

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1654

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1997-1998

Belinda L. Sunderland
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To: Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
Fax (907) 456-3346

March 26, 1997

cc: Interior-Aleutians Campus, fax (907) 581-2505
Joan K. Wadlow, UAF Chancellor, fax (907) 474-6725

Subj: Public Opinion Message

Though most of what follows is a reiteration of things said in the past, it is necessary right now to put it in writing to stress a point.

I am sure most people in this great land realize that nothing can function without the constant influx of money. Many also realize that nothing is free and are willing to pay their taxes to ensure services are rendered when wanted or needed.

The institution of education is no exception. Money makes the campus go 'round, and in the case of education in Alaska, it must fund an institution that is far-flung to remote areas with few people.

Those people who seek to further their education in such adverse conditions should be given their due when it comes to perseverance and diligence. Not only must they be patient with a system that only recognizes them on a rotational basis, but many times their pursuit of a degree is put on hold until particular courses may or may not be offered.

That brings me to the point at hand. The offering of distance education courses is contingent upon the availability of the course materials and an instructor, both of which rely upon funding. Here in Unalaska, we are fortunate enough to have a branch campus with personnel capable of teaching undergraduate and graduate level classes, albeit on a limited basis. For those people in other remote locations in the Bush, such a luxury is not afforded them, neither by people nor by funds.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the fulcrum about which many quality satellite programs rotate. By cutting funding in any form from the university, each satellite community is in jeopardy of being cut loose from the privilege of advanced educational opportunities.

No matter how one looks at the process of funding and cutting, the larger picture of the future must be kept in focus. Give Alaskans the opportunity to educate themselves at home, and keep that work force (and subsequent consumer dollars) in the state. Too often I have witnessed graduating high school seniors leaving the state for better offers at colleges and universities Outside. Too often I have witnessed people coming to Alaska to "make the big bucks," leave with their money, and further their education outside the state.

We have some of the richest resources in Alaska. From oil to soil to minerals to trees to wildlife to people. Those Alaskans who transplant here or are born and raised here are the most familiar with these resources and how they should be cared for and handled. Educate them at home. Keep the engineers, foresters, agriculturists, miners and artists here to be the stewards we need for our vast resources. Nurture their sense of loyalty to home and hearth. The state cannot pay too much for its future and should not deny Alaskans the opportunity of getting a higher education because of funding constraints.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages 2

To: HOUSE FINANCE	From: FRX LIO
On: WRITTEN	On: TESTIMONY FOR
Desk: HFIN TELECONFERENCE	On: 3/22/97
From:	From:

WATSON COMPANY

8111 Sundt Dr., Anchorage, Alaska, 99502
Phone: (907) 248-5362, Fax: (907) 243-1834

March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chairman, Science Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am sending you this letter in an effort to gain your support against the elimination of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF).

The Watson Company is an Alaskan company providing geophysical services to a broad spectrum of Alaskan industries. The company was founded in Anchorage in 1985. It survived those turbulent times with the unwavering conviction that technology itself is a critical resource.

The very nature of technology requires a sophisticated technical network of conceptual, research and development, and production expertise. The ASTF is a cornerstone for these in our community.

Without going into much detail, I can only state that ASTF has been extraordinarily helpful to our organization. ASTF seminars and support have provided our company with help that has been integral to our company's technological development.

What I am trying to express in this letter is that keeping the scientific culture alive in Alaska will undoubtedly pay dividends many times over in employment, and benefits to the economy. Beyond even the tangible benefits, having the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and it's talented staff as part of our community will without a doubt make us all better Alaskans.

I appreciate this opportunity to express to you and your colleagues my continued support of our states most progressive institution. Should you have questions or comments regarding the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Watson Company.

William D. Watson
William D. Watson
Principal

Representative Gene Therriault
Representative Con Bunde
Representative Vic Kohring

To: Representatives Hanley and Brice, Senators Wilken, Miller, Sharp and Parnell

Shelley Greene
781 Nine Mile Hill Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Gentleman:

I OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS - POOR AND ELDERLY ALASKANS WILL SUFFER

Cuts will affect the availability of fundamental tools like wheelchairs, canes, prosthetics and the preventive treatments of mammogram and pap-smear. Medicaid recipients will face the loss of services for the second time in two years. Do not cut Medicaid any further and reinstate dental, vision, hearing aids, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy!

Alaska cannot remand it's elders and disabled to EXPENSIVE, long term care facilities because less expensive, up front, basic, community based services are to be withheld. Use your common sense and support people with disabilities and the aged, to receive cost effective, humane care at the outset of their need - prevent expensive medical crisis.

As elected officials you know that the government must put constituents first, especially the most vulnerable. If you are not personally effected now, by age, disease or disability just wait. In due time it happens to us all!. Forestall raises for yourselves, use funds saved from the closure of Harborview for health services (not the general fund) and consider the use of a portion of the permanent fund dividends. (\$30 out of each check would save these cuts and others from being made). Don't give up federal matching dollars when they are available.

We are a wealthy state, admired by the rest of the country for it's creativity and leading edge, city programs. Maintain Alaska's unique personality, one very different than the rest of the nation! Be compassionate, responsive to the needs of your people and be ethical in your use of public funds. Dare to have a heart, keep the level of services to families and those with special requirements at a level that is realistically helpful to them.

You are voted into office to protect the well-being of Alaskan citizens first

Thanks for your time, your effort, your concern. I know you will do your best!

Sincerely,

Shelley Greene

Post-it Fax Note	7871	Date	3/	# of pages	1
To	Rep Hanley	From	Shelley Greene		
City/Dept.	Alaska	Co.	Access Alaska		
Phone #		Phone #	479-7940		
Fax #	479-2418	Fax #	474-4052		

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date 3/24/97	# of pages 1
To AK State Legislature		From <u>Jama Bush</u>	
Proactive Info. Office		Co. RCPC	
Phone # 452-4448		Phone # 456-2866	
Fax # 456-3346		Fax # 451-8125	



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON the budget plan DATED 3/22/97
BILL SUBJECT

I was recently present for the 3/22/97 statewide public testimony re: the budget proposal, but was unable to testify due to time constraints. I appreciate this opportunity to lend my opinion re: funding for Healthy Families (HF) Programs for FY98. As a lifelong resident of Alaska, a parent, a social service provider, and an advocate for children & families, I urge you to restore the proposed cut for HF programs. The money contained in the Governor's budget will serve to maintain existing programs with minimal growth rather than create new program sites. The focus of Healthy Families is primary prevention, including home visitation (comprehensive & long-term) to families with infants who are at risk for poor childhood outcomes, including abuse and neglect. It is common wisdom among prevention advocates that no disease or social problem has ever been brought under control by providing after-the-fact treatment to the victims of the disease or problem. Costs associated with child maltreatment and its consequences are devastating on both a human and financial level including: low birthweight babies, infant mortality, special education, protection services, foster care, juvenile & adult criminality & psychological services. Programs such as Healthy Families not only serve to build stronger, healthier children but also reduce costly burdens on state services such as education, law enforcement, corrections, & mental health. Furthermore, families gain through HF program interventions have shown increases in parental employment, treatment for substance abuse, housing stability, domestic violence support & counseling for mental health problems, to name just a few. These gains equal long term savings down the road. Please allow Healthy Families Programs to continue providing positive support & assistance to Alaskan families by reinstating the \$614,000 contained in the Governor's budget.

SIGNED Jama Bush

TESTIFIER

Healthy Families Fairbanks, Resource Center for Parents and Children

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1401 Kellum Street, Fairbanks AK, 99701 (907)456-2866

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

March 21, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Therriault,

As Executive Director for Fairbanks Native Association, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommended budget cuts in Medicaid. As the Department of Health and Social Services portrays the Medicaid situation, a reduction of the governor's proposed Medicaid non-facility budget line item of \$3 million would result in cuts that would significantly impact several of our substance abuse treatment programs, two of which provide essential services for women with children and expectant mothers. The greatest impact will be on our Women and Children's Residential Treatment Program. A loss of benefits to cover substance abuse/mental health and targeted case management/rehabilitation services means a loss of approximately \$180,000 annually in client pay which comes from Medicaid payments.

FNA's Women and Children's Program is the only one of its kind in the state. Its outstanding reputation has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of women and children from throughout Alaska. Funding for this program comes primarily from the federal government (annual budget of approximately \$900,000) with all the benefit going to the state at a minimal cost of approximately \$90,000 by way of Medicaid billings.

If the situation is other than that portrayed by the Administration with the current house budget, please advise me. However, if the potential for the cuts are correct I would request that you take action to avoid these reductions or direct the Administration not to allocate the reductions as they have indicated because they would negatively impact treatment programs for women and children.

If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223. FNA will be testifying via teleconference on Saturday, March 22.

Sincerely,

John W. Regitano
Executive Director

cc: corr out exec
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies

My name is Cheryl Keepers, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I oppose cuts in child care programs: child care grant, education & training, resource and referral programs are all small but important pieces of state support for child care.

In this state we have learned the importance of quality education through our schools, we have learned the value of quality education through programs like Head Start, yet we have trouble seeing that child care is at least as important to the learning and growth and development of our youngest children. Cuts that decrease the quality of care are very short sighted.

I oppose the cuts to the Department of Health & Social Services, especially to the programs that might make it possible to actually achieve welfare reform: cuts to staff levels within Public Assistance; cuts to supports for parents as they try to achieve self-sufficiency, such as child care assistance and Medicaid; and refusal to use available federal dollars to improve state services through one-stop efforts.

I also oppose cuts to child support enforcement. All children deserve the support of two parents. If one parent chooses to be irresponsible, the state is better served in calling that parent to task than having to provide assistance out of our tax dollars. CSED caseworkers bring in half a million dollars each per year: eliminating 7 positions would be penny-wise and pound foolish.

There are other cuts I question, and increases that seem ill advised if we are truly in need of trimming the budget. Increasing legislative spending while cutting funds for wheelchairs is just plain tacky.

I have heard it said that families ⁱⁿ our state are in better shape now than 5 years ago. Then why is Alaska still suffering from the highest rate of domestic violence? Why did one out of three Fairbanks residents turn to charity, the local Food Bank, for supplemental food last year? Let's not fool ourselves: some of us are better off, but many are not.

I realize you have hard choices to make: but I urge you to not make hard-hearted ones.

Cheryl Keepers
Box 7489B
Fairbanks, AK 99707



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE DHES
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget DATED 3
BILL SUBJECT

I want to express my concern and disbelief at the recommended budget cuts to child care assistance and rental assistance. The common ground that the majority and minority and people like me was that welfare reform was necessary. For welfare reform to work these programs need to be increased, not cut. Moving from welfare to work takes increasing child care assistance. More families on welfare will need more child care for the required work or volunteer time required by the new regulations. Volunteer work is unpaid and entry level jobs can't support \$700-800/mo child care costs. You need to support the efforts required within welfare reform to make it successful. Child care costs + rental assistance are a necessary parts in this complex plan of reforming the welfare system. The goal is to get more people into the working world supporting their families. Please consider leaving the budget for these programs at current levels or provide for increases. Thank you for your consideration

SIGNED Valerie Cummings
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)
1267 Jacquelyn Lane, North Pole Ak 99705
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE F. CHSS
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON _____ DATED 3-21-97
BILL SUBJECT

Once again the attack begins on the poor, disabled, and children. How can welfare reform possibly work without sufficient child care, housing, medical care, or adequately staffed assistance programs. Please reconsider. I would like to challenge the legislators to spend some time in the real world ~~and~~ of those people who rely on rental assistance, child care, medicaid & related programs and see what it's like.

SIGNER Luis Beach
TESTIFIER

Single Parents & Displaced Homemaker's
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

610 2nd Ave Flks AK 99701
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

UAF
TVC



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget Cuts DATED 3-22-97

BILL SUBJECT

RE: Cuts to the Dept. of Tourism

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I regret I had to leave the public testimony session today before being able to testify in person. I represent the Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & I am a small BUSINESS OWNER. As a small business owner I have had the opportunity to make many MISTAKES & benefit from the lessons learned from those mistakes. One classic mistake is when times are tough ~~and~~ financially — then cut the marketing budget. Results can be devastating when this approach is taken — this action can cut off the very life blood of business — Similarly — the drastic cuts proposed for the Dept of Tourism will devastate small businesses that rely on tourism for their survival. That means LOSS of Jobs & Economic Development for our Great State

SIGNED

Janis W. Lee
TESTIFIER

Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & Alaska Lodging Mgt Inc.
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

POB 72478 FB 99707 907 488-4400

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AS BUDGET CUTS ARE REVIEWED

790 Pelican Way
FAIRBANKS, AK
99709

To: House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee

479-0823

Date: March 22, 1997

From: Charles (Chick) Hartman



Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed Budget Cuts,
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

I am writing you this letter as a proponent of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. I am a proponent because like most Alaskans I use the state parks many times during the year, both in summer and winter. I also should tell you that I am an advisory board member of the northern area state parks, but my testimony is as a private citizen.

In FY 87 the general fund budget for state parks was approximately \$5.25 million. In FY 97 it is approximately \$3.4 million, a 35% cut in ten years. This cut has partially been made up by gradually increasing state parks ability to budget for and collect user fees (program receipts). Today the total parks budget is approximately \$5.3 million, including program receipts.

The house finance committee's recommendation to cut \$183,900 from the program receipts budget makes absolutely no sense at all. These are funds that would be collected from users of the parks system, and do not cost the state any revenues. The only reason I can see to cut them would be so that certain politicians could posture that they cut the budget, even though no real money was saved; I hope no members of these committees would stoop to this type of "smoke and mirrors."

As a boardmember, I am familiar with the staffing levels and funding for the state parks in the northern area. You might not know that presently there is only one seasonally funded ranger in the whole Chena Hotsprings Recreational Area. I believe that there is only one seasonal ranger in the Harding Lake to Delta area. The division of parks does a great job of extending these employees' usefulness by hiring seasonal help consisting of the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), and by utilizing a very large volunteer force. Cutting their budget will reduce their ability to make use of these efficient ways to run the state parks system.

Alaska's state parks are the largest in acreage of all the states. In visitation numbers, they are approximately 35th. In staffing levels, they are 49th, and they would be by far the lowest, if Hawaii had not almost completely privatized their state park system. This is the situation that you as legislators are promulgating when you consider more budget cuts to the Division of Parks. Instead of proposing mindless cuts, please support a modest increase in the Program Receipts portion of the parks budget, as is requested in the governor's budget. This small increase is to fund maintenance items such as sewage pumping for additional roadside outhouses that the legislature funded last year. Hardly glamorous items, but also of vital importance to anyone who does much traveling on Alaska's road system.

As a citizen of Alaska, I believe that there are cuts needed in our state budget. What I don't believe is that Alaska's citizens want wholesale budget cutting of every state program. There are agencies that have already been cut to the bone; the Division of Parks is one of them. I strongly believe that most people in Alaska would support a moderate increase in the budget for state parks. Please listen to these people. Please do not continue with these wholesale cuts without thinking of the results.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
Mark Hanley/Pete Kelly
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare/ Jobs Program DATED 3-22-97
BILL/SUBJECT

my name is Karla Lomax. I am a client in the JOBS Program. You want people to get out and get jobs, I hope, to support their own families. And you expect them to do that with no skills and no education. You cut childcare and the JOBS program and in a short time you will need to figure out how to decrease the levels in child abuse, alcoholism, homelessness and many others. Do you want that?

The JOBS Program enabled ^{me} to get my GED in December because the GED program waived the fee as I was a JOBS client.

JOBS has enabled my husband to attend classes to obtain his GED.

JOBS has given me hope for the future and the knowledge I can truly do anything I put my mind too. ~~It~~ Fortunately for you, my plans do not include taking your job in the future. I'd rather be a police officer, which JOBS has also helped me to take action on. Unlike you I will serve and protect this community.

SIGNED Karla D. Lomax
TESTIFIER

Karla D. Lomax / Sheila Kivi (NASW)
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1120 Washington Dr. #7 FBKS AK 99709 (907) 456-272
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Attn: House Finance Committee
Rep. Gene Therriault
Rep. Pete Kelly
Rep. John Davies

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the House Finance Subcommittee's proposed cuts to the FY 93 Operating Budget.

I am a single parent of two small children, I am proud to say I have never experienced such a hardship in which I had to rely on welfare, and I would like to be able to continue to provide for my children in such a manner.

I would like to say I support welfare reform, and think it is a positive step for our country. But in order to successfully move people off welfare, there must be assistance available to insure quality care for their children. Most recipients of welfare have limited skills, which means low paying jobs. How can a family of a low to moderate income cover all expenses such as food, clothing, shelter and childcare. I know first hand child care is expensive, my daycare bill is \$840.00 per month. If child care assistance was not available to me, I too would be a welfare recipient!

I am greatly opposed to the proposed cut to eliminate the Child Care Grant Program. This grant makes it possible for Child Care Providers to continue education in early childhood development. Enables them to gain resources and materials to enhance a child's learning skills. Quality care is already hard to find, please do not make it impossible for providers who truly care for children, to teach them. This is a cut that will effect every family that uses Day Care Facilities. Early childhood development is extremely important in the nurturing of our children into productive, successful adults. As a Tax Payer I would much rather see our tax money spent developing a child's mind at an early age, and guide them to become responsible adults. When trying to rehabilitate a juvenile when it may be too late.

I am thankful I can work, pay my bills, feed my family and support my children. I am thankful for the Child Care Assistance that I receive. Please do not cut funding from this vital program, without it I truly believe you will see More of the working poor on Welfare.

Respectfully Yours,

Milissa Ackels
830 5th Ave #A
Fairbank, Ak 99701





ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare cuts/job program DATED 3-22-97
BILL/SUBJECT

To whom it may concern,

I believe the deep cuts in the job program + childcare will do a great deal more damage than what is apparent on the surface.

I know that people on welfare must work, yet we want to cut childcare + the job program. Several serious consequences may follow. People may be forced to leave children alone, have inadequate people with their children etc.. I am sure when people are pushed so hard, then given no opportunities to win; the incidents of child neglect + abuse will soar. I say lets atleast provide for the children, they are our future. It appears to me that we will have a great influx of people needing assistance. For instance, the working poor. By cutting child care benefits this puts them in a position to not work or succeed.

~~As~~ As far as Medicaid cuts, I believe a state like Alaska should provide care for all children. Actually even the poor deserve health care. I believe it would shame our state to allow people to die because of lack of funding for medical care.

With the proposed cuts we will have more problems economically. I believe I would rather leave a state that does not care, rather than support middle class prejudices.

SIGNED Shaik Kiri
TESTIFIER

NASW
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

3142 Lawrence Rd. N. Bldg At 99705 488-7993
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

**Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association**

P.O. Box 22827
Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 463-3038
Fax (907) 463.3280
E mail awrta@alaska.net
<http://www.alaska.net/~awrta>

Whereas, the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council has made great strides in meeting the needs of the diversity of Alaskan tour operators; and

Whereas, generic marketing is critical to the health and well-being of the whole Alaska visitor industry; and

Whereas, the Alaska Division of Tourism's role in developing new and international markets is of significant value to smaller tour operators; and

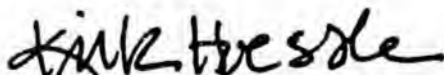
Whereas, the Alaska tourism industry allows opportunities for the creation of small local businesses and jobs in geographically diverse locations, including rural Alaska; and

Whereas, Alaska's visitor industry is the fastest growing industry in the state;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association joins with other tourism businesses and associations in Alaska to support full funding of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and the Alaska Division of Tourism budgets; and

That the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association recognizes the importance of both the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and Division of Tourism, with their respective roles, to the well being of the Alaska visitor industry.

This resolution was adopted by the membership at the annual membership meeting of the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association in Fairbanks on March 21, 1997.


Kirk Hoessle, President



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated _____
bill/subject

Dear Sirs;

Being mentally ill was never the way any of us wanted to be. It has been a very bumpy ride for many of us. Zyprexa is a good medication, but sometimes we can't do it all alone, we need a support system and case managers. Even Rehab services to recuperate when we suffer from a traumatic experience.

Please Don't cut the budget!

Signed: Barla K Root
Testifier

Mental Health Consumer
Representing (Optional)

11690 Lacy Loop # Wasilla AK 99654-5616
Address

376-4596
Phone No.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
BARROW, ALASKA 99723
☎ 907 852-2611 or 0200
FAX: 907 852-0337
email: bnagcak@co.north-slope.ak.us



Benjamin W. Nugent, Mayor

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Mailstop 3100
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Elimination of the Solid Waste Management Program

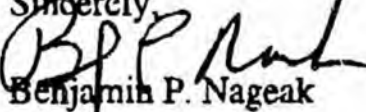
The House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation, including the elimination of the ADEC Solid Waste Program. I understand that the preliminary budget has passed the Finance Committee with the solid waste program budget eliminated. This budget is subject to Committee approval, at a meeting scheduled for the week of March 24, 1997.

By eliminating the solid waste program, the North Slope Borough will be forced to operate under US EPA regulations. Flexibility for landfill design and closure will be lost. NSB landfills incorporate specific design features for the arctic environment, such features would not receive consideration. Alternative designs acceptable to ADEC will not be acceptable to EPA. For new facilities, such as a new Barrow Landfill, design will become subject to EPA Sub Title D regulations, which have many additional requirements that will add to costs significantly. For example, a liner will be required that will increase costs approximately \$50,000,00. For closure of sites, cover material requirements will increase costs, and use of alternative cover materials will not be allowed. Landfill inspection and compliance status determinations would be assessed by US EPA, who would also issue Notice

of Violation (NOV) and Enforcement Actions if federal standards are not met.

Over 280 landfills will become unregulated by this program's elimination. Class III landfills, of which the NSB has seven, will become deregulated and be re-classified as Class II landfills. This change will cause great expense to the NSB, to modify existing landfill site operations and to upgrade landfills to Class II standards. The Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, by which the Governor can waive additional federal provisions for Class III landfills would have to be repealed.

I urge your support to reinstate the management of the State's solid waste management program in ADEC's budget.

Sincerely,

Benjamin P. Nageak
Mayor
North Slope Borough

cc: Rep. Reggie Joule
James P. Sharpe, North Slope Borough
Don Thornburgh, North Slope Borough

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
State Capitol Building
Room 507
Juneau, AK. 99811

Re: Alaska Science and Technology Foundation Funding

Dear Representative Hanley:

I recently became aware of the Finance Committee's proposal to eliminate the endowment of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF). I am in no position to make a determination on whether ASTF's funding should be continued or discontinued. However, I am aware of some of that agency's funding practices that may be helpful to the committee.

As a homeowner on the hillside in Anchorage that is served by on-site sewage disposal, I am concerned about a grant by ASTF to the municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services. According to ASTF's 1996 Annual Report, "three years ago ASTF teamed up with Jim Cross, an engineer with the Municipality of Anchorage's Health and Human Services Department, to investigate an intermittent sand filter wastewater disposal system..."

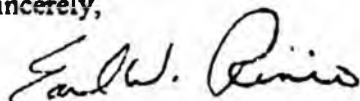
As a follow up to that initial grant, ASTF funded the same government agency "to develop informational literature aimed at real estate agents, property owners and developers that explains the costs and benefits of the sand filter option."

So what we have here is one government agency funding another government agency that is self regulating and is in direct competition with private businesses. Not only is this a conflict of interest on the part of the municipality of Anchorage; but it is counter-productive to the overall agenda of ASTF.

I have talked with home owners, realtors, engineers and business owners in Anchorage and learned that the municipality is actively promoting the sand filter system they tested with ASTF funds. In fact, I was informed by some homeowners that the municipality gave them no other option than the sand filter when they were upgrading their septic system. People appear to be very frustrated by this situation.

The purpose of my letter is not to encourage the committee to discontinue funding ASTF. I think they have funded many worthwhile projects. However, when they create a situation as described above, there should be more oversight to ASTF's funding practices. Funding a self regulating government agency that competes with private enterprise is the form of state socialism that we should be trying to avoid not encourage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl W. Rinio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Earl Rinio
9141 Basher Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 333-5615

**City of Tanana
P.O. Box 249
Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7159
FAX: (907) 366-7169**

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

March 21, 1997

Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

FAX# (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

The City of Tanana opposes Budget cuts as proposed by the House Majority in HB75.

Further cuts to Municipal Assistance of State Revenue Sharing, as suggested by the Governor, could force Tanana to dissolve the municipal government. Since the City of Tanana maintains Tanana City School District, dissolving the first class would force Tanana's school into one of the REAA's, thus losing the local mil contribution and ultimately costing the state much more than the current Municipal Assistance and State Revenue Sharing programs do. In Tanana's case, any further cuts to basic support of the municipal government is likely to make overall costs go up, not down.

Other budget items important to Tanana include:

*Senior Residential Services - Your recommendation to keep these programs at current levels is good, but not enough. Cutting funds to Department of Social Services for licensing of assisted living programs and for optional medicaid services will also cause serious harm. Since Tanana's senior residential program is currently operating at a loss (which has to be supplied by the municipality) cutting any portion of support to the elders could mean losing the services entirely.

*Health and Social Services - Cuts to this department would mean inability to match federal funding for the innovative community programs to solve children's health and education problems with local solutions (as, COMPASS). Statistics about the problems and their impact could be quoted, but the bottom line is that Tanana is a participant in that program and has spent extensive community time on planning solutions which we will be unable to implement if the funding is cut. Besides leaving us in the lurch, this would certainly add to suspicion and lack of trust in the state government!

*Education - Cuts that would render the Department of Education unable to match federal funds for various programs in the schools would be a serious blow to education. Specifically, Tanana needs to preserve the match for federal funds in special education and vocational education. Tanana also supports continued funding for the parent and family involvement initiative, and for the student leadership program. Tanana endorses expanding Head Start services.

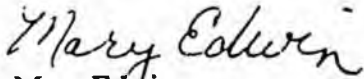
*Department of Environmental Conservation - Tanana cannot afford to comply with federal enforcement of solid waste disposal laws. Without the State solid waste disposal program, it is likely Tanana could not maintain any solid waste disposal system at all. That has serious negative implications for public health and well being.

*Department of Community and Regional Affairs - The Rural Utility Business Assistance program is extremely important to Tanana's current struggle to maintain a safe public water supply. Tanana residents haul their own water from the public watering point and uses outhouses. Tanana is working hard to build a better system, with ways to support maintenance and operation into the future. Cutting the RUBA now would make it extremely hard to finish what we've started.

*Public Safety - Tanana has been eligible, but unfunded, for a VPSO for years. The municipal government cannot support full police coverage. When a tragedy happens that requires Trooper assistance, it can take days for a response. There are absolutely no funds for prevention efforts.

*Division of Energy - Maintain funds for Power Costs Equalization.

Sincerely,



Mary Edwin
City Manager

between the divisions staff and the lessees. Such discontinuity in the past has led to major and costly contamination cleanups being required, such as the Forward and Child's pads cleanups.

There will undoubtedly be delays in issuing leases/permits for guides and commercial ventures on state land, and also delays in issuing surface leases/rights -of-way/permits for oil and gas exploration and developments.

The MFS Fiber Optics Right-of-Way from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay would not be issued timely. Delay of this major communications project would be detrimental to the pipeline communication upgrade, as well as potential ripple effects to communities that may be able to tie into this new communication system.

Also cooperative efforts between the state, federal government, municipalities and local interest groups would suffer. The region is involved in several programs that are responding to public access needs; especially:

- Nenana River Canyon public access and TRAAK proposals
- Denali North Access feasibility study
- Dalton Highway coordination group
- Alaska Trails System participation
- Other cooperative land use management programs are:

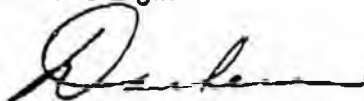
Reindeer permits on the Seward Peninsula

Alaska Guard training site on the Seward Peninsula

How Natural Resources are managed today will directly affect future State revenue and budgets. If the DNR is not adequately funded we may as well turn over our rights and land back to the federal government.

Thank you for all your efforts. I know you have a difficult job before you. Reducing a budget is not an easy task and no one wants their own budget cut. This is an area I do know something about and I hope you will take my comments into consideration when deliberating on the budget. I know DNR has many other concerns in other parts of the State but I'm most familiar with the Fairbanks area.

Thanks for listening!!!



P.S. If you have questions call Judy in Fairbanks at 451-2720. She'll give you the "straight scoop."



Alaska State Legislature

MAR 20 1997

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

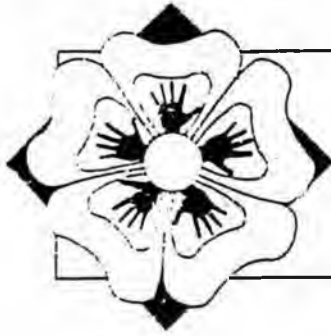
Do not cut funding in areas that allow matching funds from federal agencies.

Do not cut funding for child abuse. As a teacher I am appalled with the level of state support today.

Do not rely on private contributions. Alaska ranks 50th for individual level of contributions to charity who earn over \$100,000.

Signed: Lois (Steven R.) McBoz
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
7749 Old Harbor Rd.
 Address
Anch. Ak. 99504
 Phone No.
337-6136



F • N • A

Fairbanks Native Association

March 21, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

Dear Representative Therriault,

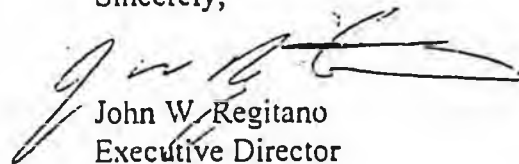
As Executive Director for Fairbanks Native Association, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommended budget cuts in Medicaid. As the Department of Health and Social Services portrays the Medicaid situation, a reduction of the governor's proposed Medicaid non-facility budget line item of \$3 million would result in cuts that would significantly impact several of our substance abuse treatment programs, two of which provide essential services for women with children and expectant mothers. The greatest impact will be on our Women and Children's Residential Treatment Program. A loss of benefits to cover substance abuse/mental health and targeted case management/rehabilitation services means a loss of approximately \$180,000 annually in client pay which comes from Medicaid payments.

FNA's Women and Children's Program is the only one of its kind in the state. Its outstanding reputation has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of women and children from throughout Alaska. Funding for this program comes primarily from the federal government (annual budget of approximately \$900,000) with all the benefit going to the state at a minimal cost of approximately \$90,000 by way of Medicaid billings.

If the situation is other than that portrayed by the Administration with the current house budget, please advise me. However, if the potential for the cuts are correct I would request that you take action to avoid these reductions or direct the Administration not to allocate the reductions as they have indicated because they would negatively impact treatment programs for women and children.

If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223. FNA will be testifying via teleconference on Saturday, March 22.

Sincerely,



John W. Regitano
Executive Director

cc: corr out exec
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair ✓
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies

Public Opinion Message

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office (LIO)
 115 N. Cushman St., Suite 101, Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Phone: 452-4448 Fax: 456-3348

From: Print your name and address as it appears on your voter registration card.

Mr., Mr., Mrs.	First Name	MI	Last Name	Jr., Sr., III
Ms.	Vera	L	Brick	
Residence (street) address				Zip code
P.O. Box 304 Fort Yukon, AK				99740
Mailing address				Zip code
P.O. Box 304 Fort Yukon, AK				99740
Daytime telephone number		Group affiliation (if applicable)		
907-662-2556		Tanana Chiefs Conference, Yukon Flats Subregional Office		

To: Write an H or an S in a Committee box; put a ✓ in a Caucus or Member's box.

Committees (enter H or S)

- Community & Regional Affairs (cra)
- Finance (fin)
- Health, Ed. & Social Services (hes)
- Judiciary (jud)
- Labor & Commerce (l&c)
- Resources (res)
- Rules (rle)
- State Affairs (sta)
- Transportation (tra)
- Other:
- Other:

CAUCUSES

- Anchorage (aga)
- Bush (bus)
- Fairbanks (Interior) (fm)
- Matu (mat)
- Majority (mjr)
- Minority (mnr)

House members

- Austerman (aue)
- Barnes (bar)
- Britz (brt)
- Brown (bro)
- Bunde (bun)
- Davies (dav)
- Davis, B. (deb)
- Davis, G. (dag)
- Elton (elt)
- Finkelstein (fik)
- Foster (foe)
- Green (gm)
- Grussendorf (gra)
- Hanley (han)
- Ivan (iva)
- James (jam)
- Kelly, P. (kil)
- Kohring (kor)
- Koff (kof)
- Kubina (kub)

- Long (lng)
- Mackie (mak)
- Martin (mar)
- Mesek (mes)
- Moses (mos)
- Mulder (mul)
- Navarre (nav)
- Nicholls (nic)
- Ogan (oga)
- Pamela (par)
- Philippe, G. (phg)
- Porter (por)
- Robinson (rob)
- Roseberg (rok)
- Sanders (san)
- Thambut (thv)
- Tooney (ton)
- Vezey (vez)
- Williams (wil)
- Willis (wis)

Senate members

- Adams (ada)
- Donley (don)
- Quonan (dun)
- Ellis (eli)
- Frank (fra)
- Green (gre)
- Harford (har)
- Hoffman (hof)
- Kelly, T. (kel)
- Leman (lem)
- Lincoln (lin)
- Miller (mil)
- Pearce (pee)
- Phillips, R. (phi)
- Rieger (rie)
- Selo (sel)
- Sharp (sha)
- Taylor (tay)
- Torgerson (tor)
- Zharoff (zha)

Subject: Enter a bill number and check one box below OR enter a subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	OR	Subject:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Amend		

Message:

* This form MUST be completely filled out, including a phone number. You may phone fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO
 * Please PRINT. Your message cannot exceed 60 words (one word per box) and cannot contain any vulgar language

I am very please to write this short memo regarding the state operating	3
budget. On behalf of the following villages (Arctic Village, Beaver Circle,	10
Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Fort Yukon, and Venetia) I represent.	15
I am fully against the state budget cuts. As it is it's already taking effect	20
on our rural areas. We DO NOT want it to get any worst. I know for a fact	25
that my villages do have a great need for these programs. Please take into	30
consideration not to do any budget cuts.	35
Thank you.	40
	45
	50



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My name is Catherine Vaara, and I am here to urge you to support funding for Domestic Violence programs.

Here in Alaska, many of our communities are geographically isolated. In Valdez, as in other communities, people have moved here with the dream of landing a well paid job. The reality is, that families find themselves socially isolated from traditional support groups of family and friends.

Advocates for Victims of Violence, (AVV) like its sister programs was established to aide victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We find many victims are socially isolated with no social or financial means to help themselves. Our programs help them re-establish support systems. We provide immediate safety and shelter. We provide a safe place and time with counselors to help with information and resources so that victim can regroup and look at viable options. We are also active in providing education to prevent further violence.

As a community based, non profit organisation with a strong network Alaska wide, we are cost efficient and effective. However, our shelter is 100 years old and is falling apart. It is too small to provide shelter to the populations of Valdez, Tatitlek, and the Copper River Basin, which are our service areas.

We, like other shelters for battered women in Alaska, have been struggling with a budget that is 5% less than what it was in 1989. Our communities are doing their best to create and maintain shelters for victims but we do need State help and support.

I would like to add, the Dept. Corrections also needs to do its part in getting the message across - Domestic violence is a crime. Offenders need to be made accountable for their actions. They need to be placed in jail, where they are prevented from terrifying or harming their victims. Give victims the time they need to help themselves.

Thank you.

Signed: Catherine Vaara
Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 524 Valdez 99686
Address

(907) 835-2980
Phone No.

The Fishers
3712 Aldren Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

March 24, 1997

Mark Hanley
Chair
House Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley:

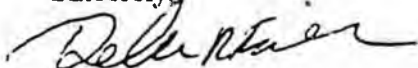
I have been a Family Child Care Provider for eight years. I started receiving the Child Care Grant about 2 years ago. I have used this money to help purchase some larger toys that I would not have been able to justify without these funds to help cover the costs. I also purchase many supplies ie. paper, crayons, books. I feel that these have helped make my program better for the children in my care.

I think that you are thinking that because we are a business we are making quite a big profit. If you could only look at our tax returns you would know that we are not in this to make a large profit. By not supporting us you are saying that you do not care what quality of care the children of the state are receiving. We have just been informed that the food programs are being cut 50%. These cuts are going to make it very hard for many providers to be able to even stay in business. I think that it is sad the the government can help support other countrys but they will not support their own children.

The government is cutting all the benefits that were there for people to take the step to become a licenced provider. In the end I think it will be the government that will loose as people will go back to just providing care and not paying the taxes on the money that they have earned and the quality of care will decrease without the regulations that are in place now. Please help the providers to maintain the quality of care that they are now providing and give us the insentive to continue to learn and improve the programs we offer the children of our communities.

We would appreciate your support in this matter that is near and dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,



Della R. Fisher

13-285

RECEIVED

James H. Ducker MAR 26 1997
6631 E. 99th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-6564

March 23, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

Assured that your life is at least as hectic as mine, I will keep this note brief.

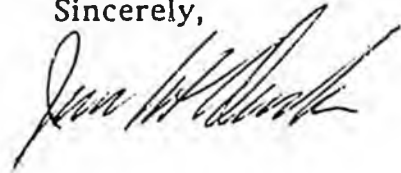
I write to urge that you, as co-chair of the House Finance Committee, take the lead in reversing an unwise cut in funding for the State Historic Preservation Office. I refer to House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee's proposed reduction of \$94,000.

Those who wish to preserve portions of Alaska's heritage, whether for the knowledge that can be gained about our ancestors or predecessors in this state, for the sense of connectedness well-preserved structures provide to our state's diverse and interesting past, or for the benefits such preservation will give our tourist industry for many decades to come, need the expert services provided by the SHPO. So do developers, who depend on timely and thorough consideration of projects involving federal funds, lands, or permits, and who, in many cases, are as loath to ruin the historic and archaeological treasures of this state as any of the hundred of members of Alaska's local historical societies.

The subcommittee's cut seems particularly ill-considered given that its \$94,000 reduction means the loss of over \$140,000 of federal matching funds. Together these cuts will hobble the SHPO.

I hope that I can count on your support for an appropriate level of funding for historical programs in the state.

Sincerely,



Naparyarmiut

City of Hooper Bay
P.O. Box 37
Hooper Bay, Alaska 99604
(907) 758-4311

Hanley
Distributed by request
by R. Foster

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997

March 24, 1997

Honorable Chairmen
and Members
House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

The City of Hooper Bay respectfully urges the House Finance Committee to maintain funding for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Municipal and Regional Assistance Division, Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) Program.

It is our understanding that that current House budget draft eliminates the \$250,000 match made by the State against a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the RUBA Program. We believe that anytime the State can leverage one dollar for two from the Federal government, it is a reasonable bargain.

The RUBA Program has paid for itself many times over by providing one technical assistance small communities have required to meet such obligations as Alaska Department of Labor Unemployment Tax payments and Federal Tax withholdings.

The City of Hooper Bay can testify to the importance of RUBA assistance. At one point a couple of years ago we owed the IRS nearly \$200,000 in back taxes and penalties. With the help of our RUBA Advisors we were able to negotiate directly with the IRS at the same time we were developing in-house fiscal management capability. We have since satisfied our obligations with the IRS, thanks in no small part to the RUBA Program.

It is very important to understand that when communities are at risk with the IRS and other agencies which can levy and lien, ALL municipal assets are at risk, including rolling stock belonging to water and sewer construction projects, the loss of which could cripple efforts to improve sanitation conditions. Additionally, City Council members and Managers/Administrators have a fiduciary liability which the IRS will prosecute.

We believe that if you look you will find that the RUBA Program has been successful in protecting the State's interest in the substantial capital investments it has made around Rural Alaska from seizure by the Internal Revenue Service.

March 24, 1997

House Finance Committee
Page Two

The Legislature has demonstrated its commitment to the development of water and sewer infrastructure in Rural Alaska. The mission of the Rural Utility Business Advisor Program is to help communities ensure the proper, efficient and hopefully "profitable" operation of these systems which provide decent sanitation conditions, conditions which many Alaskans take for granted.

With continuing decreases in Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing, small communities find it more and more difficult to attract and retain trained and skilled operations, maintenance and management/administrative personnel. Because of this, we (Alaska's small municipalities) look to DCRA, DEC and other State agencies with whom we have close working relationships for advice, training, and technical assistance. The RUBA Program provides a vehicle for these vital services, and we rightfully fear the future without them.

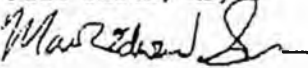
Gentlemen, Rural Alaskans fully understand the need for efficiencies in State Government and we have never been unwilling to cooperate with the Legislature in identifying potential areas for budget reductions. We take great interest in the deliberations in Juneau each year and look forward to the opportunity to participate in a positive manner.

Once again, the City of Hooper Bay wishes to encourage you to give careful consideration to continuation of the Rural Utility Business Advisor Program in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. It is a partnership between communities and the State which works to everyone's advantage and, as we have pointed out, pays for itself many times over.

We would be pleased to answer any inquiries you or your staff might have on this important program.

QUYANA!

City of Hooper Bay
Nile Smith, Mayor


Mark Edward Springer
City Administrator

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

March 17, 1996

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

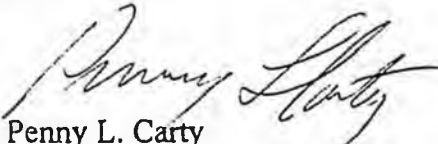
Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHHS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive *full appropriation of the \$6.6 million* in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to *double* current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,



Penny L. Carty
Cook Inlet Tribal Council



**Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association**

**P.O. Box 22827
Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 463-3038
Fax (907) 463.328
E mail awrta@alaska.net
<http://www.alaska.net/~awrta>**

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1997

March 24, 1997

Twentieth Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Greetings:

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA, pronounced AR-tah) is pleased to join other tourism associations and businesses in support of full funding for the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council and the Alaska Division of Tourism. A copy of a resolution of support, adopted by our membership at our annual meeting in Fairbanks on March 21, is enclosed.

Our membership is diverse, covering a broad range of geography, type of trips, and size of operations. We are pleased to include a copy of our latest membership directory for your review and reference.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself (783-2928, Girdwood), our executive director Steve Behnke or one of our members who serve on Alaska Tourism Marketing Council (Karla Hart, 463-3466; Ken Leghorn, 780-6505; Jerre Fuqua, 206-623-7110) if you have questions.

Regards,


Kirk Hoessle, President



March 25, 1997

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

The proposed budget cuts to the Division of Tourism and ATMC will hurt our efforts to create jobs and economic development in Alaska.

This summer our company is entering the tourism field with a substantial investment and an operation that will create 30 jobs in Haines and Skagway and economic benefit to both communities.

It is critical to the success of our operation that we have strong support from the State of Alaska in creating these new businesses. Our efforts will only be successful with the destination marketing support from the Division of Tourism and ATMC that no small community or one company can afford.

I am requesting your support for the full funding of these programs. As resources development faces more challenges in Alaska we must look to new opportunities to keep our State prosperous and healthy.

Please help us with these efforts.

Sincerely

Don Argetsinger
President

cc: The Honorable Gail Philips, Speaker of the House
Willie Hensley, Commissioner of Commerce & Economic Development
Alaska Visitors Association

KLUKWAN, INC.

P.O. BOX 32077 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-2077 • (907) 789-7361

cc: The Honorable Joe Green
The Honorable Carl Moses
The Honorable Joe Ryan
The Honorable Ethan Berkowitz
The Honorable John Cowdery

RECEIVED

March 20, 1997

MAR 25 1997

To Whom It Is Concern;

I would like to take this to inform you of a big problem that is happening to low income Alaskans with disabilities. These low income Alaskans who are disabled rely on benefits and services needed to help them live their lives more independently and healthier lives.

With the budget cuts that are propose for Medicaid, Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other related programs, such as Access Alaska, Americans with Disabilities Act, Division of Health and Social Services. The above programs and services are the life lines for services that help the low income Alaskans with disabilities live more independent and productive lives in their communities. To cut the proposed cuts you have in mind will affect the services and program that help the low income Alaskans greatly. This will affect me greatly because I am a low income Alaskan who has a several different disabilities. Some above programs and services you propose to cut funds for I depend on and use services.

First, of all the propose budget cuts in Medicaid will affect me. I have cerebral palsy and need to have AFO leg braces for both my legs custom made once a year or whenever the doctor wants me to get them. Because my straight is always changing and to make sure that the braces are fit corrects. If, the braces do not fit correctly, I can get decompression sores or bruising from them. If you cut this important medical service out of your budget, I will no longer be able to receive new braces when I need them. This specially important to me because it can make the difference if I can walk or not when I am weak.

Secondly on the Medicaid cuts propose I will lose another very important service to me. I also have asthma. I need to receive medical equipment and supplies that are need to control my asthma. I need to use a nebulier to help control and relieve my bad asthma attacks. The nebulier most of the time prevents me from having to go to emergency room to receive treatment. Medicaid covers the nebulier and supplies that I use if you cut this important life saving service out of the budget it could cause me too not could not control my asthma. Asthma attacks can be very scary, because basically you are not able to breathe. Please, remember how important it is for you to be able to breathe. Please keep the funding for these specially needed equipment and supplies for people like me who needs to use to equipment to keep us a live.

I am now getting help to live independently from Access Alaska . Access Alaska has one of the best programs in helping people who have disabilities I have been be so far. I would hate seeing any funding cut from their budget. I know that Access Alaska is on the proposed budget cuts for independent living listed under Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The people at Access Alaska do so much to help people with disabilities live happier and more independent lives in their communities. I hate to see what would happen to people who depend on Access Alaska Independent living services and ^{can not} receive them. This is a very important thing to me and many other use Access Alaska services. Please, do not make any cuts in Access Alaska budget.

I have just been authorized for services at Alaska Division of Rehabilitation. Alaska Division of Rehabilitation is a truly important service to help Alaskans who are disabled find work. I truly believe this the time to not cut the fund for this very important program. Disabled Alaskans need to have a place they can go to help them get the needed training, support in many areas, and some times job placements. With out Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation there would be a lot of disabled Alaskans without work and unemployed. Because they just were not given a chance to get the needed help, support, training and sometimes job placements to achieve their true abilities and independently. Please keep the funding for Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation where it at. Sincerely, I am a client Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, I would hate to not get a chance to return to the work force once again.

Please think of the disabled people you will be hurting and would be greatly effect their lives with these proposed budget cut. I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely;



Charles C. Reese
5451 E 4th Avenue, Apt #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 333-0631

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 25 March 1997

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Kenneth L. Pratt - Program Manager, BIA ANCSA Office

SUBJECT: Proposed Budget Cuts Affecting the Alaska State Historic
Preservation Program

TO: Alaska State House and Senate Finance Committees

I am writing to voice my opposition to the House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee's proposed \$94,000.00 budget cut for the State Historic Preservation Program (i.e., the Office of History and Archaeology). That cut would lead to the loss of another \$140,000.00 in matching money for Alaska provided by the federal Historic Preservation Fund. The end result would be the almost certain elimination of the State Office of History and Archaeology, an office that has actually been under-funded for years now.

The proposed cut poses serious problems for the State with regard to its future ability to comply with cultural resources/historic preservation laws. It would also prevent Federal agencies in Alaska from satisfying those same laws, because our compliance requires coordination with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer and continued access to the state database of historic and archaeological sites.

I strongly urge you to restore full funding to the State Historic Preservation Program.

Kenneth L. Pratt



March 25, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

The proposed budget cuts to the Division of Tourism and ATMC will hurt our efforts to create jobs and economic development in Alaska.

This summer our company is entering the tourism field with a substantial investment and an operation that will create 30 jobs in Haines and Skagway and economic benefit to both communities.

It is critical to the success of our operation that we have strong support from the State of Alaska in creating these new businesses. Our efforts will only be successful with the destination marketing support from the Division of Tourism and ATMC that no small community or one company can afford.

I am requesting your support for the full funding of these programs. As resources development faces more challenges in Alaska we must look to new opportunities to keep our State prosperous and healthy.

Please help us with these efforts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Argetsinger".

Don Argetsinger
President

cc: The Honorable Gail Philips, Speaker of the House
Willie Hensley, Commissioner of Commerce & Economic Development
Alaska Visitors Association

KLUKWAN, INC.

P.O. BOX 32077 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803-2077 • (907) 789-7361

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**144 N. SINKLEY SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669-7599
BUSINESS (907) 262-4441 FAX (907) 262 1892

March 25, 1997

MIKE NAVARRE
MAYOR

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1132

VIA FAX: 465-2418

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1997

Re: **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
SOLID WASTE PROGRAM FUNDING**

Dear Representative Hanley:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough does not support the operating budget reduction and subsequent elimination of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Program. Loss of the state program will require strict compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and will have short and long term financial and environmental impacts to our borough, as well as the entire state.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is unique with seven operating landfills composed of at least one type of each class of landfill (I, II and III). Since the borough took over solid waste disposal authority in 1974, a directed effort has been made to close many open dumps that were not developed by the borough, but were located on borough owned land. Many other open dumps that proliferated in the past have also been closed under the direction of ADEC in accordance with state regulations. With the absence of a state solid waste management authority, and no zoning imposed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, open dumps are likely to become problems once more.

Loss of a state program has many potential impacts to our borough which include the following:

- 1) \$7.2 million cost increase in design modifications for a Class I expansion due to more stringent EPA liner design criteria.
- 2) \$86,000 minimum annual increase in water monitoring program costs for the borough's Class II landfill due to lack of state imposed flexibility in compliance schedule.
- 3) Elimination of a pending permit for an inert waste landfill in Seward - all waste would be transported to Soldotna for disposal at significant cost to disposers and the borough.
- 4) Operation of disposal sites for waste streams which become unregulated including drilling muds, wood debris, construction and demolition debris, and open dumps.
- 5) Immediate closure and subsequent relocation of two Class III landfills in violation of airport separation requirements.

Re: ADEC Solid Waste Program Funding

March 25, 1997 - Page Two

- 6) Eliminate state approved flexibility for use of alternative cover material (such as plastic tarps) as substitute for frozen soil cover during winter months at Class II and III landfills.
- 7) Increased civil lawsuits for lack of strict conformance with federal standards for all landfills.

For the past six years, the ADEC has worked with the borough, solid waste professionals, operators and haulers to revise Alaska solid waste regulations in order to develop a federally acceptable solid waste program that allows state specific flexibility. The statewide commitment to obtain a broadly acceptable solid waste program has assured environmentally sound and timely management of solid waste in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and, most importantly, all of Alaska.

We would appreciate your support in funding the ADEC Solid Waste Program at the level in the Governor's proposed FY98 budget to ensure fundamental protection of human health and the environment for all residents of Alaska, and to maintain practical and local control of solid waste management.

Very truly yours,



Mike Navarre

Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

MN/lh/bg

cc: Kenai Peninsula Borough Legislators (via fax)
KPB Assembly Members
KPB Solid Waste Director

URGENT

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Co-chairman, Finance Committee
Alaska StateHouse of Representatives

Dear Rep. Hanley:

The Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska are greatly alarmed to learn that long-overdue gains for our State Archives are in jeopardy in the Finance Committee. Ten days ago, the Sub-committee on Education amended the Governor's budget to add two essential archivists' positions to the operating budget. The members were persuaded by the very serious situation in the Archives, which is struggling under a weight of a backlog of 8,000 cubic feet, many of these legislative records. We were pleased that the vital role of this small agency in keeping state government running smoothly had finally been recognized by our Legislature, after many years of attrition. (The staff of this agency is 20% smaller than in 1976!)

We ask you to support the sub-committee recommendation for the State Archives. The sub-committee transferred one position from the capital budget (where funds expired in FY97) and added a second archivist to attack the backlog. The total request for these positions was \$122,000. Failure to fund the two positions will result in irreparable harm to state records. We do not wish to come between other worthy needs in the Department of Education, but insist that the State Archives is a vital state agency which has suffered from neglect for many years—neglect which has an irreparable impact on fragile records. Now is the time to set that situation right.

We also would like to note that the Acquisition recommendations of the Sub-committee for the State Museums and the State Library are for FY98 only and are necessary to keep these institutions active as vital resources for research and are used by all Alaskans.

We ask you to support the Sub-committee close-out. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Sweetland Smith

Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-it [™] Fax Note	7671	Date	3-24	# of pages	2
To	Rep. Hanley	From	AHS-MA		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	343-6155		
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	346-2410		

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

We cut 35% from the State Archives' supplies line for FY '97. These were the funds which pay for the day-to-day operations of the Archives, and the Governor failed to restore the \$25,000 to his budget request for FY '98. In addition, the Archivist II position, currently funded with capital funds, will expire in 1997. During the interim, in meetings with the Historical Society, I learned that the cuts to Archives are too severe and will put the preservation of our State's historical records in great jeopardy. I am requesting that both of these items be added to the FY '98 budget for DOE.

Also, as a statewide issue, I am requesting that, in the supplemental budget, we set aside \$250,000. This money would be appropriated to the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force to give out to communities as matching grants. These grants are for projects designed to actively address marketing and promotion potential, infrastructure needs, interpretive themes, historic resource issues, and commemorative events and activities of the once-in-a-lifetime occurrence of Alaska's Centennial celebration.

I have attached backup for both the State Archives and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force requests. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

I am a member of the tourism industry. I support the economic development work that the Division of Tourism has done for my industry. Terminating the Division through budget cuts will have a devastating impact on the industry. Please stop these cuts.

Promote the tourism industry, don't gut it.

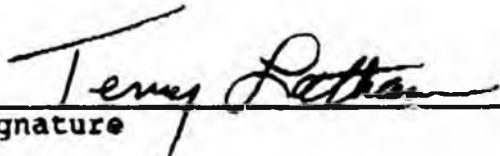
Name: **TERRY LATHAM**

Company: **TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL / TUNDRA TOURS**

Address: **P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723**

Telephone: **907 852 3900**

Fax Number: **907 852 6752**



Signature

March 22, 1997

TO: House Finance Committee

RE: Written Testimony

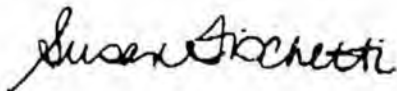
FROM: Susan Fischetti
10336 Stewart Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-7944

I hereby support the majority's goal to reduce spending by 60 million dollars this year. I also realize that there was 50 million projected in New Economic Activity. Given the Northstar situation other areas of economic growth are needed and that does not mean taxes. We can't lose sight of our long term goals because of temporary oil surges. A few options are selling the state ferry system and the Alaska Railroad (who just received 10 million of pork from the federal government). The way to do this is to encourage private investments in Alaska if we are ever going to reduce government spending.

One area that has me very concerned is the Department of Health and Social Services. They have been lobbying for increased taxes in Alaska with tax payers dollars from the state and federal level. This is an outrage. The money could be much better spent educating the public instead of trying to raise revenue to fund their Department. Many other State Agencies are involved in the same scam. There are numerous state employees who are testifying and lobbying in order to fund their programs and their jobs.

You were all elected and given a major task to reduce government and it is difficult to stand up to the pressure of the special interest groups. As we see what is happening in Washington, I urge you not to compromise your promises. Alaska can do better. We have a great state because of our resources, our Permanent Fund Dividend and low taxes. Lets keep it that way.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Fischetti

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hawley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawley:

After attending the statewide hearing on Saturday, March 22, 1997, I sincerely hope so consideration is given to the issues addressed by the people who testified.

Childcare for those who hope to leave the welfare system must be available. However, the quality of care must also be a priority! It is beyond my comprehension that funding for a entity such as Mark Air was made available in millions of dollars while child care businesses struggle to meet their budget expenses each month! The child care facilities employ hundreds of care givers and provide services to thousands of children. The care our children receive now will influence the care they give to others as an adult.

I truly thank you and the House Budget

Committee for giving the child care community a reason to get together and become one voice for children and families. "The Alliance of Child Care Professionals" will now educate ourselves on political issues that concern children and families. As representatives of our various organizations, we will make sure our members know where our State legislators stand on these issues.

The other areas of my concern are the length of the hearings. Our State is large and one day seems too little time for public input. It would also be nice to have at least a week's notice before a public hearing is scheduled. I received this information on Tuesday that the hearing would be Saturday. At least I know the Senate hearings will be April 5, 1997.

Respectfully,

Patricia Mungar
7701 Lars Circle
Anchorage, AK 99518



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835.

Ph (907) 747-3287; Fax (907) 747-3259; e-mail--amsea@ptialaska.net

March 26, 1997

Dear Representative Grussendorf
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK.

It is of the utmost importance that the AVTEC budget not be cut.

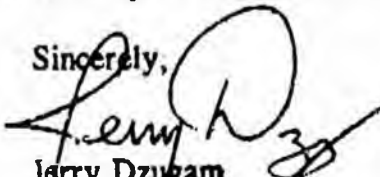
This training center in Seward provides the only location in the state where mariners can take basic to advanced training in their specific fields. It's centralized location makes it accessible to many. The job training programs it provides are just what this state needs to train workers in the ever changing job market.

The Marine Department is especially important to preserve. The three dedicated instructors in this department are already stretched to the maximum to provide training to mariners as diverse as Western Alaska Natives in emerging fisheries to Master Mariners working the largest of vessels. It would be perverse that the state with more coastline than the rest of the nation combined, would inflict a cut of this magnitude to its own state job training program. This could result in hundreds of people having to leave the state for the training which is currently provided by AVTEC.

AMSEA considers AVTEC one of our most important partners. We urge you to support an institution which is part of the solution in job training in this state by not decimating their budget.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jerry Dzugan
AMSEA Director

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

I am a member of the tourism industry. I support the economic development work that the Division of Tourism has done for my industry. Terminating the Division through budget cuts will have a devastating impact on the industry. Please stop these cuts.

Promote the tourism industry, don't gut it.

Name: **TERRY LATHAM**

Company: **TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL / TUNDRA TOURS**

Address: **P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723**

Telephone: **907 852 3900**

Fax Number: **907 852 6752**


Signature

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

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Company: TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL / TUNDRA TOURS

Address: P.O. BOX 189, BARROW, ALASKA 99723

Telephone: 907 852 3900

Fax Number: 907 852 6752



Signature

URGENT

March 24, 1997

Representative Ben Grusendorf
Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Rep. Grusendorf:

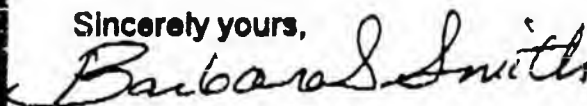
The 800 members of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska applaud the action of the House Finance Sub-committee on Education. Ten days ago, this sub-committee amended the Governor's budget to add two essential archivists' positions to the operating budget. The members were persuaded by the very serious situation in the Archives, which is struggling under a weight of a backlog of 8,000 cubic feet, many of them legislative records. We were pleased that the vital role of this small agency in keeping state government running smoothly had finally been recognized by our Legislature, after many years of attrition. (The staff of this agency is 20% smaller than in 1976!)

We ask you to support the sub-committee recommendation for the State Archives. The sub-committee transferred one position from the capital budget (where funds expired in FY97) and added a second archivist to attack the backlog. The total request for these positions was \$122,000. Failure to fund the two positions will result in irreparable harm to state records. We do not wish to come between other worthy needs in the Department of Education, but insist that the State Archives is a vital state agency which has suffered from neglect for many years—neglect which has an irreparable impact on fragile records. Now is the time to set that situation right. Please see Speaker Phillips' memo on this issue.

We also would like to note that the Acquisition recommendations of the Sub-committee for the State Museums and the State Library are for FY98 only and are necessary to keep these institutions active as vital resources for research and are used by all Alaskans.

We ask you to support the Sub-committee close-out. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-It™ Fax Note	7871	Date 3-24	# of pages 2
To Rep. Grusendorf	From AHS-MA	Co./Dept.	Co.
Phone # -	Phone # 343-6155	Fax # 465-2278	Fax # 346-2410

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

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I have attached backup for both the State Archives and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force requests. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

605 WEST FOURTH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

Telephone: (907)271-2272

Facsimile: (907)271-2274

March 24, 1997

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

Dear Representative Hanley:

This letter is in response to concerns I have concerning proposed legislative funding cuts to the Office of History and Archaeology in the Department of Natural Resources. In addition to the practical issue of loss of matching funds, my concerns relate to the loss of a valuable economic development ally.

The U. S. Economic Development Administration funds a number of Public Works or facilities projects with Public Bodies each year. The Office of History and Archaeology has been a strong partner in facilitating projects with municipalities and Native communities which lead to long-term Private Sector jobs. Recent major efforts include the renovation of an historic structure for use as a Visitors' Center at Nome and the upgrading of one of the very first canneries in Alaska as a modern fish-processing facility at Klawock on Prince of Wales Island. Both tourism and fisheries are critical to Alaska's economy.

The Office of History and Archaeology is a valuable and responsive asset not only in terms of "amenities," but also in terms of developmental assistance. I strongly urge adequate funding so that the unit may remain effective. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernhard Richert
Economic Development
Representative



March 24, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
State Capital, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Reductions - Division of Trade and Development

Dear Representative Hanley,

It is with great dismay to hear of plans by the House Finance Subcommittee on Department of Commerce and Economic Development's budget to eliminate more than 1/3 of their staff this year.

The D.C.E.D. provides a direct path for small and large businesses to work directly with our state government, as well as to assist in the removal of trade barriers for those of us (the list grows daily) seeking business abroad.

Our firm recently participated in a mission to Korea. While with the Governor and members of D.C.E.D. doors opened to us that would take months to reach had we not been "partnering" with the State of Alaska.

Missions of this type are extremely important to the State. With declining revenues it is imperative to continue these contact to broaden our horizons.

In short, consideration should be given to increasing their funding and staff rather than elimination. The Division of Trade and Development plays a vital role in the future of Alaska's position in the Pacific Rim.

Thank you for taking the time to review our thoughts and position on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Smith, General Manager
Unitech of Alaska, Inc.

SRS/dh

P.O. BOX 240167 ANCHORAGE, AK 99524-0167 (907) 349-5142 (907) 349-2733 FAX



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 24, 1997

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

Dear Governor Knowles:

The purpose of this letter is to voice our concern over the proposed budget cuts to Alaska's State Historic Preservation Program. As you know, these cuts will result in a loss of significant Federal Historic Preservation Fund matching money for Alaska.

We believe these cuts could impede progress on key projects for which the Department of the Interior has a role, such as the final disposition of the Adak Naval Station and activities associated with the development of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. We also believe these cuts could result in significant delays for individual Alaskans who seek permits to carry out activities on DOI-managed lands.

We encourage your continued support for full funding of this important office.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for Alaska

cc: House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-93)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 1

To	Mark Henley	From	D. Williams
Dept./Agency		Phone #	231-5485
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	

**USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.**

Marketing ■ 100 Cushman Street, Suite 210 ■ Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 452-2625 ■ fax (907) 451-6543

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Therriault
Co Chairs Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Hanley & Therriault:

While I support restraining state spending and making cuts to programs where fat is identified or lack of need demonstrated, I vigorously take issue with proposed reductions to the Division of Trade & Development budget now under consideration by the House Finance Sub-Committee governing this jurisdiction.

I start from the premise that it often "takes a buck to make a buck" but that government, for the most part, takes away and redistributes revenue. In very few instances can government functions be equated with supporting and creating new wealth. There are a few, very few, agency functions which exist to stimulate economic conditions and promote the generation of wealth for the benefit of Alaska and its citizens. It is these agencies and their functions which should be supported to the hilt and in fact be the beneficiaries of budget increments rather than cuts. Certainly very high on my list is the Division of Trade and Development whose Trade Program cannot absorb proposed cuts which will result in a 50% reduction in staff levels. Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) is a user of services provided by the Trade Program and we value the professional relationship that exists between us. We are not alone in our appeal for sanity in the budget process. The trade and business advocacy functions of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development must continue because of their important link to the private sector. I urge you to regard the Trade Program as an investment in which dollars expended can, and frequently do, return to the state multiplies of the support cost.

I essentially hold these same views for the Geophysical Aerial Mapping and Ground Mapping Program in DGGs within DNR which has produced

Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Theriault
March 24, 1997
Page 2

major mineral discoveries and attracted many millions dollars for exploration and development work.

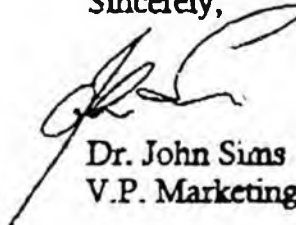
Why it is such a struggle to fund these functions is a mystery to me especially given the composition of the Alaska legislature at this time. Surely there are some brave souls in the legislature who could actually propose spending a little in order to create more wealth and opportunity for Alaska!

Perhaps common sense rather than courage is what is needed. I truly hope that you can identify with my message and abandon plans to reduce funding for the Trade Program for ADCED.

Please make this letter available to all members of the House Finance Committee even though Representative Vic Kohring and Representative Carl Moses should have seen this same information in a letter to Representative Kohring, Chair of the Sub Committee with oversight on DCED Budget.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Sims
V.P. Marketing

JS/me

1 of 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget , dated 03-22-97
 bill/subject.

We keep hearing that the State of Alaska is running out of money. This is at a time when the legislature is putting additional funds into the Permanent Fund. My recollection is that when the Permanent Fund was set up in Hammond's time that it was to be used as a rainy day. The current situation might qualify as that rainy day.

Now might also be a good time to reinstitute the personal income tax. An income tax could be set up in such a way that it would tax those wage earners (oil field workers, fishing industry workers, tourism workers, miners and other seasonal or shift workers) who earn their wages here and then escape to elsewhere to spend it. Many of these workers spend no money to support the state. We could set the tax such that there would be deductions for actual legitimate instate living expenses such as utility and fuel bills. Those that don't live here would not have those deductions. Mortgage, land and food charges could also be deducted. With a "veto proof" majority in the legislature and this not being an election year this would be an ideal time to do both of the above. That is unless the budget shortfall is all smoke and mirrors to support the majority's personal agenda.

For the past few years we have been hearing that all state government is bloated and that we must cut spending. In the last legislative session the legislators cut all departments and refused to initially fund the collective bargaining agreements with state employees because of the alleged budget shortfall. At the same time the legislature substantially increased its personal remuneration. This session we are being told that all of state government must tighten its belt to the tune of fifty to seventy million. While this is happening the speaker of the house announces that the Republican majority needs an additional increase of \$300,000 to stay in business. Is there a message here?

I understand that there is a proposal to cut the Alaska Works program by two million. I also understand that the state will be fined three (OVER)

Signed:

Testifier William R. Parker 

Self

Representing (Optional)

HC1 Box 1418 Soldotna, Alaska 99669
 Address

(907) 262-7677
 Phone No.

Phone No.

million. What kind of economics is this?

The legislature keeps criminalizing more behavior and lengthening jail time for other crimes. This the members can take back to their districts and claim that they are being tough on crime. It seems that lately most of the crime bills have been pointed at convicts and youth who can't vote anyway. With the cuts in funding to Law, Public Safety and Corrections increased crimes and penalties seem to be a dichotomy. We are currently having many cases being dismissed for lack of evidence or speedy trial. The DA's office does not have the staff to prosecute in a timely manner and the troopers do not have the staff to conduct the investigations needed to prosecute. This is probably just as well because the prisons are stuffed to the gills. Arizona private prison does not save as much as advertised because the state is still responsible for the inmate medical, legal, transportation and escape chasing costs. The escape participated by twelve Alaska inmates last October was the largest in state history and it was not even inside the state. Granted that only six inmates actually made it outside the fence, there were a total of twelve trying as a group. The private firm got to hand pick all of the inmates that were sent down there. They did not want any trouble makers. All the money spent in Arizona does not help the Alaska economy. Money spent here goes around the community several times. The State of Alaska retains all legal liabilities regarding its inmates where ever they are.

A final point, the idea of privatizing to give Alaskans jobs is a little off. In order to file for state employment one must be a state resident. The courts have ruled that there is no such requirement for employees of a private contractor. Privatization invites more abuses of Alaskan's working rights.

Please quit playing games for a personal or political agend and realize that the current state employees are a dedicated experienced asset!

ORCA,
A Program of SAIL P.O. Box 35134
Juneau, Ak 99801

facsimile transmittal

To: Paulyn Fax: 465-2278

From: Maureen Riley Date: March 24, 1997

Re: _____ Pages: _____

Notes: _____

Please distribute this into the packets of the House Budget Committee. Thank you.



ORCA

A Division of SAIL

Post Office Box 35097
Juneau, Alaska 99803-5097
Tel.: 907-790-2213 Voice/TDD
FAX: 907-789-9747

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEPENDENT LIVING**

3/21/97

Senate and House Finance Committee Members

Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

To Whom It May Concern:

The Majority's FY98 proposed operating budget for Health and Social Services will reduce services for poor and disabled Alaskans. Once again, the individuals who are most in need and are most vulnerable receive the brunt of the government's fiscal management. Some of the programs that are slated to be cut will also lose their matching funds, which translates to significant effects on services for the poor and people with disabilities.

I realize the challenges of fiscal management. But these cuts are drastic and effect people in a very serious manner. One example is the proposed medicaid cuts will eliminate provisions for hearing aids and artificial limbs. Imagine if your son or daughter had only one leg. They could live a normal life with an artificial limb. Without a limb, your child would be bound to a wheelchair. Imagine yourself losing your hearing, with the help of a hearing aid you can hear. Without, you are left to live a silent life. Without this particular Medicaid assistance many people will live substandard lives. These are people with talent and energy and a lot to give to society but in order to do this they need some help from society.

The budget cuts proposed make poor fiscal sense. By cutting services that are preventative or services that empower people, the state sets people up for failure rather than success. The outcome is an increasing need for intensive and expensive services. For example, by cutting the budget of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Independent Living component of services for people with disabilities living in rural and remote Alaska will suffer. Without these services some of these individuals may be forced to move into institutions which constitute a costly and horrible alternative. Budget cuts also target job training programs for welfare recipients. Job training can help individuals gain the skills they need to enter the workforce. The result of eliminating or reducing these training programs is people remain on welfare instead of becoming economically self sufficient. Once again, the outcome of budget cuts is grossly expensive in the long run. Budget cuts include cutting the Healthy Families Program which screens out children that are at risk of being abused, identifying them at birth and providing training and supports for them. The end result of these cuts are more children

abused which in the long run costs the state a lot more to provide supports to the victims and the offenders.

There are two important points to look at here: firstly, who is being affected by these cuts: people with disabilities and the poor- the most vulnerable segment of our population. Secondly, are these cuts really saving the state money? Cuts today result in greater need for costly services tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Maureen Riley



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill 76 , dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I Very much hope you will fully fund the mental Health Bill.
 Reducing monies in this area will harm those least able to defend themselves
 and those least well off. Cutting medicine will create costs + pressures
 elsewhere: burdening other sectors of society such as Police, hospitals, and create
 safety risks to the public (Crime, domestic violence, homelessness).

So that the structure and support offered by mental health funded
 nursing and programs we ^{will} be abandoning a segment of our population and literally
 forcing people to fend for themselves who are unable to do so.

It is a sign of a civilized society to care for its disadvantaged,
 to give everyone a chance it's not retreat to the dark ages.

Signed: Steve Hughes
 Testifier
Humanity
 Representing (Optional)
2101 Mt Augustine Drive Homer, AK. 99605
 Address
235-6647
 Phone No.

Shawn Hawbold Harrison
P.O.Box 2777
Soldotna, AK 99669

March 18, 1997

To: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

I am writing concerning the 1998 budget the House Finance Committee is proposing, in which the DHSS budget would be cut by \$8 million more or less.

I am a divorced mother with three disabled children, with two on the state rolls for the Developmentally Disabled. My 16 year old son Mike has a Medicaid Waiver, and is a medically fragile child with severe Cerebral Palsy, Seizures and feeding disorder. The cost of medical care for these children would not be affordable for any family, unless they were multimillionaires. It is certainly not affordable by the average Alaskan family!

I am saving the State of Alaska \$140,000 a year just on Mike alone, by not putting him in state care. I thought that Alaska wanted to keep our disabled people in their own communities and our disabled children with their families. If your proposed budget is enacted, I will not be able to care for my children at home.

The existing Medicaid plan, with the addition of the lost services for hearing, dental, vision, and out of state travel, is the deciding factor of an endurable life for disabled individuals. For example; remember when out of state travel was cut? It severely affected my son, as Medicaid will not fund him to go to Denver Children's Hospital for a special orthotic seat which has saved his life on several occasions, and which he has outgrown. It cost me \$6,000 to take him outside, 3 years ago. I do not have the money to take him outside again, and without the seat, he will need to be hospitalized with recurrent pneumonias and will require surgery. You are costing the state millions of dollars in the long run, in order to save thousands now!

If you must make drastic cuts, then to ensure that the disabled and ill residents of all ages will not suffer, please make them exempt from the cuts. I agree that Medicaid is long overdue for reform, but your proposed budget is not reform, it is inhumane! I guarantee it will destroy families. Please remember the people like my children, Mike, Katie, and Billy, when you make your decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Shawn Hawbold Harrison

Shawn Hawbold Harrison

Marianne Mills, President

League of Women Voters of Alaska

THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALASKA

2806 John Street #2
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone (907)463-6154
Fax (907)586-9018
March 24, 1997

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

On behalf of League of Women Voters members throughout Alaska, I urge you to protect Alaska's Solid Waste Management Program from cuts. As you know, all states in the country regulate waste disposal as a matter of public health and safety. Mismanaged waste disposal would put Alaskans at risk of disease such as Hepatitis A, rabies and cancer due to contaminated groundwater and the unregulated dumping of toxic waste.

Based on extensive study, the League of Women Voters of the United States supports policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources. It also supports the establishment of processes for effective involvement of state and local governments and citizens in siting proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of radioactive wastes.

Please encourage your colleagues to evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of their budget proposal so that they have adequate information on which to base this important decision which will affect all Alaskans.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the health of Alaskans and their valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Facts About the Gold Rush Centennial Grant Program (Division of Tourism)

Funded in FY94 in the capital budget: \$50,000.

50 applicants, 18 grantees. None more than \$4,000 and all were matching.

Sample of grants (FY94--most were for a 2-year completion date):

- To: Anchorage Museum of History and Art - planning grant for centennial exhibit
Rolfe Buzzell, Anchorage - aid with publication of the history of Sunrise (pub. 1995)
KAKM (Public TV, Anchorage) for video production
Chena River Waterfront Commission for Gold Rush era signage
Fairbanks Natural History Assoc. For learning kits for schools
Copper Center Historical Society - Gold Rush museum exhibit
Skagway Gold Rush Centennial Commission - production of a video
Kodiak Historical Society - reproduction of Nome photographs in Erskine Collection
Stevens Village on the Yukon - help to develop an historic woodyard as a tourist site
Resurrection Bay Historical Society - learning kits for school and library
Eagle Historical Society - Restoration of the "Improved Order of the Redman's" Lodge, for use as a community center
Juneau Centennial Commission - help with expense of moving heavy mining equipment to a "mining park"
Yvonne Yarber, Manley - development of research folios for school and library
Bill Hanable - research for publication on Alaska Natives and the Gold Rush (completion in Spring 1996)

In FY95, \$10,000 was allocated in the capital budget for use by the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force for teleconference expense and publication of a Gold Rush Trail brochure; there were no grant monies for FY95.

FY96 provided no money for Gold Rush Centennial projects of any sort.

FY97 provided funds for issuing a Gold Rush Centennial license plate, but no program or grant monies.

FY 98: No grant monies are proposed by the Governor. Initiative will have to come from the Legislature.

Information provided by:

Alaska Historical Society, P. O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510; tel: 907/563-3711

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
(907) 465-3720
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

DATE: January 20, 1997
TO: Rep. Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
FROM: Speaker Gail Phillips
RE: Funding for State Archives and Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Grants

We cut 35% from the State Archives' supplies line for FY '97. These were the funds which pay for the day-to-day operations of the Archives, and the Governor failed to restore the \$25,000 to his budget request for FY '98. In addition, the Archivist II position, currently funded with capital funds, will expire in 1997. During the interim, in meetings with the Historical Society, I learned that the cuts to Archives are too severe and will put the preservation of our State's historical records in great jeopardy. I am requesting that both of these items be added to the FY '98 budget for DOE.

* Also, as a statewide issue, I am requesting that, in the supplemental budget, we set aside \$250,000. This money would be appropriated to the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force to give out to communities as matching grants. These grants are for projects designed to actively address marketing and promotion potential, infrastructure needs, interpretive themes, historic resource issues, and commemorative events and activities of the once-in-a-lifetime occurrence of Alaska's Centennial celebration.

I have attached backup for both the State Archives and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force requests. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GP:jmj

Enc.

cc: Ms. Barbara Sweetland Smith
Alaska Historical Society
PO Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510

Alaska Historical Society



P.O. BOX 100299
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-0299
PHONE (907) 563-3711

March 19, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Hanley:

The House Finance Sub-committee on Resources has proposed to cut \$94.0 from the budget for the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). The Alaska Historical Society and its 500 members urge you, as a member of the Finance Committee, to reject the cut to this valuable state agency.

The Office of History and Archeology, with a state contribution in FY97 of only \$291,500, has been able generate three times that amount for Alaskan projects in **matching federal monies** and inter-departmental special projects. The \$291.5 is the minimum state contribution required to qualify for federal matching monies. It would be uneconomical for Alaska to eliminate this excellent source of non-state funding which produces such rich rewards. The proposed cut of \$94.0 General Fund Money would result in a total loss to Alaska of \$235.2, because of the related loss of the federal match. A \$94.0 cut also would mean the loss of three full-time professional staff at OHA. Such draconian cuts will inevitably force **long delays in development** of both private and public lands, as the skeleton staff would be spread even more thinly. It is working to full capacity—and beyond—even now. It may not be well known that this is a vital work-horse agency which provides the necessary reviews required by federal law when historic or archaeological sites are involved. In 1996, OHA reviewed 2,354 projects on private lands and oversaw 2,250 federal agency projects in Alaska—a total of 4,604 projects!

We also ask you to follow the recommendations of Speaker Gail Phillips to reinstate the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force Matching Grants Program, administered by the Office of History and Archaeology. These grants were made only in 1994. With the climactic years of the Gold Rush just ahead, NOW is the right time to make a ONE-TIME MULTI-YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION—OR TO DESIGNATE REAPPROPRIATION FUNDS—TO THE TASK FORCE FOR MATCHING GRANTS. A fact sheet and Speaker Phillips' memo are attached.

In conclusion we emphatically support:

- Maintenance-level funding for the Office of History and Archeology (OHA)
- A one-time only \$250,000 multi-year Supplemental Appropriation or Reappropriation appropriation to revive the Gold Rush Centennial Grants Program, as proposed by Speaker Phillips.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Sweetland Smith

Barbara Sweetland Smith
Legislation Coordinator

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	3-23	# of pages	3
To	Rep. M. Hanley	From			
Co/Dept		City			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #	465-2418		

City of Mekoryuk

PO Box 29 - Mekoryuk AK 99630 - (907) 827-8314 Fax (907) 827-8626

March 24, 1997

To: Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs-Rural Utility Business Assistance (RUBA) program.

I don't know how much impact my letter will have, but I feel I must at least voice my opinion.

First off, I have been a City Clerk for about 15 months. I did not have any prior knowledge to being a City Clerk before I was hired. I was on the job for about two months when Scott Ruby (DCRA/RUBA) came to our village to train me on the ways of Clerking. Had it not been for his guidance and training I don't know where the City would be right now. I learned about budgeting, the different departments, and a whole lot of things. I didn't know anything about Matching grants, SRS, Municipal Assistance, etc. Yes I did have some bookkeeping knowledge but little did I know how complicated running a Municipal account would be. There are still a lot of things I need to learn and I have no idea where I will learn unless I have further training.

I'm sure there are a lot of communities that are grateful for the assistance of DCRA/RUBA workers. I would suggest you keep them in the budget to keep our communities going.

Like I said I had a lot of bookkeeping knowledge and that was a plus for our city. I knew about payroll taxes, payroll accounts payable and receivable. But a Municipals books need to be specific and coded correctly. There are a lot of minor details that make a big difference in how the books must be kept. I wouldn't have known this had it not been for the RUBA trainer. I strongly recommend that you keep the RUBA Program going.

Sincerely,


Debbie Whitman
City Clerk



DATE: 24 March, 1997

TO: Mark Hanley
465-2418

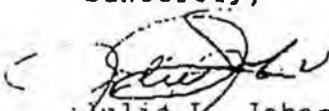
I understand that the proposed House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee budget cuts the State Historic Preservation Office (the Office of History and Archaeology) by \$94,000. This will create a total loss of \$235,000 when combined with the loss of matching federal funds. Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. (AHPI) believes that this cut will desiccate the SHPO and will have a debilitating affect on the services local historic preservation organizations like AHPI can provide.

AHPI has been strengthened by the SHPO in many different ways. It acts as an invaluable source of information on technical preservation issues, database inventory, history and preservation laws. The SHPO could lose its federal certification as a historic preservation program. Funds such as federal Certified Local Government grants would no longer be available to grassroots organizations like AHPI (we received a \$10,000 federal grant in 1997).

Also disturbing is the possibility of losing the federal tax incentive for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Currently, commercial developers get a 25% tax credit as incentive for renovating and reusing historic properties. Congress is also considering extending that credit to residential properties. To qualify for tax credits, a qualified SHPO staff member must certify the renovation as eligible for credits. The budget proposed would threaten the SHPO's ability to respond to applications in a timely manner, if at all. The renovation of the Fourth Avenue Theatre and the Loussac-Sogn building were made possible through the use of these credits. Under the proposed budget, these buildings may not have been saved.

Please consider the negative ramifications for the State of Alaska should this budget be ratified. Feel free to contact me at (907) 274-3600 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Julie L. Johnson
Executive Director

Gracii Craft
P.O. Box 694
Tok, AK 99780
March 21, 1997

Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee

I am currently a laundry worker for the Retlaworth Tok. It is only open in the summer, for the tourist. I work very hard all summer long and make just barely enough to get by. Mainly because all my bills from the winter is paid in the summer. After all the bills are paid, there is not much left. Is this what tourist jobs is all about?

Yes, the owners of these hotels, gas stations and R. V. Parks makes all the money and still claim they can't pay their workers a whole lot. You see them build nice houses and drive nice cars, it's no wonder they are all for tourism. We have a few like them here in Tok.

My point is that you can not expect us to keep working for such low pay and then barely make it through the winter because the tourist are gone along with the work. We need some real jobs. At my job, I hear a lot of tourist complaining of high prices and not coming again, even when I go to the local grocery store. They are generally not happy with what they are getting and especially the high prices. What happens when there are no more tourist, what about my job?

I am for elimination of the Division of Tourism and cutting the budget of the Alaska Tourism Market. The state needs to work on providing some real jobs with decent incomes and not spend so much on promoting tourism. My life can't depend on this seasonal job forever.

Sincerely;

Gracii Craft,
Gracii Craft

Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)
 • 716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 • Phone: 258-8111 Fax: 258-1241

This form **MUST** be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your PCM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Mr./Ms./Mrs.	First Name	MI	Last Name	Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Crowther	R	Crowther	
Mailing address				City
c/o Compact RV Rentals				
Residence (if not same as mailing address)				City
P.O. Box 91246 Anch AK 99509				
Daytime (9AM-5PM)	City or address (if applicable)	Signature	Date	
333-7368	Alaska Tourism	Paul Crowther Printed	3/2/97	

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees		House members		Senate members			
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Subject: Fill out the boxes below QR enter a Subject.

HB or SD	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	QR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Amend		

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

The	elimination	of	the	Division
of	Tourism	would	put	an
impossible	burden	on	the	ATMC
ATMC	does	not	have	enough
funding	to	continue	the	Division
of	Tourism's	duties	without	the
strong	promoted	efforts	of	the
DOT	and	ATMC	Alaska	Tourism
will	slowly	wither	and	die.

CORRECTION

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Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 - Phone: 258-8111 Fax: 258-1251

This form **MUST** be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Full Name Paul Crowther	MI R	Last Name Crowther	City
Mailing Address 1/2 Compact RV Rentals			Zip Code
Return Address (if different from mailing address) P.O. Box 91246 Anch AK 99509			Zip Code
Daytime Telephone Number 333-7368	City of Origin (if applicable) Alaska Tourism	Signature Paul Crowther	Date 3/20/97

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees	House members	Senate members																																																																																																								
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Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose		

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

The	elimination	of	the	Division
of	Tourism	would	put	an
impossible	burden	on	the	ATMC
ATMC	does	not	have	enough
funding	to	contact	the	Division
of	Tourism's	duties	without	the
strong	promoted	efforts	of	the
DOT	and	ATMC	Alaska	Tourism
will	slowly	wither	and	die.

Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)

716 W 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 - Phone: 258-8111 Fax: 258-1261

This form **MUST** be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

First Name Paul	Last Name Crowther	MI R	City/State Anchor Alaska
Mailing address 1/2 Compact RV Rentals			City/State
Residence (if different from mailing address) P.O. Box 91246 Anch AK 99509			City/State
Daytime telephone number 333-7366	Group affiliation (if applicable) Alaska Tourism	Signature Paul Crowther President	Date 3/26/97

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees		House members		Senate members	
<input type="checkbox"/> H or S	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austerman (aue)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly, P. (kl)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barnes (bar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plemmon (plem)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed. & Social Services (hss)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kohring (koh)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brice (br)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kookesh (koo)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Majority (maj)
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Subject: Fill out the boxes below **OR** enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
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Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

The	budgetary	cuts	to	the
Division	of	Tourism	and	to
ATAC	will	eliminate	any	promotional
advertising	for	Alaska	Alaska	is
no	longer	a	top	10
destination	We	are	already	rapidly
losing	momentum	Further	cuts	will
be	made	in	the	cliff's
of	Alaska's	the best	industry	Please
support	the	future	of	Alaska

Superintendent's Office

FAX

Date: March 25 1997

Number of pages including cover sheet: _____

To:

Rep Richard Foster

Senator Al Adams

All House Majority Members

Phone: _____

Fax phone: 907 465 2418

CC: _____

From: Laverne Smith

Nome Child Care Center

Add Hill Tutit Aninat

Phone: (907) 443-7137

Fax phone: (907) 443-5570

Reference to Budget Cuts to our Children - Families
 We are finally making some head way on the road to healthy families, safe communities and child care assistance for working and job training parents. We should be helping more people with more and improved programs not cutting to the bone or eliminating the ones we've finally got in place. We count on you our elected officials to look out for our welfare - Please consider your actions carefully Government is for the People not against the People.

Sincerely
 Laverne H Smith

Concerned Citizen
 Project Director Add Hill Tutit Aninat
 member Nome City Council.

**SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
ALASKA CHAPTER**



March 24, 1997

Representative Vic Kohring
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - Solid Waste Program
Operating Fund Budget Reduction

Dear Representative Kohring:

The Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA) does not support the proposed budget cut which would eliminate the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program. We strongly urge you to reconsider this reduction and reinstate the funding to assure environmentally sound and timely management of solid waste in our state.

The Alaska chapter of SWANA is composed of public and private sector solid waste professionals representing boroughs, cities, engineering firms, private landfills, waste hauling firms and industries located in Alaska. The mission of SWANA is to advance the practice of environmentally sound municipal solid waste management in Alaska.

Removal of the Solid Waste Program from state jurisdiction will adversely impact public health and jeopardize proper waste management in all of Alaska. Long term financial impacts to all sectors of the state population with this short-sighted action will be immense, far larger than the immediate savings to the operating budget.

Although solid waste management is the focus of SWANA, elimination of the program budget will have far reaching implications affecting drilling mud reserve pits, mining waste, wood waste, construction and demolition debris, inert waste and other waste streams generated throughout Alaska by municipalities, industry and the general public.

For the past six years, the ADEC, SWANA and individuals at large have worked diligently to revise the 1987 Solid Waste Regulations 18 AAC 60 in order to develop a federally acceptable solid waste program with state specific flexibility. ADEC has used the public process effectively to develop a broadly acceptable program which is in the final stages of federal approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Post-It® brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages = 2

To	Alaska	From	Lanie Huger
Com	CC: Senators	Co.	SWANA
Dept.	Representatives	Phone #	262-9667
Fax #		Fax #	262-6090

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	3-24-97	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Hanley	From	Susan Loudon		
Co./Dept.		Co.	Access Alaska		
Phone #		Phone #	479-7940		
Fax #	915-2418	Fax #	474-4052		

I am faxing you all a copy of this, since I did not get the chance to give my comments to you on Saturday, although both my daughter and I were among the over-filled LIO room in Fairbanks.

My name is Susan Loudon. I live at 118 Kathryn Ave., in Fairbanks. I am on the Governor's Council for Disabilities and Special Education, have in the past been Legislative Liaison on that Council, and I work as a rural independent living specialist for Access Alaska.

I am the mother of a daughter who will be 21 March 28. She was born in Alaska. She has Alternating Hemiplegia, one of nearly 200 people world-wide that we know of who has this. It causes her to become paralyzed periodically every 8 to 10 days one side or the other of her body...or both sides....for up to 5 days. During this time she uses a wheel chair. It has batteries, for she cannot push herself when she is paralyzed. She is on Medicaid. She is presently living in our house, but is on a waiting list for supported living services. She wears glasses and has cognitive disabilities also.

I am here to focus your attention on the proposed cuts to Medicaid. Two years ago you made a big cut that affected the lives of many adults who have disabilities...you took away their glasses, their hearing aides and their dental coverage. The Mental Health Trust Authority offered to pay matching money to get these benefits reinstated, and you did not agree. This year, they are again offering. Now you want to take away even more, not allowing for people to get wheelchairs as they need them, the batteries that are needed to power them,....or prosthetic devices.

As you know, every dollar you take away from Medicaid is a dollar that is lost from the Federal funds provided to the State of Alaska. What will happen if the needs of people with disabilities are not met? It will cost the state far more to meet the emergency situations that will be created by your decision to cut necessary benefits.

It is appalling indeed, that every year people must be put into the position of groveling to you for the basic necessities of life, when you are talking of giving yourselves a raise! How can you, in good conscience, make decisions to cut into the funding of people who really need the support to survive?!

Unfortunately, we in this state have no health insurance plan that includes services to people with disabilities, and until that happens, we should ensure that people with disabilities get the equipment and assistive devices needed to help them become more self-sufficient. Medicaid cuts would be utterly inhumane!...Please...dollars can and must be found from other sources NOT from services to people with disabilities.

Thank you for considering input from us out here in this community before making your final decisions on the budget. Please, we all must strive to protect the innocent from the tearing away of providing for their basic human needs.

Susan Loudon

March 23, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

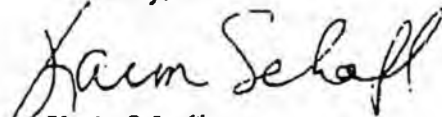
Dear Representative Hanley,

I have reviewed the summary of House Finance committee recommendations for FY98 operating budget. The majority's proposed cuts, on top of reductions the Governor has already made, threaten the health and welfare of Alaskans. I understand that budget cuts are necessary but I urge you to make slow and steady changes, not drastic cuts that completely devastate people in need.

Alaska, unfortunately, has many serious problems. The highest rate of child abuse and domestic violence in the nation, over crowded prisons, rapid increase in serious juvenile crime and ever increasing rates of substance abuse make these cuts to our state budget not only harmful but will be deadly to some Alaskans. If allowed to stand, these cuts will overload the private and non-profit sectors beyond their ability to respond.

I especially urge you to make no cuts in Medicaid at this time. Many Alaskans depend upon Medicaid as their only safety net for basic health care. I am also concerned that substance abuse is listed as a priority for cuts. As this is a major health problem for Alaska I am fearful that this will have a devastating impact.

Sincerely,



Karin Schaff
Treatment Services Director
Volunteers of America

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Co./Dept.		Co.	VOA
Phone #		Phone #	543-3594
Fax #		Fax #	276-5489

3/24/97

TO: All Representatives and Senators
FAX: 465 2418

FROM: Cathy Walker, 7th Grade Teacher, Colony Middle School, Palmer

Cathy Walker

PLEASE reconsider the **\$50,000 line item matching funds with the National Geographic Society**. It is part of the Education Special Projects listed with the AMEREF Minerals Program. This \$50,000 matching funds has educated many teachers and this in turn, has benefited thousands of Alaska students!!!

This line item \$50,000 matching funds with National Geographic Society must be placed back in the budget!!

Make this a priority!



March 20, 1997

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

Dear Representative Hanley,

We understand that the House Finance Committee will consider a recommendation to delete funding for the DEC Solid Waste Program. We strongly **urge you to reject this recommendation** because it will injure local communities and taxpayers.

Currently, the EPA has suspended action on Alaska's application to manage Alaska's solid waste program. According to the EPA, if Alaska does not manage its solid waste program, Alaskan municipalities will not be able to take advantage of the flexibility granted to states under federal statutes. This is projected to cost communities throughout the state many millions of dollars. A concrete example cited in the EPA letter is an \$18 million cost savings to Anchorage. In addition, local leaders prefer dealing with an Alaskan managed solid waste program instead of giving this vital state function to the federal government.

This recommended cut is one of many being discussed that will negatively impact the finances of municipal governments and taxpayers. **The Alaska Municipal League and the Alaska Conference of Mayors urge you to reject any recommendation that technically reduces the state budget, but actually has the impact of raising local taxes.** Raising local taxes is not part of the Legislative Majority's Five Year Budget Strategy and the Majority has already made the commitment not to count new revenues or tax increases as part of the budget reduction goals.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ritchie
Executive Director

cc: AML Board of Directors and Legislative Committee
Alaska Conference of Mayors
Commissioner DEC
Legislators

C: legcomm:397DECcuts



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March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley

This week, March 20, I attended our semi-annual Alaska Seafood Processors Advisory Council ASPAC meeting in Anchorage hosted by Ms. Jarice Adair. During the course of this meeting the industry was informed of Mr. Everett Stone's retirement from the Seafood Inspection program of the ADEC. I believe the general consensus of the processing industry is that Everett always presented himself as a professional and represented the State well even during tense and trying situations. Unfortunately, when asked who would be his replacement, we were informed that due to tight budgets and legislative prioritization, the position may not be filled. It may seem strange that a processors would write to you in defense of an inspector's position. As you can imagine, they generally gives us more challenges than opportunities but, the purpose of this letter is to support the position and the Department.

Having once been in the Department as a Section Chief I know what an asset an experienced inspector was to me and the State. I had to stand in front of the television camera once too often to assure the general public that their food supply was safe because it was coming from State approved, regulated and inspected processing facilities. On another occasion, I had to stand in front of a commissioner who had too little public health background and defend a program that couldn't show tangible evidence of its outstanding performance because I couldn't produce an injured body.

I returned to the private sector some years ago because capitalism is a concept I understand better than government. Having a processor's mind, I can't help but initially be pleased at the thought of less oversight by the State. I admit that that is short sighted but a natural response from the head.

Granted the major seafood processors are inconvenienced by an inspector's presence and they tend to raise a united voice when it serves their purposes. Sometimes though, a loud chorus of voice supporting a favorable position should be momentarily disregarded.

I would suggest that you listen to the voices from within the system. The inspectors are not unlike the quality control staffs in the industry. Both groups are the firemen. When they

Processors of Quality Alaska Seafoods

do the job right, you to work and go home with little regard to their vigilance. That "right" job is the one that finds the cheese that kills the pregnant mothers. It finds the pesticide adulterated watermelons on a 4th of July weekend. And, it gets the toxic shellfish out of the governors kitchen before the dinner. The other good they do is sometimes overlooked until the job isn't being done. I would suggest you consider this short list;

1. The Department helps keep the industry certified with the FDA so that we can export into the European Union.
2. It keeps an eye on the small thermal processors and smokers (the most critical and potentially dangerous sector) who don't have adequately trained technical staffs. By keeping their products safe our business and capital investment stays sound.
3. It stands in for the USDC when lot inspections are needed for direct shipment.
4. It keeps the State's shellfish program in compliance with the Federal program.
5. It assists in a "Salmon Control Plan" like program so that direct shipments can be made out of the US.
6. It keeps the State's red meat program in compliance with the USDA's program.
7. It inspects everything from grocery stores to public baths. This supports the year round population as well as the seasonal processing staffs and vessels.

Most of this burden falls on the inspectors.

Before a decision is made to cut or not fund a position, I would suggest that you review the historical record of the general health of the communities. When you consider the number of square miles that make up Alaska's mainland and islands and how few inspectors are used to monitor them, their isn't a state that does it better. Alaska's programs frequently are used as models for other states. That is because they are well managed and cost effective.

Also in your decisions making process, keep in mind that the Kodiak post is not just a Kodiak position. Because of the already short handed situation, and the policy of cross utilization, it does work throughout the State.

On the question of who should pay for the Kodiak position, the industry is now paying fees to the State for our processing permits. I would assume that the fees were instituted to cover the cost of inspecting our facilities. Therefore, I believe we have already done our part and paid for the post. Aside from that, I believe the State has an obligation to fund programs out of the general fund that address basic public health. The Kodiak position is not just a Seafood post, it is also a general sanitarian position.