

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

141142M

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1995-1996

March 22, 1996

TO: Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
FROM: A very concerned citizen.
RE: CUTS to public broadcasting and the arts council.

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I DO NOT support the cuts proposed to eliminate the State Arts Council, Public Broadcasting, and the library book acquisition fund. Please reconsider... I find it alarming that this is a sentence that even needs to be expressed. It is keenly obscene that it is proposed that the things (education, literacy, information, culture, quality of life) that set us apart from civilizations that are regressive and oppressive in every way, are now targeted for elimination.

What we "eliminate" is usually expressed as waste. It is hard to imagine that any thinking, feeling, and responsible citizen and human being would express education, literacy, information, and culture which furthers us as a civilization, and improves the way we live, as "waste". Perhaps, if you are opposed to this, that you see all of these things as frivolous. They are not. They are the very things which set us apart from mediocrity. Through education, literacy, culture, and art we can learn of history, of other cultures, of new ideas and from our mistakes. Education, literacy, culture, and art are the very things that help to create better, more intelligent, more global, more marketable and competitive (if you want to look at it in those terms), more skilled, and, yes, more cultured children. Those children are our future, yours and mine. When we are 60 and 70 and they are in your shoes, will they remember all the opportunities you took away? You bet they will. If not through direct memory, they will remember through the life they were given. And you've given them a pretty grim picture. Check it out, this is what they will get: MTV. Only commercial "art" (checked out a hotel lobby lately?). Books dating from 20 to 30 years ago (checked out the SAT/ACT scores lately?). What is their future? The war for mediocrity will have been won.

I am not what many would term a "bleeding heart liberal" that the present congress enjoys slamming so much. I am actually a conservative myself, raised in a conservative household, graduate of a private and conservative university, but there is a time when one has to speak up, when the cuts are too random and sweeping and grandstanding. This is the time.

Theatre, art, public broadcasting, and literacy don't bring down the market. In fact, they improve the economy by improving the quality of life. Why would we want to make ourselves so unattractive? All the states in the union support public broadcasting except Delaware. So we want to be like Delaware???

My name is Renata Riffe. I live in Cordova, Alaska. I oppose cuts to be made to Alaska Public Radio and RATNET. While Anchorage and Fairbanks have many options for information, rural Alaska does not. Cutting APR and RATNET isn't just a reduction of choice for rural Alaska. It often means no readily available source of information at all. How would your Railbelt constituents feel if they had no television, and perhaps one local radio station, whose programming they didn't like, but nothing else was available to them? Why do Railbelt legislators feel that it is OK to force rural Alaska to live with those options? Our United States senators and representative fight for certain programs, such as air service to Bush communities, because Alaska, or at least rural Alaska is different from the rest of the United States, and there is no substitute for these services. Alaska Public Radio and RATNET are no less vital. If these services are cut, I expect to see an increase in the number of deaths in Bush Alaska, due to lack of good local weather information. It is interesting to note that our national legislators, despite their conservative views, are willing to fight for public radio and TV, but many of our state legislators want to zero it out.

On a more general note, the majority coalition wants to force wrenching changes in state policy and spending through, and are doing it by keeping public input at a minimum. Many of the proposed cuts are going to impact rural Alaska far more than the Railbelt. Some of the legislators are going to support these changes because they have no inkling how hard rural life in this state can be, and some of the legislators don't care. I'm sure that many in the majority coalition will state that these programs are subsidies that we can no longer afford. I am also sure that urban legislators have guaranteed that certain projects for places like Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley will be subsidized, even though the municipalities could pay for them if they had the civic responsibility to institute a sales tax. Such an attitude would not be tolerated from smaller communities. This "I'll get mine and the hell with you" attitude is causing bitter resentment in many parts of the state, and it is bound get worse. It is going to make this state harder to govern, and is going to slow down the political process via confrontation and incivility. Much of the strength that this state has shown in the past was due to cooperation and the common bond that state residents felt, rather than stronger constituencies preying upon the weaker.

I would like the following to be read as part of the official record of the House Finance Committee's meeting:

Last month (February 1996) we provided over 600 safe nights to women at the AWAIC shelter in Anchorage. We are currently (March 22, 1996) operating our shelter with a wait list of 6 individuals. We currently have 21 women and 32 children in our shelter (our capacity is 52). Our staff is pushed to their limits. We are continually told that our funding is stable and level. **For that we are grateful.** However, as clients and cost increase, **level** funding becomes more and more scary. This may mean that in order to operate at the capacity we are currently at, we are forced to hold fewer groups, we are forced to hold less 'one on ones' which offer individual advocacy for clients and instead must respond to acute, pressing need, i.e., a perp has called 12 times on the message line threatening the life of a resident, she is distraught, must get a restraining order and needs our undivided individual attention. We must help her file a restraining order she is frightened by the process. We must sit with the child who screams at night in terror while her/his mother cries (they remember how painful their lives have been). They both remember the horror of the abuse they have fled, just in a different way. We often are in the mode of maintaining. We attempt and achieve the provision of necessary, crucial services to women and their children in need. We are thankful and appreciative for level funding to provide these essential services. As you deliberate, and put a 'face' on the line items in the budget, please remember the face of the women and children who depend on our services to save their lives. We do the highest quality job we can with level funding. **Please do not allow the budget cuts you consider further endanger the lives of women and children. 80% of the murders investigated by the troopers last year involved Domestic Violence.**

Thank You For Your Time and Attention

Candice Miller
Program Director/Acting Executive Director
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis

March 22, 1996

Rep. Hanley: **(The Following is NOT a part of the record)**

Although ALL of your constituents certainly must know how hard you work for them in Juneau, if you ever need a letter of support from the "other side" as one of your constituents, I was impressed (albeit concerned) by your presence in the office at 9:00 on a Friday night on the eve of an important meeting of your committee. Thank you for working hard and thank you for supporting issues that matter to me.

Sincerely,

Candice Miller
9254 Kavik
Anchorage Alaska
99515

PLEASE distribute to Finance Committee Members
TO MEMBERS of the FINANCE Committee

POST OFFICE BOX 100
POINT BAKER, AK 99927
907-655-407
SEBASTIAN

Your recent proposal to further slash funding

for A.P.R.N. and Public Radio is short sighted when one considers the long term view of communications, and its value to the rural residents of the state of Alaska.

To suggest that Government is not responsible for bringing the news to the people of the state is a narrow minded and shallow view when one considers the state involved.

To suggest that there are overlapping news service and weather reporting is true, but there is no replacement for A PRN, or the hundreds of Alaskans who volunteer their time and energy to make it the best public radio in the nation.

I am in a state of shock to see a pack of well-fed white men in suits attack such a basic and necessary communication function. One that keeps the whole state pointed in the right direction. And a function that represents the heart and pulse of community spirit for every community and far flung outlying area that the A.P.R.N. represents. I suggest you do not really know what the hell you are really doing, or what you are really destroying. A bunch of self satisfied city slickers with no idea what APRN means to Rural Bush Alaska. If you knew, you would protect and honor APRN's success. not destroy it.

NANCY DECHERNEY

233 BEHREND'S, JUNEAU, AK 99801

PHONE (907) 586-8282

FAX (907) 586-2500

E-MAIL DECH@ALASKA.NET

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House Finance Committee,

- I strongly oppose your recommendation to eliminate all funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

It is unclear to me how declining to accept matching funds from the Federal Government, which are available this year, is prudent stewardship of our state's finances.

The Arts as an industry contributes mightily to our state's well-being, and as such is as deserving the same support and encouragements offered to other industries in the state. People come to Alaska as visitors and as residents for the art and culture we have developed here.

Further, Arts and arts projects contribute an amazing amount to the education of our students, stepping in to replace programs school districts can no longer afford. While you personally may not find the study of any form of art to be important, I put it to you that the study of music, for example, builds a work ethic, an understanding that to accomplish anything one must work hard, builds team spirit and ability to work together in the same way that participation in sports does, and in addition improves problem-solving skills, develops creativity, instills respect for and understanding of our cultural backgrounds. Aren't these qualities we wish to instill in future citizens?

Most arts organizations involve many volunteers. Failure to support them is not just a dollar for dollar reduction. We lose volunteers hours too.

A specific, concrete example of your state arts funds at work:

For the past four years, the Juneau Symphony, which is a volunteer orchestra with 125 community players, has presented a free Youth Assembly Program, which includes preparatory study guides and tapes and visits to the classrooms by musicians followed by a free concert, to every fourth and fifth grade student in Juneau. This year, the middle school string program and Youth Symphony more than doubled in participation; I suggest that this is evidence that the youth programs the Symphony sponsors is directly affecting our students, influencing and encouraging them to pursue and excel at the study of music, a normal part of the middle school curriculum. These volunteers, with very small amounts of financial help from the state (we get less than 4% of our cash budget from state and local art grants), are making a tangible, positive difference in the education of thousands (1256 students participated last year alone) of kids. These students stand a greater chance for success in school than those who are not involved in musical studies.

I think this is a good use of state funds.

A budget is a statement of values as well as a management plan. The values expressed by a budget that takes all money for art and puts it into law enforcement are abhorrent to me. Please reconsider.

- I also strongly oppose your recommendation to make further cuts to public radio and TV.

Public radio and television are vital to the well-being of rural Alaskans. We are unique as a state being large in land mass and tiny in population. This public link shortens the distances and keeps us together. Don't cut the lifelines.

- I am sad to see that you are recommending elimination of RSVP from the education budget.

Another concrete example of state money well-spent:

My sister was one of the first RSVP students from Haines, placed with Alaska Airlines. They were so impressed with her performance, they offered her a job that summer and each summer after until she completed college. She worked for them for several years, and just celebrated the 10th anniversary of her own travel agency, where she employs several people, in Haines.

Perhaps the program is a luxury, but it did some good.

SHEILA B. & MARTIN H. NICKERSON
540 WEST 10TH STREET
JUNEAU, AK 99801

March 25, 1996

To : The House Finance Committee

Restore full funding to the arts
and to Public Broadcasting. To do less
is irresponsible and dangerous to the
well-being of our state.

Sheila B. Nickerson

March 22, 1996

Mr. Mark Hanley,

We are writing to request your support for Public Broadcasting in Alaska. We have been avid listeners of KBBI in Homer for the last 7 years. KBBI is not an "extra" but an integral part of our lives. As teachers, we listen to KBBI to learn about current, national, international and local news.

The station is also an integral part of our community, not only relating local news, but supporting local projects. They report on activities within our schools as well as training students on radio programming techniques.

Public radio is essential in Alaska. It is our connection to the rest of the state and world.

We hope that you change your mind and decide to continue supporting public broadcasting at its current level.

Thank you,

David Lewis

Carolyn Maslow

David Lewis and Carolyn Maslow

P.O. Box 468

Homer, AK 99603

Mark Hanley
House Finance Committee
fax: 465-2418

Representative Mark Hanley,

I'm writing to garner your support for public radio, in particular that of the Kachemak Bay Broadcasting Incorporated. I live in Homer, Alaska and find as most rural Alaskans do that public radio is an important and integral part of their lives in terms of entertainment, but more importantly education and information. Since I live in an area where I have limited access to television I rely heavily on public radio for my day to day information concerning local, state, national and international news. Without public radio your constituency would be ignorant and ill-informed of most issues that directly effect their lives, livelihood, and standard of living.

I have no problem dealing with the hardships involved in living in rural Alaska: outdoor plumbing, hauling water, wood heat, and solitude. In fact I enjoy these aspects being secure in the fact that I am not entirely cut off from my fellow man. By cutting or limiting the funding available for public radio you would be isolating myself and the majority of Alaskans who live outside the metropolises of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. By doing so you would be further relegating rural Alaskans to conditions reminiscent of third world countries.

I hope you will consider your position carefully taking into account the vast numbers of Alaskans whose lives will be negatively affected by the absence of public radio and the indispensable role it plays in our lives.

Thank you for listening,

Rick Cline



Lot 2 Block 8
Forest Glen Subdivision
Homer, Alaska

**Mark Hanley
House Finance Committee
fax: 465-2418**

Representative Mark Hanley,

I'm writing to ask for your support for public radio, in particular that of the Kachemak Bay Broadcasting Incorporated. I live in Homer, Alaska and find that public radio is an important and integral part of my life. Since I live in an area where I have limited access to television, phones or transportation I rely heavily on public radio for my day to day activities. KBBI provides services that allow me to keep in contact with those in my community beyond the reach of phone lines with their Bushlines, and with those in my global community through the news services they provide whether they are local, state, national or international.

KBBI provides innumerable indispensable services for this community. Aidelines provides long distance transportation for those unable to afford a car or plane ticket. Weekly segments keep us informed about the local animal shelter while daily reports help us track down our loose pets. They provide a job information service. And they are able to get community support behind worthwhile endeavors such as the food bank, clothing for the needy, and benefits for the less fortunate.

I hope you will also support public radio not only for the invaluable service it provides to our community, but also to all Alaskans who have come to rely upon it so heavily.

Thank you for your support,



Sharlene Packer

**PO Box 3041
Homer, Alaska 99603**

Ronald and Marjorie Illingworth
3046 Taxi Lane C
North Pole, AK 99705
907-488-0446

Saturday, 23 March 1996

Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I was extremely disappointed to learn that the House Department of Education Budget Subcommittee approved a FY97 budget proposal to eliminate the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). I strongly urge you not to support this initiative when it is considered by the full Finance Committee.

Elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the associated funding would be devastating. In Fairbanks, this would mean no state or matching federal funding for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, the Fairbanks Concert Association, the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, The Fairbanks Drama Association, the Fairbanks Symphony, the North Star Dance Foundation, as well as one hundred and seventy-nine (179) other grant recipients in forty-six (46) other Alaskan communities. Do you realize how many jobs would be affected by this budget proposal?

While Alaska may have financial difficulties, it is impossible for me to imagine that our state, which can afford to enter into ill-conceived legal suits, which has won billions of dollars in legal settlements against the big oil conglomerates, which can afford not to have an income tax, and which can afford to support a legislature so far removed from the rest of the state that they no longer are in touch with their constituents is so bad off financially that it can not afford to support the arts -- that one area which represents the creative element within our state.

I urge you to reinstate funding in support of the Alaska State Council on the Arts into the FY97 budget. Any agenda to eliminate state support for the arts is ill-conceived, shortsighted, and not supported by the Alaskan voters.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Illingworth



F A X
Transmittal

to: Representative Therriault

fax #: _____

from: Tim Wilson

re: Amendment to Fund ASCA

date: 3/23/96

pages: 5 Pages (including cover sheet)

cc: Reps. Hanley / Foster

Vision For the Arts In Alaska

Alaska boasts a cultural landscape as spectacular and diverse as our natural environment. Alaskans recognize that artists and the arts are essential partners in shaping the economic, educational and spiritual vitality of our lives. We thrive on creative energy and value the arts as a force for social healing and community building. We treasure our heritage by perpetuating indigenous Alaskan art forms. We accept our responsibility to build bridges to the future by enriching our children's lives through arts education and participation.

We continue to forge new alliances based on a recognition of the arts as an economic force which provides a powerful return on investment. Our commitment to increasing access to the arts for all Alaskans is reflected in organized advocacy efforts at the local, regional and state levels.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts takes a leading role in stabilizing and diversifying support for the arts. ASCA programs and services advocate, nurture and validate artists and arts institutions.

We celebrate an Alaskan Renaissance in which the arts are socially relevant; funded and attended; treasured and taught, and ours to share: our resource and our responsibility.

—Participants Governor's Conference on the Arts
Anchorage, Alaska December 1995.

Alaska State Council on the Arts

411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 1E, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343 (907) 269-6610 Fax: (907) 269-6601



March 23, 1996

The Honorable Gene Therriault
The Alaska Legislature
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Therriault:

I am writing today on behalf of the Alaska State Council on the Arts to ask that you sponsor an amendment to partially restore funding to the Council. With a minimum appropriation of \$450,000 in State General Matching funds, Alaskans are assured of basic programs and services to the arts and communities of Alaska.

I am sure you were moved today by the scores of Alaskans who turned out to testify, and by many others who wrote in support of the Arts Council. There can be no doubt that thousands of Alaskans support and enjoy the programs of the Arts Council. Some arts supporters will see another double-digit budget reduction as a terrible blow against the arts, but I promise you that most arts organizations and their constituents would rather see the Council cut than eliminated.

Amendments are due tomorrow (Sunday, March 24) at 2:00, so time is of the essence. Attached is a narrative and spreadsheet to help in the preparation of the amendment. If you agree to sponsor this amendment, and I trust that you will, arts communities will rally the votes of your majority colleagues to support the amendment. This is a reasonable and conservative compromise. We cannot do it without you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at home, at 907-274-7615. E-mail can also reach me at: asca@alaska.net. Thanks for your leadership and support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Wilson
Executive Director

cc: Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Richard Foster, Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee

Attachments

G:\LEG\GTRESTOR.WPD

Alaska State Council on the Arts

411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 1E, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343 (907) 269-6610 Fax: (907) 269-6601

MEMORANDUM

**State of Alaska
Department of Education
Alaska State Council on the Arts**

To: Karen Rehfeld
DOE, Admin. Svcs.

Date: March 22, 1996

Phone: 907-269-6610

File: G:\LEG\HSCUTNAR.WPD

From: Tim Wilson
Executive Director

Subject: FY97 Budget Options

Attached is a spreadsheet that outlines options for the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) FY97 budget. As requested, I prepared an FY97 budget scenario based on federal grants totaling \$450,000, matching state funds, program receipts, and private gifts and grants.

\$993,000/Alaska Matches Federal Funds

This budget scenario is based on State match of federal grants expected from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). We calculated the NEA total as follows:

Basic State Grant	\$296,000
Arts in Education Grant	\$53,000
Heritage & Preservation Grant	\$70,000
Rural Arts Initiative	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$459,000

The total budget of \$993,000 represents a 21 percent cut from FY96. In three years, the Legislature cut the Council's general fund appropriation by 46 percent, from \$1,041,500 in FY94 to \$560,000 in FY96. As a result, ASCA personal services, travel and commodities lines have been cut to the bone. ASCA has only four fulltime personnel -- the smallest of any state arts agency in the union.

The Council seeks Federal receipts authority of \$489,000. As you know, the National Endowment for the Arts' grant review process is concurrent to the Legislative session. We are currently unable to provide the exact figures of the FY97 federal grants. In FY96, our projections were much lower than the grants we actually received. The Council will use private funds (1077 Gifts/Grants) to match federal funds over the State appropriation of \$450,000.

Decrements

At this point, the only practical way to cut the budget is to reduce the grants line. This budget line is reduced by \$257,300 (32 percent). Recent Council policy places

a higher priority on maintaining the number of grants awards versus dollar size. So while grant budgets are down, the number of grants is increasing. In FY96, the average grant is \$5,300 down 31 percent from FY95 (\$6,675).

The contractual budget is reduced by \$7,200 (4 percent). This cut is taken in association and regional memberships (Western State Arts Federation and ArtsWire), and miscellaneous reductions.

FY97 ASCA Budget Options

Component: Alaska State Council on the Arts
BRU: Commissions and Boards

	FY95 Act	FY96Auth	Gov/Amnd	\$900K	900KvGov
Personal Services	252.10	230.10	233.30	233.30	0.00
Travel	21.50	20.40	20.40	20.40	0.00
Contractual	184.80	192.20	192.20	185.00	-7.20
Commodities	3.30	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lands/Buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants, Claims	986.20	807.60	807.60	550.30	-257.30
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
** Total Expend.	1447.90	1254.30	1257.50	893.00	-264.50
1002 Fed Rcpts.	620.70	675.30	642.10	489.00	-153.10
1003 G/F Match	675.40	560.00	561.40	450.00	-111.40
1004 Gen Fund	150.20	0.00	0.00		0.00
1005 G/F Prgm	1.60	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00
1077 Gifts/Grnt		15.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Positlons Full Time	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Positions Part Time	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

JUNEAU
ARTS AND
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL



P.O. Box 20562 / 206 North Franklin Street Juneau, Alaska 99802-0562 (907) 586-ARTS FAX: (907) 586-2145

This letter has been submitted to the House Finance Committee as written testimony for the March 23 hearing on the House version of the FY 96 operating budget

March 21, 1996

Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Rep. Richard Foster, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Hanley, Rep. Foster and members of House Finance:

The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC) urges the House Finance Committee to restore funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts before reporting the FY 97 operating budget out of committee.

Members of the Alaska State Legislature generally support economic development to improve the state economy. The legislature actively seeks ways to foster economic growth and improve the climate for industry in Alaska. Art is an industry. In Juneau alone in 1994 the art industry employed 333 people (full-time, part-time and temporary) with an annual payroll of \$5.4 million. It garnered \$10 million in sales and other income. 744 art-related events in Juneau during 1994 attracted attendance of 238,700. State grants were a key element in making this possible.

The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council is the official arts agency for Alaska's Capital City, and the largest concert presenter in Southeast Alaska. It makes grants to individual artists and local arts organizations, and provides youth art scholarships. In cooperation with the local school district and UAS it presents a film series.

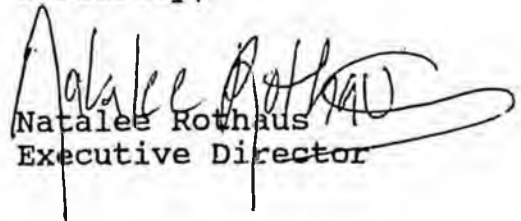
A few years ago, our grant from ASCA represented about a third of our budget. At that time we had three full-time staff positions. This year the ASCA grant accounts for about 15% of our budget. In response to last year's reductions in government support we increased efforts to obtain funding from the non-government sources, and have cut staff to one and a half. JAHC remains committed to maintaining services to the community, however further erosion of state support will undermine our ability to do so.

House Finance Committee
March 22, 1996
page two

The arts constitute an industry, and are an important economic force. If public funding for the arts is allowed to erode throughout the country, we will be impoverished in more than an economic sense.

Please restore funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts, which provides essential support statewide. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Natalee Rothaus
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Eldon Mulder
Rep. Sean Parnell
Rep. Pete Kelly
Rep. Gene Thierrault
Rep. Terry Martin
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Kay Brown
Rep. Ben Grussendorf
Rep. Mike Navarre

Vivian Kinnaid
P.O. Box 1124
Girdwood

March 23

To the Members of the House
Finance Committee -

I'm here today to voice my support
for continued funding of the
Alaska State Council on the Arts.

I am a woman of African-American
and Filipino descent and I have
lived in Anchorage since 1966.

I began dancing ballet in Anchorage
and saw my first opera with a school
program - all programs funded - in
part - by the ASCA. I've lived
in Louisville Kentucky - a city

that has a thriving arts community
that has formed a unique partner-
ship amongst businesses and arts
organizations. This can happen
in Alaska - and has happened

already. Public funding provides
a solid foundation of support for
communities throughout Alaska.

For me, as a woman and a
mother, who has worked for a
majority of her life, yet devotes
a large part of my free time to the

arts - it is my essence.

We are headed with the current legislature to a community that sees its quality of life in the number of police, troopers and jails as a "healthy community."

And it closes its doors on young people who could find a voice in expression whether it be a play exposing their joys and pain, a painting or words to express what they are about. We could learn ~~more~~ from their expressions.

The arts can nurture so much for our communities - much more than handcuffs and jails will ever do.

Please continue to provide that foundation for a community of people who will listen and look at what an artist has to

contribute to her world - we may not need more troopers or jails if this happens, what a wonderful world that would be. You can make that happen.

Vivian Kinnaird
PO Box 11241 Anchorage 99515



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON APLIC FUNDING DATED 3/23/96
BILL/SUBJECT COMMITTEE NAME

DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA
PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTERS IN ANCHORAGE, TOK,
AND ~~ANCHORAGE~~ ^{FAIRBANKS} IS A POOR DECISION BY THE DIV. OF
TOURISM.

THESE CENTERS PROVIDE EXTENSIVE INFORMATION
TO POTENTIAL VISITORS THRU THE THOUSANDS OF PHONE
CALLS AND MAIL REQUESTS RECEIVED EACH YEAR. THIS
INFORMATION HELPS PROMOTE ALASKA AS A VACATION
DESTINY, THUS BRINGING AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO UNTOLD
PRIVATE BUSINESSES AND CREATING JOBS.

WITHOUT THESE FUNDS WOULD CAUSE DRASTIC
REDUCTIONS IN STAFF AND SERVICES AT THE ANCHORAGE
AND FAIRBANKS CENTERS, AND CLOSE TOK. VISITORS
REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT ALASKA, BEYOND THE
DIV. OF TOURISM VACATION PLANNER, WOULD SEE LARGE
DELAYS AND FRUSTRATIONS IN RECEIVING TRIP PLANNING
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DIVERSE ~~STATE~~ STATE.

I HAVE LIVED IN ALASKA SINCE 1962 AND
PAID STATE INCOME TAX WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE THE
OIL INCOME. I TRULY FEEL THAT IT'S NOW THE
TIME TO REINSTATE THE STATE INCOME TAX AND
PLACE A CAP ON THE DIVIDEND CHECK. WE DIDN'T
NEED THE DIVIDEND CHECK IN THE 60'S AND 70'S
AND ITS JUST A LUXURY ITEM NOW THAT COULD BE USED
TO HELP PROVIDE NEEDED
SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS
OF ALASKA.

SIGNED Ruthie Hawk
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)
P.O. Box 100762 ANCHORAGE, AK. 99510
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance Comm
 COMMITTEE ON CUTS TO DIV. of TOURISM DATED 3/23/97
 BILL SUBJECT FOR Alaska Public Lands Information Center (APLIC)

I would like to comment on the reduction in support of the partnerships set up by ANILCA called Alaska Public Lands Information Centers. These partnerships, the essence of cooperation and elimination of duplicate efforts, are being abandoned for want of \$70,000 (APLIC, FAPLIC). These public lands visitor centers represent the absolute heart of our visitor service structure. Alaska is its wildness, beauty and PEOPLE. Visitors come to Alaska to meet those friendly Alaskans. So what what does the state do? It cancels its support for the personal contact these visitors look for... drop funding for APLIC & FAPLIC, build a competing visitor center in Tok and then drop support of the APLIC, reduce hours at the DNR visitor center, pull support from Chugach State Park's Eagle River Visitor Center. A statement was made that "funding personal service is too expensive." Alaska IS ITS PEOPLE. We are being replaced by a half million dollar (spelled millions) electronic kiosk system* or on-line fans. There ALWAYS has to be a place to ask questions. Remember the state's own figures say Travel Agents and Friends talk up Alaska most not computers.

SIGNED

TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

3331 Wells Circle, Anchorage, AK 99508
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER (907) 338-4487

* APLIC

* TRAK related not... a...entia...h...e...h...e...e...

Concerning cuts in funding to Alaska Public Lands Info Centers, part of Dept of Commerce / Division of Tourism

I'd like to speak about the people who use the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers; I'd like to talk about money, and I'd like to talk about kids.

* Each year, 15,000 people phone and 9,000 write to the Anchorage APLIC. Many of the inquiries are from out-of-state and foreign countries, individuals and families deciding or preparing to come to Alaska.

The APLIC's are one of the few agencies offering comprehensive and sometimes personalized statewide trip-planning, an important service which successfully markets Alaska and brings visitors to the state. Economically, each visitor to Anchorage contributes \$315 - 574 per person to the Alaskan economy, according to the 1993 Alaska Visitors Survey. For the 24,00 inquiries volleyed by the Anchorage APLIC, that's 7.6 - 13.8 million dollars. Assuming just 50% of the letters and phone calls are out-of-state, that's still a possibility of **3.8 - 6.9 million dollars** brought into the state. Not a bad investment for a contribution of **\$70,000** (by the state) to the Anchorage APLIC budget.

* 100,000 clients walk through the Anchorage APLIC's doors annually. Assuming one-half of those clients are independent travellers from out-of-state, that's about 1 out of every 10 visitors to Anchorage or a translation of an average of 6.7 million dollars, again from the 1993 Alaska Visitors Survey. Whether residents or out-of-state visitors, these clients have questions about Alaska's state parks, fish & game regulations, land lotteries, the Marine Highway System, road, trail, and campground updates, and a myriad of other questions about the recreational and resource uses of Alaska's lands. In 1995, the Anchorage APLIC distributed 30,000 maps, brochures, and related information on behalf of state agencies.

As a one-stop shopping center, otherwise known as an interagency center, the Anchorage APLIC desk staff spends an estimated 40% of their time informing visitors about the appropriate use of state land. Yet in terms of contribution to the operating budget of the APLIC's, the federal government contributes **4 dollars for every state dollar**. The federal government is subsidizing the state by a factor of 2 to 1. That's quite a deal. The state would be hard pressed to serve the public so economically and efficiently with staff of its own.

* Lastly, and my vantage point, perhaps most importantly, 15,000 school children in Anchorage, Palmer, Soldotna, and the Matsu Valley receive a direct educational message from the Anchorage APLIC about the importance of public lands for recreation, resources, and wildlife. These students will be the decision-makers of tomorrow and they, too, will wrestle with the dilemma of multiple users vying for Alaska's fantastic wealth of natural resources.

I didn't speak to the contributions the Fairbanks and Tok APLIC's make. I just didn't have many of the visitation and dollar figures for those communities. My gut feel is that they, too, are important to the health and well-being of our state's tourist industry.

I ask that the legislature reconsider the proposed cuts to the APLIC's and to consider the economy of these facilities and the investment they make in our children's future. Thank you.

Joan K Welch

3/23/96

*Joanne K Welch
Educational Specialist, APLIC*

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD OF GAME

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

March 23, 1996

The Honorable Mark Hanley and the Honorable Richard Foster
Co-chairs, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley and Foster:

The Board of Game would like to take an opportunity to express concern about proposed funding levels with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

One of the main qualities of life desired by all residents of this state is the unique and abundant hunting and fishing opportunities which it provides. These opportunities can only be protected for the future by properly and adequately funded management. Continuing cuts to the already overtaxed ADF&G budget effectively sends a strong message that management of its own fish and game resources is no longer a priority of the State of Alaska. We cannot imagine the legislature acting in a manner which would send such a message to the citizens of the state.

We understand and appreciate the situation with which the state is faced in this time of declining revenues. At the same time, we believe that it is in the best interests of the state to insure that the natural resource assets of Alaska be managed in a thorough and professional manner. We strongly urge that funding for ADF&G operations be maintained at least at the level provided for in FY95.

Sincerely,



Larry Holmes, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

cc: Senate Finance Committee
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Governor Knowles



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
 COMMITTEE ON _____ DATED 03/22/96 COMMITTEE NAME

 BILL/SUBJECT

Dear Sir,

As apartment manager with 15 boilers and a #2 boiler license, I know how dangerous improperly maintained boilers can be. The annual boiler inspection by Terry Hines provides an invaluable service. He keeps me on my toes and makes sure that my boilers are safe. He is always there when I need him with advice and suggestions.

He is a safety inspector, there to protect my tenants from potential harm and in case of any mishap, myself and the owners from costly litigation.

We all know how much damage a defective boiler can do to life and property.

If you eliminate his position, you expose the public to considerable danger; not only in apartment complexes but in all public buildings.

It is simply human nature to take shortcuts and make "quick fixes". If only one person gets maimed or worse, because you decide to eliminate his position, then you are responsible for it and have to live with it for the rest of your lives.

SIGNED Pete K. Schmidt PHONE 452-3328
 TESTIFIER

State Boiler Inspector
 REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1901 Mary Ann St. Anderson Apartments 99701
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Fairbanks

(23)

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS*Office of the Director***Tanana Valley Campus**

510 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 (907) 451-7223 FAX 456-8817

March 23, 1996

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

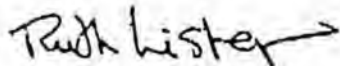
At Tanana Valley Campus, UAF, over 90% of our recent voc-tech graduates are employed and 75% are earning more than \$10/ hour. For the past 4 years Tanana Valley Campus has been training many welfare recipients in the state and tribal JOBS programs. We work closely with employers to ensure that our programs provide math, English, computer and job readiness skills that employers want in addition to occupational skills.

Welfare recipients, like many other non-traditional students, go through a transformational process during their education where they learn to believe in themselves again and to manage the problems in their lives. They gain the tools to become good employees and to stay employed. They also gain stability which has an enormous impact on their children.

If you do not invest in the training and support services up front you are only creating a revolving door for recipients. With a five year limit over their shoulder, it is imperative that they be given the opportunity to succeed.

I am appalled by the apparent lack of foresight and sense of community in the proposed budget. I urge you to invest in job training for both state and tribal JOBS programs and in child care assistance and transitional health benefits.

Sincerely,



Ruth Lister
Director, Tanana Valley Campus



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance Comm.
 COMMITTEE ON HB 412 DATED 3/23/96
BILLSUBJECT COMMITTEE NAME

Please consider this an urgent request to not make the proposed cut in the Public Broadcasting budget. Public Broadcasting is vital to Alaska and it cannot withstand any further cuts.

Don't cut Public Broadcasting.

SIGNED Liza Penrose Liza Penrose
 TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

4770 Glasgow Dr. #3 Fairbanks AK 99709
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

455-8871

(25)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
 COMMITTEE ON Proposed Budget DATED 3/23/96
 BILL/SUBJECT

I am a Medicaid Care Coordinator and I supervise three other Medicaid Care Coordinators. It is essential that the Medicaid Budget be maintained at current levels. The needs of the sick poor cannot be ignored and there is currently no fat to be cut. I support the Governor's Welfare Reform plan. If those of us in social services are to succeed in assisting people to get off AFDC, we must have the necessary tools -- in the form of job training programs, educational programs and child care assistance. Let's really work together so most folks can get off AFDC and stay off. I'm optimistic we can do it, but we need funding for programs. Lastly, thanks for restoring funding for programs for people with developmental disabilities.

SIGNED

Rennie Rosenberg

TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

841 Ninth Av. Fairbanks AK 99701
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER (907) 452-6476

(26)

23 March 1996
399 Hillside Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99712
907-457-4537

House

Dear Finance Committee and Interior Delegation,

As you consider budgeting for the next fiscal year please keep in mind what the educational community needs to be able to produce citizens in a democracy. A functional electorate needs access to information regarding local, state, national and international issues. It is most effectively delivered in a variety of ways by a combination of radio, newspapers, television since person to person town meetings are difficult to arrange at convenient times for everyone. Most commercial radio and TV stations focus on entertainment and not the information function needed to maintain the democracy. Public TV and radio ensures that this type of information will be available to all, not just to cable tv subscribers. Many students in our schools do not have the money for private commercial information services let alone a computer.

Cuts have already been made in the state system which changed public programming drastically regarding local issues. We now have primarily statewide, national and international reporting almost exclusively. Smaller towns get little coverage on Alaska One now.

Please do not decrease the level of funding for public broadcasting. If anything, consideration needs to be given to restoring previous funding.

Sincerely,

M. Carolyn Gray
Malie C. Gray

Don I. Gray
DON I. GRAY

March 23, 1996

Dear State Legislator,

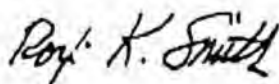
I am writing today to tell you how important public radio and television are in my life. I recently learned of plans to drastically slash funding for these vital Alaskan resources. I hear of talk frequently about the need to develop resources. Why do we only talk of exploiting our natural resources, but when it comes to supporting and enhancing the resources that sustain our minds, it's quite a different story?

I listen almost exclusively to KSKA, and often enjoy the programming on public television. They both serve as examples of what the media could and should be for our society.

Please, at the very least, maintain last year's level of funding for public broadcasting. Further cuts will truly degrade our quality of life here in Alaska.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Roxi K. Smith
3820 Resurrection
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907)333-0054

March 23, 1996

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing to implore you not to cut funding for public radio and public television programs.

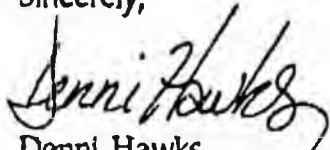
With the pervasiveness of violence on major network television, public television is the only "safe" haven where not only is violence and the garbage of daytime talk shows absent, but educational and artistic programming are the standard. Although those who can afford cable can access these types of programs, many of Alaska's citizens either cannot afford cable or have no access.

Similarly, public radio is free of the noise and commercialism of private stations. It also provides artistic and informational programming that is not otherwise available. Although folk singers, jazz artists, and opera sometimes come to Anchorage and, possibly, to Fairbanks, public radio serves as a link to other parts of the state to provide this type of cultural entertainment.

Public radio and public television are refreshing and "sanity-saving" resources in the violence and chaos of today's world. As much as I love Alaska and the sense of separation from a lot of the chaos of Outside, public radio and public television offer me a link to those parts of Outside that I do miss, as well as making those elements that have ventured to Alaska even more accessible (I was able to enjoy Garrison Keillor's trip to Anchorage, despite not being able to get tickets).

Please maintain funding at last year's level for public radio and television -- the winters will be far, far too long without them!

Sincerely,



Denni Hawks
3820 Resurrection Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99504



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance and
House Finance Budget Sub-committee
 committee name
 committee on House Budget, dated March 23/1996
 bill/subject

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and have tracked legislative activities for two years. Last year I witnessed the tremendous commitment with which the Legislature crafted a welfare reform system.

This year, your budget reflects replacing welfare reform with cuts to health and transitional services to the poor. It concerns me that the initiative and creativity which developed almost bipartisan solutions is now lost to cuts which will harm our least fortunate Alaskans.

Please consider reinstating funds as proposed in the Governor's Budget for Adult Public Assistance, Jobs training, transitional Child care, and Medicaid Services. This will allow the Administration to implement innovative solutions in establishing a welfare and social service system that promotes independence for all Alaskans.

Signed: Gina MacDonald, LCSW
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 91534, Anch 99509 (3410 Orbit Anch, 99517)

Address

248-5511
 Phone No.

regarding: Cuts to Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development
Division of Tourism
Cuts to Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

I am Alice Smith, a teacher at Fairview Elementary.
The Alaska Public Lands Information Center in
Anchorage is a consistent resource for my
science instruction. Not only is the public
able to visit the museum for the displays of
animals, book resources pertaining to Alaska's Beauty,
but there are also regular wildlife and public
land presentations. The educational kits: animal
tracks, owl pellets, loons, beak adaptation, animal
scents and wolf kits are borrowed and used in
many classrooms. This is an important program
and viable to the Alaska public.

Thankyou for your time,
Ms. Alice Smith
4861 E 147th Ave.
Anch, AK 99516
(907) 345-2270
March 23, 1994

HB412 Sat. Mar. 23, 8:30AM - 1PM

Nancy 337-5033

Good morning,

My name is Elaine Major. I am representing Community Schools for the Chugiak/Eagle River area, and am currently chairperson of the Gruening C.S. Advisory Board. I have been involved in Community Schools as a volunteer for the past 14 years, over which time our state support has been cut by 85%. We cannot continue on any less funding at a time when community needs are increasing in our area. In addition to educational opportunities, Community Schools provides access to gym space in our area. There is a very high demand for gymnasiums in Chugiak/Eagle River, and we feel it is especially important to provide these types of activities for local teenagers. Please do not cut funding for community schools - it provides a service vital to the well-being of our community that no other organization provides.

JEFFREY AND SHARON LAWRENCE

3421 Purdue Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-5969

March 24, 1996

Dear Representative Gene Therriault:

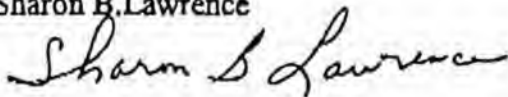
As a concerned-citizen, I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the FY97 Budget proposal to eliminate funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts(ASCA). I feel very strongly that ASCA is a necessary and vital organization and that the House Finance Committee should approve level funding at last years budget amount of \$564,000.

Arts Council programs reached over 45 communities in 1995. The existence of arts and cultural programming improves the quality of life in our communities and fosters a sense of civic pride that goes a long way towards achieving the goal of a positive and healthy living environment for residents of Alaska. Elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts would make arts programming less affordable to the average citizen and severely decrease the impact of arts organizations that serve as important resources in our community.

I have heard that you feel that this issue does not have an impact on constituents in your district. In my opinion, that is a very narrow and uninformed view. A large number of your constituents, myself included, have always been strong supporters of the arts in this state. ASCA programs effect residents throughout Alaska. Public funding to an organization such as ASCA, which has a state-wide impact, makes far more sense than eliminating this exemplary agency in favor of funding services for only one community.

The elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts would be a grave mistake with far-reaching repercussions. Again I urge you to support level funding of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Sincerely
Sharon B. Lawrence



Kimberley Beth Lawrence

3421 Purdue Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-5969

March 24, 1996

Dear Representative Gene Therriault:

As a concerned-citizen, I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the FY97 Budget proposal to eliminate funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). I feel very strongly that ASCA is a necessary and vital organization and that the House Finance Committee should approve level funding at last years budget amount of \$564,000.

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I have heard that certain members of the Alaska State Legislature feel that this issue does not have an impact on constituents in their district. In my opinion, that is a very narrow and uninformed view. ASCA programs effect residents throughout Alaska. Public funding to an organization such as ASCA, which has a state-wide impact, makes far more sense than eliminating this exemplary agency in favor of funding services for only one community.

The elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts would be a grave mistake with far-reaching repercussions. Again I urge you to support level funding of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Sincerely

Kimberly B Lawrence
Kimberly B. Lawrence

House Finance Committee

March 24, 1996

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is in response your proposal to slash spending for public broadcasting. Both my wife and I feel this is not acceptable, and find it hard to believe that your committee actually passed a proposal to slash funding.

In times of tight budgets, public broadcasting is more important than ever. We the people of this state need to keep informed of current events, and the only source for many of us is public broadcasting. During our frequent trips to areas outside Ketchikan the only radio we can receive is a public station. The only TV station we receive in Ketchikan is the public station, and cable is not an option for us. By the drastic cuts you have proposed we could loose both public radio and TV. The only way we can reach some of our friends who live out in the bush is via public radio, or infrequent mail service. The point is many Alaskans depend heavily on public broadcasting. That is why my wife and I have contributed both money and time to public broadcast over the years.

Since we both realize cuts must be made in state spending we would make the following suggestion. First, cut all state legislators salaries 50%. (After all, many of you campaigned on the premises that you wanted to serve us voters, not get rich). Second, cut travel and per diem for all legislators and their staff 50%. Third, hold the legislative sessions every other year.

Please reconsider your proposal, and fund public broadcasting at the same level it was last year.

Sincerely,



Marcel LaPerriere
Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

March 22, 1996

To: House Finance Committee Members

Re: House Bill 412

Two years ago my mother came to live with me from a nursing home. Her life savings gone, her mind drugged, and her dignity shattered, she became my responsibility. Through Project Choice, Medicaid Waiver and Services I've been able to "regain my life." She just turned 91yr. old. Her eyes sparkle, she goes to Day Care Mon-Fri. and she is loved. Is this not a better solution at less cost than 24/hr. care?

From: Nancy Rose, R.N.
415 Willoughby Ave. #406
Juneau, AK 99801
Ph. 907-463-3515

BUSINESS

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

These billions are, in fact, readily available



DAVID REAUME

Alaska has been misled

State budget director Annalee McConnell has confirmed that the state ran a \$3.1 billion surplus in budget year 1995 as I reported in my Jan. 21 column. In a letter to the Anchorage Daily News, which appeared Jan. 26, she wrote:

"He says (meaning me, of course) the state's FY95 Annual Financial Report shows a \$3.072 billion surplus of revenue over expenditures. He concludes from this that we do not have a budget gap. *While his math is correct, his conclusion is an illusion*" (italics mine)

Now that we know the state is not running deficits and that I did not invent the \$3.1 billion surplus, we can go on to correct a few more misconceptions about the state's fiscal position.

In particular, I want to examine a notion put forward by The Voice of The Times in a Jan. 28 editorial. Those editors agree with me that the state is running multibillion-dollar surpluses. However, they claim that none of the surplus is "readily" available to cover state general-fund spending and should, therefore, be ignored. On this latter point, they are being a bit cute with words! With the exception of the pension trusts, whose principal really is out of bounds, all of the major funds are available to cover general-fund spending. Whether or not they are "readily" available is a matter of semantics.

The budget-year 1995 surplus of \$3.072 billion comes from the following:

Continued from Page C-1

- \$1.081 billion — pension trust funds.
- \$982 million — all other funds.

From this money subtract the \$322 million deficit in the general fund and you get \$3.072 billion.

Proponents of massive cuts in spending tell you about the \$322 million general-fund deficit, but not about the surpluses in the other funds (until their response to my last column).

Somebody correct me if I am wrong, but the public and many of the public's elected leaders have been operating under the assumption that the state of Alaska is in immediate dire fiscal distress, that the state has been running overall deficits for the past several years, and that to cover these deficits the state has been drawing down its dwindling reserves. The point of this column and the one I wrote a month ago is that all of

these assumptions are wrong.

As budget director McConnell has verified, the state is not running an overall deficit. I am confident she also will tell you that all of the major reserve accounts have been growing steadily since the day oil started to flow from Prudhoe Bay, except for transfers from those funds to the principal of the Permanent Fund.

What has been happening is that a part of the current-year surplus in these funds has been redirected to cover general-fund spending. This is perfectly legal and above-board and demonstrates that the surpluses in at least some of these funds are "readily" available to cover general-fund spending. The funds are growing slower than they would if the general fund was itself in surplus, but they are still growing and much faster than the inflation rate.

Here are detailed numbers for budget year 1996, which ends on June 30, for

bers for budget year 1997 tell the same story, except for a planned \$933 million transfer to the Permanent Fund's principal:

- \$2.002 billion — Constitutional Budget Reserve balance on July 1, 1995.
- \$125 million — amount of interest earned by June 30, 1996.
- \$500 million — amount of settlements to be added by June 30.
- \$429 million — amount to be drawn for general-fund spending.

That leaves an expected balance this June 30 of \$2.198 billion.

Despite a transfer of \$429 million to cover the "fiscal gap," the Constitutional Budget Reserve rises this budget year by \$106 million.

Let me give you an idea of just how far from crisis the state really is. Without raising taxes or adding new ones, or even causing the Permanent Fund and other funds to stop grow-

ing, the state can maintain the current level of spending in perpetuity. That's right. Shocking as it might seem, the state can maintain general-fund spending, including Permanent Fund dividends, at the budget-year 1996 level of \$3 billion forever. (I accepted the Revenue Department's fall 1995 mid-case forecast through the year 2015 for my revenue estimates. After 2015, I let the revenue forecast drop until it was 75 percent of this budget-year's level. For a rate of investment profits, I used the number assumed by the Long Term Financial Planning Commission.)

The simple truth is that Alaskans have been misled. The state has no fiscal crisis that demands massive cuts in state spending and an immediate increase in taxes. If spending is cut \$70 million a year for five years, as the more radical legislators have proposed, many Alaskans will suffer needlessly. On top of that, the fiscal drag from such cuts might well propel the entire Alaska economy into a downward spiral.

Here's The Latest Weekly Reader.....

Week of February 26 - 29, 1996

16. Budget Our school budget for 1996-97 was \$38,833. As we all know is not enough to run our school but that's what we received. Guess what - we have now been told th need to cut an additional amount of \$9,708 from this amount plus keep an additional 20% in unordered category. With the cut our budget is \$29,125 with the 20% that needs to be in the unord category the grand total of our expenditures will be \$23,300. We will need to talk about this during of our staff meetings in March. I'll need some input from you on ways that we can live within budget.

Legislators:

Your failure to inflation proof education funding is now cutting deeply into the quality of our program. We can not afford the books we need.

Rod McRoy Terry Coney Martin Lou

Phil Gordon

Lara Gardelue

Arvo A. J.

Jelly Hat

Paula

Alexanne Whitford PTA Pres.

Beth Larmer

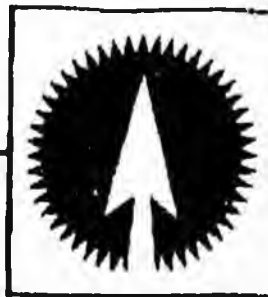
Jean Strickney

Agnes Juist

Emma & Grace

Marty Jackson

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99801-6699
Phone 807-225-0114
FAX 907-225-5820

March 19, 1996

Honorable Mark Hanley
Honorable Gene Tharriault
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Mailstop 3101
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Budget for the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry to monitor the Forest Practices Act

The Alaska Forest Association supports the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. We feel that funding for their continued participation with the timber industry in monitoring the Forest Practices Act (FPA) is essential and could be cost-saving in the long run. This is a case where a single agency covers the regulations and policies of several other agencies and works with the industry to comply with all governmental requirements.

When the timber industry is in compliance with the FPA, they are also complying with the Alaska Coastal Zone Management program and the Federal Clean Water Act, for example. The DNR has always been the primary agency for inspections and enforcement of the FPA. Other agencies do not prioritize these field inspections because DNR personnel are competent and skilled in these areas. The DNR also works with the industry by providing recommendations for improvements rather than just criticizing projects or finding fault with operations.

Eliminating Division of Forestry inspections could result in the Department of Environmental Conservation rescinding approval of FPA regulations and writing its own regulations at considerable time and expense. The Federal EPA could increase their presence and authority over water quality. The timber industry could be faced with shutdowns and fines due to inadvertent violations that are currently not at issue.

The timber industry is very willing to work with the Legislature to streamline FPA inspections, if needed. Environmental cost audits, private contract inspectors and other ideas may be worth considering for the future, but time is needed to explore these alternatives. We respectfully suggest that the Division of Forestry's budget be maintained until another plan is in place.

In 1990, with the passage of the FPA, the timber industry's private landowners agreed to "donate" 10% of their trees to create buffers to protect fish habitat and water quality. They also agreed to incur additional costs to improve and comply with updated Best Management Practices. In return, the State promised to perform inspections to assure the public that these important resources were being protected. We continue to respect our commitment, we expect the State to do likewise.

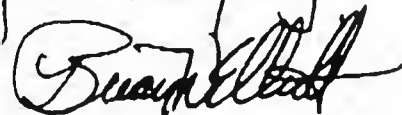
Sincerely,

Jack Phelps/eaw
Jack E. Phelps
Executive Director

/eaw

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

My husband and I live in Moose Pass - specifically milepost 362 of the Seward Highway. The lay of the mountains restricts our access to news information. Matter of fact, the only source of ^{radio} news or ^{No} (television news) is KSKA translated thru K-DLL in Kenai. We do not even receive a. m. radio station.

Please do not cut funding to public radio. We rely on this ~~info~~ for update information. We have to know road condition at all times. He travels for the railroad and KSKA keeps us update of road closures + avalanches. It offers our child educational programming and the excellent music programming offers cultural stimulation.

Signed:

Ernie J. Kmetek
(Testifier)

(Representing / Optional)

Box 83
(Address)

Moose Pass AK 99631
(Phone No.)

907-288-365

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

Weth FLOT,
Box 262
Petersburg
AK. 99839

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
PO Box 251
Petersburg, AK 99833
ph. 907-772-3251

to: The House Finance Committee
Subject: HB 412 Operating Budget
State Arts Council Funding

Honorable Members:

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 this state agency offers are diverse and far-reaching.

If we become the only state in the union to reject 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.

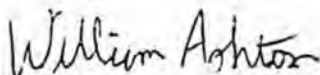
Several federal agencies share in their support of the APLICs. The Division of Tourism has shouldered the burden of providing the state funding. I suggest you look to the other agencies that benefit from the APLICs, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and Public 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

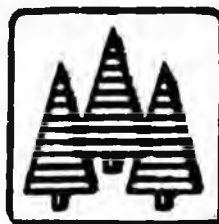
appropriate time to ask the industry to contribute more in light of the financial crisis and in light of the fact the salmon industry is already contributing a significant portion of its income to the state treasury. For example, a fish processor in Southeast Alaska pays a combined 5.3 percent in taxes 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
031896a



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
 Nineteenth Legislature-Second Session

March 22, 1996

From: Donna Scott, ^{df} 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
Total amount of savings realized	\$1,113,276

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

March 22, 1996

TO: Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
FROM: A very concerned citizen.
RE: CUTS to public broadcasting and the arts council.

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I DO NOT support the cuts proposed to eliminate the State Arts Council, Public Broadcasting, and the library book acquisition fund. Please reconsider...

I find it alarming that this is a sentence that even needs to be expressed. It is keenly obscene that it is proposed that the things (education, literacy, information, culture, quality of life) that set us apart from civilizations that are regressive and oppressive in every way, are now targeted for elimination.

What we "eliminate" is usually expressed as waste. It is hard to imagine that any thinking, feeling, and responsible citizen and human being would express education, literacy, information, and culture which furthers us as a civilization, and improves the way we live, as "waste". Perhaps, if you are opposed to this, that you see all of these things as frivolous. They are not. They are the very things which set us apart from mediocrity. Through education, literacy, culture, and art we can learn of history, of other cultures, of new ideas and from our mistakes. Education, literacy, culture, and art are the very things that help to create better, more intelligent, more global, more marketable and competitive (if you want to look at it in those terms), more skilled, and, yes, more cultured children. Those children are our future, yours and mine. When we are 60 and 70 and they are in your shoes, will they remember all the opportunities you took away? You bet they will. If not through direct memory, they will remember through the life they were given. And you've given them a pretty grim picture. Check it out, this is what they will get: MTV. Only commercial "art" (checked out a hotel lobby lately?). Books dating from 20 to 30 years ago (checked out the SAT/ACT scores lately?). What is their future? The war for mediocrity will have been won.

I am not what many would term a "bleeding heart liberal" that the present congress enjoys slamming so much. I am actually a conservative myself, raised in a conservative household, graduate of a private and conservative university, but there is a time when one has to speak up, when the cuts are too random and sweeping and grandstanding. This is the time.

Theatre, art, public broadcasting, and literacy don't bring down the market. In fact, they improve the economy by improving the quality of life. Why would we want to make ourselves so unattractive? All the states in the union support public broadcasting except Delaware. So we want to be like Delaware???

My name is Renata Riffe. I live in Cordova, Alaska. I oppose cuts to be made to Alaska Public Radio and RATNET. While Anchorage and Fairbanks have many options for information, rural Alaska does not. Cutting APR and RATNET isn't just a reduction of choice for rural Alaska. It often means no readily available source of information at all. How would your Railbelt constituents feel if they had no television, and perhaps one local radio station, whose programming they didn't like, but nothing else was available to them? Why do Railbelt legislators feel that it is OK to force rural Alaska to live with those options? Our United States senators and representative fight for certain programs, such as air service to Bush communities, because Alaska, or at least rural Alaska is different from the rest of the United States, and there is no substitute for these services. Alaska Public Radio and RATNET are no less vital. If these services are cut, I expect to see an increase in the number of deaths in Bush Alaska, due to lack of good local weather information. It is interesting to note that our national legislators, despite their conservative views, are willing to fight for public radio and TV, but many of our state legislators want to zero it out.

On a more general note, the majority coalition wants to force wrenching changes in state policy and spending through, and are doing it by keeping public input at a minimum. Many of the proposed cuts are going to impact rural Alaska far more than the Railbelt. Some of the legislators are going to support these changes because they have no inkling how hard rural life in this state can be, and some of the legislators don't care. I'm sure that many in the majority coalition will state that these programs are subsidies that we can no longer afford. I am also sure that urban legislators have guaranteed that certain projects for places like Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley will be subsidized, even though the municipalities could pay for them if they had the civic responsibility to institute a sales tax. Such an attitude would not be tolerated from smaller communities. This "I'll get mine and the hell with you" attitude is causing bitter resentment in many parts of the state, and it is bound get worse. It is going to make this state harder to govern, and is going to slow down the political process via confrontation and incivility. Much of the strength that this state has shown in the past was due to cooperation and the common bond that state residents felt, rather than stronger constituencies preying upon the weaker.

I would like the following to be read as part of the official record of the House Finance Committee's meeting:

Last month (February 1996) we provided over 600 safe nights to women at the AWAIC shelter in Anchorage. We are currently (March 22, 1996) operating our shelter with a wait list of 6 individuals. We currently have 21 women and 32 children in our shelter (our capacity is 52). Our staff is pushed to their limits. We are continually told that our funding is stable and level. **For that we are grateful.** However, as clients and cost increase, **level** funding becomes more and more scary. This may mean that in order to operate at the capacity we are currently at, we are forced to hold fewer groups, we are forced to hold less 'one on ones' which offer individual advocacy for clients and instead must respond to acute, pressing need, i.e., a perp has called 12 times on the message line threatening the life of a resident, she is distraught, must get a restraining order and needs our undivided individual attention. We must help her file a restraining order she is frightened by the process. We must sit with the child who screams at night in terror while her/his mother cries (they remember how painful their lives have been). They both remember the horror of the abuse they have fled, just in a different way. We often are in the mode of maintaining. We attempt and achieve the provision of necessary, crucial services to women and their children in need. We are thankful and appreciative for level funding to provide these essential services. As you deliberate, and put a 'face' on the line items in the budget, please remember the face of the women and children who depend on our services to save their lives. We do the highest quality job we can with level funding. **Please do not allow the budget cuts you consider further endanger the lives of women and children. 80% of the murders investigated by the troopers last year involved Domestic Violence.**

Thank You For Your Time and Attention

**Candice Miller
Program Director/Acting Executive Director
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis**

March 22, 1996

Rep. Hanley: **(The Following is NOT a part of the record)**

Although ALL of your constituents certainly must know how hard you work for them in Juneau, if you ever need a letter of support from the "other side" as one of your constituents, I was impressed (albeit concerned) by your presence in the office at 9:00 on a Friday night on the eve of an important meeting of your committee. Thank you for working hard and thank you for supporting issues that matter to me.

Sincerely,

Candice Miller
9254 Kavik
Anchorage Alaska
99515

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

431 N. Franklin, Suite 101
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Office: (907) 465-3071
Fax: (907) 465-3079
TDD: (907) 465-4764

February 8, 1996

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles:

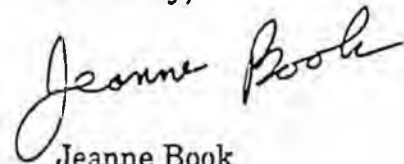
In a letter dated January 24, 1996, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) wrote you to comment on "reductions made to the funding of the State's integrated comprehensive mental health program." Several of the AMHTA comments directly concern the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) as advocate for mentally ill beneficiaries of the Trust. The AMHB's budget recommendations (along with those of the other beneficiary boards) formed the basis for the AMHTA budget. We support the following AMHTA positions concerning your recommended budget (numbered as they appeared in the January 24, 1996 letter):

1. Funding certain cost increases for state agencies without funding similar increases for non-profit service providers creates a double standard. We agree with the AMHTA that the State should recognize that such increased costs should be funded for "both state agencies and non-profit organizations providing direct services."
4. The AMHB supports the transfer of \$1,000.0 from the Medicaid Community Health Grant component to the Medicaid Services component.
5. The AMHB shares the AMHTA concern that combining the Medicaid Facility and Non-Facility components into a single component, while a sound management move, creates the potential for unreasonably shifting the balance between the two services by administrative action. The Board echoes the Trust Authority request for periodic notification of actual expenditures for facility-based and nonfacility-based services.
6. A similar situation exists as a result of the combination of all Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities components into a single Budget Request Unit (BRU). We support the AMHTA request that it and appropriate beneficiary boards be notified prior to transfers involving GF/MH funding. In fact, the Board has serious reservations about the BRU consolidation and believes that it should be postponed pending discussions between DHSS and representatives of the community programs and beneficiary groups.

7. We support the Authority's position that the 1% reduction to several BRU's and components is not consonant with intent of the Trust settlement.
8. The AMHB shares the AMHTA concern that the transfers of \$220.1 from General Community Mental Health Grants to Psychiatric Emergency Services Grants and \$56.0 from Designated Evaluation and Treatment to Psychiatric Services Grants were proposed without public involvement. The settlement created the beneficiary boards to ensure this public process and the Board requests that it be consulted prior to similar actions in the future.
9. The Board supports the request that the \$250.0 transferred from Harborview Developmental Center (HDC) for Mental Health Grants Crisis Respite Services be placed in the Psychiatric Emergency Services component rather than Services for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Youth.
10. The AMHB supports the Trust Authority request that the Commissioner of Health and Social Services facilitate meetings between the involved parties to determine an appropriate division of funding transferred from HDC to support community capacity for Harborview's Soudough Unit residents.
11. The AMHB supports the AMHTA request that the decrement of 585.0 from HDC be reconsidered and requests instead that savings realized from Harborview's closing be re-directed to community programs.
12. The AMHB strongly supports the provision of mental health services for mentally ill offenders in the correctional system. The shifting of \$241.6 for Inmate Health Care and 412.0 for Inmate Programs from GF/MH funding to GF funding is the sort of action affecting beneficiaries that should be addressed in the public process. The Board requests that it be consulted prior to future shifts between funding sources.

In general, the Alaska Mental Health Board believes that the system established by the Trust settlement will serve the beneficiaries of the settlement well and that the process will improve as we all adjust to it. We value your administration's commitment to serving all the beneficiaries of the settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Book
Chair

cc: Nelson Page, Chair, AMHTA
Rep. Mark Hanley Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
Rep. Richard Foster, Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
Sen. Steve Frank, Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Sen. Rick Halford, Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Rep. Terry Martin, Chairman, Legislative Budget and Audit Committee



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 create~~ 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 Heleen Cummings
 TESTIFIER

Myself / Head Start
 REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1267 Jacqueelyn 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. Kehrung'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 hit 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)

4910 Woodriver Drive, Fox, 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 our 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 Carol A. Roebert, R Carolyn A. Roebert, R
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1316 Pease 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~~ 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

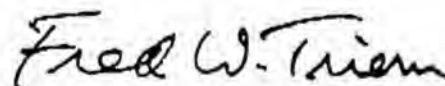
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

3.23.06

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 E. 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.

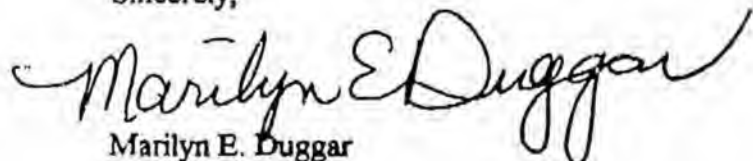
I would like to see the correspondence programs to continue with your funding. Correspondence values are unparalleled with any other program offered through state or federal education. The children in out-lying parts of our state, disabled students, and students who just don't fit into the school system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

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 Ferguson

F. 465-2228

House Finance Committee Secretary

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-~~2118~~ 2278

DATE: 3-23-96

MESSAGE: One page to follow

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

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 butter 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.

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

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 Scsamic 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 (espccially 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

James Clark

The proposal cuts to public radio would almost
 certainly kill APN. With cuts of this magnitude
 stations would no longer be able to pay APN membership
 dues, eliminating Alaska's only source of radio
 news and information. Data FY, basically, we are
 paying only a fraction of the full membership
 fee. With further cuts - we could be out of APN
 for good. Public broadcasting financing has already
 been cut by almost 70% over the past year.
 Our system has been pushed to the brink and
 needs time to recover from last year's actions.
 Here in Alaska you are cutting people
 and just money.
 Please think of the consequences.
 committees see across the state when you
 are determining this law. It's a disaster.
 exist outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks.
 Thank you for this opportunity to
 express my views.

Out of \$800,000+ cut to Public Broadcasting

House Finance Committee
Re: HB 412

Fairbanks AK 99803
 PO Box 30
 RAT Number

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.

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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 3/22/91
(bill/subject)

Public broadcasting is Alaska's connection to the rest of the world and within Alaska. We ~~fish~~ commercial fish in Eggik during the summer. When our net 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.)

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

HB

412

(File 9)

HFIN

FILE

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 bring 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
 a 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:

Calle Potter

Phone: 225-4145

Testifier

Myself

Representing (Optional)

423 Cedar

Address

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)
committee on HB412, 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 - on 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 8943, 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