - without that, we wouldn't know what's going on in Juneau! By the way, did you see the program last week called Hollywood vs. Religion? It was an excellent expose' on how badly religion (especially Christianity) is treated by many movie makers of today. It really made me think about it!

I make large contributions to both public radio and public television because they are very important to my family. Your \$800,000 cut is a relatively small amount of money in the statewide scheme of things, but it is enough to devastate one or the other of these entities. Please do not kill something that benefits so many people in our state. Public radio and television are resource goldmines that help bring the people of this huge state together!

Please reconsider your vote! Thankyou for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Tina Seaton*  
Tina Seaton  
58360 Bruce Dr.  
Homer, AK 99603

CC:Speaker of the House, Representative Gail Phillips

PAT NUNDE

PO Box 30

Petersburg AK 99801

House Finance Committee

Re: HB 412

Just of \$800,000+ cut to Public Broadcasting  
are too much again!

The proposed cuts to public radio would almost  
certainly kill APRN. With cuts of this magnitude  
stations would no longer be able to pay APRN membership  
dues, eliminating Alaska's only source of statewide  
news and information. This FY, locally, we are  
paying only a fraction of the full membership  
fee. With further cuts - we could be out of APRN.

Public broadcasting funding has already  
been cut by almost 70% over the past few years.  
The system has been pushed to the brink and  
needs time to recover from last year's reductions.

Here in Alaska you are cutting people  
not just money.

Please think of the small outlying  
communities all around the state when you  
are discussing this bill. Life does indeed  
exist outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Thank you for this opportunity to  
express my views.

Patricia Hinkle

3/23/96

Representative Pete Kelly  
Finance Committee  
Fax: 465-2278

Dear Representative Kelly,

Your proposed cut to public broadcasting is very distressing to me. I depend on the local, national and International news I get from my local radio station, KBBI, APRN, and National Public Radio and from the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS. None of Homer's commercial radio stations make any effort to provide the kind of news coverage I get from these sources.

My children grew up watching Sesame Street. Now they watch Nova, Bill Nye - Science Guy, The New Explorers. My high school daughter is taking a PE class via distance education from UAA. These programs educate above and beyond school! My husband and I keep in touch with what is going on around the state by watching Anchorage Edition and 120 Days - without that, we wouldn't know what's going on in Juneau! By the way, did you see the program last week called Hollywood vs. Religion? It was an excellent expose' on how badly religion (especially Christianity) is treated by many movie makers of today. It really made me think about it!

I make large contributions to both public radio and public television because they are very important to my family. Your \$800,000 cut is a relatively small amount of money in the statewide scheme of things, but it is enough to devastate one or the other of these entities. Please do not kill something that benefits so many people in our state. Public radio and television are resource goldmines that help bring the people of this huge state together!

Please reconsider your vote! Thankyou for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Tina Seaton*  
Tina Seaton  
58360 Bruce Dr.  
Homer, AK 99603

CC:Speaker of the House, Representative Gail Phillips



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

committee on \_\_\_\_\_ dated 3/23/91  
(bill/subject)

Public broadcasting is Alaska's connection to the rest of the world and within Alaska. We ~~fish~~ commercial fish in Eggie during the summer. When radio was off the air we lost contact with what was happening in Alaska and the rest of the world. We had no idea what the weather held in store for us which is very important when you spend a lot of time on the water and in the air flying. If an emergency came up we had no way of knowing (we also do not have a phone). The public TV & radio are very important for our safety.

Signed: Bonnie Perata  
(Testifier)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Representing / Optional)

PO box 16916 Seward AK 99684  
(Address)

224-5638  
(Phone No.)

112X UB VLOT CWI

The Power

---

Art is very important to everyone's life. Could  
you imagine life without it. Art is necessary for  
one's well being. Keep life beautiful Do not  
cut funds for the Arts

**DURING TANYA'S LIFETIME**

By Tanya Rorem  
Age 20

Good-byes - share some stress.  
Not letting someone in is a comfort.

The soul makes things complete.  
The walls of your heart are thin, your soul builds your heart.  
Darkness is not scary, what you can't see is only what you can't  
understand.

Mental Illness is an emotional state of darkness,  
living in limbo - the fear of wondering what will happen next.

Being unpredictable is as comforting as knowing you're loved,  
or being found crying, or smiling. Even having someone on your  
side - knowing you're always welcome. Feeling alone and hopeless  
and yet being uplifted by someone that loves you.

To be Mentally Ill is to cling to the fact of being alone.  
My mind is Mentally Ill, not me. I can comprehend anything.

I cling to things I know.  
There's a person I love. Her name's Letha Wierson  
and to me she means understanding.

To unlock what has no key is the language of Mental Illness.  
To start looking for someone and lose yourself.

People have their own ideas about Mental Illness.  
There's no temperature, no vomiting,  
there's medicine but no cure...

I understand one thing about being Mentally Ill,  
If I give up I will lose myself.

Being normal in other's eyes is threatened not by force  
but by people's judgement of "NORMAL".

Seeing is not understanding.  
Mental Illness is the explanation of what you don't want to  
understand.

But the understanding that stands in me is  
I love what I do understand.

**MENTAL ILLNESS IS A PLACE OF DARKNESS IN THE BRAIN  
THAT IS SILENT,  
NEVER HEARD - BUT ALWAYS SEEN.**

Attn: House Finance Committee

I am writing with deep concern about the state funding cut for public broadcasting. The proposal to cut \$808,500 from the public broadcasting budget would be a large and costly mistake. Alaskans talk about resources all the time, and public radio is just as valuable as oil, fishing, timber, and all the other things that make this state special. KHNS in Haines positively affects every resident I know here, giving them a vehicle to stay in touch with each other and the outside world. There is no other entity here that reaches such a wide range of folks and makes everyday life more colorful. The relative cost for public broadcasting is negligible compared to other budget items; I couldn't think of a better use of a small fraction of state dollars than to support public broadcasting. KHNS gives Haines residents a chance to express themselves, communicate, and enjoy their days to the fullest. KHNS makes Haines a much more livable place. People need public broadcasting. Please don't pull the plug.



BRIAN W ELLIOTT  
PO 266

907  
767



3/23/96

Representative Mark Hanley  
co-Finance Chair  
Fax: 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

Your proposed cut to public broadcasting is very distressing to me. I depend on the local, national and International news I get from my local radio station, KBBI, APRN, and National Public Radion and from the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS. None of Homer's commercial radio stations make any effort to provide the kind of news coverage I get from these sources.

My children grew up watching Sesame Street. Now they watch Nova, Bill Nye - Science Guy, The New Explorers. My high school daughter is taking a PE class via distance education from UAA. These programs educate above and beyond school! My husband and I keep in touch with what is going on around the state by watching Anchorage Edition and 120 Days - without that, we wouldn't know whats going on in Juneau! By the way, did you see the program last week called Hollywood vs. Religion? It was an excellent expose' on how badly religion (especially Christianity) is treated by many movie makers of today. It really made me think about it!

I make large contributions to both public radio and public television because they are very important to my family. Your \$800,000 cut is a relatively small amount of money in the statewide scheme of things, but it is enough to devastate one or the other of these entities. Please do not kill something that benefits so many people in our state. Public radio and television are resource goldmines that help bring the people of this huge state together!

Please reconsider your vote! Thankyou for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Tina Seaton*  
Tina Seaton  
58360 Bruce Dr.  
Homer, AK 99603

CC:Rep. Gail Phillips

March 22, 1996

Please read this as part of the House Finance Committee's Public Teleconference  
March 23, 1996.

As Vice President of the Board of Directors of AWAIC I strongly encourage you to support level funding for the Council's line item in the Department of Public Safety's Budget. Our staff are dedicated, hard working individuals who are underpaid and greatly appreciated. They are committed to the delivery of complete, professional services to battered women and their children. I, as a Board member am proud of the work they do. Without the continued support of the legislature for the DPS's Council budget victims could be out at risk. Please consider the faces of women and children as you search for places to **cut** the budget. AWAIC is appreciative of your continued support of **all** of their programs.

Thank You,

Louann Cutler  
V.P. Board of Director  
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis

With Flor,  
Box 262  
Petersburg  
AK. 99833

Subject: HB412 Operating Budget  
State Arts Council Funding

I am opposed to HB412's budget proposal to eliminate the State Council on the Arts and reduce funding for public radio. Alaska is a large state with many remote areas and these services are important to reduce the isolation of its citizens and provide affordable local access. Education and the arts are important for the future of our children. Much of the artwork and native handicrafts will not remain in Alaska if this is enacted. The word "civilization" encompasses art and education. The middle ages were called the "dark ages" for a reason.

I do not feel the legislature should completely cut one agency to give to another. The Arts Council has already been reduced to 11% of its '83 budget, and its funding is only two  $\frac{1}{100}$ 's of 1% of the general fund. Public radio has been cut annually until the private sector has been called upon to aid more than it possibly can yearly. Public radio is essential to Alaskans to maintain connection and awareness with the rest of the world. The fact that Alaska would be the only state in the country without an arts agency when it is also one of the wealthiest is a reflection on itself and a statement of what its people value, or fail to value.

I support Gov. Knowles idea of a permanent fund cap with the excess used to fund education. I feel it is time to reenact an income tax. The budget deficit does not seem "real" when we are giving nearly \$1000 to each citizen and not collecting any income tax as other states. I think the legislators need to regain a larger perspective

Polly Lee  
 P.O. Box 251  
 Petersburg, AK 99833  
 ph. 907-772-3251

Honorable Members:  
 State Arts Council Funding

To: The House Finance Committee  
 Subject: HB 412 Operating Budget

I urgently urge the continuance and maintenance of the budget for the State Council on the Arts. It is a lifeline for the arts in our huge geographical state where communities are widely separated.

It serves as an information center and provider of arts services to the whole state. The advantages of arts agency offers are diverse and far-reaching.

If we become the only state in the union to neglect the benefits of arts council activities, we risk becoming labeled the "Barbarian of the North."

Yours truly  
 Polly Lee



**PERSEVERANCE**  
**T·H·E·A·T·R·E**

March 23, 1996

To: Representative Mark Hanley - Co- Chair House Finance Committee, and members of the House Finance Committee

From: AHA! Board (Arts for a Healthy Alaska)  
A Statewide Arts Advocacy Organization

*Lynette Turner*

President	Lynette Turner	Juneau
Vice President	Phil Munger	Wasilla/Palmer
Secretary/Treasurer	Helen Howarth	Anchorage/Sitka
Board Member	Janel Thompson	Fairbanks
Board Member	Barbara Peterson	Homer

This is a letter requesting that you disregard the DOE Subcommittee recommendation that the Alaska State Council on the Arts budget be eliminated.

The arts council provides a wide variety of state wide services not available elsewhere. The impact of such drastic action will be felt by community members, artists, and arts organizations all around the state in both rural and urban areas. With the elimination of the arts council we will lose seven grant programs, an excellent Arts in Education program, which last year served some 29,000 youth, and much needed technical assistance provided by the council. In addition federal funds will no longer be available, we will have one less source of operational support, which is extremely difficult to secure, and the ability of Alaskan arts organizations to leverage outside funds will be dimmed.

As you know the amount of money the arts council receives is small, but what you might not realize is that the amount of money received provides a lot of services. State dollars are matched at least ten to one, and these dollars make a significant economic impact.

Alaska already has the smallest council staff in the entire country and if eliminated Alaska will be the only state in the union with out an arts council. Are request is not unreasonable. We ask for fairness, and we ask that you look at the whole picture and consider the well being of the entire state. In order to have a truly well rounded and healthy community we need the arts. Please do not aid in the demise of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Elimination as a short term budgetary action is not a long term solution.

cc: Representative Richard Foster                      Representative Eldon Mulder  
Representative Sean Parnell                      Representative Pete Kelly  
Representative Gene Therriault                      Representative Terry Martin  
Representative Vic Kohring                      Representative Kay Brown  
Representative Ben Grussendorf                      Representative Mike Navarre

200 W #4th Ave., #1120  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
March 15, 1996

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

Dear Representative Hanley:

In our desire to cut the state budget I ask that the Legislature consider the reductions wisely. There are particular state funded activities that provide a multiplier effect for attracting, and retaining, federal and private funds. These state funds also provide a catalyst that helps generate business activity that brings more business to Alaska.

The proposed budget for the Division of Tourism for the next fiscal year does not include the state's portion of funding for the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLIC). These three centers in Tok, Fairbanks and Anchorage rely on a combination of federal and state funding in partnership with a non-profit organization, the Alaska Natural History Association (ANHA), for their operation. The APLICs provide an example of state, federal, and local agencies partnering with a private organization to make budget dollars go further to benefit Alaska's tourist industry.

These centers help thousands of visitors plan their trips to Alaska and assist them once they arrive. In 1995 they provided direct service to over 250,000 visitors. ANHA operates book sales areas in both the Anchorage and Fairbanks APLICs and donate the profits of the sales back to the centers. Over the past fifteen years ANHA has contributed over \$344,000 to the APLICs to help pay for their visitor information services. The amount of money ANHA donates is increasing as the number of tourists increase.

Without the state's share the Tok center will be closed and the Anchorage and Fairbanks centers will curtail hours of operation. This will affect book sales and the amount of money ANHA can donate for operations. These centers are a major part of the state's tourism infrastructure and are prime contributors to Alaska's major growth industry.

Several federal agencies share in their support of the APLICs. The Division of Tourism has shouldered the burden of providing the state funding. I suggest you look to the other agencies that benefit from the APLICs, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council to provide a state share of support. All of these agencies will be impacted if the APLICs close or curtail services. It is more economical for the state to

provide a portion of the support of the existing centers, than to replicate the APLICs' services within these agencies.

The APLICs are a national model of interagency cooperation and coordination to provide convenient, efficient visitor services. With these proposed funding cuts they are an example of Alaskans developing national caliber solutions to meet our industries needs, then turning our backs on our success.

This funding cut is another example of how smart we are, and how dumb we can be. I ask your support in maintaining one example of Alaska's intelligence. If you have any questions please call me at 345-6600.

Sincerely,



William Ashton  
ANHA Board Member

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110800  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0800  
PHONE: (907) 465-2500  
FAX: (907) 465-5442  
TDD: (907) 465-5437

March 18, 1996

The Honorable Pete Kelly  
Chairman  
House Finance Subcommittee for Commerce  
and Economic Development  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kelly:

Re: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

I am gravely concerned about the impact of the House Finance Subcommittee's reduction to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI). The reduction of \$843,600 from the Governor's FY 97 proposal eliminates the state's unrestricted general fund contribution to the state's seafood marketing program.

The eliminated funding had provided ASMI's match to over \$4 million in federal grant money for overseas salmon marketing in Japan, Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Over 50 percent of Alaska's salmon harvest is exported to foreign markets (1994 value of \$680 million). Continuation of the export volume is threatened by competition from foreign producers. Alaska's competitors enjoy huge government subsidies. For example, Norway provides \$100 million in government assistance for production and \$20 million for international marketing.

This reduction is particularly untimely in light of the deepening, and potentially devastating, situation facing the Alaska salmon industry. Several seafood processors have closed their operations, salmon prices have fallen dramatically and continue to decline, at the same time the worldwide salmon supply continues to grow.

With this reduction, ASMI will be faced with the very difficult decision whether to reallocate money from the domestic salmon marketing program or to eliminate its overseas marketing program. The domestic market is considered the area of greatest potential growth, but the money we currently spend in domestic salmon marketing is barely enough to make an impact on Alaska's market share, given the increasing foreign competition.

In the subcommittee closeout meeting, you mentioned that there are other options available to ASMI. The first is to use money which may be released this year from the Fisheries Landing Tax; however, that money is restricted to use for whitefish marketing. The second option is for the salmon processors to increase their self assessment from .3 percent to .4 percent. I don't feel this is an

The Honorable Pete Kelly

-2-

March 18, 1996

appropriate time to ask the industry to contribute more in light of the financial crisis and in light of the fact the salmon industry is already contributing a significant portion of its income to the state treasury. For example, a fish processor in Southeast Alaska pays a combined 5.3 percent in taxes to the state. In addition, the fishermen selling to the processor pays 4 percent, producing a total tax of 9.3 percent on the value of each salmon caught in Southeast Alaska.

I know from my discussions with you that you consider ASMI to be an effective and successful program. I ask you to reconsider this significant budget reduction in light of the information I have provided.

Sincerely,

  
William L. Hensley  
Commissioner

WLH/yd128.as  
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KLUKWAN FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.  
P O BOX 34659, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-4659  
OFFICE: (907) 789-7361 - FAX: (907) 789-0675

## MEMORANDUM OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: Representative Mark HanleyFAX NUMBER: 907-465-2418FROM: Ronald R. WolfeDATE: March 22, 1996 TIME: 4:00 PMTOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): XX

If you experience any problems in the transmittal, or do not receive all the pages, please call Janice or Ron at the above number.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT: XX Will not follow.

**Dear Representative Hanley:**

I am writing you to ask your help in restoring the funds cut from the Division of Forestry's 1997 budget! These funds are necessary for them to properly administer Alaska's Forest Resource and Practices Act, and fulfill fire protection responsibilities. As you know private forest landowners and Alaska's Forest industry have made significant contributions in good faith to make sure this law is working. The State must live up to its obligation by funding the Division of Forestry to do its job! In this case good government is a field presence so the public has faith that the best management practices are working, and the necessary monitoring programs are being undertaken.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and I sincerely hope that your are able to fund the Division of Forestry.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Wolfe,  
Chief Forester

## TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

122 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 600  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897  
PHONE 907/452-8251 • FAX 907/459-3850

To: House Finance Committee March 22, 1996  
Nineteenth Legislature-Second Session

From: Donna Scott, <sup>df</sup> Employment & Training Director on behalf of the Alaska Native  
Coalition on Employment & Training

Re: Reconsideration of funding allocation for State match for Tribal  
JOBS Programs for FY 1997 per Governor's and DHSS funding request

The Governor's budget request of \$944,000 to be disbursed according to formula for 11 Tribal JOBS programs has been eliminated in your preliminary consideration of the DHSS reinvestment proposal. We urge you to reconsider this drastic measure as savings already realized by the statistics below demonstrate the success of Tribal JOBS programs. If you eliminate Tribal JOBS funding, it will be impossible to assist rural clients (AFDC recipients) with the education, training, employment assistance and child care needs that are necessary for them to become self-sufficient, which is the true goal of Welfare Reform. Even though the State will mandate work or work activities, it will not be possible to meet the required percentages with our decreased federal JOBS funding which is 25% this year, FY 1996.

Total Federal Funding for Tribal JOBS in FY 1995 in Alaska	\$726,000
Total number of Tribal clients served	438
Total number employed	113
Total number that utilized JOBS Child Care	341
Total number of village clients served	157
<b>Total amount of savings realized</b>	<b>\$1,113,276</b>

Savings determined by multiplying \$821 (basic AFDC grant for parent plus one child) X 113 clients employed this program year X 12 months. This very significant reinvestment savings is conservative in that a parent, or two parent family with more than one dependent, would receive a proportionately higher benefit. Even if one was to consider employment for only six months for the number of successfully employed JOBS clients, the amount saved for reinvestment would be \$556,638.

Tribal JOBS is effective in getting people of state welfare dependency. Please support continuation of the proven model which was mandated through the Family Support Act of 1988 under Republican President, George Bush. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and support.

CC: Governor Knowles  
DHSS