

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1412

142N

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1995-1996

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

Thank you.

Signed:

Matthew Shields

Phone: 225-5694

Testifier

CITIZEN

Representing (Optional)

028 2251 Ketchikan, AK 99901

Address

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: SUSAN M. CROCKER Phone: 025-8490
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)
Box 9258 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901
Address

Alaska State Legislature

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

I AM LOUIE VEIT, PRESIDENT OF SIKKANOE ARTS COUNCIL, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL FOR PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND.

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

I AM REALLY VERY ALARMED BY THE BACKWARD MARCH TO A MORE REPRESSIVE AND NARROW CONCEPT OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PERSON AND A CITIZEN OF THIS GREAT STATE OF ALASKA. I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER THE FUNDAMENTAL POSITIVE WAYS THAT THE ARTS IN ALASKA IMPACT ALL OF US.

Signed:

LOUIE VEIT
Testimony
SIKKANOE ARTS COUNCIL
Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 525 CRAIG, AK 99921
Address

Phone: 826-3662-4
826-7287-4

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

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

Signed: Jeanne W. Porotti Phone: 907-225-5992
Testifier
Self
Representing (Optional)
PO BOX 5904 Ketchikan AK 99901
Address

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

Alaska State Legislature

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

My name is Karen Peterson. I am ~~an~~ a 10 year volunteer
 at KRBD FM and also a 10 year volunteer in S.E.
 Symphony as a cellist. Every year Public Radio receives
 a DISPROPORTIONATE cut to funding and every year
 we are told its the last time well be cut. HA!
 Politicians wonder why no one believes them....
 Public Radio is unique in Alaska and more than
 anywhere else in the US. provides a life line to
 Alaskans. Congressman Don Young always asks public
 testimony is that their Alaskans. We are Alaskans -
 fighting to keep Alaskan programs going. The same
 goes for the Arts Council - S.E. Symphony was formerly
 the Shortring Symphony and that name is more
 apro-poe. We have 4000⁰⁰ in the bank - that's our
 total operating budget. We rely on the infrastructure
 →

Signed:

Karen Peterson
 Testifier

Phone: 225-7607

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 9068 - Ketchikan Ak
 Address

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

(Continuation of written testimony)

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

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

Signed: _____ Phone: _____
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)

 Address

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

(Cont) Page 2

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: Ann Wichess (continued) Phone: _____
Testifier

Representing (Optional) KTN, AK.
Address

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

(Continuation of written testimony)

In Town, The Arts Council is the organization that provides all the events. From the Blueberry Festival to Concerts to Educational Workshops to the Theater.

If the Arts Council is zeroed out, Entertainment in Ketchikan will go back to the Bars, and those of us with strong family values will be left with nowhere to go.

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

Signed:

Don P. Widness
Testifier

Phone: (907) 225-1906

Representing (Optional)
5081 S. Tongass Hwy Ketchikan, AK 99901
Address

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

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee on Public Communications/Arts (committee name), dated 3/23/96.
bill/subject

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

Signed: Bob Wideman Phone: 225-1906
Testifier
MVSLT
Representing (Optional)
Box 7462
Address

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

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

Leslie Morgan



P.O. Box 23309

Ketchikan, AK 99901

March 20, 1996

Alaska Legislature
 Finance Committee
 Juneau, Alaska

Dear Finance Committee,

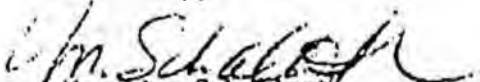
It has come to our attention that you are considering further funding reductions for Public Television and Radio in Alaska.

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

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

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

Sincerely,


 Mary Ann Schallery


 Donald W. Sindlebecker

Ketchikan, Alaska

cc: Governor Tony Knowles, Juneau, AK

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

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

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

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

Before we had art teachers, we provided art instruction through Artists in Schools ^{grants} Program. The proposed elimination of this will END art instruction for all 5500 elementary children,

and severely restrict
art education for the
other 6500 students. Your
hallways in this capitol will
no longer feature unique
& stunning artwork from ^{such}
children around the Mat-Su
~~area~~ District.

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

Thank you

Lucy Hoff
P.O. Box 870887
Walla WA
99687
376-4796

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

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

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

Before we had art teachers, we provided art instruction through Artists in Schools ^{group} Program. The proposed elimination of this will END art instruction for all 5500 elementary children.

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

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

Thank you

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

Mr. or Madam Chairperson, member of the committee, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Myra Olsen, Vice Chairperson of Rural Alaska Resources Association. Rural Alaska Resources Association is a statewide organization that represent the interest of rural Alaska's subsistence hunters and gatherers. I am here to testify in support of retaining full funding for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, with special emphases to retain general funding support to Division of Subsistence at this year level. The Division of Subsistence provides essential functions for the ADF&G in collecting and presenting information on subsistence fishing and hunting to resource managers to fulfill its legal mandate under the statute. Just a few days ago, the House cut \$200,000 of the general funds support for the Division. The aggregate cuts over the last six years have resulted in the reduction of the Division budget by 50%. These cuts will result in crippling the capacity of the division to fulfill its statutory mandate to ensure adequate

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

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

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

Subsistence Division Budget Gutted Further

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

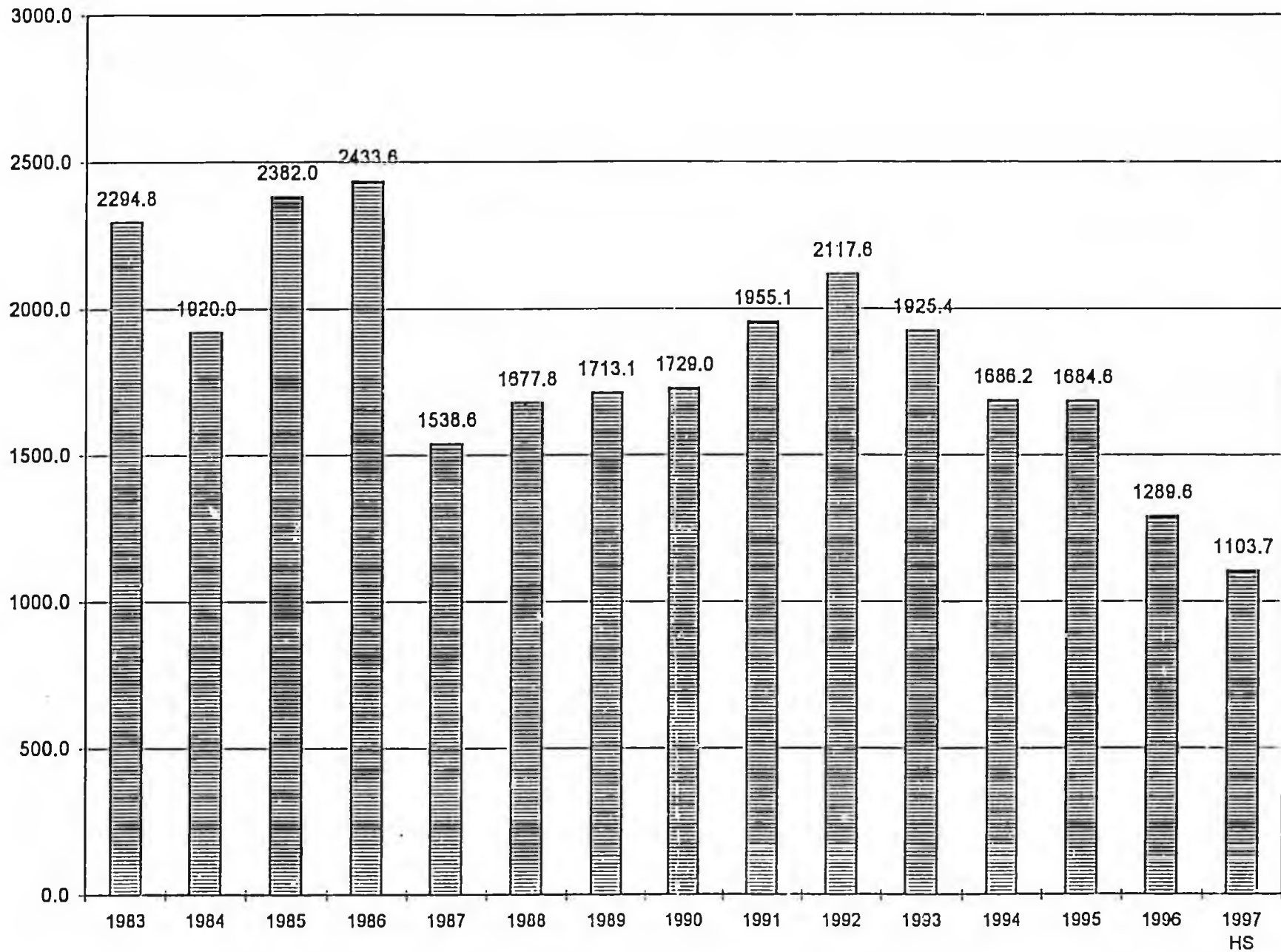
A Gutted Program

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

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

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

Division of Subsistence General Fund FY83-96, 97 House





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 Sileen Cummings
 TESTIFIER

Myself / Head Start
 REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1267 Jacqueline Lane North Pole, AK 99705
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER 488-9386



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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

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

SIGNED

Joy Morrison
 TESTIFIER Joy Morrison

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

4910 Woodriven Drive, Fox, AK 99709 4748328
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance
 COMMITTEE ON HB 412 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, (over)

SIGNED Carolyn A. Roeber, AP TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1316 Regent 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 processes 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 ~~is~~ 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 ~~be~~ 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:

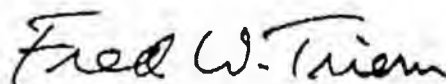
- (a) educational programs about disease prevention—example: hepatitis
- (b) informational programs—example, recent public t.v. show about ebola virus

(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

3.23.96

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.

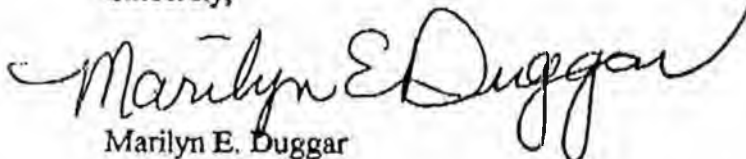
I would like to see the correspondence programs to continue with your funding. Correspondence values are unparalleled with any other program offered through state or federal education. The children in out-lying parts of our state, disabled students, and students who just don't fit into the school system 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 regions public radio managers have done a great deal of inventive reorganizing, downsizing, and reprogramming to survive all the cuts we've already experienced. Extreme cuts could mean no more Petersburg station to possibly a public radio MUZAK. I can play CD's all day in my home - I look to radio for all the other services it provides, plus the music. We need to support this public radio system, on a state level. ~~we need to support this public radio system~~

About the State Arts Council -

Everywhere you turn these days you see research supporting the development and teaching of art and music as important counterparts to learning math and science and language. As a parent of two children heading into our public school system, I am disappointed in how little art and music is taught to our children. I believe there should be more and in every grade. ~~Used~~ 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 Fugro

Sean Parnell
House Finance Committee
fax: 465-2278

Representative Sean Parnell,

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

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

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

Thank you for helping us create better businesses,

Kenny Cobb, manager



Beluga Lake Lodge
984 Ocean Dr.
Homer, AK 996603



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

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

Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: (H) EN

Date: 3-23-96

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Budget

Please enter my testimony into the record.

AGAINST cuts of 6.5 million to Health & Social Services Dept
AGAINST cuts to Alaska marine Hwy Systems
5% Growth in MEDICARE for 97 is UNREALISTIC WITH
RISE IN BIRTH RATES IN RURAL ALASKA
AGAINST RED IN ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FR. 4% TO 3%
FOR CUTS TO ARLS (RATNET) NOT MEETING NEEDS OF AREA

Mildred Threlkoff
Testifier's name (s):

Jill
Representing (opt.):

PO Box 287 Bethel
Address

907. 543 6260
Phone



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

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

Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: (H) Fun

Date: 3.23.96

Bill Number(s): HB412

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

Please enter my testimony into the record.

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

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

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



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

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

Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: Reps: Hawley (H.Fid)

Date: 3/23/96

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Public Radio & Mental Health

Please enter my testimony into the record.

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

Olga Ferguson
Testifier's name (s)

Self
Representing (opt.)

P.O. Box 119 Bethel, AK.
Address

543-5472
Phone



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

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

Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 60523

Committee: House Finance Budget Sub

Date: March 25, 1996

Bill Number(s): HR 412

Subject(s): Budget

Please enter my testimony into the record.

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

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

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH
Representing (opt.) CORP.

P.O. Box 2316
Address

(907) 543-6040
Phone

MARK W. JENKINS

April 25, 1996

Testimony for the
Record

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

Mark W. Jenkins.



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

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

Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 160523

Committee: House Finance Budget Subcommittee

Date: Mar. 23, 1996

Bill Number(s): HB 412

Subject(s): Budget

Please enter my testimony into the record.

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

Carmen Lowry
Testifier's name (s):

Tundra Women's Coalition
Representing (opt.)

P.O. Box 1537
Address

(907) 543-3444
Phone

(1) Thank you for your support to addressing the needs of domestic violence and Sexual assault. Supporting the CDUSA directly translates into supporting victims of crime AND supporting healthy, non-violent relationships. Thank you, esp. Rep. Parnell for your continued support.

(2) Public Broadcasting is an essential service, please don't cut our communication life lines.

(3) I fully support a State Income tax. Essential services can not be sacrificed while we sit back and not pay part of the services.

Thank you.

Tommy Parnell



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Signed: Charles Branch
Testifier Name

Charles Branch and Brenda Branch
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1692 Cordova AK 99574
Address

907-424-3894
Phone Number

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

Pete Kelly
House Finance Committee
fax: 465-2278

Representative Pete Kelly,

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

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

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

Thank you for helping us create better businesses,

Kenny Cobb, manager



Beluga Lake Lodge
984 Ocean Dr.
Homer, AK 996603

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

March 23, 1996

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maryann and David Frazier

ASSOCIATED ISLAND BROKERS

March 25, 1996

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/23	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Mark Hooley	From	Sharlene Sullivan		
Co./Dept.		Co.	AIBI		
Phone #		Phone #	496-2000		
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	496-2016		

Dear House Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sharlene Sullivan

Sharlene Sullivan, Broker



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

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





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Education Funding dated 3/29/96
 bill/subject

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

Speaking on behalf of young children, the most effective & important tools we can put into their lives are more positive adults. I'm asking the legislature to increase funding to education in a major way. I can cite studies for you which have proven strong educational support for young children keep them out of prison. The added \$48m we are using to build prisons could in future be diminished or disappear with the injection of a stronger education system. (over)

Signed: Josquin Imle
 Testifier
Education
 Representing (Optional)
714 Cypress, Kenai Ak. 99647
 Address
(907) 283-4347
 Phone No.

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
 committee name
 committee on Budget dated 3/19/96
 bill/subject

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

Signed: _____

Testifier

M. M. M. M.

Representing (Optional)

Kenai

Address

283-9479

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: Judy L. DeYoung
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)
KENAI

 Address

 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

Signed: Kenhi J. M. Hunt
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1611 3RD AVE #1, KENAI, AK 99611
 Address
(907) 283-2025
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

I support continued
 domestic violence shelter &
 funding. Sincerely,
 Patricia S. James

Signed: Patricia S. James
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1611 3rd Ave #2 Kenai AK
 Address
283 3522
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: Millie Russell
 Testifier

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

It's Time to STAND, TO STAND HAND & HAND w/ victims...
It's Time STAND Against Domestic Violence
& sexual ASSAULT.
use your HAND TO STAND AGAINST violence

By signing a budget that
prioritizes funds to support
programs that shelter, train, educate & support
women & children who are victims of
domestic violence. Violence against women &
children can no longer be last on the
list.

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

Signed: _____
Testifier [Signature]

Representing (Optional)
1611 3rd Ave #1 Kenai AK 99611
Address

283-9479
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on _____, dated MARCH 23, 1996
 bill/subject

I Support public radio AVAILABLE throughout ALASKA.

Please consider capping permanent fund dividends or
 institute A state-wide tax to close budget shortages.

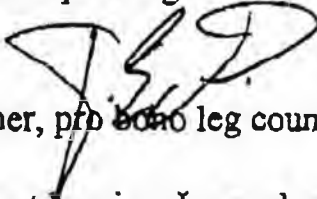
Signed: Jeff Graham JEFF GRAHAM
 Testifier
Myself
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1725 Soldotna, AK 99669
 Address
203-3793
 Phone No.

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

From: Ph/fax 262-9601

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

Date: 3/23/96

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks again for hearing my plea,

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

(HF32396h.ear)

Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Consider:

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

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

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

Signed:

Brenda G. Wieffering 3/22/96

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

Phone: 283-9479



Alaska State Legislature

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

How could you ever consider withdrawing funding of shelters for victims of Domestic violence and sexual assault?

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

If you don't believe it happens, research. ~~articles~~ articles in the Anchorage Daily News (ie Willa Pritchard, Susan Overbeck, Joyce Simpson, Theresa ~~Sass~~ 3/6/96, 3/20/96, 3/6/96, 9/30/95) to name just a few.

Maybe human life isn't as valuable as animal life. Consider the number of animal shelters compared to Women + Children shelters. Nationwide, for every 9 animal shelters there's 1 Domestic violence shelter. Please think long & hard, what are the alternatives?

Signed: Gail Rivera
 Testifier

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: Cheri Smith
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Box 1747 Kenai

Address

283-4709

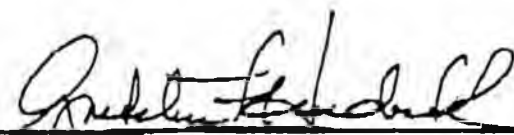
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
 committee name
 committee on HB 412 , dated 3-23-96
 bill/subject

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

Signed:  Gretchen L. Hundertma
 Testifier
self
 Representing (Optional)
HCI Box 3812, Sterling, AK 99672
 Address
(907) 262-1907
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 3-23-96.
bill/subject

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

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

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

Signed: John Z Murray
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
224 OBSERVATORY ST SITKA

Address
907 747 6212

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE Committee
 committee name
 committee on BUDGET, dated 23 MARCH 1996.
 bill/subject

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

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

Signed: Linda Halton LINDA HALTON
 Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

439 VERSTOVIA ST. SITKA 99835

Address

747-6910

Phone No.

AND BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITIES WE DO NOT WANT THIS CUT



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

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

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

Signed: DANIEL FALVEY
 Testifier

ALFA
 Representing (Optional)

Box 6083 Sitka 99835
 Address

747-8710
 Phone No.

THE IMPORTANCE & EFFECTIVENESS OF AMSEA'S TRAINING, AND THE NEED FOR YOUR

COMMITTEE TO RESTORE THE \$80,000 FUNDING IF AMSEA IS TO CONTINUE TO EXIST.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Subcommittee Clean Budget dated March 22, 1996
bill/subject

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

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

Signed: Carolyne Servid
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 2420, Sitka

Address
907-747-3794

Phone No.

House Finance Committee Secretary

F. 465-2228

Please copy + distribute to all members

Re Funding for public Radio/TV.

Ladies + Gentlemen.

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

I believe that public Radio/TV is most important to our community + Alaska rural areas as a whole.

Please do not further cut public Radio/TV funding.

Sincerely,

David A. Berg

P.O. Box 1435

Petersburg 99833

907-772-3404

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FAX #: 465-~~218~~ 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 butte of the commercial fishing industry.
- It all but eliminates the division's regional planning program for hatchery production. It eliminates the people who would develop a comprehensive plan for statewide hatchery salmon production and it slows the development of new fisheries like sea urchins.
- Cuts an additional \$292.8 in fish and game funds which will prohibit the division from using the proceeds of civil judgements to conduct mitigation projects, such as the one to determine what has caused the serious decline in production of Nushagak coho salmon.
- Could result in the lay-off of up to 12 PFTs.

Habitat and Restoration Division Budget Cuts: \$395.7 GF

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

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



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

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

Please reconsider your vote! Thankyou for your consideration.

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

CC:Speaker of the House, Representative Gail Phillips

Pat Nunde

PO Box 30

Petersburg Ak 9983

House Finance Committee

Re: HB 412

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

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

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

Here in Alaska you are cutting people and just money.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Patricia Hinkle

3/23/96

Representative Pete Kelly
Finance Committee
Fax: 465-2278

Dear Representative Kelly,

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

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

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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 3/22/96
(bill/subject)

Public broadcasting is Alaska's connection to the rest of the world and within Alaska. We ~~fish~~ in 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.)

1 1 2 X U S V L O I C W I

1 1 2 X U S V L O I C W I

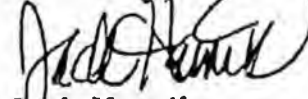
Art is very important to everyone's life. Could
you imagine life without it. Art is necessary for
our well being. Keep life beautiful Do not
cut funds for the Arts

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Public Broadcasting in Alaska

Once again, public broadcasting is under attack. As a consumer of public radio, I can't understand why. It is the only way in the areas I live and work that information is disseminated. KGTL, KBBI, and KSDP mean a lot to myself and many others. I was a charter member of KSDP and am proud of it. Many from that area that benefit from the programming, such as weather, fishing openings, community news, the broadcasting of Board of Fish meetings, announcements, tsunami warnings, and (horror of horrors) entertainment, will not write in support of public radio, but we all listen and its importance cannot be underestimated. Homer, where I live during the winter, has an excellent station due to the dedication and hard work of many volunteers. KBBI not only does the community announcements in a clear and pleasant format, it goes out of its way to be educational besides informative. Kachemak Currents, Earth and Sky, Rabbit Ears Radio, National Press Club, Reading Between the Lines, National Public Radio, Monitor Radio, Christy the Wordsmith, Kachemak Review, Click and Clack, Homer City Council meetings, Coffee Table, Governor's Call-In, legislative addresses, community calendar, 51%, Morning Edition, and the list goes on and on in the effort to keep us educated and informed. This type of material and information is found nowhere else on radio, television, or computer internet. The public service rendered by public radio, and also public television, is the biggest bang for the buck possible for keeping the populace up to date on events and happenings, local and worldwide. But these services have been cut in recent years to where even heavy community involvement, support, and donations cannot take up the slack. Please help keep the communities in which I live and work alive with public radio. I feel we deserve to keep abreast of happenings throughout our world, nation, state, and community.

Sincerely,



Jack Hamik
4002 Kachemak Way
Homer, Alaska 99603

cc: Speaker of the House Gail Phillips

Joyce and Elmer Landingham
P.O. Box 210055
Auke Bay, AK 99821

March 22, 1996

Rep. Mark Hanley, Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Rep. Hanley:

We are writing in support of Public Broadcasting, both radio and television. We oppose the proposed cut of \$808K which is being considered. We have lived in Juneau for over 30 years. During this time we have observed and supported the inception and growth of Juneau's FM station, and later, the television station. Recently we have applauded the efforts of the local station, KTOO, together with the PBS stations in Fairbanks and Bethel to respond creatively to funding cuts with the inception of AlaskaOne, a unified station which brings diverse parts of our state together.

Although most of our viewing and listening time centers on PBS, we also are aware of what is being offered on commercial stations. Though we do not have children in our home, we think that children's programming should be of the highest caliber -- fun for children, participatory, and exposing them to interesting and challenging ideas -- qualities we have not observed in commercial programming (especially radio). We especially appreciate the quality and depth of news brought to us by PBS. We appreciate the opportunity to hear more than one side of an issue in a thoughtful, non-bombastic manner. Programs on natural history, science, history, drama, music, and much more are of the highest quality and fill a niche left (mostly) empty by commercial programming.

Our PBS stations listen to what we, the viewers and listeners, are interested in and invite our participation. PBS is strongly supported by volunteers working at the station in many functions from production to fund-raising. This is an important part of what helps us function as a community. Communities throughout Alaska are supported by PBS bringing local news, politics, local events, and special programming to us throughout the year in a way that keeps us informed and interested in public process.

Public broadcasting in Alaska is part of what keeps us connected to what is happening in communities in our state, our nation, and indeed, throughout the world. Many people I know have accepted employment in Alaska partly on the strength of public broadcasting here -- it is a vital part of Alaskan life. Please do not curtail the activities and contributions of public broadcasting. We encourage you to restore funding to PBS in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Joyce H. Landingham

Joyce H. Landingham

Elmer L. Landingham

Elmer L. Landingham

cc:

Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Gail Phillips
Gov. Tony Knowles

David W Schnicker
Bonnie S Jason
PO Box 424
Homer, AK 99603

235-8984

March 22, 1996

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

We urge you to not support further cuts in the funding to public broadcasting. We rely a great deal on our local public broadcasting station to keep us informed on issues local, state wide and national.

Thank you for your attention to our concern.

Sincerely,


Bonnie S. Jason

TO: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FR: CONCERNED CITIZENS, FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

MARCH 22, 1996

YOUR PROPOSED SUB-COMMITTEE CUTS ARE VERY EXTREME AND DEFINITELY WILL HARM PUBLIC BROADCASTING. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL AND RESTORE OUR FUNDS.

AS YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW MUCH OF THIS REMOTE AREA, THIS IS OUR ONLY WAY TO REACH OTHER COMMUNITIES WITH LOCAL & STATE NEWS, WE DO FISHING REPORTS, WEATHER, WHICH IS A MAIN NECESSITY FOR THE FISHERMEN OF OUR AREA. ALSO WITH OUR AREA OF ALASKA, WE DO HAVE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMI WARNINGS THAT WE DO NEED TO BROADCAST TO WARN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE ALEUTIAN EAST BOROUGH. THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US. OUR RADIO STATION CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE FUNDS, WE ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET CUTS.

AGAIN, PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL. WE SUPPORT PUBLIC BROADCASTING.

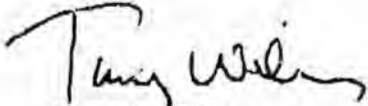
SINCERELY,



SAND POINT, ALASKA

The Council's programs mean that all Alaskans have affordable local access to the arts. In FY95, arts attendance totaled almost two million. On a per capita basis, every Alaskan attends three to four cultural events a year. The artists and arts organizations of Alaska offer services and programs that every community needs and attend to problems that every community faces. The State Arts Council promotes healthy communities, nurtures children, and helps create jobs.

Sincerely,



Timothy Wilson
Executive Director

cc: House Finance DOE Committee Members
Commissioner Shirley Holloway, DOE
Pat Pourchot, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

David W Schneider
Bonnie S Jason
PO Box 424
Homer, AK 99603

235-8984

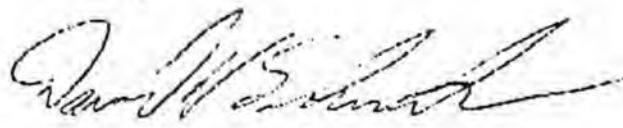
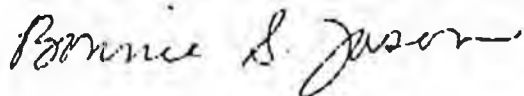
March 22, 1996

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Thank you for your attention to our concern.

Sincerely,

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Public Broadcasting In Alaska

Once again, public broadcasting is under attack. As a consumer of public radio, I can't understand why. It is the only way in the areas I live and work that information is disseminated. KGTL, KBBI, and KSDP mean a lot to myself and many others. I was a charter member of KSDP and am proud of it. Many from that area that benefit from the programming, such as weather, fishing openings, community news, the broadcasting of Board of Fish meetings, announcements, tsunami warnings, and (horror of horrors) entertainment, will not write in support of public radio, but we all listen and its importance cannot be underestimated. Homer, where I live during the winter, has an excellent station due to the dedication and hard work of many volunteers. KBBI not only does the community announcements in a clear and pleasant format, it goes out of its way to be educational besides informative. Kachemak Currents, Earth and Sky, Rabbit Ears Radio, National Press Club, Reading Between the Lines, National Public Radio, Monitor Radio, Christy the Wordsmith, Kachemak Review, Click and Clack, Homer City Council meetings, Coffee Table, Governor's Call-In, legislative addresses, community calendar, 51%, Morning Edition, and the list goes on and on in the effort to keep us educated and informed. This type of material and information is found nowhere else on radio, television, or computer internet. The public service rendered by public radio, and also public television, is the biggest bang for the buck possible for keeping the populace up to date on events and happenings, local and worldwide. But these services have been cut in recent years to where even heavy community involvement, support, and donations cannot take up the slack. Please help keep the communities in which I live and work alive with public radio. I feel we deserve to keep abreast of happenings throughout our world, nation, state, and community.

Sincerely,



Jack Hamik

4002 Kachemak Way
Homer, Alaska 99603

cc: Speaker of the House Gail Phillips

March 22 1996

Opposing Public Broadcasting Funding cuts

TO: MARK HANLEY
CO-CHAIR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FAX (907) 465 2418

FROM: SARAH POSEY
HAINES BUSINESS OWNER AND RESIDENT
P O BOX 123
HAINES AK 99827
PHONE & FAX (907) 766-2074

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am writing to urge you *not* to impose *another* budget cut which would adversely affect the state of public broadcasting in Alaska. Public radio is an essential part of my daily life here in Haines. Our local station, KHNS, is highly informative, well-managed, and a crucial part of the Haine community. I urge you to support the Governor's budget, which does not cut public radio funding. Please, don't cripple the future of public broadcasting in Alaska.

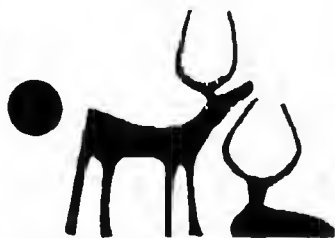
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Sarah Posey
Haines resident
Owner, Bear Star Communications (writing and editing services)
Founder and Director, Inner Mountain Wilderness Education Center (a
nonprofit outdoor education center for adult cancer survivors)

cc: Richard Foster, co-chair



March 22, 1996

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
The Alaska Legislature
State Capitol, Room 428
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am writing to ask that the House Finance Committee reconsider the House Finance Department of Education Budget Subcommittee's proposed elimination of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

If eliminated, Alaska would be the only state in the union without a state arts agency. Alaska is ranked 49 out of 50 states in the percentage of general fund spending dedicated to the arts.¹ The Arts Council's State appropriation is about one four-thousandth (1/4000) of 1 percent of the general fund. To put this in perspective, it might be helpful to compare this spending with that of a typical Alaskan household. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau), the median household income in Alaska is \$41,408. On a household scale, state arts spending is about equivalent to two cheap seats at the movies ($\$41,408/4000 = \10.35).

ASCA's FY96 budget is \$1,254,300 --11 percent of what it was in 1983. The Legislature made its first appropriation to the Alaska State Council on the Arts in FY67. With a full-time staff of four, the Council maintains the smallest staff of any state arts agency in the United States. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Council makes a big impact on Alaska. Council grants invest in communities across Alaska. In FY95, ASCA disbursed \$986,167 in state and federal funds through grant programs. The Arts Council helps local arts organizations raise private contributions. On average, they match ASCA grants ten to one. These grants mean jobs and work for Alaskans. The Council's Arts in Education program reaches 29,000 students and 2,000 teachers to enrich the curricula of local schools.

Congress cut the National Endowment for the Arts 40 percent for FFY96. The Council expects its Federal grants to drop 35% in FY97. In addition to the grants made to the State Arts Council, the NEA made 22 grants directly to arts organizations in Alaska. The Arts Endowment estimates that two-thirds of arts organizations previously served by the Endowment will no longer be funded. This year it is especially important to maintain level state support to help ease the loss the Federal funds.

¹Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey -November 1995, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies; The Fiscal Survey of States: October 1995, Nat. Governor's Assoc. & the Nat. Assoc. of State Budget Officers.

Alaska State Council on the Arts

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

General Delivery
Takotna, AK 99675
March 22, 1996

Dear Legislator,

We like public radio because you tell us about the weather and the news around here. We like its music. Please keep sending the money to help pay for it.

Sincerely,

Derek Wilson

Derek Wilson

General Delivery
Takotna, Alaska 99675
March 22, 1996

Dear Legislator,

We like public radio because you tell us about the weather and the news around here. We like its music. Please keep sending the money to help to pay for it. I like to listen to the music on the radio or my walkman.

Please don't stop sending money because I like to hear what's going on and to hear the good music they play.

Thank you,

Misty Wachter
Misty Wachter

Dear Legislator
We Want KSKO Radio
Station. Please don't
stop the money. =
enjoy music and we
need the radio. We are
and messages.

thank you

Amanda Paxson.

Dear Legislator,

Amanda G
Greene
Takotna A
99075

We want KSKO radio
so please do not take
KSKO away from every
person because my Grandpa
loves KSKO.

Takotna Alaska 99075

Amanda Greene.



8
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 from V.H.H.

KESKO ON

KESKO

TO: MARK HANLEY
EX: 465-2418

TALKESTNA, ALASKA IS ONE FORGETS, IS AT THE 'END-OF-THE-ROAD COMMUNITY' OFF THE PARKS HWY AT MILE 98. A COMMUNITY OF 300+ SOULS THAT DEPENDS IN PART ON ITS PUBLIC RADIO A. P. R. AND LOCAL K.T.N.A. STATION 88.5 FM IN THE WAY ONE DEPENDS ON FOOD-CLOTHING-SHELTER-GAS. FIRST AID etc. THOSE IN THE BUSH LISTEN ABIDELY FOR "BUSH DENKI ECHO'S" AS THEIR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE "VILLAGES OF TALKESTNA", OTHERS IN THE BUSH" PUBLIC BROADCASTING MUST NOT BE USED

